United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
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 Rosefield

2. Location
street & number 212 West Gray Street

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property
name Estate of Virginia Gillam, c/o Mr. Moses B. Gillam, Jr.

5. Location of Legal Description
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bertie County Courthouse

6. Representation in Existing Surveys
title N/A
has this property been determined eligible? _yes _no

date

depository for survey records N/A

city, town
7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Check one</th>
<th>Check one</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>x</em> excellent</td>
<td><em>x</em> deteriorated</td>
<td><em>x</em> unaltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>x</em> good</td>
<td><em>x</em> good</td>
<td><em>x</em> good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>unaltered</td>
<td>unaltered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Rosefield stands in a large yard with several large trees and many shrubs planted at random. The house stands atop a slight rise, with the front yard sloping down to a wooded ravine. To the rear of the house is a large field bounded by Highway 17; to the east side of the house is a small brick-veneer house. The house is reached from West Gray Street by a winding drive up the hill past the house and around to the rear.

In its present form, Rosefield is a two-story, L-plan frame house of five bays. The house was built in three stages, with the three-bay section to the east being the oldest, probably built ca. 1786-1791. This section consisted of a large room and sidehall in the basement and on the first and second floors with Georgian-period details. The basement, as is the single-shoulder chimney with free-standing stack, is of Flemish bond construction, and retains one 4/4 sash with extremely thick muntins. The first floor room has two-part architrave trim, raised six-panel doors with HL hinges, and a fielded flat-panel mantel which has received a Greek Revival mantel shelf. The most decorative feature of the room is the beaded chairrail, almost eight inches wide, with a large applied molding. The second floor room has a similar chairrail, one-part architrave trim, and a small fielded-panel mantel with molded shelf; the small room at the front end of the hall features identical trim.

Shortly after the construction of this section, a two-story, two-bay addition was made on the opposite side of the side hall, thus making it a center hall. Built without a basement, these two rooms were identical in size to the ones in the older house. The exterior trim of the newer section matches the molded box cornice, one-part architrave trim, and beaded siding of the older house; both sections have 9/9 sash on the first floor and small 6/6 sash on the second floor. The newer section has a paved double-shoulder chimney with free-standing stack of Flemish bond construction. On the interior, the trim of the newer section is lighter in detail than the older house, being Federal in character with one-part architrave trim, a narrow beaded chairrail, flat-paneled doors; the mantel in the first floor room has been replaced by a Greek Revival pilaster type mantel.

In 1855 a two-story addition was made to the rear of the original section of the house. The hip roof front porch with four box columns was added at the same time. The original stairs were removed and the center hall extended the length of the new addition with a straight-run stair with heavily-turned newels and balusters added. Entrance to the new basement dining room was from a stairway beneath the main stair; this stair curved at the foot with an arched niche in the wall to hold the dinner bell and the fourth winder from the bottom step was hinged to reveal a small storage space for wine bottles. The basement dining room opened into the basement room of the original house and features a built-in cupboard, a typical pilaster-type mantel, and a small conservatory built around the exterior base of the chimney. A door opens onto a paved area beneath a narrow shed porch which shelters an exterior stair leading to the basement dining room. The two upper rooms of the Greek Revival addition feature typical pilaster mantels and simple symmetrical moldings. A shed porch ran down the hall side of the addition, but in 1939-40 it was replaced by a small bedroom and bath. Also in the twentieth century, modern kitchen was placed in the basement room of the original house, and the back 4 of the second floor hall was partitioned into a bath.
To the rear of the house stands a small frame structure built from the salvaged remains of the smokehouse. Also to the rear is the large, one-room plantation office covered with beaded siding. To the east side of the house is a small dairy and a modern garage; the original exterior kitchen stood nearby and was connected to the house by a picket fence. To the rear of the house beyond the outbuildings is the large family cemetery with cedar trees and periwinkle.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
<th>Specific dates</th>
<th>Builder/Architect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archeology-prehistoric</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>(Attributed) Gilbert Leigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>archeology-historic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-1599</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>architecture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700-1799</td>
<td>art</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-</td>
<td>communications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>landscape architecture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>religion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>law</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conservation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>economics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>engineering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>exploration/settlement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>industry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>music</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>invention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>philosophy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>social/humanitarian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>theater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>politics/government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Rosefield is an intact example of an antebellum plantation home. The house, with simple vernacular trim of the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles, reflects the needs and tastes of the prosperous agricultural and mercantile Gray family, who have owned the property since 1729. The house is thought to have been built between 1786 and 1791 for Stevens Gray (1756-1795) by carpenter Gilbert Leigh. Stevens Gray, planter and merchant, was also clerk of the Bertie County Court. His father, and later owner of the house, was William Gray (1730-1801), who represented Bertie County in the provincial assembly in 1760-61, 1764-1765, and at the provincial congresses of 1775 and 1776. The house contains Gray family furniture and portraits while a large family cemetery and several outbuildings remain to the rear of the house.

Criteria Assessment:

A. Associated with the antebellum plantation economy and lifestyle of eastern North Carolina.

B. Associated with the prominent Gray family of Bertie County, especially with Stevens Gray, clerk of court, and William Gray, county representative to the provincial assembly.

C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of the antebellum plantation home of a prosperous family as well as provides an example of vernacular domestic architecture of the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival periods.

D. Is likely to yield information on the activities of a large plantation household.
On December 1729 Cullen Pollock sold a tract of land, "called Rosefield," containing 1,000 acres and lying on the west side of the Cashie river in Bertie County, to John Gray for 140 pounds; the house tract of Rosefield plantation remains today in the possession of John Gray's descendants. In 1713 as a surveyor. In 1717 Gray married Ann Bryan (1696-1770), with whom he had seven daughters and three sons. One daughter, Barbara (1726-1763), married Jacob Blount (1726-1769) in 1748; while the Blounts were living on a plantation adjoining Rosefield they became the parents of William Blount (1749-1800), a prominent politician of Tennessee and that state's first United States senator, and John Gray Blount (1752-1833), one of North Carolina's wealthiest merchants and landowners of the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth centuries.

Family tradition credits John Gray with building the oldest part of the house called Rosefield, but there is no documentation for this. The Flemish bond brickwork of the basement, the thick window muntins, and the simply-detailed Georgian woodwork of the house suggest the house could date from John Gray's ownership. However, the small size of the original house, only one room to the basement and first and second floors, would hardly have accommodated Gray's family of ten children comfortably or reflected his financial status. At his death prior to February 1750, Gray owned 69 hogs, 60 head of cattle, 16 slaves, and a large number of plantation tools. Large amounts of silk damask, muslin, Irish linen, thread, fringes, and feathers indicate Gray probably had an interest in some commercial business in Windsor. Household goods inventoried at Gray's death reflected his prosperity: 80 books, 6 feather beds, 2 desks, 8 chests, 14 chairs, a number of tables, 7 silver teaspoons, 2 wig boxes, and a large amount of household linens.

At John Gray's death his son William Gray (1730-1801) inherited Rosefield and in 1768 he sold 100 acres of the plantation for the site of the town of Windsor. A prosperous planter, merchant, and shipbuilder, William Gray was also active in county politics. Gray represented Bertie County in the provincial assembly in 1760, 1761, and from 1764 until 1766; he also represented the county at the Third Provincial Congress in Hillsborough in 1775 and at the Fifth Provincial Congress in 1776 at Halifax. In 1764 William Gray prepared a will in which he bequeathed his own plantation, "whereon I now live," to his son William Lee Gray and the Rosefield plantation to his son John Gray. John Gray, however, died in 1764, and William Gray sold the Rosefield tract, "except for the land I sold for the Town of Windsor and the burial place at Rosefield," to his son Stevens Gray (1756-1795), a planter and clerk of the county court, in 1789. The existence of a contract for a house to be built for Stevens Gray by contractor Gilbert Leigh suggests that Stevens Gray built the oldest part of the present Rosefield house. The contract between Gray and Leigh is dated 1 May 1786, nearly three years before Stevens Gray purchased the land from his father, but it was not uncommon for a son to settle on his father's property before receiving legal title to it. The house described in the contract was to be two stories, 28 feet by 18 feet, 1 room to a floor, with a box cornice and one-part architrave trim on the exterior, and two-part architrave trim and a chairrail on the interior; these dimensions and features match those of the oldest part of the present house as do several other terms of the contract. Leigh was to
receive 115 pounds for building the house, and receipts for brick, lime, plank, scantling, weatherboarding, glass, and hardware document construction of a house for Stevens Gray through 1791. Gilbert Leigh, the carpenter, had formerly lived in Edenton where he had been involved in the construction of the Chowan County courthouse in 1768; in 1787 he was living in Bertie County with his family and nine slaves. Leigh died in 1792 in Perquimans County possessing two chests of carpenter's tools and one "Architects book." Receipts for substantial amounts of flooring, plank, and scantling in Stevens Gray's papers document further building activity between September 1793 and May of 1795; possibly this construction was for the two-story, two-room addition to the original part of Rosefield. The exterior details of the addition match exactly the exterior trim of the older section, while the interior trim is similar but simpler in detail. Stevens Gray died unmarried in 1795, leaving a prosperous estate of 35 cattle, 26 hogs, 7 horses, including one stud horse worth 45 pounds, and 11 slaves. Gray's household goods included 11 silver spoons, 4 beds, 12 chairs, 1 pair of mahogany tables, a looking glass, a silver watch, and 17 books plus a bible and a prayer book. Stevens Gray left his plantation and house to his father William Gray from whom he had purchased Rosefield only seven years earlier.

It is not known if William Gray occupied Rosefield after his son's death. At his own death in 1801, William Gray left the plantation "where I now live" to his four unmarried daughters with the stipulation that the house be "put in tolerable repair as soon as it can conveniently be done:" the rest of his lands and property was to go to his son William Lee Gray. None of the property was referred to as Rosefield.

William Lee Gray (1776-1846) was living at Rosefield by 1808, and lived there until his death in 1846. A prosperous planter, William Lee Gray also operated a general store in Windsor. At his death he owned 14 slaves, the store and 2 warehouses as well as 6 lots in Windsor, a house and lot in Windsor occupied by his sister Penelope Gray, and a 620-acre plantation in addition to the Rosefield property. Gray's estate sale netted $6,669.30; among the items sold were two volumes of Shakespeare, "four volumes of American history," The Spectator, "Jefferson's Notes," John Marshall's Life of Washington, a lot of medical books, a backgammon box, a violin and case, and a case of brandy. A handsome oil portrait of William Lee Gray remains in the parlor of Rosefield today.

At the division of William Lee Gray's estate, Rosefield went to his son George (1811-1879). George Gray was responsible for adding the Greek Revival style rear wing and the present front porch to Rosefield about 1855. At the time of the 1860 census George Gray was listed as a farmer with property valued at $2,800 and personal property worth $22,000. After the Civil War, Gray operated a general store in Windsor in addition to his farming activities. Gray's estate sale netted $1,633.00; his daughter Mrs. Moses
Gillam, who inherited Rosefield, purchased the carriage, plantation tools and livestock, the parlor carpet, sofa, sideboard, looking glass, and 30 lots of books as well as many other household items.27

At the time of her father's death, Mrs. Gillam was the young widow of Moses Gillam, a merchant and former mayor of Windsor.28 To support her family, Mrs. Gillam opened a school, The Rosefield Academy, in the 1850s in an outbuilding at Rosefield and boarded students in her home.29 At Mrs. Gillam's death the house was inherited by her son Moses B. Gillam. After his death in 1941 the house was inhabited by his widow, Virginia Gillam, until her death in 1977; the house is now owned by her heirs.

Although reduced from its original 1,000-acre tract to less than 60 acres, Rosefield represents an unusually long ownership by a single family in eastern North Carolina. The house contains many furnishings, including paintings and silver, acquired by generations of the Gray and Gillam families. A sizeable collection of family papers has been given to the Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

To the rear of the house is a large family cemetery, with the oldest marker with a legible inscription dated 1795. The house, with its two early additions and few alterations, presents the evolution of one family's needs and tastes in housing. In addition, Rosefield provides an excellent example of a substantial and typical plantation dwelling from the Georgian and Greek Revival styles of architecture in eastern North Carolina. The possibility that the house was constructed by Gilbert Leigh adds interest in that so few buildings of the eighteenth century in North Carolina can be documented with a contract identifying its carpenter.

The structure is, of course, closely related to its 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 structure. 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.

---

Notes:

1 Cullen Pollock to John Gray, 5 December 1729, Bertie County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor, Book C, 213; hereinafter cited as Bertie County Deeds. The present owner, Mr. Moses B. Gillam, Jr., is the great-great-great-grandson of John Gray.


Inventory of John Gray, February Court Term, 1750, Bertie County Estates Papers, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; hereinafter cited as Bertie County Estates and State Archives.

William L. Saunders, ed., The Colonial Records of North Carolina (Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 10 volumes, 1886-1890), XXIII, 755; in 1789 William Gray sold 300 acres of the Rosefield plantation, with the exception of "the land I sold for the Town of Windsor and the burial place at Rosefield," to his son Stevens, William Gray to Stevens Gray, 19 February 1789, Book O, 335, Bertie County Deeds.

Gillam, "Old House," 11; the boundary descriptions of Gray's Windsor holdings refer several times to his shipyard on the Cashie River.


Will of William Gray, 20 May 1784, Gray Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; hereinafter cited as Gray Family Papers.

William Gray to Stevens Gray, 19 February 1789, book O, 335, Bertie County Deeds. This deed does not refer to the plantation as Rosefield, but the boundary descriptions are identical with those given as Rosefield in William Gray's will of 20 May 1784, Gray Family Papers. Stevens Gray was serving as Clerk of the Court at the time of his death, Gray Family Papers.

Contract between Stevens Gray and Gilbert Leigh, 4 May 1766, Gray Family Papers.

Various receipts for building materials for Stevens Gray, 1786-1792, in the Gray Family Papers.

Inventory of Gilbert Leigh, 20 January 1793, Perquimans County Estates Papers, State Archives.

Various receipts for scantling, flooring, and plank for Stevens Gray, 1793-1796, Gray Family Papers.

Estate Sale of Stevens Gray, 1796, Bertie County Estates Papers; the sale netted the estate 724 pounds.

Will of Stevens Gray, 22 October 1794, probated February 1796, Bertie County Wills, Book D, 305, Office of the Clerk of Court, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor, hereinafter cited as Bertie County Wills.

Will of William Gray, 2 March 1799, probated August 1801, Bertie County Wills, Book E, 111.

Will of William Lee Gray, 22 May 1808, probated February 1846, Bertie County Wills, Book G, 393. Gray referred to his land as the Rosefield tract; it was to go to his wife Mary Turner and then to his children.

Estate Papers and Account of Sale of William Lee Gray, 4 March 1846, Bertie County Estates Papers.

Ibid.


Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Bertie County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 16, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.


Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Bertie County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; 12, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Inventory and Account of Sales of George Gray, 1 October 1879, Bertie County Estates Papers.

Ibid.


30 Information on the Rosefield Academy and Gillam Family ownership provided the author by Mr. Moses B. Gillam, Windsor, February 1982.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property  Approx. 76 acres
Quadrangle name  Windsor South

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>Easting</td>
<td>Northing</td>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>Easting</td>
<td>Northing</td>
<td>Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,8</td>
<td>3,2,4</td>
<td>4,5,0</td>
<td>3,9</td>
<td>8,4</td>
<td>9,4,0</td>
<td>1,8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See tax map (arial photo) attached.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>code</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>code</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Marshall Bullock
organization  Town of Windsor
street & number  Municipal Building, King St.
city or town  Windsor
state  North Carolina
date  April 1982
telephone  794-3121

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  William S. Pia

title  State Historic Preservation Officer
date  July 8, 1982

date

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register
Attest:
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Bertie County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor.

Bertie County Estates Papers, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Bertie County Wills, Office of the Clerk of Court, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor.


Chowan County Court Minutes, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


Gray Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.


Perquimans County Estates Papers, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Rosefield
Windsor South Quadrangle
Zone 18   Scale 1:24 000

A  18 324450/3984940
B  18 324780/3984380
C  18 324620/3984200
D  18 323920/3984500
E  18 324020/2984720