

Original - as sent to NR

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 Brummel's Inn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Southwest side SR 1755 0.5 mi. southeast of jct. w/SR 1756 not for publication

city, town Thomasville vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state North Carolina code 037 county Davidson code 057

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Minnie (E.E.) Cridlebaugh & Mr. and Mrs. Emery Hooper

street & number Route 2, Box 369

city, town High Point, vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Davidson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Lexington 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Because of the various stages of its construction, Brummel's Inn displays a complex array of architectural features. The structure is sheathed in plain weatherboards under a gable roof and is carried on rough stone foundation. A massive double-shouldered chimney with paved shoulders, laid in Flemish bond, dominates the east elevation and a second interior chimney stack pierces the roof of the main two-story portion of the structure near the west end. The facade is eight bays wide with an asymmetrical fenestration pattern of six-over-six sash windows and three entrances set within asymmetrical and plain board surrounds and features a full-length shed porch carried on chamfered posts with a simple balustrade. The two central bays mark the original log portion of the structure which was raised to two stories at the time that the additions were made on the east and west elevations, according to strong local tradition and the present owner. The west addition is one story while the east addition is two stories and forms the main block along with the heightened log section. The north elevation (rear) has been altered with multiple turn-of-the-century additions providing dining space and a kitchen.

The three entrances open from the porch into each of the first floor rooms of Brummel's Inn. The center and east entrances contain later doors, while the west entrance, is a board and batten design. The interior finish of Brummel's Inn has received some alteration, but a considerable portion of the detailing is extant. The first floor plan consists of three linearly aligned rooms which are stepped down from the west to the east following the contour of the site.

The central room is the oldest portion of the structure, originating as a small one-story log house which probably predates the site's use as an inn. The room is sheathed in wide boards, and is distinguished by a projecting chimney breast in the west wall with an arched opening and a mantel embellished with a single raised panel under a molded shelf. To the right of the fireplace leading into the west room is a board and batten door which retains its original strap hinges. Aligned with the fireplace on the left is a small closet with a batten door set within an asymmetrically molded surround and displaying H-L hinges. Immediately to the left of the closet is a batten door in a similar surround which leads to a narrow stair to the second floor. The south wall, opposite the entrance, contains a window and door which originally opened onto a rear shed that has since been enclosed. Like many of the other windows in the house, the interior surround has been altered, now displaying a plain board surround.

The west room probably was added at the same time that the addition on the east end of the structure was made. Unlike the other first floor rooms which have simple beaded baseboard, the west room has a wide molded baseboard and displays a window and door to the rear porch. The door is board and batten with strap hinges. In the east wall of the room is a fireplace opening which vents into the same chimney as the center room. The mantel is a similar design to the one in the central room with the exception of a single flat panel in the frieze.

The east room is entered by way of a board and batten door with H-L hinges; over the door is a three-light transom window. Set in the east wall of the room is the most elaborate mantel in the structure. The vernacular late-Georgian design consists of a plain architrave with four flat panels in the frieze, a deeply molded shelf, and

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an overmantle with a single flat panel flanked by paneled end blocks. Set within an asymmetrical surround in the south wall is a door of six flat panels with six raised panels on the reverse; the design suggests that it may be a later Greek Revival period alteration.

The remainder of the first-floor rooms are later additions or alterations to the rear of the house. The probable appearance of the original structure included a shed porch across the rear due to the placement of the windows and doors in the south walls of the three main rooms. The eastern two-thirds of the rear shed was enclosed at some point in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries to form a dining area. The remainder of the shed continues as a small shed porch carried on chamfered posts at the western end of the rear elevation. A single one-story wing containing the kitchen projects from the center of the rear elevation.

The second floor is reached by way of the stair in the southwest corner of the center room. The stair is enclosed within the space beside the double chimney and the walls of the west and central rooms; wide boards sheath the walls of the stair passage which rises west and then north through a group of winders. At the top of the stair is a small diagonally latticed balustrade. The second floor of the central portion of the structure is divided into three rooms: lit by two windows in the south wall, a large hall room runs across the rear of the second floor while the remainder is composed of two small rooms lit by single windows which may have been guest rooms. The northeast room is probably a later alteration sheathed in beaded narrow paneling. The southeast room is entered through a plain board door with strap hinges set within an asymmetrical surround; the room is sheathed in wide boards and features a board door in the west wall with H-L hinges leading to the attic space over the west wing. Within the attic, the chimney can be viewed revealing the date "1814" incised in the brick. The date probably indicates the date of the expansion of the original log house into its present configuration because of the necessity to construct a chimney to vent the abutting fireplaces in the central and west rooms of the first floor.

At the east end of the second floor hall is a board door with a three light transom window leading to the principal second floor bedroom. The door and windows are set within plain board surrounds and a closet has been added to the southwest corner of the room. In the center of the east wall is an arched fireplace opening and a mantel consisting of a plain architrave with two flat panels in the frieze under a molded shelf.

To the west of Brummel's Inn stands a small smokehouse sheathed in weatherboards with cornerposts. A gable roof with rafter-end eaves projects over the entrance, sheltering a vertical board door. A gable-roofed barn sheathed in weatherboards is sited northeast of the inn. The smokehouse and barn are not contemporary with the construction of the inn, but were both necessary to the operation of such establishment and form a representative complex of structures associated with rural stagecoach inns. Also located on the property is a small cemetery. Several graves indicate the ownership and relationship patterns of the various families associated with Brummel's Inn.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1814 Expanded Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Brummel's Inn is a vernacular late-Georgian-early Federal style frame dwelling located on Rich Fork Creek on the outskirts of the city of High Point. In spite of its suburban surroundings, Brummel's Inn retains much of its original character, serving as a significant reminder of a particular segment of rural life in Piedmont North Carolina in the early years of the nineteenth century. Originally constructed as a small log house in the late eighteenth--early nineteenth century and expanded as a stagecoach inn for Jacob Brummel, circa 1814 with later additions, the inn is a rare survivor of this specialized type of structure.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the important eighteenth and nineteenth century function of inns as an element of travel in North Carolina.
- C. Brummel's Inn is significant as an example of vernacular Georgian-Federal architecture built around a late-eighteenth century log house and as a rare survivor of the rural stagecoach inn.
- D. Is likely to yield information about late eighteenth--early nineteenth century life and perhaps stagecoach travel.

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Brummel's Inn in Davidson County was constructed by Jacob Brummel in 1814. A soapstone slab in the upper part of the chimney bearing the inscription "J. B. 1814" testifies to the date.¹ Yet in the center portion of the structure, between the interior walls and the exterior boarding, stands a log frame work, suggesting that the inn was an enlargement of a log house built some years earlier.² Who built the log house remains a mystery, and the local tradition conflicts with available documentary records.

One account contends that a family by the name of Payne built the original structure; that the family sold it to Jacob Brummel about 1814; and that Brummel then added the wings and second story.³ Mrs. Emory Hooper, a former resident of the house who conducted some research on its history, believes that the Payne connection is just rumor and has no idea how it originated.⁴ The Rowan County records (Davidson was carved from Rowan in 1822) tend to support Mrs. Hooper. A search of deeds, wills, estates papers, court proceedings and marriage bonds, yielded no evidence of a transfer from Payne to Brummel. Furthermore, the Payne family's land holdings tended to be farther south/south-east of the Rich Fork Branch of Abbott's Creek in the early nineteenth century.⁵

Jacob Brummel, Jr., son of Jacob Brummel, first began acquiring land in his own name in 1789 when he bought 5 1/4 acres on Abbott's Creek from Peter Klinert. At the time of purchase, Jacob Brummel, Jr., and his family were living with his father; less than a year later, however, the two Brummels had established separate households.⁷ Whether or not the younger Brummel built or moved into the log house later to be enlarged is uncertain, but he continued to add to his estate.⁸ Undoubtedly the structure stood on Jacob Brummel's property some years before he made the alterations.

The original log house was located on the road from New Garden Meeting House to Salisbury, but most stage travel passed to the north on the road from Martinsville, then the county seat of Guilford, to Salisbury.⁹ When Greensboro was declared the county seat in 1808, traffic on the lower road (called the Old Greensboro Road) began to increase. The log house was situated about half way between the county seats of Guilford and Rowan; thus, it was ideally suited for a stagecoach stop.¹⁰ In 1814 Brummel enlarged the log house which provided a second story and two rooms on each side of the original log structure.¹¹ For nearly half a century, the rest stop was known as Brummel's Inn.

At Brummel's, travelers paused for refreshment and occasional overnight lodging. The stagecoach often was provided with fresh horses from the large stock Brummel kept for that purpose. Pasturage was provided in the meadow across the branch, land which Brummel purchased shortly after constructing the inn.¹² Food served to guests came from the fields manned by the Brummel slaves who, according to tradition, were summoned to the main house by blasts from a conch shell, which a few years ago was in possession of the current owner of the inn.¹³

Located on the route linking the county seats of Salisbury (Rowan County), Lexington (incorporated in 1827 as seat of Davidson County), and Greensboro (Guilford County), Brummel's Inn enjoyed great popularity from its inception until the mid 1850s. Indicative of this success was the establishment of a post office on the grounds, a facility which functioned for a number of years between 1833 and 1850.¹⁶ The building, which disappeared many years ago, stood west of the inn, but letters bearing the postmark

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"Brummel's" remain today in private collections. The steps of the old post office can still be seen where the small structure once stood.¹⁷

After Jacob Brummel died in 1841, his son, Hiram W. Brummel, after a one term stint in the legislature, continued to operate the inn and plantation inherited from his father.¹⁸ As Lexington grew in population, new inns and taverns sprang up around the county seat. By the mid 1850s, William E. Roberson had opened a larger establishment for travelers about six miles southwest of Brummel's on the same road.¹⁹ Business apparently favored the larger, more modern facility, and sometime shortly thereafter, Brummel's Inn ceased to function. The former stagecoach stop reverted to being the home of a plantation family.

Following the Civil War, Hiram Brummel turned the 300-acre plantation into a working farm. He successfully managed the estate until his death in the mid 1880s. The court appointed his son, George Brummel, administrator of his father's property.²⁰ Unlike his father, George lived beyond his means constantly borrowing funds with his father's property as collateral. Among those to whom he was heavily in debt was Thomas Cridlebaugh, who finally was forced to call in a gentleman's agreement to collect some portion of his loans. Late in 1889, George Brummel transferred the homeplace and 254 acres to Cridlebaugh. Local tradition states that he eventually died penniless.²¹

Thomas Cridlebaugh moved his family into the old Brummel Inn which, in 1900, contained a household consisting of Thomas, Emmaline (wife), Ernest, Junuis, Walter (sons), Sarah (daughter), an orphan named George Kennedy, and Emmaline's eighty-eight year old mother, Susannah Pitts.²² It was Thomas who added the rear portion to the structure sometime around the turn of the century.

Thomas Cridlebaugh died in late 1907, bequeathing the property jointly to Ernest, Walter, and Sarah. A stipulation directed that Sarah and Walter, should they wish to relinquish their interests, transfer their rights to Ernest.²³ The option was immediately exercised by Walter and Sarah who had each married and were then residing in Richmond and Davidson counties respectively.²⁴

Ernest E. Cridlebaugh farmed the land for over thirty years, beginning as a laborer for his father. Ernest died in December, 1928, without leaving a will. His estate was divided among his children who in 1946 deeded the house and thirty acres back to their mother.²⁵ Mrs. Cridlebaugh resided in the house from the time of her marriage until the early 1970s. She is now ninety-six years of age and still has title to the Rich Fork land. From 1975 to 1979, her granddaughter and her granddaughter's husband, the Emory Hoopers, occupied the home.²⁶ For the last year, the old Brummel Inn has stood vacant facing a future as yet indetermined.

The structures of course are 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 structures. 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.

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¹M. Jewell Sink and Mary Green Matthews, Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Davidson County, North Carolina (High Point: Hall Printing Company, 1972) 206-207, hereinafter cited as Sink and Matthews, Pathfinders.

²Phil Speaks "Ghosts Haunt Old Inn," Enterprise (High Point), October 13, 1975, hereinafter cited as Speaks, "Ghosts Haunt Old Inn." Speaks based his article on a visit to the inn and on an interview with Mrs. E. E. Criddlebaugh, then 91 years old and a resident of the house for nearly seventy years.

³Speaks, "Ghosts Haunt Old Inn"; and The Times (Thomasville), September 16, 1975. In the latter article, Jewell Sink and Mary Matthews contend that the east wing was added sometime after the 1814 enlargement. No evidence was presented to support the statement.

⁴Researcher's interview with Mrs. Emory Hooper, April 25, 1980, hereinafter cited as Hooper interview.

⁵For the Payne property locations, see the Times, September 16, 1975.

⁶Rowan County Deed Books, Office of the Registrar of Deeds, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, Deed Book 11, p. 750, hereinafter cited as Rowan County Deed Book.

⁷For residence of the two Brummels, see will of Jacob Brummel (Sr.), Rowan County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, Will Book D, 129.

⁸See Rowan County Deed Book 18, pp. 115, 394; Deed Book 19, p. 417; and Deed Book 23, pp. 341, 833.

⁹Jonathan Price and John Strother, This First Actual Survey of the State of North Carolina, 1808. W. P. Cumming, North Carolina in Maps (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1966), Plate IX, hereinafter cited as Price-Strother Map, 1808. See also David Leroy Corbitt, The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943 (Raleigh: Department of Archives and History, 1950), 113, hereinafter cited as Corbitt, Formation of N. C. Counties.

¹⁰Price-Strother Map, 1808; and William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 203, hereinafter cited as Powell, Gazatteer.

¹¹Speaks, "Ghosts Haunt Old Inn." See also Footnote #3.

¹²Rowan County Deed Book 23, p. 833; and The Times, September 16, 1975.

¹³Sink and Matthews, Pathfinders, 207; and Hooper interview. Mrs. Hooper's grandmother has custody of the shell at this writing.

¹⁴Speaks, "Ghosts Haunt Old Inn."

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¹⁵ Letter from Mrs. Roger G. Hayworth to Joye E. Jordan, January 22, 1973, in Brummel's Inn File, Survey and Planning Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Hayworth to Jordan; and Speaks, "Ghosts Haunt Old Inn."

¹⁶ Corbitt, Formation of N. C. Counties, 87, 113, 185; Powell, Gazeteer, 135, 206, 428; Price-Strother Map, 1808; and United States Post Office Records: Appointments of Postmasters, 1830-1850, microfilm copies in State Archives, Raleigh.

¹⁷ Hayworth to Jordan, and Hooper interview.

¹⁸ See wills of Jacob and Susannah Brummel in Davidson County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Davidson County Courthouse, Lexington, Will Book 1, p. 371; and Will Book 2, p. 166.

¹⁹ Sink and Matthews, Pathfinders, 207.

²⁰ Hooper interview; and Davidson County Records, Estates Papers, State Archives, Raleigh, Hiram W. Brummel, 1887.

²¹ Hooper interview. Mrs. Hooper is Thomas Cridlebaugh's great granddaughter. See also Davidson County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Davidson County Courthouse, Lexington, Deed Book 42, p. 51, hereinafter cited as Davidson County Deed Book.

²² Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900: North Carolina, Davidson County, Population Schedule, ED39, Sheet 6, Line 94, microfilm in State Archives, Raleigh.

²³ Davidson County Will Book 5, p. 307.

²⁴ Davidson County Deed Book 63, p. 77.

²⁵ Davidson County Deed Book 166, p. 419.

²⁶ Hooper interview.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Corbitt, David Leroy. The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943. Raleigh: Department of Archives and History, 1950.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 30 acres

Quadrangle name High Point West, NC

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7					
5	8	0	7	0	0	
3	9	7	8	6	4	0
Zone	Easting		Northing			

B

1	7					
5	8	0	9	7	0	
3	9	7	8	4	3	0
Zone	Easting		Northing			

C

1	7					
5	8	0	8	8	0	
3	9	7	8	1	9	0
Zone	Easting		Northing			

D

1	7					
5	8	0	7	5	0	
3	9	7	8	2	7	0
Zone	Easting		Northing			

E

1	7					
5	8	0	6	4	0	
3	9	7	8	2	4	0
Zone	Easting		Northing			

F

1	7					
5	8	9	5	1	0	
3	9	7	8	4	6	0
Zone	Easting		Northing			

G

1	7					
5	8	0	5	6	0	
3	9	7	8	6	2	0
Zone	Easting		Northing			

H

1	7					
5	8	0	6	4	0	
3	9	7	8	5	6	0
Zone	Easting		Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property included in this nomination is shown within the red line on the attached Davidson County Map #304, Thomasville Township, 1963.

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: David W. Parham, Consultant
Significance: Jerry L. Cross, Researcher

organization Division of Archives and History

organization Archaeology and Historic Preservation

date May 1980

Survey and Planning Branch

street & number 109 East 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 25, 1980

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Wills

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Historical Gleanings of Davidson County, North Carolina. Lexington: Davidson County Bicentennial Committee, 1977.

Hooper, Mrs. Emory. Interview, April 25, 1980.

Leonard, Rev. Jacob Calvin. Centennial History of Davidson County, North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Company, 1927.

Powell, William S. The North Carolina Gazetteer. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

Price, Jonathan and John Strother. This First Actual Survey of the State of North Carolina, 1808. W. P. Cumming, North Carolina in Maps. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1966. Plate IX.

Rowan County Records

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Estate Papers

Wills

Sink, M. Jewell and Mary Green Matthews. Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Davidson County, North Carolina. High Point: Hall Printing Company, 1972.

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