United States Department of the Interior
National Park 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 Cool Springs

and/or common

2. Location

street & number .35 mile down a lane on NE side of SR 1607 at Cumberland/ not for publication

city, town Carvers Creek

city, town Carvers Creek vicinity of Harnett County Line

city, town Carvers Creek vicinity of Harnett County Line

city, town Carvers Creek vicinity of Harnett County Line

state North Carolina code 037 county Cumberland code 051

3. Classification

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4. Owner of Property

name William H. Elliot

street & number P O Box 40254

city, town Fayetteville

city, town Fayetteville

state NC 28309

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

street & number P.O. Box 2039

city, town Fayetteville

city, town Fayetteville

state NC 28302

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cumberland County Historic Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? __ yes ___ no

date 1978

__ federal  ___ state  ___ county  ___ local

depository for survey records Division of Archives and History/ Survey and Planning Branch

city, town Raleigh

city, town Raleigh

state NC 27611
7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Cool Springs is a dwelling built in two sections which was originally associated with a sizeable farm on the banks of the Lower Little River in Cumberland County. The earlier section of the house, a coastal cottage, was built c. 1815-1820 and the later, larger two-story section, c. 1825-1830, by Henry Elliot whose family was very prosperous and firmly established in the area. His father, George Elliot, built neighboring Ellerslie (NR) c. 1790 and his brother, John Elliot, built Thorbskope just across the Lower Little River in Harnett County, each of which was constructed in two phases. Apparently both sons opted to follow the building pattern established by their father, George Elliot, thereby building first a one-and-a-half-story Federal-style coastal cottage which later was enlarged by a more fashionable two-story Greek Revival addition. Although vacant, Cool Springs stands as a fine example of an early nineteenth century plantation house which carries with it important historical associations and family significance.

Cool Springs' earlier, small coastal cottage section features beaded weatherboard siding on the exposed north side with plain replacement weatherboard at the front and rear. Its most prominent feature is an exterior paved double-shoulder chimney which has a cut sandstone block base, irregular course brick midsection (3-5-4) and a stuccoed top. Original three-bay fenestration consists of reduced size 4/4 sash windows flanking the chimney on the first level and even smaller 6 lights windows flanking the chimney on the upper level. Other side fenestration include 9/9 windows in the outer bays. The roofline is double pitched, characteristic of early nineteenth century coastal cottages, and the roof is now covered with asphalt shingles. The front and rear, probably once open engaged porches, are now either partially or fully enclosed. The front carries a small sleeping porch across half of the facade, while the rest is open porch area supported by replacement wrought iron porch posts. The overhang shields a central doorway and a single 9/9 sash window all surround by flush sheathed board, as is typical of a sheltered area. The rear facade is now fully enclosed and has a central doorway flanked by 9/9 sash windows.

The interior of this section basically follows a one-room plan with ancillary rooms which include the porch sleeping room, narrow rear room, and upper half story. Although bearing signs of modernizations which include new wall coverings, narrow floorboards, and some replacement woodwork, the main room still retains its original Georgian/Federal mantel. It features a frieze with a horizontal tie and two vertical end pieces and a stepped shelf which appears to be added. Also, the small windows flanking retain their original molded surrounds. A single door leads to the fully enclosed rear section, whose original room arrangement is undetermined but is now divided into two rooms of unequal size.

The two-story single-pile section was built with its back against the south side of the earlier, smaller dwelling. It is supported by a brick pier foundation which covers a partial basement, entered by a small gable roof shed on the east side. Its six-bay front is shielded by a shed porch and supported by five hollow square-in-section columns. Asymmetrical fenestration is detailed and unique with two single front doors and two 9/9 windows at each side.
surrounding wall within the protection of the porch is flush-sheathed, while the remainder is plain weatherboard. The upper story has just three window openings which contain sash to match those on the first story. The main block is skirted by a boxed cornice and crowned by a gable roof, which retains its original wooden shakes but is now covered over by asphalt shingles.

The exterior is replete with refined detailing. The front entrance surround, which contains the two doors, basically follows the same Federal design that the interior mantels do. It consists of a single inner and two outer pilasters which are delicately reeded and features a wide entablature. Each door, which has six raised panels in the Federal tradition, is topped by a single light transom and separated by a horizontal framing member decorated with triglyphs. Other stylish exterior detailing includes three-step molded window surrounds with quarter-round sills. The two gable ends are dominated by massive paved, double shoulder chimneys which exhibit five-course common bond. They are flanked by 9/9 sash windows on the first and second stories and by reduced-size sash windows at attic level.

The interior arrangement of the house basically follows a two-room plan. The main (west) room, accessible by one of the twin single front doors and a rear door, bears features representative of those found on a more modest scale throughout the house. Its most dominant feature is a Federal three-part mantel against the far wall with an unusually wide frieze and a paneled overmantel which reaches to the ceiling. Plaster walls are faced with wainscot which has alternating large and small rectangular panels. Doors are consistently six panel (raised on one side and recessed on the other) and floorboards of wide pine boards. The smaller first floor room, also serviced by one of the twin single front doors, has similar features which include an average size three part mantel and wainscot with larger rectangular panels. A quarter-turn staircase with curved windows, with a delicately bracketed Chippendale string, leads upward from this room to the second floor. The stairwall is covered with flush board on the ascent.

The upstairs contains two rooms with a stairhall separated from the stairwell by a balustrade, which has an octagonal end post with a squared base and lamb's tongue and slender diagonal stick balusters. The rooms echo the finish of those downstairs with similar woodwork, window, door, and mantel treatment. The mantels are the same basic design as the one in the lesser downstairs room, but vary in that they have slightly different pilaster treatment and no center blocks. An enclosed staircase leads upward from the rear of the stairhall to the unfinished attic.

Cool Springs is situated at the end of a 2/10 to 3/10 mile driveway on a gentle rise. The immediate grounds are well treed with a sycamore and white oaks, which are surrounded at the front and side by cultivated farm land. The Lower Little River, which at that point forms the Harnett/Cumberland County line, flows past the house in a gully. The house is a spring surrounded
by a sandstone block enclosure, which was probably the original water supply. Also associated with the house are several outbuildings which include a barn, shed, a one story weatherboarded gable roof storage facility which appears to date to the last third of the nineteenth century, and a mid-nineteenth century one-story house, said to have been a school originally, with an engaged porch. Of particular interest is the spring which is encompassed by a sand-stone enclosure.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological 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 movility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the property. Kenneth Robinson, preservation planner for Cumberland County, and a trained archaeologist, has made a preliminary site visit and it is probable that the site will be investigated further, with particular attention paid to the spring site. The archaeological remains which are probably present should be considered in any development of the property.
Cool Spring is an important example of handsomely executed vernacular domestic architecture characteristic of the Cape Fear region of North Carolina. The main house consists of two main sections, each a well-preserved example of a regional type: the ca. 1815 rear section is a one-story coastal cottage, with the piazza and rear shed rooms engaged under extensions of the main roof—a vernacular house type common in coastal and southeastern North Carolina; the ca. 1830 front section is larger and more elaborate, a two-story gable roof dwelling with a two-room plan served by a pair of front doors, and carefully detailed Federal finish. There are a number of outbuildings; most notable is a large frame smokehouse on a raised brick foundation. Both sections were built for Henry Elliot, one of the many planters of Scots descent in the Cape Fear region. The significance of the house is enhanced through its relationship with two other nearby Elliot family dwellings of remarkably similar form: Ellerslie and Thorbiskope. Ellerslie, built for Henry's father George ca. 1790, comprises a rear coastal cottage and a front two-story mid-19th century house; Thorbiskope built for Henry's brother John, consisted or a rear coastal cottage ca. 1820 and a front two-story addition ca. 1848. Individually or together, these dwellings represent an important element in the development of domestic architecture in the region.

Criteria Assessment:

A. Associated with the establishment and expansion of the plantation system in the upper Cape Fear valley, and in particular the influence of Scots settlers and their descendants in the region.

B. Associated with the locally prominent Elliot family.

C. Exemplifies two characteristic early nineteenth century vernacular forms, the coastal cottage with piazza and shed rooms beneath a single multi-slope roofline; and the two-story frame house with exterior end chimneys and, here, a two-room plan, which became the dominant house type in much of North Carolina in the early nineteenth century.

D. The structure(s) of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological 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(s). Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological 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.
The Henry Elliot House, known as Cool Spring, is located in the northern part of Cumberland County on the banks of the Lower Little River. It was built by the Elliot family in two parts. The first section, a one and one half story cottage was built ca. 1815-1820 while the larger, second part of the house was built ca. 1830.

The Elliots are of Scottish descent. George Elliot was born in Dunfried, Scotland in the 1750s and was educated at the University of Edinburgh. He settled in the Lower Little River section of Cumberland County and built an impressive mansion called Ellerslie around 1790. George Elliot was a prominent landowner and planter and represented Cumberland County in the 1788 Hillsborough Constitutional Convention. In 1790 he married a widow named Mary Turner. They had eight children, in addition to her two children by her earlier marriage.1

Henry Elliot was born at Ellerslie in 1795. Like his brothers Alexander, George, and John he inherited a large amount of land upon his father's death in 1819. Alexander inherited Ellerslie, while John built Thorbiskope, a large house also constructed ca. 1820. Henry added to his landholdings and became one of the county's largest landowners.2 The 1830 census credits Henry Elliot with the ownership of 41 slaves while the 1840 census lists him as owning 54 slaves.3 The 1850 census shows the scope of Cool Spring. Elliot had 653 acres under cultivation with 20,200 unimproved acres. His real estate was valued at $32,250. He owned livestock valued at $3,048 including 12 horses, 14 mules, 41 cows, 2 oxen, 66 other cattle, 238 sheep, and 330 swine. Cool Spring produced 4,000 bushels of corn, 600 bushels of oats, 8,550 pounds of rice, 4,500 pounds of wool, and 1,500 bushels of sweet potatoes.4 He owned 78 slaves.

Henry Elliot married a cousin Isabella Smith. They had no children. At his death in 1855 Elliot left his widow a life estate in the house and much of the property and slaves, although he left some of both to his brother Alexander and other relatives. A nephew, Robert W. Smith, was left the bulk of the property after the death of Mrs. Elliot. A considerable amount of the land left to both Mrs. Elliot and to other members of the family was in Harnett County, which was formed from Cumberland County in 1855.5 The house, however, remained in Cumberland County.

Isabella Elliot continued to farm Cool Springs although on a much smaller scale than before. In 1860 she had 350 acres under cultivation, with 1,220 unimproved. The plantation still contained a large amount of livestock, $1,375 worth, including 130 swine, 30 sheep, and 48 cows. Mrs. Elliot owned only eight slaves in 1860, a dramatic decline from earlier years.6 In 1870 she had 80 improved acres. Her real estate was valued at $4,350 and her personal estate at $3,600. During this period the farm was under the management of William Bottom, listed in the 1870 census as overseer and superintendent.7

After Isabella Elliot's death in 1878 at the age of 83 the property was inherited by her nephew Robert W. Smith. Cool Spring was obtained by John D. Smith in 1881.8 He sold it to George M. Lawrinson in 1883. Lawrinson (also spelled Laurason) purchased the house in its tract of 160 acres, along with four other tracts, for $3,000. In total he purchased over 1,300 acres.8 Lawrinson was a native of Canada. He was born in 1842 and became an American citizen in 1872. In 1867 he married Mary Rosebrough, a native of Cumberland County. They had eight children. He continued to farm the Cool Springs lands until his death in the first decade of the twentieth century.9
After the death of George Lawrinson the house and property changed hands numerous times. In August of 1912 his heirs, including Mrs. Lawrinson who was living in Charlotte with a married daughter, sold Cool Springs and five tracts, totaling 1,270 acres, to Dr. J. P. Ewing for $8,500. That same month Dr. Ewing sold the identical property to West Brook Barefoot for $12,500. In 1918 Barefoot sold the house and land to J. L. and Zibbie Thompson. The Thompsons paid only $100 to Barefoot, who was apparently in debt. The Thompsons themselves lost the property in 1930, during the early days of the Great Depression. The Raleigh Banking and Trust Company took over ownership for a brief period before selling to the First Carolinas Joint Stock Land Bank of Columbia. Several members of the Barber family owned the property until it was acquired by James C. Davis of Wilmington. The house was recently acquired by William H. Elliott III, son of William Elliot Jr., the owner of nearby Ellerslie (NR) and a descendent of the Elliot family responsible for Ellerslie, Cool Spring and Thorbiskope.

Since the end of the Second World War the house has been either unoccupied or occupied by tenants. It is presently unoccupied, but is undergoing stabilization and restoration is planned.

The architectural significance of Cool Springs is also considerable. The coastal cottage house type, embodied in the somewhat altered rear section, was prevalent in much of coastal North Carolina and up the Cape Fear River and its tributaries from the mid-eighteenth century well into the nineteenth century. Some attribute the form to Caribbean sources, and given the trade connections that existed, this is creditable. As early as the 1740s Brunswick Town, settled by South Carolina and Caribbean planters and merchants, had houses with piazzas; by the eve of the Revolution, piazza houses—many of them two-story buildings—characterized Wilmington, New Bern, and Edenton. The modest one-story version with engaged piazza and shed rooms appears in early and mid-nineteenth century versions in much of the southeastern section of the state. As noted earlier, the rear sections of the two other Elliot family houses, Ellerslie and Thorbiskope (NR), are versions of this type. The addition of a more impressive, somewhat more formal front structure occurred at all three houses in the second third of the century. In each case, the new section exemplified the widespread use of the two-story, gable roof or hip roof form one room deep, sometimes labeled the "I-house" for its narrow depth and tall height. This form appeared as the home of prosperous planters throughout much of the state in this period. Here it contains a two-room plan with double front doors, a more traditional treatment than the central passage plan. The woodwork is of excellent, carefully detailed late Federal character, with especially richly treated mantels.
NOTES


2 Johnson, Hometown Heritage, 21; Cumberland County Will Book A, p. 100.

3 Fifth Census of the United States, 1830, Cumberland County, North Carolina; Sixth Census of the United States, 1840, Cumberland County, North Carolina.


5 Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Cumberland County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Cumberland County Will Book C, p. 341; Will Book E, p. 160; telephone interview with Mrs. William Elliot, September 3, 1982, notes in file, hereinafter cited as Elliot interview.


7 Cumberland County Deed Book 74, p. 186. Robert Smith is not listed in the 1880 census for Carver's Creek Township, the appropriate township for Cool Spring, and may not have lived in the house prior to selling it. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Cumberland County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.

8 Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Cumberland County, North Carolina.

9 Cumberland County Deed Book 170, p. 583; Book 170, p. 586; Book 170, p. 588; Book 364, p. 448; Elliot interview.
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Approximately 61 acres.

Quadrangle name: Slocomb and Manchester

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

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Part of Lot 5, Block 371, Map 72, Carver Creek Township, as outlined in red on map.

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

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11. Form Prepared By

Architectural Description: Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, County of Cumberland

Historical Description: Jim Sumner, Research Branch

Division of Archives and History

street & number: 109 E. Jones Street

telephone: 1-919-733-6545

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: [Signature]

date: February 7, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date: [Date]

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature]

date: [Date]

Chief of Registration
### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet.

### 10. Geographical Data

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#### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot is approx. 10 acres surrounding the house. Part of Lot 5, Block 371, Map 72, Carver Creek Township, as outlined in red on map.

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

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**Architectural Description:** Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, County of Cumberland Historical Description: Jim Sumner, Research Branch

**organization** Division of Archives and History **date** November 19, 1981

**street & number** 109 E. Jones Street **telephone** 1-919-733-6545

**city or town** Raleigh **state** North Carolina **code** 27611

### 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- [ ] national
- [ ] state
- [x] local

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**State Historic Preservation Officer signature**

**date** February 7, 1985

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For NPS use only

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

**date**

**Keeper of the National Register**

**Attest:**

**Chief of Registration**
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9


Cool Spring
Cravers Creek vicinity
Cumberland County
Quadrangle: Slocomb, N.C.
Manchester, N.C.
Scale: 1:24,000
Acreage: approx. 10 acres