

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Burke	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Pleasant Valley

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
gate at junction of SR 1423, SR 1439 and SR 1438 (1 mile northeast to house)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Morganton vicinity

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Burke	CODE 23
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) unused

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
E. L. Briggs and Dr. Melvin W. Webb

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Burnsville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Burke County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Morganton	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pleasant Valley is a sturdy L-shaped, two-story brick house with large exterior end chimneys and a high basement. The brick, laid in Flemish bond, is emphasized by light-colored joints which are painted white.

A curious strain of French influence that can be traced throughout the upper Piedmont region of North Carolina and the adjacent area of South Carolina appears in the twin entrance doors on the four-bay main (south) facade. Both doors are surmounted by four-light transoms and contain flush-paneled doors. The windows on the front are well-executed, having nine-over-six sash, molded architraves and sills, and rubbed brick flat arches. The first-floor windows are protected by original flat-paneled shutters hung with strap hinges and driven pentils. The first story of the main facade is sheltered by a shed porch featuring simple tapered wooden posts. The porch floor rests on huge stone piers. At the top of the wall is a light corbel cornice which is repeated on the rear of the house.

The east end is dominated by a pair of massive step-shoulder chimneys which flank a basement entrance containing a board-and-batten double door protected by a crude pent roof. At the first floor level on either side of the chimneys are tall narrow windows that contain six-over-four sash. Over each window is a shallow segmental relieving arch. In the gable between the chimneys is a small attic window with six-over-six sash.

The rear (north) facade features a two-tier porch in the two west bays. Resting on high brick piers, the porch is supported by heavy tapered pillars at the first level and chamfered posts at the second. Each tier is enclosed by a balustrade with balusters square in section and a rounded handrail. The east end of the porch abuts the side of the rear L where a door appears on each level. Similar doors appear in the adjoining bays of the main block, with single windows on each level in the remaining bays. All openings on the rear facade are marked by segmental arches except the two east bays on the first floor which are surmounted by flat arches similar to those on the front. Below these two bays are small six-light basement windows.

Because of the unusual placement of the porch under the main roof, the west end is asymmetrical. It features a single chimney located to the front of the gable end, flanked by large first-story windows. A tiny attic window is located just below the apex of the roof.

The interior plan of Pleasant Valley is quite unusual. There is a single large parlor to the west separated from two smaller rooms on the east by an enclosed stair that rises between and adjacent to the twin entrances on the main facade. It is reached from either the west parlor or southeast room. The west parlor has walls plastered above and below a molded chair rail that continues under the windows in place of a sill. Although quite high and heavy, the mantel is adorned with delicate sunbursts and quarter sunbursts on the central tablet and end blocks. The smaller southeast room has been refinished with twentieth-century paneling but retains some original chair rail as well as its mantel, which features a flat-paneled tablet and end

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blocks supported by paneled pilasters outlined with vertical reeding. The rectangular fireplace opening is framed by another reeded band. The northwest room, apparently the dining room, contains trim similar to that in the southeast room. A small door located in the southwest corner of the room leads to a basement stair, which descends under the main stair to the kitchen below.

The plan of the second floor is similar to the first except that the northwest room has been partitioned into one small room and a rear stair hall. An enclosed stair rises from the southeast room to an unfinished attic. An unusual feature of the second floor is that the large west room can be reached only from an outside door on the rear porch. The mantel in this room, more delicate than those on the first floor, has tiny sunbursts on the tablet and end blocks and slender reeded pilasters. The mantels in the other second-floor rooms are much simpler, each having a diagonally reeded band around the opening and a molded shelf.

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Among the first settlers of the rich bottom lands of the Catawba River Valley was John Perkins, who came to the area before 1752. He gained the nickname "Gentleman" John, apparently because of the extensive and productive land holdings he acquired. "Gentleman" John was the primogenitor of a large and successful family. By the early years of the nineteenth century, members of the Perkins clan were engaged in the breeding and racing of blooded horses and had built a number of substantial houses in the area.

One of these houses is Pleasant Valley, located on John's River, a tributary of the Catawba. This house was built by Alfred Perkins on a 450-acre tract granted in 1780 to his father, Elisha Perkins (John's eldest son). Some accounts date Pleasant Valley from 1812, while others place the building date as late 1829. No concrete evidence has been found to substantiate any particular date, and the architectural features of the house occur in the area throughout the period encompassed by the dates suggested. The house, like others built in the Catawba Valley in the early nineteenth century, exhibits features thought to be French in origin. Apparently this French influence came with the influx of Huguenots who had settled along the Santee River in South Carolina, many of whom made their way upriver to the Catawba, the headwaters of the Santee.

Alfred Perkins died in 1839, but his wife, Mary Caldwell Perkins, who was born in Londonderry County, Ireland, lived until 1854. In 1850, however, she sold her house and two tracts of land to her sons, Elisha Alexander and Robert Caldwell Perkins. The two brothers, who were staunch members and leaders of the Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church, lived with their families on the farm, sharing the house. Robert had no children, but his brother, Alexander, had four daughters who inherited Pleasant Valley. Sue Gordon Perkins was the last of the daughters to occupy the house. Following her death the house became the property of Claude Miller Corpening, a relative of the Perkins family. Corpening sold the house and farm to E. L. Briggs and Dr. Melvin W. Webb on April 15, 1969. The house is currently unoccupied.

Pleasant Valley, concealed from the road and located in a setting appropriate to its name, is representative of an era in Burke County history when many prosperous farming families built impressive brick houses, of which a substantial number are still to be found within the Catawba Valley. French influence in the area is exemplified by Pleasant Valley's double entrance as well as its floor plan. Thomas T. Waterman described this sturdy brick

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plantation house as an "excellent example of the fine brick dwellings of the Catawba Valley" whose "clean-cut quality is singularly satisfactory." Mr. Waterman noted particularly the striking pair of chimneys, in which the "vigor of the structure and beauty of the brickwork combine to produce a fine effect."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burke County Records, Burke County Courthouse, Morganton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Burke County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Walton, Thomas George. Sketches of the Pioneers in Burke County History. Morganton, North Carolina: n.p., 1961(?).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 48' 19"	81° 42' 51"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

29 July 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name

H. G. Jones

Title

Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date

29 July 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

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Waterman, Thomas T., and Johnston, Frances B. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina, 1947.

Saunders, William T., ed. The Colonial Records of North Carolina. Raleigh, North Carolina: Josephus Daniels, Printer to the State, 1888.



