

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC L. Banks Holt House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER North side NC 62 opposite junction with SR 1113

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Alamance --- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Alamance

CODE

1

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. Carroll M. Shoffner, Chairman  
Alamance County Historical Museum

STREET & NUMBER % Shoffner Industries, Inc.  
Route 1, Box 97

CITY, TOWN

Burlington --- VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27215

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Alamance County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Graham

STATE

North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

---FEDERAL ---STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The L. Banks Holt House stands in a grove of hardwoods on a rise south of the small mill village of Alamance. Though the present house is predominantly a vernacular Italianate Revival structure erected in the 1870s, some traces remain of the original house built by Michael Holt in the late 18th or early 19th century. In 1807 this was the birthplace of textile pioneer Edwin M. Holt. The house is named for Edwin's son L. Banks, who gave the house its present form. One of the finer nineteenth century houses in Alamance County, it reflects the transition of an energetic family from agrarian life to prominence in the industrial age.

The frame house consists of a two-story block facing east, a two-story ell extending to the west, and a one-story hip roof wing on the north side. This small north section contains remnants of the early house. Examination of the underpinnings indicates that the ell may have been an early enlargement of the original house, which in turn was remodeled and incorporated with the Italianate east block. It is evident that the south facade was the original front, as the double door of the south wall of the ell opens into a stair hall. This entry no longer has direct vehicular or pedestrian access. In the automobile age emphasis has shifted to the east facade which has direct access to a drive off the main road. The east yard has received the most elaborate landscaping, with rows of boxwoods flanking the walk, and other plantings.

The east block is a two-story, gable roof structure pierced by the corbeled and castellated stack of the massive central chimney. The first level of the east facade is sheltered by a three-bay, hip roof porch supported by chamfered posts with neck moldings and ornamented with sawn brackets. A rich sawn balustrade spans the two outer bays, and heavy brackets with faceted pendants run under the eaves of the porch roof. The east facade is four bays wide on the first-floor level, with a door on either end and two windows in the center. The second level is pierced by two windows, each centered over a door below. All windows have six-over-six sash set in simple molded frames with plain sills and flanked by louvered shutters. The doors have four flat panels trimmed with wide applied moldings.

On the south gable end of this block, a bay window projects from the first-floor level under a bracketed gable roof. The second-floor window directly above is surmounted by a wide molded shelf supported by two brackets; underneath the shelf is applied a course of arrowhead shaped sawnwork. This is the only window of the house given this detail.

The gable roof ell has a two bay south elevation; the right bay contains a double door flanked by long narrow arched windows set in wide molded frames. This was the original front entrance. A three-bay, hip roof porch protecting the first-floor level is set in the angle between the ell and the main block and similar to the porch of the east facade. A demi-hexagonal hip roof bay window projects from the west gable end of the ell.

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The one-story, hip roof north wing is three bays wide and one deep. Here remain two windows dating from the earlier house: one retains its nine-over-nine sash and two-part molded frame, and the other rests on a handsome molded sill, though sash and frame are replacements. An exterior brick chimney, now stuccoed, is set against the north wall of the ell with its lower half enclosed by the wing. A small hip roof modern porch extends across the central bay of the wing.

All three components of the house exhibit brackets under the eaves of the east, west, and south elevations. On the east facade the brackets are paired. No brackets occur at any point along the north elevation.

Except for some older features in the smaller wing, the interior corresponds with the Italianate character of the exterior and remains virtually unchanged. The east block follows a two-room plan, with each room finished identically and heated by the central chimney, though space and light in the south room are enhanced by the bay window. The ell contains one spacious parlor on the west end and a wide stair hall adjoining the east block. Walls of both sections are plastered and skirted with a wide molded baseboard. Doors are of four panels with wide, protruding applied moldings; a similar robust molding trims the frames of the doors and windows. First-floor mantels are of a heavy post and lintel type, with narrow paired arched panels in the wide pilasters, two narrow panels with heavy moldings across the lintel, and roundels at the bases of the pilasters and at the center and ends of the lintel.

Between the ell and the east block, the open-string stair rises northward to a landing, and turns west a few steps to the second floor hall. The eased handrail begins at the tapered octagonal newel and is carried upward on turned balusters.

The second floor follows the first in plan and detail, though the mantels are unadorned. The second floor of the east block is slightly higher than that of the ell, and a flight of three steps is required to reach the second floor rooms on the east side. The closet doors of the second floor room of the ell are of six panels, with raised panels on the unfinished side; these apparently survive from the earlier house.

The one-story north wing contains two rooms separated by a narrow center hall. In this hall are found two six-panel doors with raised panels and some wide beaded flush sheathing, also remnants of the earlier house. The east room of this wing has been remodeled for a modern kitchen.

The Holt family cemetery lies just to the north of the house, and includes the graves of Michael Holt (1775-1842), his wife Rachel Rainey Holt (1778-183?), Edwin M. Holt (1807-1884), his wife Emily Farish Holt (1808-1900), and other family members.

The house now serves as the Alamance County Historical Museum, exhibiting to the public artifacts donated or loaned from numerous local sources. The house and grounds

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are the site of periodic special exhibits, craft shows, and picnics. Part of the first floor is the private residence of a caretaker-tenant.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The L. Banks Holt House is a well-preserved frame farmhouse with handsome late 19th century finish, located in a pleasant rural setting. It is representative of the long history of the Holt family in Alamance (formerly Orange) County. Michael Holt, I, settled in the area in 1740, and his son Michael, II, obtained a tract in 1760 on which he built a house that was the seat of the family for generations, and the birthplace of pioneer textile industrialist Edwin M. Holt. The old dwelling is believed to be incorporated in the present house, expanded by Lynn Banks Holt soon after the Civil War. Like his father E. M. Holt, L. Banks Holt was a prominent industrialist, one of those who led the Piedmont into the forefront of post-Civil War prominence in the textile industry.

Probably sometime in the 1870s Lynn Banks Holt, an Alamance County industrialist, built a house southwest of Graham in Alamance County. The land on which he erected the structure was owned at that time by his father, Edwin Michael Holt, the founder of the first Alamance cotton mill in 1837 and a prominent industrialist in the county. Evidently Lynn Banks Holt built his home on the foundation of the house of his grandfather, Michael Holt, III, (Edwin M. Holt's father), and he utilized the standing framework of the first structure in constructing the new one. When Edwin Michael Holt died in 1882 he left his son, Lynn Banks Holt, a tract of land "Lying south of the Hillsboro road" that included the "old residence" of Edwin Holt's father. Apparently by that time the "old residence" was a part of the new house built by Lynn Banks Holt.

Lynn Banks Holt, sixth son of Edwin Michael and Emily Farish Holt, was born in his father's homestead known as "Peach Orchard" near Graham on June 28, 1842. He was a descendant of Michael Holt who came to Alamance County (then Orange County) in 1740, having received 100 acres there from the Earl of Granville. Michael Holt, II, came to Alamance with his father, and in 1760 he purchased from the Earl of Granville 510 acres of land, upon which he probably built the home which Lynn Banks later utilized and retained in building his own home. Michael, III, lived in the old house, and his son, Edwin Michael Holt, was born there in 1807. According to local tradition, shortly after Edwin Holt married in 1828, he moved across the road (now highway N.C. 62) from the Holt homestead where he built his own house at "Peach Orchard" plantation. In 1837 he built the first cotton mill in Alamance County which was also one of the first in the state. Along with his son, Thomas M. Holt, he is credited with creating the famous "Alamance Plaids."

While growing up on his father's plantation, Lynn Banks Holt attended the preparatory school at Hawfields, "one of the most celebrated schools of its class in the state." In 1859 he entered Hillsboro Military Academy and spent his vacations working in his father's

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cotton mill.<sup>3</sup> Before he graduated the Civil War began, and Holt at age twenty, in July, 1861, immediately joined the Sixth Regiment, North Carolina Troops, of the Confederate Army. In October he was transferred to the Eighth Regiment and commissioned a second lieutenant. He saw service on Roanoke Island where he was captured in February, 1862, and exchanged in August of that year. He was wounded in 1863, and again in 1864, when he was again captured. He was hospitalized at several Federal prisons and was released in June, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance.<sup>4</sup>

Upon returning to Alamance County following the war, Holt joined with his brothers, James H., William E., Lawrence S. and Thomas M. Holt, as well as his brother-in-law, James N. Williamson, in running the Alamance Cotton Mills of Edwin M. Holt who retired and relinquished the operation of the mills to them in 1866.<sup>5</sup> Thomas Holt, who was governor of North Carolina, 1891-1893, is perhaps the best known of the Holt brothers. When he was governor he was considered "one of the wealthiest men in the state, and his brothers were rated not far behind him." The Holt brothers, members of a class of industrialists that grew in numbers in North Carolina and the South after the Civil War, dominated the burgeoning textile industry in Alamance County until around 1919.<sup>6</sup> Although the cotton industry began in the state in antebellum days (as did Edwin Holt's Alamance Cotton Mills in 1837) the rate of growth greatly increased after the war. As one of the three leading cotton states of the South, North Carolina doubled the value of her output between 1860 and 1880, and the rate of its cotton mill expansion continued to grow at "a speed never attained in earlier years."<sup>7</sup>

Lynn Banks Holt ultimately became the sole owner of the Alamance Cotton Mills, Oneida Mills, Bellemont Cotton Mills, and the Carolina Cotton Mills, which he made a part of the L. Banks Holt Manufacturing Company in 1909. He was influential in community and county government, and his farms in the county were noted for their fine horses and other blooded stock. When Holt left his house in the county in 1886 and built a new house on South Maple Street in Graham, he is said to have included a cupola or tower in the new home so that he could survey his nearby stock farm and race track. At his death in 1920 he had distributed to his heirs most of his property, but the value of his residual estate was still estimated at half a million dollars.<sup>8</sup>

Eleven years before his death Holt sold his home southwest of Graham to the L. Banks Holt Manufacturing Company in exchange for 9,998 shares of capital stock. This began a rapid succession of owners of the property: North Carolina Trust Company in 1910; J. T. Lewallen of Alamance County, 1912; W. G. and Eunice Lewallen, 1912; C. C. and Minta A. Tapscott, 1922; R. H. W. Barker and then C. L. Clarke, 1927; J. W. and Esta Snow Callahan who in the same year sold it to Amelia L. Holt, 1928; John Shoffner, 1942, and then Claude Shoffner; H. N. and Edith Graham, 1948; Elizabeth W. Cable Childress, 1954. In 1975 Mrs. Childress conveyed the house to Carroll and Jacqueline Shoffner, grantors of the Alamance Historical Museum, Inc., a non-profit corporation which currently owns the L. Banks Holt House.

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Alamance County Original Wills, 1832-1900, Edwin M. Holt, 1882, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>2</sup> B. H. Mebane, Address at unveiling of portrait of L. Banks Holt at Graham Public School, 1927, North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, pp. 1-2; Samuel A. Ashe and others, Biographical History of North Carolina (Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1906), VII, 204; Julian Hughes, Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County, Evolution of Ways and Weft in Alamance: Exploits of Edwin M. Holt and his Sons and Associates in Cotton Mills and Villages (Burlington: Burlington Letter Shop, 1965), p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Ashe, Biographical History of North Carolina, VII, 204-205.

<sup>4</sup> Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr., and Louis H. Manarin, comps., North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster (Raleigh: Office of Archives and History, 1973), IV, 337, 603-604.

<sup>5</sup> R. D. W. Conner, North Carolina: Rebuilding An Ancient Commonwealth, 1584-1925 (New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1929), II, 362.

<sup>6</sup> Andrew Warren Pierpoint, Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County, North Carolina (an unpublished Phd. dissertation, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), p. 278.

<sup>7</sup> Comer Vann Woodward, Origins of the New South, 1877-1913 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951), pp. 131-132.

<sup>8</sup> Andrew Warren Pierpoint, Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County, p. 109; Walter Whitaker and others, Centennial History of Alamance County, 1849-1949 (Burlington: Burlington Chamber of Commerce, n.d.), p. 137.

<sup>9</sup> Alamance County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Alamance County Courthouse, Graham, North Carolina; Deed Books 38:55; 40:235-238; 46:144-147; 58:25; 72:538; 82:104; 89:606-607; 93:359,396; 142:138-139; 155:61-63; 181:120-122; 224:232; 411:595; 413:890.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alamance County Deed Books. Office of the Register of Deeds. Alamance County Courthouse, Graham, North Carolina.

Alamance County Original Wills, 1832-1900. Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Ashe, Samuel A. Biographical History of North Carolina. 8 volumes. Greensboro: Charles van Noppen, 1905-1917.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	6 3 5 9 2 0	3 9 8 6 9 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Architectural description by Michael Southern, survey specialist  
Significance by Joe Mobley, survey specialist

ORGANIZATION Division of Archives & History, Preservation Section

STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street TELEPHONE 829-4763

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh North Carolina 27611

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	



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Conner, R. D. W. North Carolina: Rebuilding An Ancient Commonwealth, 1584-1925. New York: The American Historical Society, Inc. 1929. II, p. 362.

Hughes, Julian. Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County, Evolution of Ways and Weft in Alamance: Exploits of Edwin M. Holt and his Sons and Associates in Cotton Mills and Villages. Burlington: Burlington Letter Shop, 1965.

Jordan, Weymouth T., Jr., and Manarin, Louis H. North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster. 5 volumes. Raleigh: Office of Archives and History, 1969-1975.

Mebane, B. H. Address at unveiling of portrait of L. Banks Holt at Graham Public School, 1927. North Carolina Collection. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Pierpoint, Andrew Warren. Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County, North Carolina. An unpublished Phd. dissertation. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Whitaker, Walter, and others. Centennial History of Alamance County, 1849-1949. Burlington: Burlington Chamber of Commerce, n.d..

Woodward, Comer Vann. Origins of the New South, 1877-1913. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951.

