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 Hadley House and Grist Mill

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West side of SR 2165, 2 mi. south of US 64

city, town Pittsboro

city, town vicinity of congressional district

state North Carolina

code 37

county Chatham

code 037

3. Classification

Category

X district

building(s)

X structure

site

object

Ownership

public

private

both

Public Acquisition

X in process

being considered

Status

X occupied

unoccupied

work in progress

Accessible

X yes: restricted

yes: unrestricted

no

Present Use

agriculture

commercial

educational

entertainment

government

industrial

military

museum

park

X private residence

religious

scientific

transportation

other:

4. Owner of Property

name Larry and Avis Autry

street & number Route 3, Box 75

city, town Pittsboro

X vicinity of

state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chatham County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Pittsboro

state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title

has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date

federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state
7. Description

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<tr>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William Piggott Hadley House and Grist Mill are located in the Hickory Mountain area of Chatham County. The house is in view of and perpendicular to SR2165 and faces south across a sloping meadow to Landrum Creek, where the creek intersects the road. The mill is approximately five hundred feet southwest, in a low area surrounded by hardwoods. Several large red oaks stand in the yard of the house, testament to the family's name for the home, Oak Bower. A large stone at the foot of the yard about one hundred feet immediately in front of the house is said to be a horse-mounting stone.

The two-story frame house is three bays wide and two deep beneath a hip roof and has replacement exterior end chimneys. A rear one-story, two-pile ell with central interior chimney is original, but two sympathetic additions are not. In its proportions and details it is typical of Greek Revival houses built throughout North Carolina, and almost identical in exterior features to the Chaffin-Smith-Johnson House located about four miles north.

The house stands on a low foundation of mortared stone indigenous to the property. The center bay porch is one story high with a hip roof. In the west corner of the porch foundation is a stone with the inscription "S. Way 1891," for which no clear explanation exists. The dignified square proportions of the house are emphasized by wide molded and capped corner boards and thick cornice, but variety is added by a wedge motif, most notable in the profile of the hip roof, the four tapered square-in-section porch posts, and the bold wedge-shaped modillions under the eaves of the house facade and three sides of the porch. The center-bay entrance consists of double-leaf recessed panel doors with narrow sidelights beneath a wide transom. The doorway, like the large six-over-six sash windows, is enclosed by a wide symmetrically molded architrave, wedge in cross-section, with plain corner blocks.

To the rear of the center hall a two-story addition forming an entrance and bathrooms on both floors was built, probably during the 1930s. Both this addition and an extension from the rear ell complement the house, for both use decorative elements and materials as in the original house, including duplication of a wide corner board, deep cornice, and symmetrically molded trim.

The interior of the front block follows the typical center-hall plan one room deep and characterized by the spaciousness and simplicity of detail of regional Greek Revival houses. Throughout the house the walls are covered with wide horizontal flush sheathing; however, the second floor interior hall/bedroom walls are vertical mortise and tenon partitions one board thick. Occurring consistently throughout the house are symmetrically molded door and window architraves with plain corner blocks. In some rooms, the window frames extend to the floor to frame a panel. Baseboards are deep and beaded. Doors have two vertical panels, some with heavy Greek moldings.

The wood mantels in the house are varied, but all are Greek Revival in design. In all rooms they are heavy with a wide frieze supported by pilasters on high plain bases the thickness of the baseboards. It is the pilasters which
vary. In the west first floor room, originally the dining room, the pilasters duplicate the symmetrically molded wedge-in-section motif of the window and door surrounds. In the east room, originally the living room, the pilasters are tapered square columns. In the upstairs rooms they are symmetrically molded like the upstairs window and door trim, a simpler design than the ones downstairs. The graceful stairs of the center hall are a focal point. The simple newel is made of a 6" x 6" post, heavily chamfered, with a cap of plain carved wood like an inverted bowl. Thin square-in-section balusters rise from an open string to a rounded and beaded rail. The long initial flight intersects a second shorter traverse flight at a broad landing. The top landing connects the upstairs rooms. At each four turns of the rail stands a plainer chamfered post with square flat, molded tops.

Hadley's grist mill lies about 500 feet southwest of the house, perpendicular to an earth and stone millrace leading from Landrum Creek. Traces of the concrete dam and mill pond remain at the head of the 1200-foot mill race. The unused mill race interior measures three to four feet wide and about five feet tall, occasionally higher. Near the dam and set on the stream side of the mill race wall is a cast concrete overflow lip, approximately six feet wide.

The frame building rises three stories from a foundation of indigenous stone. The sloped shoulders of the second story roof reduce symmetrically to form a large gabled monitor. A one-room gabled ell projects from the front to the south; resting on large stone piers, the ell has a center front door and in the gable end a massive stone fireplace with separate brick stack. The basement of the mill is enclosed with stones on front, north side, and rear; this foundation is pierced with horizontal rectangular ventilators with vertical iron bars.

The iron mill wheel, on the west gable end of the building, is about 16 feet in diameter with closed iron buckets. It rests on iron supports embedded in the stuccoed stone and brick walls of the tail race. The metal shaft connects to several gears and wheels made of both iron and wood. Access to the largely intact machinery in the basement is through a large opening in the foundation of the south wall and a corresponding opening to the wheel in the north wall.

Hadley's Mill is characteristic of grist mills in the piedmont—functional, sturdy, and free of applied decoration. Its beauty is the result of purely functional combinations: the meadow and woodland with variety of contour as its setting; the stone and wood construction; the broken roofline and ell which give visual variety and relieve the massiveness of the main block; the typical but charming mill Dutch doors and random window placement. These features were common to virtually all nineteenth century mills in North Carolina but are rare qualities in present architecture or extant structures.

The interior of the mill is characterized by high ceilings and large spaces unbroken by partitions or walls. Exposed stud wall construction and timber-framing with mortise and tenon pegged joints form the framework. The single applied decoration consists of chamfered center support posts and chamfering on the heavier timbers of the grinding stone area. This stone, the funnel carrying grain to it, and the crane for removing it, function on a large raised platform, located above the gears and screws.
in the basement. The stone itself presently lies on the floor at the foot of the stairs in the northeast corner. A discarded broken stone of very different construction lies on the ground on the north side beneath the mill race wall; made of shaped and tightly fitted granite blocks surrounding an iron hub, this mill stone was held together by a wide iron band, but now lies disassembled.

The interior of the mill is characterized by large work spaces, sometimes with an area delineated by sturdy 2" x 4" railings. In the center of the building a narrow vertical conveyor belt of woven fabric with small buckets is enclosed in a chamfered framework.

The ell contained the mill office and a small store, although little remains to indicate its uses.

Traces of the fairly flat wagon road connecting the mill to the main road remain, following the north side of Landrum Creek and visible from the house on the hill above.

A two-story frame smokehouse, probably contemporary with house, stands thirty feet west of the main block of the house. South of the smokehouse about 20 feet from the house, foundation stones for the original detached kitchen and quarters have been located, along with the filled-in well site.

Indian artifacts have been located on the property, indicative of the established prevalence of Indians in the area. Located in the hillside between the smokehouse and rear addition of the house about a foot below grade in a deposit of white clay (in otherwise red clay country) were found two rounded axe heads, approximately 3" x 2" x 4". They are scored for thongs to attach them to handles. Located by the present owner while digging footings for steps, the axe heads remain in his possession.

On the north corner of the property near the road are the remains of two low stone foundations. The original uses of these foundations are thought by the present owners to be a house and a barn.

Within one-quarter mile north of the Hadley house stands a small one-story house which had a simple wood mantel like the ones described above. The mantel was removed from that small house to the Hadley house kitchen by Miss Ferguson when she remodelled in the 1960s.
### Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

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### Specific Dates

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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Piggott Hadley House and Mill, located on 46 acres of rolling property in Chatham County, are excellent examples of mid-nineteenth century vernacular rural architecture and industry in piedmont North Carolina. Of Quaker ancestors who had settled in Chatham County before the American Revolution, Hadley was a prosperous leader of the community, serving the North Carolina House of Representatives 1864–1865. In addition, he co-owned and operated a toll bridge over the Deep River at Egypt, a coal mining community, and his landholdings reached 600 acres. Hadley Township in Chatham County is named for him. The house he built is a handsome standard execution of vernacular Greek Revival architecture, of which few examples remain in the county. Located on the same property, the grist mill is on a site known to have been in use as a mill since at least 1838, although the present mill was constructed around 1885. It continued in operation until the 1930s. As a group, this combination of property, mill, mill race, house and outbuildings comprises a microcosm of successful nineteenth century rural life, with its implications of first slave then free workforce, economic agrarian support, an individual’s high standing in the community, and a local unknown builder’s successful construction of a stylish and dignified Greek Revival house.

### Criteria Assessment:

A. Hadley House and Mill are representative of the rural farm-business complex on which much of the economy of nineteenth century piedmont North Carolina was based.

B. House and Mill are associated with the Hadley family of Quakers which settled in Chatham County in the 1700's and whose members have since been prominent in its growth and history. William Piggott Hadley was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives during the difficult Civil War years 1864–1865.

C. The 1850's house is representative of piedmont vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival domestic architecture. The 1885 mill is a remarkably intact example of grist mills once common in the state, few of which remain.

D. Is likely to yeild information about nineteenth century piedmont milling practices and farm life.
Located on rolling property by Landrum Creek in the Hickory Mountain area of Chatham County are an antebellum house and later grist mill now owned by Larry and Avis Autry. The Greek Revival style house was built for William Piggott Hadley between 1856 and 1861, times substantiated by letters addressed to him. Prominent in Chatham County during the latter part of the nineteenth century, Hadley was a miller, justice of the peace, state legislator, and toll bridge owner.

Hadley was a son of Jacob Hadley and Phebe Piggott, Quakers who lived in north Chatham County on Terrell's Creek near the Cane Creek settlement of Quakers in Orange and Alamance counties. Born in 1810, Hadley spent the first half of his life on his father's farmstead where he learned farming and the milling trade he would carry with him to the center of the county.

In 1834 William Hadley married Hannah McPherson, and by 1840 they had five sons. In 1850 Hadley purchased 92 acres in the Hickory Mountain area from Samuel Brooks; included in the property description is reference to "the mill tract," so it is probable that Hadley had purchased a mill already established. Even Samuel Brook's purchase of the property from Brooks Harris in 1836 mentions a boundary feature of "a white oak in the mill pond," indicating even earlier use of this site as a grist mill. Unfortunately, there are apparently no specific references to such a mill.

1860 census information draws the image of a prosperous rural life. William and Hannah Hadley had eight children still living at home. Newton, the eldest, listed his occupation as "miller," while Hadley called himself "farmer." There were at least two sons who had already left home by this time. Hadley's real estate was valued at $5,100, his personal estate at $8,800. There were also two slaves owned by Hadley, a nineteen-year-old male and a 12-year-old female.

These prosperous pre-Civil War times were short-lived; Hadley himself was in his fifties during the war, but his four oldest sons fought and two of them died in the Confederate army. First to enlist and first to die was the young miller, Oliver Newton Hadley, who enlisted as a private at age nineteen in the 26th Regiment in October, 1861. The entry concerning him in North Carolina Troops: A Roster is concise: "Present or accounted for until he died at Morehead City on November 22, 1861, of disease." Insight into the conditions in the Confederate camp where Newton was training comes from Assistant Surgeon George C. Underwood of the 26th Regiment, who wrote after the war in a section entitled "Encampment on Bogue Island" concerning autumn 1861 that "There was a great sickness among the soldiers. An epidemic of measles and fever prevailed. A hospital was established at Carolina City on the mainland, three miles west of Morehead City . . . many privates died in a short while." It is likely that young Hadley was one of these victims.

On July 8, 1862, William C. Hadley, 25 and John W. Hadley, 18 enlisted together; William as first sergeant, John as private. William was soon elected third lieutenant, and was wounded near the close of the conflict at Petersburg, Va. John was "killed in action at Stevensburg, Va., November 8, 1863." The bodies of both John and Newton lie in the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church cemetery.
about two miles from the house, near the graves of William and Hannah Hadley.

The eldest son of the Hadleys was Jacob M. Hadley, born in 1835, who probably never lived in the handsome Greek Revival house built by his father but grew up at the Terrell's Creek home and left to study medicine before the family moved. In the war he served as an Assistant Surgeon and was described as "a man of education, talent and ability, ever working in harmony with his chief (J. F. Shaffner, M.D.)" After the war he practiced medicine in LaGrange, near Kinston.

William P. Hadley's position as a leader in the community is indicated by his being a justice of the peace and by his election to the North Carolina General Assembly, House of Commons, for the term 1864-1865. Following that term, an example of his position in civic affairs is documented in a letter from him to Gov. Jonathan Worth in 1867, concerning funds for the poor from the Court of Wardens of Chatham County, of which he was chairman.

Also in the late 1860s, Hadley expanded his business interests and operated a toll bridge with Hugh W. Peoples near a coal mining community formerly in Chatham, now in Lee County. "The bridge over Deep River at Egypt (Cumnock) was acquired from the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County by William P. Hadley in a deed dated November 11, 1868. There was a provision that it could be bought back by the county and made a free bridge."18

The 1870 Census indicates that Hadley and his wife and three children maintained residence at the house, along with a twelve-year-old negro boy, Bob Foushea. The size of Hadley's holdings is listed as 75 acres of improved land, 300 acres unimproved woodland, 275 other unimproved land, all with a cash value of $750; farm implements and machinery were valued at $500. A wide variety of farm productions, totaling $930 in value, included 15 pounds of wool, 20 bushels each of sweet and Irish potatoes, 250 pounds of butter, one ton hay, ten pounds beeswax, 60 pounds honey, one horse, one mule, five milch cows, one working oxen, 18 sheep, 30 swine, 165 bushels winter wheat, 105 bushels Indian corn, 150 bushels oats.

The 1880 Census indicates that Hadley, 70 years old, and his wife Hannah, 65, were the only ones living at the homeplace; his occupation is listed as "miller" for the first time, hers as "Keeping house." The 1880 Census contains more specific information as to manufactures than previous Censuses, and as a consequence a clear record of Hadley's milling operation exists, indicating a high level of prosperity. The record shows that Hadley employed one mill hand who worked ten hours a day in the full time operation of the mill all year. The mill is described as having two runs of stone and a maximum capacity for grinding 100 bushels a day, all of which was custom work, rather than milling for commercial sale. The wheel is described as having a 24 foot fall with two overshot wheels, a breadth of four feet, speed of three RPM, and 30 horsepower. For the year June 1, 1870, to May 31, 1880, the mill produced more than any other mill in Hickory Mountain Township: 2500 bushels of wheat valued at $3,000, 3500 bushels of other grains valued at $3,000, 500 barrels of wheat flour, 161,000 pounds of corn meal, 33,500 pounds of feed.
Value of mill supplies was $125; real capital invested in the business was $2,500, and total value of all products was $6,625.22

This description of the mill and milling operations is particularly valuable because this mill was destroyed by fire five years later and rebuilt as we see it today, with the exception of the wheel, which was replaced by the 1920s. The rebuilding must have been done immediately, for a listing in the weekly county newspaper The Home in 1887 shows "W. P. Hadley's Mills" being a location for the collection of taxes by the sheriff.23

Hadley died in 1896, at the age of 86. After his death the property was leased and the mill continued in use. The water wheel was replaced and a new dam built in the 1920s by Franklin Minter Hadley, youngest son of the miller, who was in business in nearby Siler City.24

In 1935 the house and mill property were purchased by Gordon Kellogg,25 a member of the cereal manufacturing family from Battle Creek, Michigan. The Kellogg family continued to maintain the mill and added to the house the two-story north entrance and bathrooms, duplicating the original section of the house in materials style, corner boards, interior and exterior moldings, doors and hardware. The mill operated only intermittently.26

In 1963 Sally Ferguson of Chatham County purchased the property from L. Bradley Kellogg;27 during her ownership the house was roofed with cedar shakes and the kitchen enlarged and remodelled in harmony with the original section of the house.

The William P. Hadley house, a gracious Greek Revival structure, and the nearby grist mill remain today as evidence of a prosperous way of life in late-nineteenth century rural North Carolina. Chatham County is an area with plentiful ground water and there were grist mills scattered on streams throughout the county. This particular site for a mill predates Hadley's use of it from before 1836. The structures on the property illustrate a not unusual level of comfort for a large family involved in farming and also manufacturing by water power, typical livelihoods of the time.

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.
Wade Hampton Hadley, Jr., interview held at his home in Siler City, North Carolina, September 21, 1979, hereinafter referred to as "Hadley interview." The first letter was sent to his parents' home at Terrell's Creek; the second letter was addressed "seven miles west of Pittsboro." These documents are the possession of Mr. Hadley; see copies enclosed.

Hadley interview.

Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Chatham County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, State Archives, Raleigh, NC.


Chatham County Deed Books A-D: 544.


Eighth Census, 1860, Slave Schedule.


Ibid., p. 424.


Hadley interview.

Hadley interview.

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<td>Tenth Census, 1860. Special Schedules of Manufactures. See enclosed copy.</td>
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<td>Interview with Larry and Avis Autry, present owners, August 8, 1979.</td>
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Autry, Larry and Avis. Interview, August 8, 1979.


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 46.2 acres

Quadrangle name: Siler City NE Quad

UMT References

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Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds to the property line on the accompanying plat map entitled "Sally Ferguson Land" (Chatham County Courthouse, plat book 9, page 71) drawn at a scale of 150' to the inch. The north boundary falls in a line of hardwoods.

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

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Eliza Robertson, Consultant

Survey and Planning Branch

organization: Archaeology and Historic Preservation Sec.

date: May 1980

NC Division of Archives and History

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

X

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

[Signature]

date: July 25, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration


northwest is an arbitrary line from the woods to the mill pond and dam site; southwest is Landrum Creek flowing east from the mill pond and dam to cross SR 2165, which forms the east boundary. Included in the property are the house, smokehouse, kitchen foundation, older house foundation, the entire mill race, mill, and outlet stream; the dam and mill pond are on the property line.


Hadley House and Mill, Chatham County, North Carolina

Attached are two sheets of proofs which show the rock walls located at the far end of the nominated property and associated with the dam. The dam itself has fallen into disrepair so that it is no longer attached to either of the rock walls. Thus, the problem of the boundary cutting through a portion of the southern wall does not appear crucial since the wall is no longer necessary to the dam.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Hadley House and Grist Mill
W side SR 2165 2 mi S of jct.
w/US 64
Pittsboro, N. C. vic.
Siler City NE Quadrangle
Quadrangle scale 1:24000
UTM Zone 17
A 17 653820/3953140
B 17 654180/3953160
C 17 654220/3952560
D 17 654110/3952700
E 17 653860/3952860
F 17 653660/3953860
G 17 653500/3952960