

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Blount House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Grove

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
130 Bridgers Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Tarboro

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Edgecombe	CODE 065
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Tarboro

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 Main Street

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

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Edgecombe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
301 St. Andrews Street

CITY OR TOWN: Tarboro	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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STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Edgecombe

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7. CONDITION

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Blount House is an interesting two-story Federal frame house on a raised basement. The south (front) and north facades are five bays wide having large windows with nine-over-nine sash and central doorways with simple four light transoms. The house has a gable roof which rests on a modillion cornice. In each gable is a fanlight centered between a pair of brick double-shouldered chimneys laid in Flemish bond. The only significant exterior alteration is the addition of a shed porch which surrounds the building.

The house has a transverse hall running north-south. It is off-center making the two rooms on the east larger than the two on the west. The hallway is divided by a flat transverse archway featuring archway featuring a primitive stylized pediment. In the rear hall is the stair which ascends in three flights connected by square landings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) c.d. 1808

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On July 3, 1795, Blake Baker sold to Thomas Blount a tract of land which bordered the north side of the Tarboro Town Common and contained approximately 296 acres, "more or less." This acreage included all of what is now the city of Tarboro east of Albemarle Street and north of The Common. Blount built his house, The Grove, atop a small hill on this property probably about 1808. Blount was quite active in North Carolina politics, being a member of the Hillsborough Convention of 1788 and one of the first Republican congressmen from Edgecombe County. When he died in 1812, the house and land were transferred to his nephew, John G. Blount, Jr. After John's death in 1828, the property passed to Sarah L. Blount of Raleigh. On August 13, 1831, Sarah sold The Grove to Louis D. Wilson, who made his home here until his death in 1847. Wilson represented Edgecombe County at the Free Trade Convention in Philadelphia in 1827 and led a group of Edgecombe volunteers in the Mexican War in 1846. After Wilson's death The Grove was sold at public auction to Joseph J. Pender for \$6,555.

Pender sold the portion of the property east of Main Street and north of The Common, including the house, to John L. Bridgers in 1849. Bridgers represented Edgecombe and Wilson counties in the Confederate Congress and served as a general in the Confederate army. Following the war he was active in Democratic politics and was presiding justice of the Inferior Court.

John L. and Mary E. Bridgers sold The Grove to George Howard, Jr., on September 9, 1879. During the 1890s a school was conducted in the house by the widow of Confederate General W. D. Pender. In 1939 E. Mabry Hart sold the house to the City of Tarboro and it is now used for administrative offices for the city school system.

The house is of historical interest as the home of several prominent state and national political and military figures. The Blount family, in particular, was one of North Carolina's most important and influential early families. Architecturally, The Grove is a fine example of ambitious vernacular design in the Federal style.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edgecombe County Records, Edgecombe County Courthouse, Tarboro, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Edgecombe County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Turner, J. Kelly and Jonathan L. Bridgers. History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1920.

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
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35°	54'	10"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	77°	32'	14"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

John G. Zehmer, Ass't. Admin. Research & Restoration; John B. Wells, Survey Spec

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

October 9, 1970

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 89-663), 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

Dr. H. G. Jones

Title

Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date October 9, 1970

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

