

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Durrett-Jarratt House

other names/site number Jarratt, Isaac, House

2. Location

street & number NW side SR 1605, 0.35 mi SW of jct w/SR 1569 N/A not for publication

city or town Enon vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Yadkin code 197 zip code 27018

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/17/97
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Durrett-Jarratt House
Name of Property

Yadkin Co., NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other BRICK

WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Durrett-Jarratt House
Name of Property

Yadkin Co., NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1820

Significant Dates

ca. 1820

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Survey & Planning Branch, Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC

Durrett-Jarratt House
Name of Property

Yadkin Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.72 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,7	5,4,5,0,2,0	3,9,9,7,0,4,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian

organization N/A date February 1, 1997

street & number 637 N. Spring Street telephone 910/727-1963

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. James M. Walter, Jr.

street & number 3020 Maplewood Ave. telephone 910/768-9881

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27103-4012

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7

Page 1

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

DESCRIPTION:

Summary -

Located on the west bank of the Yadkin River in rural Yadkin County, the Durrett-Jarratt House is a large, Federal-style frame dwelling built ca. 1820. The two-story house has a boldly simple form with stylistically refined detailing. A brick foundation, molded weatherboard siding, a gable roof, exterior-end brick chimneys, and four-bay facades characterize the exterior. A mid-nineteenth-century, shed-roofed porch carries across the south elevation, which now serves as the front of the house; originally it was the rear. Additions include a mid-nineteenth-century, one-story dining room that projects from the west end of the house and a one-story, early-twentieth-century kitchen attached to the west end of the dining room. Inside, the Durrett-Jarratt House exhibits a plan composed of four rooms of unequal size on both floors with two enclosed stairs that originally led to isolated halves of the second floor. The interior remains largely unaltered from its original appearance, retaining original Federal-style doors, mantels, wainscots, chair rails, baseboards, and door and window surrounds. White plastered walls form a plain backdrop for the sophisticated Federal-period painting scheme that includes polychromed moldings and mahogany wood graining. Simple Greek Revival detailing characterizes the dining room addition. The Durrett-Jarratt House stands approximately 100 feet back from old US 421 (now SR 1605) on a 1.72-acre tract of land. Originally the north side was the front of the house facing an early-nineteenth-century road, but with the road now passing to the south of the house, that side now serves as the main facade. Surviving outbuildings include an early-nineteenth-century, one-story frame building west of the house and a twentieth-century frame well house southeast of the house next to the road. A tree-studded lawn stretches south, east, and west of the house, while on the north side, trees and large boxwoods define the original front walk and part of the west boundary of the yard.

Integrity -

Both the exterior and the interior of the Durrett-Jarratt House remain remarkably intact. The only exterior alterations have been the replacement in the mid-nineteenth century of the original front and rear porches with full-length porches (the north porch was subsequently removed in the twentieth century), the mid-nineteenth-century addition of the dining room, and the early-twentieth-century addition of the kitchen. In the mid-nineteenth century, a door opening directly to the west stair was added to the south elevation, but it was removed in the early twentieth century. Interior alterations include the addition of a doorway connecting the northeast, second-story room with the west side of the house (the door for that opening was removed from the bottom of the west stair) and the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7

Page 2

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

repainting of the woodwork in the small southeast room on the first floor. In its original site, form and sophisticated exterior and interior detailing, the Durrett-Jarratt House retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A lack of maintenance for a number of years has left the house in only fair condition, but it is currently undergoing careful restoration. Since 1996, the Durrett-Jarratt House has been protected by a preservation covenant held by The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc.

Architecture: Exterior -

Consistency of design characterizes the exterior of the Durrett-Jarratt House. Common bond brickwork forms the foundation, which is interrupted by original wood-barred ventilators. On the south corner of the east-end elevation, a metal-sheathed shed entrance leads to the cellar, which probably dates from the twentieth century.

Molded weatherboards sheathe the exterior walls, which are punctuated by symmetrically arranged doors and windows. The main north and south elevations are identical, with four bays consisting of two six-panel doors with four-light transoms flanked by nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows on the first story. The doors on the north side retain their original exterior wood graining, while those on the south side have been over-painted. The second story has four nine-over-six sash windows. All doors and windows feature Federal-style molded surrounds, and first-story windows retain handsome shutters with fixed louvers.

Originally both north and south elevations had porches that sheltered the two center doorways. The places where the handrails joined the house can still be seen. These porches were replaced in the mid-nineteenth century by full-length, shed-roofed porches with square posts. The north shed porch was removed in the twentieth century, but the south porch survives.

The east elevation of the house features a central, single-shouldered chimney with three-to-one common bond brickwork. It is flanked by nine-over-nine sash windows on the first story, nine-over-six windows on the second story, and six-light windows at attic level. The west end of the house has only a single, six-light window lighting the attic. This elevation has a pair of brick chimneys matching the one on the east end of the house. A small, one-story, shed-roofed room with a six-panel door sits between the two chimneys, originally providing a service entrance to the west rooms of the house.

A gable roof with asphalt shingles covers the Durrett-Jarratt House. Eaves across the front and rear of the house are boxed and have Federal-style molded cornices. Extended purlins were added in the mid-to-late nineteenth century to the east and west ends of the roof to create the present projecting eaves. The south slope of the west end of the roof was damaged by fire in the late nineteenth century and was patched, but the original rafters and most of the sheathing boards were

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7

Page 3

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

not harmed and remain intact.

Two one-story additions extend from the west end of the house: a mid-nineteenth-century dining room and, attached to it, an early-twentieth-century kitchen with rear shed rooms containing a bathroom and an enclosed porch. These one-story additions feature brick foundations, weatherboard siding, and gable roofs. The dining room roof has boxed north and south eaves and flush east and west eaves, while the projecting eaves of the kitchen roof have exposed rafter ends. The dining room has a west gable-end brick chimney and six-over-six sash windows with simple surrounds and louvered shutters. The windows of the kitchen addition are grouped six-over-six sash. The mid-nineteenth-century full-length porches of the main block of the Durrett-Jarratt House were probably built when the dining room was added to provide a covered connector (on the south side) between the two sections of the house. A small space between the two was filled in during the twentieth century to create a closet. A two-panel door opens from the dining room to the south porch.

Architecture: Interior, including Decorative Finishes -

Like the exterior, the interior of the main section of the Durrett-Jarratt House is stylistically consistent in its overall design and detailing. Each floor contains four rooms of unequal size, with two rooms on either side of the house. On the west side, the rooms are equal in size, but on the east side, the north room is significantly larger than the south room. Two separate, enclosed stairs--one in each side of the house--rise back to back in opposite directions from the first floor to the second. The primary stair leads from the large, first-floor northeast room to the small, second-floor southeast room, while the secondary stair leads from the southwest room on the first floor to a landing connecting the two west rooms on the second floor. In the mid-nineteenth century, a door was cut through the south wall of the house to lead directly from the porch to the west stair, but this door was removed during the twentieth century. On the second floor a door was also cut through the wall separating the east and west sides of the house between the northeast room and the landing between the west rooms. At that time, the door at the bottom of the west stair was moved to the new doorway upstairs. A stair to the attic is accessed from the second-floor southwest room and is directly above the west stair leading between the first and second floors. The attic is floored but is otherwise unfinished with exposed mortise-and-tenoned rafters and roof sheathing boards.

The house has two unusual service rooms as well as small closets under each stair. On the first floor, a small room between the two west-end chimneys provides a service room with an exterior entrance and four-panel, wood-grained doors leading to each of the two west rooms. Original shelves line either side of the room. On the second floor a "lumber" room (for the storage of miscellaneous clutter) stands adjacent to the east stair and is accessed from the small southeast room. It is lined with shelves.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7

Page 4

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

The original Federal-period decorative finishes of the Durrett-Jarratt House interior are outstanding in their quality and preservation. On the first two floors, all walls and ceilings are plastered and floors are of unfinished, random-width pine. Baseboards throughout the house are painted black. All of the six-panel doors are wood grained in the typical Federal style with a yellow ocher base beneath a deep brown mahogany-grained overglaze. Lines have been scored in the graining to reveal the yellow ocher base coat and give the appearance of panels outlined with a lighter wood inlay with quarter-circle cut-outs at the corners. All of the wood trim--door and window surrounds, chair rails, and portions of the mantels--on the first floor are painted a deep green typical of the Federal period, although the trim and doors of the southeast room have been over-painted in a similar green. Here the outlines of the original graining can still be seen underneath the later layer of paint. On the second floor, the trim of the southwest room continues the use of dark green, while the southeast room is trimmed in light blue-green, and the northeast and northwest rooms are trimmed with a grayish-ocher paint. The three main first-floor rooms feature handsome paneled wainscots with wood graining matching that of the doors. The southeast room on the first floor and all the rooms on the second floor have chair rails but no wainscots. All six mantels in the house--three upstairs and three down--have wood-grained panels matching those of the doors and wainscots. The three first-floor mantels contain two panels with fluted pilasters and reeded surrounds. The second-floor, east-room mantel has three panels, while the mantels in the two west-side rooms have five panels. All second-floor mantels feature Federal-style molded surrounds but no pilasters.

The interiors of the one-story additions are much simpler than that of the main house but are consistent with the Greek-Revival and early-twentieth-century periods during which they were built. The mid-nineteenth-century dining room has plastered walls, a flush-boarded ceiling, two-panel doors, a post-and-lintel mantel, and angular Greek Revival moldings around doors and windows. All woodwork is unpainted, except for the door leading to the kitchen, which is wood-grained. The early-twentieth-century kitchen addition with bathroom and enclosed porch features tongue-and-groove boarded walls, a celotex ceiling, and other modern materials.

Outbuildings -

Two outbuildings accompany the Durrett-Jarratt House. West of the house stands a one-story, frame, weatherboarded structure claimed by family tradition to have been originally a commissary. It has a steep gable roof, a door on the east side, two windows, and flush-sheathed interior walls. Probably built about the same time as the house, this outbuilding contributes to the overall historic character of the property.

A large well house is located southeast of the house near the road. The one-story,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7

Page 5

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

weatherboarded building with a metal-sheathed gable roof appears to date from the twentieth century and is heavily deteriorated. It does not contribute to the historic character of the property.

At least two other outbuildings once stood south of the house. The original kitchen was a saddlebag log structure, and between it and the well house stood a tall log smokehouse. It is possible that historic-period archaeological resources exist on the sites of these vanished outbuildings, but this nomination does not address them.

Setting -

Although the Durrett-Jarratt House was once surrounded by several hundred acres, much of which was farmed, the present house tract has been reduced to less than two acres among fields farmed by others. Its boundaries include SR 1605 on the southeast side, a line of trees along the east, northeast, and north sides, and a north-south line on the west side separating the current property from other Jarratt family property. The south half of the tract consists largely of a lawn with scattered walnut, cedar, and other trees. Large oaks, cedars, and hollies provide shade to the north side of the house. The most distinguished feature of the landscape is the collection of large boxwood bushes and box trees on the north side of the house. Boxwoods line the walk that once lead from the old road to the original front of the house, and another row of boxwoods extends westward from the northwest corner of the house to the purported commissary, where the bushes are joined by box trees forming a line that heads northwest, paralleling the property line.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8

Page 6

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Summary -

Soon after purchasing 514 acres of fertile land on the west bank of the Yadkin River in 1818, Virginia native Davis Durrett built an imposing two-story, frame, Federal-style house that was highly sophisticated for Piedmont North Carolina. The house displayed fine woodwork on both exterior and interior and stylish wood graining on the doors, wainscots, and mantels. After Davis Durrett's death in 1832, Richard C. Puryear bought the property in 1835 on behalf of Isaac Jarratt, a local slave trader, merchant, and farmer. The house remained in Jarratt family ownership for over 150 years, although after Isaac Jarratt's death in 1880, subsequent Jarratt owners gradually sold much of the acreage associated with the house in order to settle debts and help support their families. Finally, in 1996, the house and its surrounding 1.72 acres were sold through the revolving fund of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. with a protective covenant to help safeguard their future. Present owner Dr. James M. Walter, Jr. is currently undertaking a full restoration of this important house.

The Durrett-Jarratt House is unparalleled in Yadkin County in its presentation of the early-nineteenth-century Federal style. The quality and intactness of its design make the house an important example of the style not only in Yadkin County but in the Piedmont region as a whole. At the same time, its sophisticated and well-preserved display of painted decorative finishes--particularly its quintessential Federal-style wood-graining--elevates the house to the level of statewide significance in North Carolina. The Durrett-Jarratt House is part of a distinguished group of North Carolina Federal-period houses that possess decorative painting, including the William Carter House (NR 1990) and the Edwards-Franklin House (NR 1973) in Surry County, the Fewell-Reynolds House (NR 1979) in Rockingham County, the Charles Benbow House (NR 1982) in Guilford County, the David Hendricks House (NR 1986) in Davie County, Mt. Vernon (NR 1978) in Rowan County, and the Wilfong-Wilson House (NR 1990) in Catawba County. Of these, the Durrett-Jarratt House serves as the paradigm for Federal-period wood graining in the state. The Durrett-Jarratt House fulfills Criterion C for listing in the National Register because of its significance in the areas of decorative arts and architecture. Its period of significance is ca. 1820, the approximate date of construction of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8

Page 7

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

Decorative Arts Context -

Decorative interior painting provided nineteenth-century homeowners with a wide range of options for embellishing their houses. With some paint and at least a little talent, a painter could elevate a living space to the height of fashion. In North Carolina, decorative interior painting--including wood-grained, marbled, stone-blocked, smoked, stenciled, trompe l'oeil, scenic, polychromed and other forms--constitutes a dramatic aspect of the state's architectural history. Several hundred examples survive from the late eighteenth century through the early twentieth century, representing a broad geographic distribution from the eastern coastal plain to the western mountains. These examples reveal great variety in form, style, and technique and range from the highly sophisticated and primly academic to the unschooled and sometimes bizarrely energetic.

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the most popular form of decorative interior painting in North Carolina was wood graining. Different types of wood were imitated, with examples ranging from the realistic and precisely executed to the brashly stylized. Wood graining was used primarily on doors, but also on wainscots, mantels, and other architectural features where wood would have been used naturally. Wood graining allowed homeowners to use common local woods and dress them up to look like fancier or more exotic woods. But even when fancier woods were available and could be afforded by the homeowner, wood-graining was often chosen instead, primarily because it was fashionable but also because it could be over-grained later to imitate yet another type of wood.

Wood graining during the Federal period in North Carolina--particularly during the 1820s and early 1830s--tended to follow a stylistic formula that was repeated over and over again. Closely tied to furniture styles of the time that featured inlaid wood detailing, it consisted of mahogany graining over a ground coat that was usually a yellow-ocher. The graining layer was scored in the shape of a rectangle with quarter-round corner cut-outs, revealing the golden undercoat and giving the impression of a light wood inlay. This treatment enabled the woodwork to appear to be composed of raised panels. Its use on doors that already had raised panels as well as on the more usual Federal doors with six flat panels or on other flat surfaces suggests the importance of rules of fashion where wood graining was concerned. Within this genre, some wood graining appeared relatively realistic, while other examples strayed from reality, eventually becoming stylized to the point of abstraction. In these cases, pattern and color clearly became more important to the painter than the replication of wood from nature.

Of the surviving examples of this style of wood graining in North Carolina, most are found in the Piedmont. In addition to the Durrett-Jarratt House, examples include the William Carter House (NR 1990) and the Edwards-Franklin House (NR 1973) in Surry County, the Fewell-Reynolds House (NR 1979) in Rockingham County, the Charles Benbow House (NR 1982) in Guilford County, the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8

Page 8

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

Col. James T. Moore House in Alamance County, the David Hendricks House (NR 1986) in Davie County, Mt. Vernon (NR 1978) in Rowan County, and the Wilfong-Wilson House (NR 1990) in Catawba County. The wood-graining in some of these houses, including the Durrett-Jarratt House, is complemented by original, solid-color paint finishes--such as dark green, grayish-ocher, and grayish blue-green--used for door and window surrounds, chair rails, mantel moldings, and other trim. The Durrett-Jarratt House, the William Carter House, and the Fewell-Reynolds House are so similar in artistic treatment that they may have been done by the same painter. Unfortunately, the name of that painter is not known at present. Most of the Piedmont examples of Federal period wood graining clearly convey the concept of mahogany panels, even though some lean more and more toward a stylization of wood. Other examples of the genre, including the Bynum-Sugg House in Edgecombe County and the Costen-Rountree House and Dr. Thomas Riddick House in Gates County, go even farther, leaving reality behind and focusing instead on pattern and color. Of all the examples of Federal-style wood graining in North Carolina, the Durrett-Jarratt House is one of the finest and, in its sophistication, comprehensive coverage throughout the house, and excellent state of preservation, serves as the quintessential example of this type of decorative wood graining in the state. (The information for the Decorative Arts context comes from the author's fifteen years of research on historic decorative interior painting in North Carolina and her curatorship of the currently-travelling exhibit, "Grand Illusions: Historic Decorative Interior Painting in North Carolina," sponsored by the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. and North Carolina State University's Visual Arts Center.)

Architecture Context -

Architectural expressions of the early-nineteenth-century Federal style in Yadkin County are generally conservative, although often implying substantial financial investment. The houses of this period were of log, frame, or brick construction, with frame examples predominating. Frame houses tended to be larger than their log counterparts and allowed for more varied floor plans. However, most of the approximately two dozen surviving houses from this period--whether log, frame, or brick--had two-room, hall-and-parlor plans. Exceptions include the log Williams-Dodge-Turner House and the frame John Kelly Tavern-Clingman House, which had center-hall plans; the frame "White House," which had a three-room, Quaker plan; and the frame Durrett-Jarratt House, which boasted a large, four-room plan. Typical features displayed by Federal-style houses in Yadkin County include two stories that emphasize vertical massing, steep gable roofs, eaves that are flush with the sides of the house, boxed cornices, gable-end brick chimneys, six-panel doors, paneled mantels, and chair rails or wainscots.

The ca. 1820 Durrett-Jarratt House is the largest and most handsomely finished of Yadkin

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8

Page 9

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

County's Federal-period houses. Local tradition asserts that it was modeled after first owner Davis Durrett's former house in Virginia. The original, eight-room section of the house has two enclosed stairs connecting the two stories; originally, there was no communication between the two halves of the second story. While the east end of the house has the typical center chimney, the west end is distinguished by a pair of chimneys flanking a service entrance and ante-room. Both the exterior and the interior of the Durrett-Jarratt House retain a full complement of Federal-period moldings. The house is unrivaled in the county and, indeed, holds a prominent place in Piedmont North Carolina architecture for the amount and quality of its interior woodwork and painted finishes. (Information for the Architecture context was largely derived from the architectural survey report of Kirk F. Mohny, as published in condensed form in *Historical Architecture of Yadkin County, North Carolina*.)

Historical Background -

During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the fertile bottom lands along the Yadkin River beckoned men who came to the area to establish themselves as large land owners and farmers. Among the families who settled along the river were the Clingmans, the Poindexters, the Conrads, the Williamses, the Bittings, the Glenss, the Puryears, and the Jarratts. Before the Civil War, these families formed the local aristocracy; many of their descendents still live in the vicinity. The area at that time was part of Surry County; Yadkin County was formed in 1850. One of the men who settled here was Virginian Davis Durrett. On October 27, 1818, he purchased a tract of 514 acres from Isaiah Coe and Giles Hudspeth (Surry County Deed Book 0, pp. 290-291). Soon thereafter he built a large frame house that local tradition claims was modeled after his home in Virginia. Although Durrett's house was conservative when compared with much of the Federal-style architecture in eastern style centers, it was both commodious and finely detailed by Piedmont standards. The two-story dwelling boasted refined woodwork on the exterior and throughout the interior, and its sophisticated wood graining on doors, mantels, and wainscots must have been a wonder to other residents of the area.

Knowledge concerning Davis Durrett and his family is limited. Surry County Tax Lists for 1819 and 1820 record him with 514 acres, valued first at \$6,500--the purchase price of his property--and the following year at only \$4,600, with no explanation for the reduction in value (Harvey-1819, 41; Harvey-1820, 23). The 1820 census places Davis Durrett's age between twenty-six and forty-five years. His household in that year also included one female (presumably his wife, Sarah) between the ages of sixteen and twenty-six, and one male child under the age of ten (Brumfield, *Historical Architecture*, 36). Ten years later, the 1830 census recorded Durrett as being between forty and fifty years old, his wife between twenty and thirty years old, and two male children between five and ten

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8

Page 10

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

years old. He was also listed with thirty-three slaves, making him one of the largest slaveowners in the county (Snow, 142-143; Brumfield, *Historical Architecture*, 36). Davis Durrett served as a House member in the North Carolina General Assembly in 1824 and 1825 (Casstevens, 49). The Clingman store ledger from the 1820s sheds some additional clues about Durrett's productive life. In 1823, 1824, and 1825 he was recorded as selling or bartering quantities of butter, wax, and feathers; in late 1824 and 1825 he sold over 500 gallons of whiskey (Brumfield note). Davis Durrett died young, on April 30, 1832; an announcement of his death was carried in the May 14 issue of the Salisbury's *Western Carolinian*. Tradition claims that he was buried in a small plot near the house (Brumfield, *Historical Architecture*, 36).

Durrett died intestate, and at the September, 1833 term of the Surry Court of Equity, his heirs petitioned the judge to hold a public sale of Durrett's real estate (several tracts in Surry and Stokes counties) for the purpose of distributing the proceeds among the heirs. After advertising for twelve months, the court held the sale on February 26, 1835, at which time Solomon Graves, Clerk and Master of the Court of Equity, conveyed to Richard Puryear the home tract for \$5,550 (Surry County Deed Book V, 286-287). Jarratt family tradition claims that Puryear, a close friend, associate, and kinsman of Isaac Jarratt, purchased the Durrett property for Jarratt at his request (Jarratt, 19).

Isaac Jarratt was born December 18, 1794 to Esther (Clingman) and Killian Jarratt. Soon thereafter, Killian Jarratt left his family and moved to the Asheville area. Isaac spent many of his young years with his Clingman family in the Huntsville area (Jarratt, 16-17; Hoots, 446). During the War of 1812, Isaac served with the Surry County Second Regiment (Muster Rolls). After the war, he lived and worked at the Clingman store in Huntsville. By the 1830s, Isaac Jarratt was also a slave trader, and it was in this line of work that he became a wealthy man. He was a partner in the slave trading business with Tyre Glen(n), the wealthiest man in the Yadkin section of Surry County. An advertisement in the January 19, 1833 issue of *The Carolina Watchman* (Salisbury) proclaimed that Jarratt and Glen would "purchase any number of likely young Negroes" for "liberal prices in cash." In his dual roles as merchant and slave trader, Jarratt traveled widely, to Philadelphia in the North and to the South Carolina Low Country, Alabama, and other places in the Deep South. (*Carolina Watchman*; Brumfield, *Clingman*, 51, 56, 64, 66). It was on one of his trips to South Carolina that Jarratt met and fell in love with Harriet Ann Bates. Her family, however, did not approve of Jarratt, and by trickery broke up the romance. Without knowing the truth of the matter, Harriet Ann married Francis Asbury Cash, a young man of whom her family approved, and they moved to Florida. Jarratt remained single (Jarratt, 18-19; Brumfield, *Historical Architecture*, 37).

While on a business trip to Memphis, Jarratt learned that Francis Cash had died. He wrote Harriet Ann, asking if he might come to visit her in Florida. She assented, he visited, and after determining that their love was still alive, they married soon thereafter on July 13, 1834. The Jarratts lived in Tallahassee for several months, while Isaac settled Francis Cash's affairs. It was at

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8

Page 11

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

this point that Jarratt contacted Richard Puryear, requesting that he purchase the Durrett place for the newlyweds. The Jarratts returned to North Carolina in the Spring of 1835 and took up residence at the old Durrett house (Jarratt, 19; Brumfield, *Clingman*, 75; Casstevens, 435). When the property was officially transferred to Isaac Jarratt's ownership is not clear. On November 9, 1840, Richard C. Puryear sold Isaac Jarratt 322 acres on the west side of the Yadkin River for \$3,000. This may be the house tract, only reduced in size and price, for the deed mentions a previous deed from Solomon Graves (Clerk and Master of the Equity Court) for the land (Surry County Deed Book 2, 34-35).

Isaac and Harriet Ann Jarratt reared a large family in their North Carolina home; there were her five Cash children, their three children born between 1835 and 1841, and Sarah Esther Mitchell, Jarratt's unmarried half sister (Casstevens, 435; Jarratt, 19). Family tradition claims that after Isaac Jarratt's marriage to Harriet Ann, he gave up the slave trade and concentrated on running the plantation. In the following years, Jarratt enlarged his land holdings. By 1850, the Agricultural Schedule of the Seventh Census listed Isaac Jarratt with 1227 acres, 500 of which were improved, at a value of \$8,800. In line with agricultural trends in the county as a whole, Jarratt's primary crops were Indian corn, oats, potatoes (both Irish and sweet), and rye. He also raised cattle, sheep, swine, and horses and mules. The Slave Schedule for the 1860 census lists Jarratt as owning forty-four slaves (Seventh Census, Agriculture Schedule; Eighth Census, Slave Schedule; Casstevens, 61).

In addition to farming, Isaac Jarratt was busy with a variety of civic activities. When Yadkin County was formed from Surry in 1850, Jarratt was named Chairman of the County Court, the highest executive position in the county. In 1852 he was one of the directors of the Winston and Wilkesboro Plank Road. In 1862, he was elected to serve in the North Carolina Confederate Senate; his district included Alleghany, Ashe, Surry, Watauga, and Yadkin counties (Casstevens, 107; Brumfield, *Clingman*, 93, 122). Like many other planter families in the area, Isaac Jarratt and his family were affiliated with the Episcopal congregation in Huntsville known as Calvary Church (Calvary Church Record Book).

On January 26, 1864, Harriet Ann Bates Cash Jarratt died. Isaac lived on for another sixteen years, dying on March 20, 1880, at the age of eighty-six (Hoots, 446). Meanwhile, Isaac Augustus "Gus" Jarratt (1841-1890) and his wife, Sarah Ellen Puryear, and their three children were also living in the family home. The 1870 census indicates that Gus Jarratt had already become the head of the household (Brumfield, *Clingman*, 130). Soon after Isaac Jarratt's death, Gus had to begin selling off some of the property in order to settle debts; in 1880 he sold 400 acres east of the house. In 1893, Gus's son, Richard Clausel Jarratt, sold off an additional 425 acres (Brumfield, *Clingman*, 135, 144). Although Isaac Jarratt's plantation never regained the size and status it had held during his lifetime, the house continued to be owned and occupied by several generations of his descendents. Only during the late 1940s and again in the 1980s did non-family members occupy the house, or rather, the one-story dining room/kitchen wing (Frances Jarratt Interview).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8

Page 12

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

Finally, on July 17, 1996--after more than a century and a half of family ownership, the Jarratt heirs sold the house and 1.72 acres to The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. (Yadkin County Deed Book 404, 156). This was a last great act of stewardship by the Jarratt family, for the property was sold with its preservation in mind. On July 22, 1996, the Historic Preservation Foundation sold the house and its immediate surroundings to Dr. James M. Walter, Jr. with a protective covenant to help ensure its preservation (Yadkin County Deed Book 404, 159-164). The house is currently being restored by its new owner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9

Page 13

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Brumfield, Lewis, ed. *Historical Architecture of Yadkin County, North Carolina*. Yadkinville, NC: The Yadkin County Historical Society, 1987.
- Brumfield, Lewis. Note to Laura A. W. Phillips, January 24, 1997.
- Brumfield, Lewis Shore. *Thomas Lanier Clingman and the Shallow Ford Families*. Yadkinville, NC: Author, 1990.
- Casstevens, Frances Harding, ed. *The Heritage of Yadkin County*. Yadkinville, NC: The Yadkin County Historical Society, 1981.
- Harvey, Iris Mosely, comp. *Surry County, North Carolina Tax Lists - 1819*. Raleigh: Author, 1992.
- Harvey, Iris Mosely, comp. *Surry County, North Carolina Tax Lists - 1820*. Raleigh: Author, 1994.
- Hoots, Carl C., comp. *Cemeteries of Yadkin County North Carolina*. Spartanburg: Author, 1985.
- Jarratt, Augustus Henry, Sr. "The Family History," unpublished typescript, no date (Jarratt lived 1878-1951).
- Jarratt, Frances. Interview by Laura A. W. Phillips, February 1997.
- Muster Rolls of the Soldiers of the War of 1812 Detached from the Militia of North Carolina, in 1812 and 1814*. Raleigh: C. C. Raboteau, at the Times Office, 1851.
- Phillips, Laura A. W. Research Materials on Historic Decorative Interior Painting in North Carolina, on file at author's office, Winston-Salem, N.C.
- Record Book of Calvary Church, Huntsville, N.C. Original in possession of Anne Clingman White, Huntsville, N.C.
- Snow, Carol Leonard, comp. *1830 Census of Surry County, North Carolina*. Toast, NC: Author, 1994.
- Surry County Records, Office of the Register of Deeds, Surry County Courthouse, Dobson, N.C.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 & 10 Page 14 **Durrett-Jarratt House**
Yadkin County, North Carolina

The Carolina Watchman (Salisbury), January 19, 1833.

United States Census. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860. Yadkin County, North Carolina, Slave Schedule.

United States Census. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Surry County, North Carolina, Agriculture Schedule.

Yadkin County Records, Office of the Register of Deeds, Yadkin County Courthouse, Yadkinville, N.C.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description -

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying survey map entitled "Part Lot 9997 Blk. 65, Jarratt, D.B. 109, page 398."

Boundary Justification -

The boundary of the nominated property includes the current house tract, containing the Durrett-Jarratt House, the two surviving outbuildings, and their immediate setting of 1.72 acres. The nominated property provides an appropriate setting for the ca. 1820 Durrett-Jarratt House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number Photographs Page 15

Durrett-Jarratt House
Yadkin County, North Carolina

PHOTOGRAPHS:

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) Durrett-Jarratt House
- 2) Yadkin County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 4) 12/96
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7) A: Overall, view to NW
B: Context, view to N
C: Overall, view to NE
D: Overall, view to SE
E: Cornice and window detail, view to S
F: NE room overall, 1st floor, view to NE
G: Wainscot detail, NW room, 1st floor, view to S
H: Door, SE room, 2nd floor, view to N
I: Mantel, NE room, 2nd floor, view to E
J: Mantel detail, NW room, 2nd room, view to W

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

4850 II NE
(EAST BEND)

80°30' ENON T. M. 546000m E. 547 548 27'30" 5
36°07'30"

DUNNETT-JARRATT HSE. (C)
3997000m N.
YADKIN CO., NC
CLEMMONS QUAD
JTM REFERENCE -
17/545 020/3997 040
SCALE 1:250 000



