

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

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 Liberty Hall

and/or common Outlaw House

2. Location

street & number S side SR 1108 W of jct. with SR 1100 not for publication

city, town Grabtown vicinity of congressional district 1

state North Carolina code 37 county Bertie code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Gillam

street & number 702 Gatling Street

city, town Windsor vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bertie County Courthouse

street & number King Street

city, town Windsor state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Liberty Hall stands in a large yard shaded by many live oaks, fenced in for use as a cow pasture. The house faces the south side of North Carolina secondary state road 1108 while the rear of the house faces a large wood. The house is located in the Grabtown community of Bertie County, a rural agricultural community.

The two-story house is a large three-bay frame structure placed on a high brick basement. In its proportions and trim, the house exhibits elements of both the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The fenestration of the house consists of narrow paired four-over-four sash within slightly pointed frames retaining their original louvred blinds. The first floor windows are of floor-to-ceiling height while the windows of the second floor are slightly smaller. Paired doors with sidelights and transom open onto a one-story hipped-roof porch across the front of the house; the porch is supported by six large paneled box columns. An 1895 photograph of the house shows that the porch originally had a flat roof with a simple balustrade; the double doors with sidelights and transom opening from the second floor to the porch are still in place. The rear of the house featured a small pedimented portico with paneled box columns, but this porch recently collapsed. Large paneled cornerposts support a wide molded box cornice around the house. The hip roof is pierced by two large square chimney stacks.

In the interior a center hall, fifteen feet wide and fifty feet long, is flanked on either side by two large and nearly square rooms; this plan occurs in the basement and on the two upper floors. Every room in the house is served by a working fireplace. The low-ceilinged rooms of the basement have plastered walls with trim and wooden floors which have largely rotted away. Access to the first floor is by an open stair which rises in the hall beneath the main stair from the first floor to the second floor.

The woodwork of the first and second floors consists of wide molded baseboards, four-panel doors, trim of narrow symmetrical molding with cornerblocks, and simple pilaster-type mantels; molded panels appear beneath the windows. Large closets flank either side of the fireplaces in the two south rooms of the first floor, and appear in all the second floor rooms. Circular plaster medallions occur in the ceiling of the hall and northeast room of the first floor. The stair to the second floor rises against the west wall of the hall to the north in one flight, and features large turned newels, two turned balusters per tread, and a wide molded handrail. An open stair, also trimmed with turned newel and balusters, rises over the main stair to an unfinished attic. All rooms in the house retain their original plaster and narrow pine flooring; the house has never received electrical wiring or plumbing. The house presents a dilapidated appearance, but is in basically sound condition.

The only remaining outbuilding is a small one-story structure in the backyard. The present owner of Liberty Hall can remember the kitchen and the smokehouse, a large square structure with a cupola, which stood to the rear of the house.

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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates

Builder/Architect S. L. Pennoyer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The exterior of Liberty Hall, the largest antebellum dwelling in Bertie County, is a rare example of Italianate architecture in an area dominated by the Greek Revival style. The house was probably built by carpenter S. L. Pennoyer for wealthy planter John P. Rascoe. The house is best known as the home of Rascoe's son-in-law, Capt. Edward R. Outlaw. Outlaw served as a captain in the Eleventh North Carolina Regiment during the Civil War, as a Bertie County commissioner, as a state legislator, and as sheriff of the county.

Criteria:

- A. Associated with a large agricultural plantation unit in antebellum eastern North Carolina.
- B. Associated with the lives of wealthy planter John P. Rascoe and his son-in-law Capt. Edward R. Outlaw, a Civil War veteran, county commissioner, state legislator, and county sheriff.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of the antebellum plantation home of a wealthy family as well as provides an example of Italianate domestic architecture, unusual in Bertie County.
- D. Is likely to yield information on the activities of a large plantation household.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 1

Liberty Hall is thought to have been built by John P. Rascoe just prior to the Civil War. The house was built on land which Rascoe had inherited in 1854 from his relative Joseph J. Rascoe. In his will, Joseph J. Rascoe left John P. Rascoe his "land, negroes, notes, money, stock, household and kitchen furniture. . . ;" since a dwelling was not mentioned, it seems probable that Liberty Hall was built soon after Rascoe's death by John P. Rascoe.¹ John P. Rascoe was a wealthy planter in a county with a sizeable planter class supported by large corn and cotton crops. In 1850 Rascoe possessed 2,228 acres of land worth \$15,000 on which his 52 slaves raised 200 head of swine, 1,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, 4,500 bushels of corn, and 25 bales of ginned cotton.² In 1860 Rascoe owned 1,592 acres on which his 88 slaves raised 5,000 bushels of corn and 110 bales of ginned cotton.³

Family tradition maintains that S. L. Pennoyer, who is buried in the Rascoe family cemetery, was the contractor for the house.⁴ The 1860 census reveals that Pennoyer was a carpenter with a small estate in Bertie County; his brother Sherman Pennoyer, a mechanic, was listed in the census as a member of the household of John P. Rascoe.⁵ At S. L. Pennoyer's death in 1868, John P. Rascoe was the executor of his will.⁶

In 1868 John P. Rascoe's daughter Lucy married Capt. Edward Ralph Outlaw, and the young couple received Liberty Hall as a wedding present from her father. Rascoe had survived the Civil War with much of his property intact, and at his death in 1888 he left a substantial estate; he left his wife \$10,000, a store in Windsor, steamboat company stock, and much farmland.⁷ Lucy Rascoe Outlaw received Liberty Hall and the attached farm, and Capt. Outlaw inherited his father-in-law's carpentry tools and stock in the Roanoke River Steamboat Company.⁸

Liberty Hall is best remembered in present-day Bertie County as the home of Capt. Edward R. Outlaw. Outlaw was born in Bertie County in 1840, the son of Edward Cherry Outlaw, a prosperous planter.⁹ At the death of his parents, Outlaw was raised by his uncle, David Outlaw, a wealthy planter, member of the legislature from Bertie County for many years, and United States congressman from North Carolina from 1848 until 1850.¹⁰ Outlaw attended the University of North Carolina from 1859 to 1860. During the Civil War, Outlaw served as captain of Company C, the Eleventh North Carolina Regiment; Capt. Outlaw later co-authored the regimental history.¹¹ After the war, Outlaw became active in Bertie County affairs while managing his farm holdings. He served for many years as a county commissioner, as sheriff of Bertie County for ten years, and represented the county in the state House of Representatives in 1889.¹²

At Capt. Outlaw's death in 1921, Liberty Hall was inherited by his son John R. Outlaw of Elizabeth City, North Carolina. The house was then used as a summer residence by the Outlaw family. At John R. Outlaw's death, the house was inherited by his daughter, Mrs. Lucy Outlaw Gillam, the present owner of the house.

The exterior of Liberty Hall is a rare example of Italianate architecture in a county and region where the contemporary building idiom was that of the Greek Revival style. The interior of Liberty Hall, however, is trimmed with substantial but typical Greek Revival woodwork. The house has the distinction of being the largest antebellum dwelling remaining in Bertie County.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

The structure is, of course, closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

Notes:

¹Will of Joseph J. Rascoe, 12 May 1853, probated August 1854, Bertie County Wills, Office of the Clerk of Court, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor, Book H, 4, hereinafter cited as Bertie County Wills.

²Seventh Census, 1850: Bertie County, North Carolina, Slave Schedule, 540-541; Agricultural Schedule, 255, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville; subsequent census references are to this microfilm source.

³Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Bertie County, North Carolina, Slave Schedule, 52-53; Agricultural Schedule, 13; Population Schedule, 59, hereinafter cited as Eighth Census, 1860.

⁴Author's interview with Mrs. Lucy Rascoe Gillam, great-granddaughter of John P. Rascoe, 702 Gatling St., Windsor, 30 July 1980, notes on interview in Liberty Hall file, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

⁵Eighth Census, 1860: Bertie County, Population Schedule, 11, 59.

⁶Will of S. L. Pennoyer, 23 January 1868, probated February 1868, Bertie County Wills, Book H, 208.

⁷Will of John P. Rascoe, 7 May 1883, probated 1888, Bertie County Wills, Book I, 252.

⁸Will of John P. Rascoe, 7 May 1883, probated 1888, Bertie County Wills, Book I, 252.

⁹Information on the Outlaw family was taken from Albert Timothy Outlaw, Outlaw Genealogy, (Kenansville, N. C.: n. p., 1930).

¹⁰John L. Cheney, Jr., North Carolina Government, 1585-1974, (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), pp. 296, 298, 300, 302, 322, 324, 326, 327, 329, 334, 686, 687, 817.

¹¹Walter Clark, ed. Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-'65 (Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 5 volumes, 1901), I, 583; Capt. Outlaw's photograph faces p. 583.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet	Significance	Item number	Page
		8	3

¹²Cheney, North Carolina Government, p. 478; Capt. Outlaw's photograph hangs in the Sheriff's Office, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor; Mrs. Lucy R. Outlaw Gillam owns an undated obituary for Capt. Outlaw, supposedly clipped from a Windsor newspaper. The obituary was written by Judge Patrick Winston and outlines Capt. Outlaw's many public services.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Author's interview with Mrs. Lucy Rascoe Outlaw Gillam, 30 July 1980, notes in the Liberty Hall file, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Bertie County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Bertie County Courthouse, Wind sor

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 5 acres

Quadrangle name Williamston

Quadrangle scale 1: 62500

UMT References Zone 18 Lat 35 52' 59" Long 77 03' 09"

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification The area included in the Liberty Hall nomination is bounded on the North by SR 1108 and includes 5 acres. This represents the original tract of land associated with the house, its outbuildings, and the surrounding oak grove.

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 Marshall Bullock, Consultant to the Mid-East Commission

organization Survey and Planning Branch
Archaeology & Historic Preservation Section
Division of Archives & History date August 1980

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 919-733-6545

city or town Raleigh state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

James E. Kim

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 16 October 1980

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 9

Page 1

Bertie County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Court, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor.

Cheney, John L., Jr. North Carolina Government, 1585-1974. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975.

Clark, Walter, ed. Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-'65. Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 5 volumes, 1901.

Eighth United States Census, 1860, Bertie County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.

Outlaw, Albert Timothy. Outlaw Genealogy. Kenansville, N. C.: n. p., 1930.

Seventh United States Census, 1850, Bertie County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
REPRESENTED BY THE
STATE GEOLOGIST

NORTH CAROLINA
QUITMAN WILLIAMSTON QUADRANGLE

Roquist

Pocoson

Liberty Hall
Grabtown vic.

Bertie County

Williamston, NC Quad
Scale: 1:625000
Zone:

Latitude: 35 52' 59"
Longitude: 77 03' 09"

Broadneck Swamp

atic Creek

Roquist Creek

Grabtown

IND

ROANOKE

BOUNDARY LINE

RIVER

CONIOTT LANDING

QUITMAN LANDING

OLD MILL LANDING

ROUTE

OLD FORT

POPLAR POINT LANDING

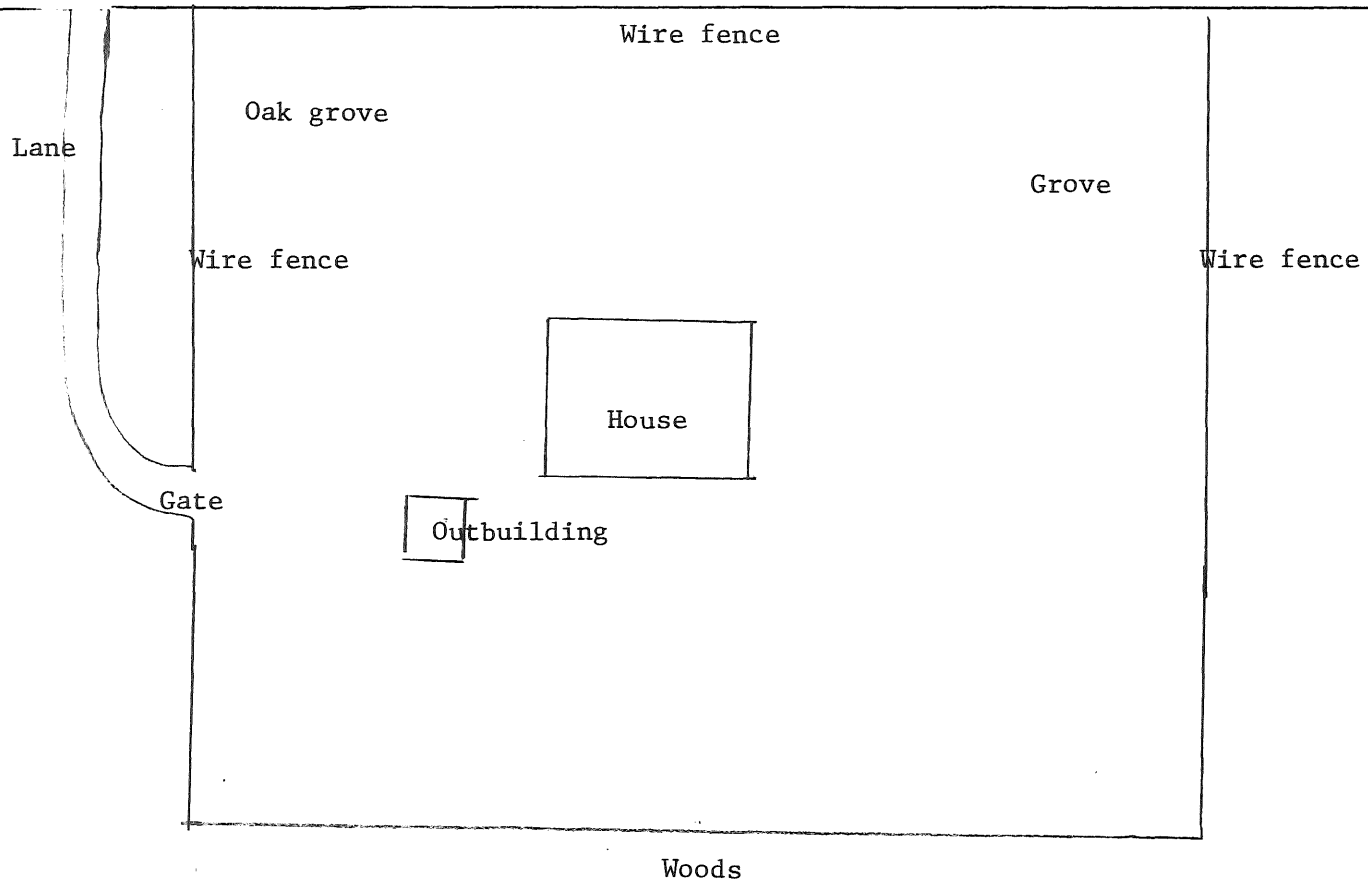
POPLAR POINT

SPELLERS FERRY LANDING

reek



NC 1108



100'

Approximate Scale

Liberty Hall
Bertie County

