

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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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  
Albania  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER S. side U.S. 17, 1 mi. w. of junction with N. C. 32  
West Queen Street Extended  
CITY, TOWN Edenton  
STATE North Carolina  
VICINITY OF  
CODE 37  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st  
COUNTY Chowan  
CODE 041

**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 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 checked="" 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 PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mrs. M. G. Brown  
STREET & NUMBER  
Albania  
CITY, TOWN Edenton  
STATE North Carolina  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Chowan County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Edenton  
STATE North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Albania is a mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival dwelling located on the outskirts of Edenton within view of Pembroke Creek, an extension of the Albemarle Sound. The house, L-shaped in plan, is a weatherboarded frame structure which stands upon a brick foundation. The main block, two-and-one-half stories high, five bays wide and three deep, follows a center-hall plan one room deep. The rear wing, one-and-one-half stories high, consists of a transverse stair hall, one bay deep and two wide, at the southwest corner of the house. Each block is covered by a gable roof with gabled dormers. Windows contain nine-over-nine sash throughout the first level, nine-over-six in the second level of the main block, six-over-six in the second level of the ell, and six-over-six in all dormers. Windows are consistently framed with beaded boards above rounded sills and flanked by two-panel movable louvered blinds. Two interior end corbel-capped brick chimneys pierce the ridge line of the main gable and one exterior end brick chimney with a stepped base, stepped single shoulders and a corbelled cap, is located at the rear of the ell.

The main (east) facade is dominated by a full length two-tiered engaged porch supported by six square-in-section pillars which are fluted between the balustrade and the cornice of each level of the porch. Above the simple necking and stepped caps of the posts runs a simple entablature with a dentil cornice. Each level has a balustrade composed of a rounded handrail and slender rectangular-in-section balusters resting on a thin square-in-section footrail. The lateral ends of each porch level are enclosed, flush sheathed on their inner sides, and pierced by large windows (minus sash), thus forming the first bay of the main block. (This feature, common in Charlestonian domestic architecture, is unusual in the Edenton vicinity, although it was used to some degree in the New Bern area.)

The focal point of the main facade is the handsome central entrance which is quite similar to Asher Benjamin's frontispiece design shown in Plate 26 of his Practice of Architecture (1851). The entrance at Albania is a single leaf door with four horizontal raised panels flanked by four-pane sidelights resting on paneled pedestals and surmounted by a seven-light transom ornamented with striking geometric tracery. The surround consists of reeded pairs of pilasters with corner blocks punctuated by rosette roundels; the upper lintel contains a raised, reeded center panel. H and HL hinges occur along the jamb.

The upper gallery entrance is less elaborately detailed but equally handsome. Its transom is ornamented with grid tracery identical to that found in Plate XXVII of Asher Benjamin's The Architect or Practical House Carpenter (1847). A bold Greek key motif outlines the transom.

The interior of Albania continues the Greek Revival detailing present on the exterior. All first-floor doors feature four horizontal panels, raised on the front side only. The first-floor center hall and front south room are similarly treated: both have symmetrically molded door and window architraves with square raised cornerblocks and beaded scotia molded baseboards. The center hall has a narrow rounded chair rail composed of bead and ovolo moldings. The north front room contains tripartite surrounds with bead and stepped scotia moldings rimming plain boards, as well as a beaded baseboard and a beaded board chair rail topped by a series of bead, torus, and ovolo moldings.

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Details on the second floor follow a similar but simpler scheme.

The center hall is forcefully dramatized by a transverse arch, elliptically shaped on its eastern face, Palladian on its western. Tall, narrow plate glass sidelights flank the arch and are set between symmetrically molded pilasters above raised paneled aprons. A boldly molded keystone projects from the crown. Adjoining the center hall is the transverse stair hall which contains a two-run dog-leg stair which appears to date from the middle of the twentieth century. Its open string is ornamented with wave molded brackets.

The mantels are consistently treated tripartite Greek Revival designs. Both first-floor front room mantels are identically composed. Each has symmetrically molded pilasters with a heavy symmetrically molded frieze broken by an unadorned center panel and raised end blocks enriched with either a diamond-shaped panel or a recessed roundel. Above is a molded shelf. Although not identical, the two second-floor mantels strongly resemble these.

A number of additions and alterations have occurred at Albania. A small pedimented porch has been attached to the south entrance of the transverse hall and a large two-story wing has been added to the northern elevation. Both the transverse stair hall and the interior of the rear ell have been remodeled.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Medicine
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1857

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Albania is an imposing Greek Revival house, probably built in 1857, the year it was purchased by Edward Warren. Dr. Warren was a colorful figure who served as surgeon-general of North Carolina during the Civil War and later practiced in Egypt and Paris. The handsome house has a typically coastal double porch with enclosed ends, engaged under the main roof; the entrances at both levels were apparently inspired by the publications of Asher Benjamin.

Albania probably stands on the site of an earlier house which disappeared between 1811 and 1831. When the property where it stands was purchased by Cornelius Riddick from John Thompson, executor of John Cox, on February 24, 1857, it was the fourth of four tracts sold together, and the deed referred to "the place where the dwelling house stood */italics added/*." The four tracts together, totaling 556 acres, sold for \$5,500. The following November 16, Riddick sold to Edward Warren the same four tracts, with two differences in the deed: the price had risen to \$6,600, and the reference was to "the place where the dwelling house stands */italics added/*." This suggests that the house was built during this period, although \$1,100 seems inadequate for a house of the scale of Albania; it is not known why Riddick would have built and then sold the house.

Adding to the puzzle is Dr. Edward Warren's own account of his obtaining the place. According to Warren, it was a wedding gift from James C. Johnston of nearby Hayes Plantation to Warren and his wife, a young cousin of Johnston's. Warren wrote in his autobiography, A Doctor's Experiences in Three Continents (1885),

We were married on the 16th of November, 1857, in old St. Paul's. . . . After a brief visit to relatives in Virginia and to friends in New York . . . we returned to Carolina and took up our residence at Albania, a beautiful estate in the immediate vicinity of Edenton. On the day previous to our marriage I had been summoned to Hayes, and had received from Mr. Johnstone deeds for Albania and a number of servants--including his best cook--and a considerable sum of money, with the assurance that his gift to my intended wife would be found in his will, and that it was a handsome one.

It is possible that Riddick was an agent or that Johnston gave Warren the money to buy Albania; he was equally generous with many of his young cousins. It has been noted that Warren's autobiography provides sufficient grounds for doubting his complete dependability where his own interests were concerned. In any case, it appears that Albania was standing by 1857; this is compatible with the Greek Revival character of the house.

A graduate of the one-year course at the University of Virginia Medical College

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in Philadelphia, Dr. Edward Warren spent a third year in Paris attending medical lectures and visiting hospitals. From 1855 to 1860 he practiced in Edenton with his father, living at Albania after his marriage to Kate Johnston, daughter of the rector of St. Paul's. Warren wrote of the years at Albania,

We took up our residence at Albania. . . . This plantation contained over six hundred acres, and though it was not adapted to the growth of corn and cotton-- as a somewhat costly experience demonstrated--it produced fruit and vegetables abundantly. After that discovery I converted it into a regular "truck farm," and thus became the pioneer in a business which has since redeemed that section. . . .

Notwithstanding my professional engagements I found time to amuse myself with the occupations incident to country life, and some of the pleasantest moments of my existence were spent among the grape vines and potato rows at Albania. . . .

The house was beautiful in appearance and complete in arrangements, and we furnished it from cellar to attic according to our own tastes; the grounds had been laid out with great skill and we adorned them with shade trees, parterres of flowers and hedges of shrubbery; the old bridge spanning the little stream which separated the place from the town limits was pulled down and a graceful structure erected in its stead; the orchard was trimmed, culled, and planted with every variety of fruit trees; the garden was reclaimed from the rank weeds which overran it, laid out in appropriate beds, and sown with the choicest vegetables. . . .

In 1860 his wife's failing health induced him to seek a professorship at the University of Maryland, sell Albania, and move to Baltimore. His teaching career was interrupted by the Civil War, in which he served briefly as a surgeon with troops in Virginia and North Carolina, prepared a manual on military surgery, and was surgeon-general of North Carolina from 1863 to the end of the war.

After the war, unable to recover his professorship, he joined a faculty which in 1867 reopened a defunct medical school, Washington College, and established as its adjuncts City Hospital (now Mercy Hospital) and the Maternity Hospital, the first lying-in hospital in Maryland. Forced into retirement by a faculty dispute, Warren helped in 1872 to organize the College of Physicians and Surgeons, with which Washington College was merged in 1878.

By that time Warren had settled in Paris, after the most remarkable adventure of his life. He had made the acquaintance of General William T. Sherman and had been recommended by him to the Khedive of Egypt, who in 1873 was trying to secure American surgeons for his army. Warren became chief surgeon on the Egyptian general staff, and in this capacity was awarded title Bey (which he solemnly used for the rest of his life) for a successful operation on the minister of war. The threat of blindness from

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ophthalmia led him to resign, ca. 1875-1876. He set up his practice in Paris, where his wife died in 1879, shortly before he was awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honor. He died in Paris in 1895. He himself felt that his chief claim to medical fame lay in his having "conceived of hypodermic medication, /written/ on the subject, and practiced it several years in advance of any other person." The italics are his. In support of this claim he published "incontrovertible evidence" in the form of a letter from his Jefferson College roommate who fortunately remembered that they had once discussed the possibility of squirting a solution of morphis into a lancet puncture, an idea sternly discouraged by their professor. Warren never claimed to have thought of any such instrument as the hypodermic syringe. In spite of his vanity and exaggeration, his book was described by one historian<sup>3</sup> as "the best autobiography as yet (1941) written by a native North Carolinian."

On the last day of 1860, Albania was bought by John A. Benbury, who was killed at the battle of Gaines' Mills (Cold Harbor). When his executor refused to qualify, Mrs. Harriet Benbury, the widow, had to be appointed administratrix. As such she made a contract to sell Albania to William C. Wood, who was the trustee for the marriage settlement of Henry Gilliam of Edenton and Hannah Clements of Martin County. Soon afterward, in 1869, she married David Carter. The Carters died intestate and Wood died, too, leaving the Gilliams without any deed for the home they had paid for and were occupying. By 1889, when the Gilliams had long since moved to Edgecombe County and Judge Gilliam wanted to sell the place, the only Benbury survivor was the daughter, Emily, Mrs. Hubert Haywood of Raleigh. She and her husband (through a new trustee) and Judge Gilliam and his sons (directly) conveyed Albania to the Branning Manufacturing Company, one of the lumber businesses which were to be a powerful influence in the economy of Chowan County for half a century.

By early 1916 Branning had sold all but the twenty acres occupied by the plant and the house. In 1920 they sold that to the Foreman-Blades Lumber Company of Elizabeth City, which next month sold it to an Edenton firm, M. G. Brown & Company. Some years after Miles Brown's death, his business sold the house and the grounds immediately around it to his widow, Mrs. Pattie C. Brown, whose family occupy it still.

<sup>1</sup>Warren, Edward. A Doctor's Experiences in Three Continents. Baltimore, Maryland: Cushings & Bailey, 1885, p. 218-219.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Henderson, Archibald. North Carolina: The Old North State and the New. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1941, Vol. II, p. 742.

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- Henderson, Archibald. North Carolina: The Old North State and the New. Chicago:  
Lewis Publishing Company, 1941.
- Hildegard, Sister Mary, R. S. M. "The Early Days of Mercy Hospital." Baltimore  
Sun Sunday Magazine, August 12, 1951.
- Martin County Records, Martin County Courthouse, Williamston, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds).
- Martin County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds).
- Warren, Edward. A Doctor's Experiences in Three Continents. Baltimore, Maryland:  
Cushings & Bailey, 1885

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chowan County Records, Chowan County Courthouse, Edenton, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers).  
 Chowan County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers).  
 Connor, R. D. W. North Carolina: Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth, 1584-1925. Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, 1929.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

L&L: 36° 03' 37" 76° 37' 12"

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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

  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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

  
 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 Research by Elizabeth V. Moore, consultant; architectural description by Mary Alice Hinson, consultant

ORGANIZATION Division of Archives and History DATE 18 November 1975

STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street TELEPHONE 919/829-7862

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh STATE North Carolina

## 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 18 November 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

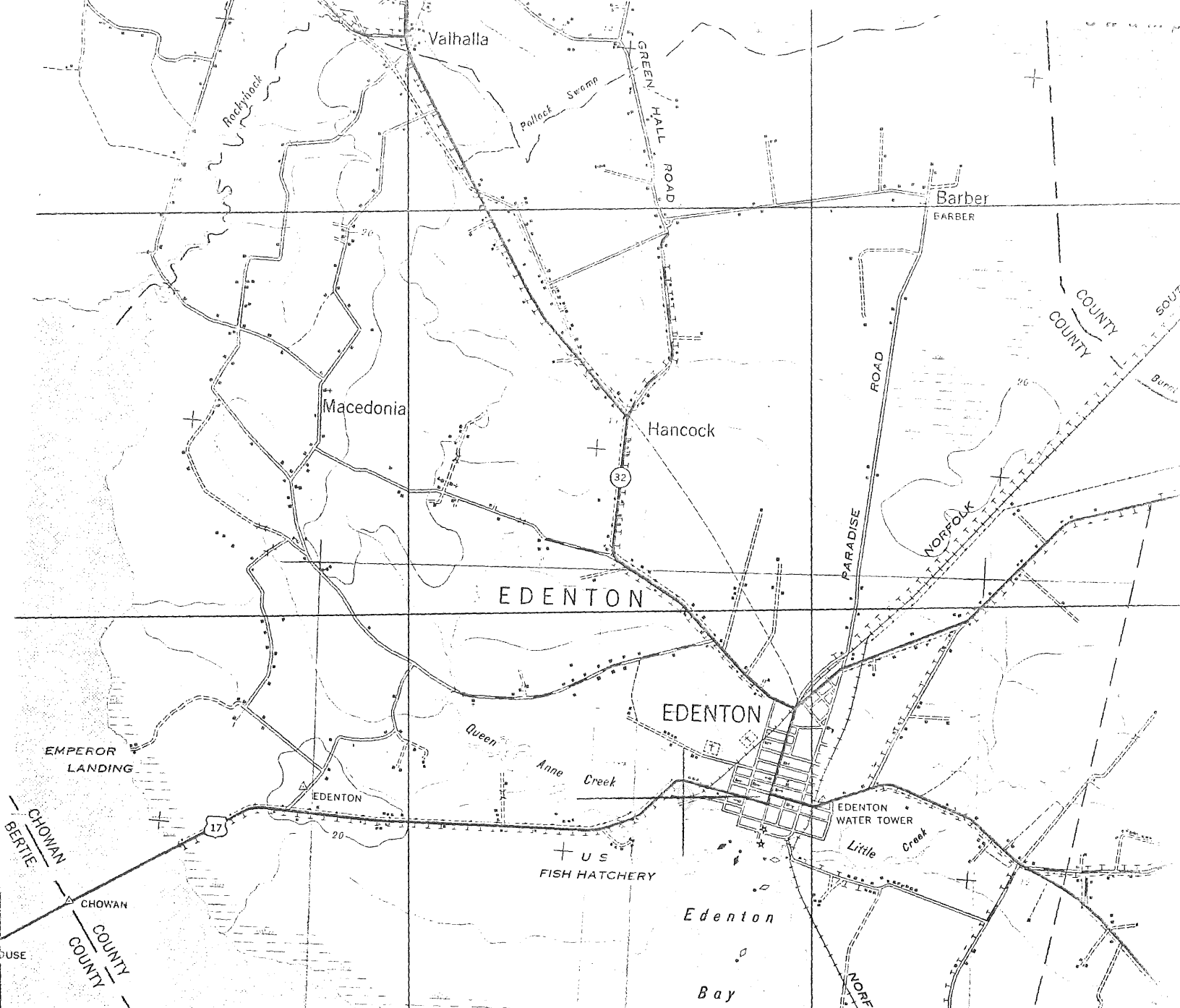
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





Albania  
Edenton  
North Carolina

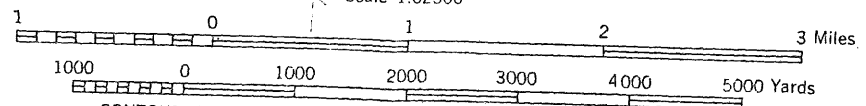
USGS Map, Edenton Quadrangle  
Scale: 1:62500  
Date: 1941

L&L:  $36^{\circ} 03' 37''$   $76^{\circ} 37' 12''$

A L B E M A R L E

Black Walnut Point

(PLYMOUTH)  
Scale 1:62500



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET--DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL (1929 ADJ.)

Gravel U.S. Route 100

