

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
Mulberry Hill
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1118
South side of S.R. 1114, 0.3 mi. e. of Junction with S.R. NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Edenton CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE North Carolina VICINITY OF 1st
CODE 37 COUNTY 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 | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <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
Mr. Thomas B. Wood
STREET & NUMBER
3018 Eaton Road
CITY, TOWN Raleigh VICINITY OF STATE North Carolina

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
Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE 1940 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D. C.

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

Mulberry Hill is a Federal style brick side-hall plan dwelling, three bays wide and two-and-one-half stories high, set on a raised basement. Although the form of the structure is more commonly found in urban areas than in the country, it is surprisingly well suited to its pastoral setting with nearly identical land and water facades and an impressive pedimented end. The house is of brick, with the front (north) and rear elevations in Flemish bond, the sides in one-to-three common bond. The large window openings flanked by blinds are surmounted by splayed stuccoed flat arches. Nine-over-nine sash occurs at both levels with the windows of the raised basement containing three-over-three sash. In the right bay of the north facade is the double door with paneled soffit and reveals and a transom with curvilinear tracery. It is sheltered by a recently constructed entrance portico (modeled after those of the New Bern side-hall townhouses). Paired Temple of the Winds columns support a full entablature, adorned with corbel-like modillion and dentil courses, which carries into a pediment interrupted by a coved ceiling.

The north and south facades feature a delicate cornice with corbel-like modillions and a band of fretwork. The cornice, adjacent to the tops of the second-level window flat arches continues to outline the pediment at the west gable end. The west elevation, laid in one-to-three common bond, is dominated by an impressive and finely detailed fan shaped window approximately eight feet in diameter, said to be carved out of a single piece of wood. Two windows occur in each story, located toward the center of the elevation. At the basement level in the northern bay is an entrance protected by gable roof canopy with a coved ceiling. The south (rear) elevation facing the broad expanse of bay on a generous lawn is nearly identical to the north elevation, except that the entrance has no transom and contains a single leaf door. The porch like that of the front is recent. A basement entrance occurs between the first and second bays from the east. It is shielded by a canopy similar to that of the west elevation.

The east facade has two interior end chimneys, the northernmost one being flanked by windows at the basement, first, and second floor levels. A pair of windows smaller in size light the attic in the gable end between the chimneys. There is no cornice on this side--in fact, the cornice stops rather abruptly on the main facades somewhat short of the east corner.

The spacious interior follows a side-hall plan, with two rooms to the east of the hall on each level. The interior woodwork is handsome, consistent, and well-executed. Adamesque motifs executed in wood are used throughout--including the recurrent use of sunbursts, swags, cables, fans, and serpent-of-the-Nile. Very little has been altered. Although there is some relationship to the high Federal interiors of New Bern, the work is not identical. It is more like the New Bern work, however, than it is like any known Federal work in Edenton.

Windows are set in flat-paneled reveals, and doors are composed of six raised panels. The dado, above a molded baseboard, is flush sheathed an elaborate chain rail adorned with serpent-of-the-Nile gouge-work, swags and applied carved sunbursts. Corners of the wainscot feature vertical cable molding.

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As is typical in New Bern's side-hall plan Federal houses, the side-hall is dominated by a transverse arch that frames a graceful stair. Reeded pilasters (around which the molded baseboard breaks out) have simple caps adorned with cable molding with a cornice accented by sunbursts. From these springs an elaborately carved arch. An inner band of gouged wave pattern, then radiating gougework, a narrow pierced row, and an outer course of arcaded corbels decorate the archivolt. The molded keystone is accented by a vertical row of bead-and-reel. The stair, which rises front-to-back along the inner hall wall, rises in two flights with an intermediate landing. The curtail step features a volute, above which narrow balusters carry a rounded handrail in a graceful volute. The handrail ramps and eases, and its profile--together with the posts--is repeated in the wainscot which continues up the stair wall. The open string stair is ornamented by delicate curvilinear brackets.

The most impressive mantel is located in the northeast parlor. The fire opening is framed by an architrave with a wave pattern in relief. This is flanked by reeded paneled pilasters terminating in an inverted fan, beneath a molded cap. Beneath the frieze runs a carved band of a leaf-like pattern. The end blocks repeat the reeded panel and upper fan motif of the pilasters, but the bottom edges of the panels are curved. A large, high-relief sunburst fills the center tablet. Beneath the handsomely molded cornice shelf runs a dentil band with alternate dentils rounded. The whole is a representative example of academic Adamesque motifs rendered in carved wood. Other mantels are of typical Federal form and not as elaborate.

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mulberry Hill is a handsome Federal style side-hall-plan brick house overlooking Albemarle Sound, located on a plantation which was established by Colonel James Blount late in the seventeenth century and the seat of the Blount family for several generations. Apparently built for Clement Blount early in the nineteenth century, Mulberry Hill is an unusual rural usage of the side-hall plan form more often used in town houses--notably in New Bern, North Carolina. Cited by Thomas T. Waterman in the Early Architecture of North Carolina as having "considerable architectural distinction . . . obtained by the skillful design of the various elements, including the gable," Mulberry Hill features excellent brickwork and well-executed, intricate Adamesque woodwork including a dramatic gable fanlight.

Mulberry Hill is a very early plantation, granted in 1684 to Colonel James Blount, in whose family it remained for four more generations. In 1753 John Blount, grandson of Colonel James Blount, left "the plantation whereon I live" to his son, another James Blount, later a colonel in the Revolutionary militia. This James Blount married Ann, a daughter of the Reverend Clement Hall, rector of St. Paul's Church, Edenton. By 1778, probably before the war, James Blount increased the original 640 acres to 750, and in 1784 he mortgaged everything he owned. What remained after payment of the mortgage, and after Blount's death, was equally divided among his three children: Sarah Porter Blount, Clement Hall Blount, and Dr. Frederick S. Blount. In 1809 the heirs agreed among themselves that Frederick should have the western third, Clement the center, and Sarah the eastern third of the plantation. Ann Hall Blount had dower rights on it all. In 1810 Sarah sold her third to Clement Hall Blount.

Dr. Frederick S. Blount was married in 1807 to Rachel Herritage Bryan, widow of James Bryan, merchant of New Bern. About 1803 Bryan had built a handsome, two-story, brick town house of the typical New Bern Federal side-hall plan; it was here that Frederick and Rachel Blount lived. Clement Blount doubtless knew this house well, and it may well have served as a model for Mulberry Hill when it was built--probably about 1810, to judge from similar New Bern houses.

Clement Hall Blount never married, though there is extant correspondence to show that he went courting--unsuccessfully--in his middle age. Ebenezer Pettigrew wrote to his future wife, Ann Shepard, that "Cousin Clement . . . is of so cool and phlegmatick a constitution that disappointment in love will not kill him."¹ Clement's mother, Ann Hall Blount, was most often in residence at Mulberry Hill, and at least one family member referred to the place as "Aunt Blount's."²

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Clement did take an interest in his plantation, for there is a reference in a letter in the Ebenezer Pettigrew Papers, dated July 8, 1812, that Clement Blount was building a threshing machine;³ he also operated a fishery on the Albemarle Sound.

By 1828 Clement Blount was in deep financial troubles and made James R. Creecy trustee for Mulberry Hill, to protect James Iredell, Jr., and John Papelston, who had endorsed not only Clement's draught for \$1,600, but also his note to the bank for \$8,000. In 1829 the man to whom Creecy sold his mortgage foreclosed and sold the plantation to Thomas B. Haughton of Washington County, North Carolina, though the sale was still subject to the dower rights of Ann Hall Blount.

Clement and his mother may have moved to the tract owned by Frederick after Clement lost Mulberry Hill, for in 1838 (Dr. Frederick Blount died in 1823) Frederick's son sold this tract, and at that time Ann Blount was resident there, living on her dower right.

Clement died on April 5, 1843, the last of his mother's children. At this time Ann Hall Blount was about eighty-four years old, and completely dependent upon Clement; she died soon after.

Thomas B. Houghton died in 1840, and his heirs eventually sold the majority of Mulberry Hill referred to as "Clement Hall Blount's sound land," subject to Ann Blount's dower rights, to his nephew, John H. Leary. It afterward came into the vast land holdings of James Cathcart Johnston of Hayes Plantation, a son of Governor Samuel Johnston. Johnston did not live at Mulberry Hill, and at his death in 1865 he left all his property to his friend, Edward Wood. Wood was an energetic and able citizen of Chowan County, much involved in the Albemarle Steam Navigation Company; he ran two of the largest fisheries on the sound and was a conspicuously successful planter. He did not live at Mulberry Hill. At his death in 1872 his property was divided among his six children, and Mulberry Hill went to Julien William Wood; for many years the house was used for storing tobacco and later occupied by tenants. In 1943 the plantation passed to Julien's son, Thomas Benbury Wood. He put the house in good repair, replaced the tumble-down porches with copies of those at the Eli Smallwood House in New Bern, and occupied the house. It still belongs to his son and is kept in good condition.

¹Pettigrew Family Papers, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, and The Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chowan County Records, Chowan County Courthouse, Edenton, North Carolina (Subgroups: Wills, Deeds, Tax Records, Estate Papers).
 Chowan County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Wills, Deeds, Tax Records, Estate Papers).
 Pettigrew Family Papers, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, and The Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 L&L: 36° 38' 00" 76° 32' 14"

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | B | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | D | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

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; John Flowers, survey specialist.

Architectural description by Bruce MacDougal, deputy SHPO; Catherine Cockshutt, survey supervisor

ORGANIZATION DATE
 Division of Archives and History 12 December 1975

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

CITY OR TOWN STATE
 Raleigh North Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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 *Bruce MacDougal*

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 12 December 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 | DATE |
| ATTEST: | DATE |
| KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER | |

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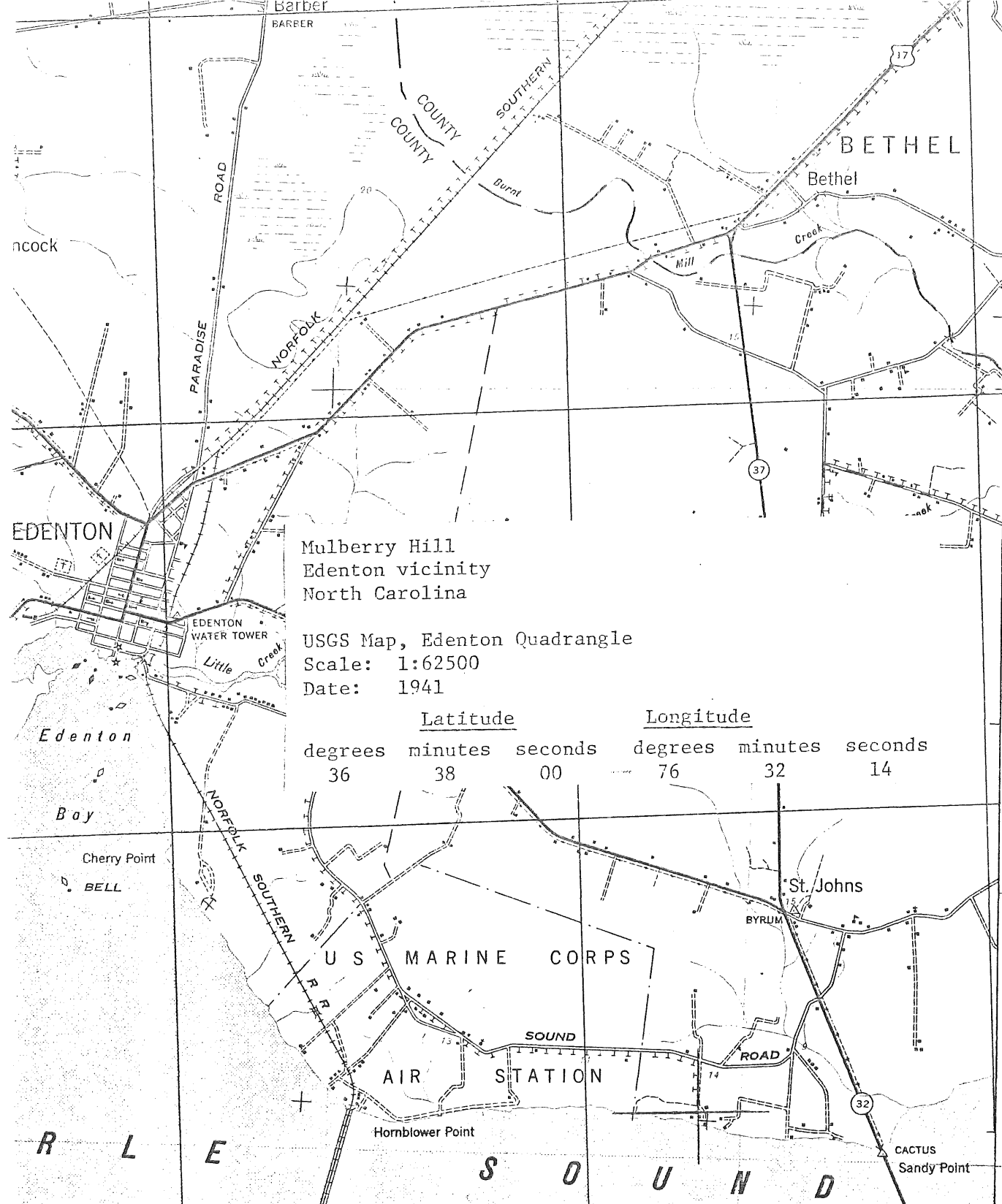
DATE ENTERED

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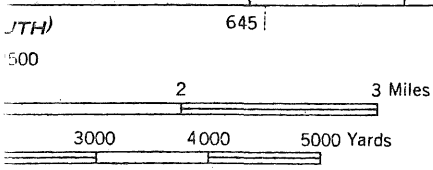
Stuart Hall Hill Papers (4 volumes). Unpublished genealogical manuscript in the
Genealogical Section, North Carolina State Library, Raleigh.
Whitfield, Emma Morehead. Whitfield, Bryan, Smith and Related Families (2 volumes).
Westminister, Maryland: The Times Publishing Co., 1950.



Mulberry Hill
 Edenton vicinity
 North Carolina

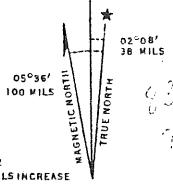
USGS Map, Edenton Quadrangle
 Scale: 1:62500
 Date: 1941

| Latitude | | | Longitude | | |
|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| degrees | minutes | seconds | degrees | minutes | seconds |
| 36 | 38 | 00 | 76 | 32 | 14 |



IS MEAN SEA LEVEL (1929 ADJ.)
 CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS WHICH COME
 OF ENGINEERS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

APPROX MEAN DECLINATION 1942
 ANNUAL MAG. CHANGE 0.21-.06 MILLS INCREASE



2 730 000 FEET U.S. ROUTE 64 5.7 MI. 76°30'
 GRID TABLES, U.S.C. & G.S. SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO. 50
 (THE LAST THREE DIGITS OF THE GRID NUMBERS ARE OMITTED)
 THE GRID IS INDICATED BY SHORT TICKS ALONG THE BORDER AND SMALL
 CROSSES WITHIN THE BODY OF THE MAP. THE LARGER CROSSES WITHIN THE
 MAP AND LONG TICKS AROUND BORDER INDICATE LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE
 10,000 FOOT GRID SYSTEM BASED ON NORTH CAROLINA PLANE
 COORDINATE SYSTEM.

EDENTON, N. C.
 N3600-W7630/15

830 000 FEET 252,980

(COLUMBIA)

