Jordan House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
SR 1522

CITY OR TOWN:
Windsor (First Congressional District)

STATE:
North Carolina

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
- District
- Site
- Object

OWNERSHIP (Check One)
- Public
- Private
- Both

STATUS (Check One)
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress
- Other (Specify)

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Private Residence
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Francis Gillam

STREET AND NUMBER:
302 King Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Windsor

STATE:
North Carolina

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Bertie County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
King Street at Dundee Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Windsor

STATE:
North Carolina

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

STATE:
North Carolina

COUNTY:
Bertie

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:
The Jordan House, a one-story building with a gable roof, is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and has a high water table. Particularly notable are the two interior T-stack end chimneys.

The front (south) facade was originally the rear of the house, but when roads replaced the nearby Roanoke River as the principal transportation route, the orientation of the house was changed from north to south. The three-bay front and rear facades are alike, each having a central entrance flanked by large windows. All openings are surmounted by shallow segmental arches. Each end features a pair of windows on the first floor and in the gable. A segmental-arched entrance under the water table on the west gable leads to a full basement.

The house has a so-called Quaker plan consisting of a large parlor with two smaller rooms to the west. The interiors were completely destroyed by a 1928 fire, but the original interior brick partitions and fireplace remain. The large fireplace in the parlor has an opening measuring 4 feet, 8½ inches in width and has a brick fireback laid in a herringbone pattern. The location of a small door in the northwest corner of the west wall of the parlor indicates that an enclosed stair originally ascended from the main room through the northwest room to the attic level. The attic was apparently originally partitioned to form at least two rooms, because there is a fireplace opening at each end. The basement features brick walls laid in English bond with a large semicircular arch supporting each fireplace.
The Jordan House was apparently built shortly before May 6, 1730, for on that date William Charlton sold to Joseph Jordan three hundred acres "on which I now liveth" with "the plank and brick that was got or procured for the use and furnishing of the Dwelling house." Jordan owned the house until his death in 1776. He left the plantation, which had increased to five hundred acres, and thirty-three slaves to his wife, Ruth, during her life and after her death to his son, Isaac. Isaac died in 1790, and the house passed to his son, Joseph. The property was inherited by Joseph Jordan's nephew, Joseph Swain, in 1863. In 1869 the house and two hundred acres were acquired by John P. Rascoe for $1,000. It is presently owned by Francis Gillam, Rascoe's great-grandson.

Architecturally, the Jordan House is probably unique in North Carolina for its style and period. It is particularly notable for its T-stack chimneys and fine brickwork. Reminiscent of several seventeenth century Virginia houses, the Jordan House is unlike any other early brick house known in North Carolina.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES

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DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 Acres

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Survey and Planning Unit, John Wells, Supervisor

Organisation: State Department of Archives and History

Street and Number: 109 East Jones Street

City or Town: Raleigh

State: North Carolina

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date May 6, 1971

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