

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Chatham County

X MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hall-London House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

206 Hillsboro Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

37

Chatham

37

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION		ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	ACCESSIBLE	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: RESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	YES: UNRESTRICTED	MILITARY	OTHER
		NO		

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Elizabeth C. Anderson

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 917

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

STATE

VICINITY OF North Carolina

27312

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Chatham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

STATE

North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth Selden-Sturgill

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

March 1, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

Archives and History

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built adjacent to the town commons which lay to the north, the Hall-London House is set off from the storefronts of Pittsboro's commercial district by its tree-filled yard. The house is a two-story Federal/Greek Revival style residence fronted by a broad Gothic Revival porch. The tall five-bay facade, marked at the second floor level by nine-over-six light sash windows, is flanked by exterior end chimneys and is surmounted by a gable roof. The architrave of the entrance, which is rendered with convex reeded supports set into a post and lintel surround joined by corner blocks, demonstrates the town's gradual transition from the Federal to the Greek Revival mode. The traditional arrangement of transom and sidelights is outlined by the intersecting lines of the new trabeation.

The broad Gothic Revival porch, built of lattice work with pointed arch bays, was rebuilt from an earlier porch sometime before the Civil War. It was probably at this time that the original single pile plan was enlarged and a one-story addition with a gable roof was joined to the rear of the north parlor. A two-story ell with a gable roof and returning eaves was attached to the rear of the south parlor around 1900.

The Federal/Greek Revival style elements are continued on the interior where a central hall with panelled wainscoting separates the early parlors. The interior architrave of the entrance echoes the intersecting trabeation of the exterior. Here, however, the reeded pilasters lose their convex profiles. The merging styles also characterize the architraves of the parlors' six-panel doors which are marked by symmetrically channeled moldings and reeded corner blocks. The traditional Pittsboro stair with its quarter turn and winders is here embellished with a graceful round rail which descends on tapered colonettes to an out-turned volute. Of particular interest are the robust moldings which follow the open stringers, and the vertical panelling on the stair enclosure, and the panelled response. The sophistication of the lower hallway disappears at the second floor level where square cut newel posts and balusters are in evidence.

The Hall-London House retains two of its early mantels in the chambers of the second floor. As was the case in several of Pittsboro's other homes, such as Kelvin and the Winship Stedman House, the craftsmen of the 1830s selected a Federal-derived design which combined a frieze and pilasters. More specifically the Hall-London mantels feature a frieze with two reeded panels flanked by delicately fluted convex supports. A rich series of moldings produce the base, capital and cornice.

The mantels of the first floor reflect the renovations which occurred in the 1850s. In the southwest parlor the early wainscoting is combined with a Greek Revival mantel featuring engaged columns. The enlargement of the northwest parlor into a double-parlor produced a variety of architraves with cornerblocks and two mantels with engaged columns.

A small one-room frame office or outbuilding with a gable roof and box cornice is located in the back yard.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL

STATE

X LOCAL

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The last remaining residence within a business district which once happily accommodated several "garden lots" and from 1880 to 1918 the home of journalist and lawyer Henry Armand London is the Hall-London House. Built ca. 1836 it is the town's finest domestic example of the Federal/Greek Revival style. The house demonstrates an area craftsman's continued appreciation of the delicacy of reeded detailing even after the post and lintel framework had become popular. The Gothic Revival porch dates from a renovation undertaken before the Civil War.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Hall-London House is associated with both the town of Pittsboro's first significant period of growth in the 1830s, when a number of well-established men came to the largely undeveloped piedmont from the coast, and with the town's impressive economic recovery during the 1890s.
- B. The house was built by Dr. Isaac Hall, a young physician from Scotland Neck who set up a successful early practice and who as town commissioner became one of Pittsboro's community leaders during the burgeoning years after 1830. In 1880 the house became the home of lawyer and journalist Henry Armand London who in 1878 had founded the area's oldest surviving newspaper, The Chatham Record.
- C. With its delicate reeded detailing set into a post and lintel framework, the Hall-London House is Pittsboro's finest domestic example of the Federal/Greek Revival style.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Facing west from its tree-filled yard along Hillsboro Street, the Hall-London House was originally built adjacent to the town commons which lay to the north. The house stands today as the last remaining residence within a business district which once happily accommodated several "garden lots."

Dr. Isaac Hall (1806-1858) came to Pittsboro from Scotland Neck sometime before August 9, 1836 when he purchased town lots nos. eleven, on which he built his house, and twelve for \$1250 from Frederick J. Swann.¹ With lots along Hillsboro Street selling for about \$100 between 1830 and 1840 Hall's purchase of the property probably included a small house, worth around \$500, which was built between 1827 and 1833 by noted lawyer Abraham Rencher on the north half of lot no. eleven.² Another small house, worth around \$300 was included in the sale to Hall and was built by Dr. William G. Hill on the south end of the property after 1829.³ Frederick Swann had purchased both pieces of improved property from Rencher and Hill in 1833 and 1834 respectively.⁴ Swann, who was not listed in Chatham County in the 1830 census, is listed in contemporary deeds as having a plantation in Alabama and it seems unlikely that he resided in either house.⁵

The well-integrated Federal/Greek Revival finish of the house now known as the Hall-London House clearly indicates that the residence now standing on lot no. eleven was built shortly after Isaac Hall's purchase of the property in 1836. A comparative analysis of other Pittsboro buildings dating from the early 1830s reinforces the argument. Built about 1831 by a prominent landowner, Kelvin, a five-bay two-story frame house on West Salisbury Street, was executed in a vernacular Federal mode which shows no signs of Greek Revival influence. St. Bartholomew's Church, which was begun in 1831 by cabinetmaker/builder Martin Hanks, displays the first tentative signs of the Greek Revival style in the town of Pittsboro. Here symmetrically channeled Greek Revival moldings are incorporated into the pointed, Gothic Revival architraves. The house built by Isaac Hall on lot no. eleven, however, shows a much better understanding of the Greek Revival style. While the house does not completely divorce itself from the Federal tradition, the broader proportions of the facade and bays set it apart from a purely Federal house such as Kelvin. The most impressive evidence to support the 1836 date is found in the design of the architrave of the front entrance. Here, an adaptation of the Federal reeded column is set gracefully into a Greek Revival post and lintel surround which is joined by cornerblocks. It seems highly likely, therefore, that Isaac Hall either tore down Rencher's earlier house or moved it to make way for his new residence.⁶

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chatham County Records. Chatham County Courthouse.
Pittsboro, North Carolina. Subgroup: Deeds; Wills.

Hadley, Wade. Chatham County 1771-1971. Durham:
Moore Publishing, Co., 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	6 6	48 9	0	3 9	5 4	4 4	0	
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C					D				

B									
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C					D				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 2B Block 1 Map 10 Pittsboro Township, Chatham County Tax Map.

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

National Register of Historic Places

Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Hall-London House

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Isaac Hall was one of the well-established young men who, like lawyer John Hooker Haughton and merchant Henry Adolphus London, moved into the piedmont town during the 1830s and contributed to Pittsboro's first period of substantial growth. A physician by training, Hall prospered and soon took his place among the town's leaders, serving as a town commissioner in 1846.⁷ With his wife Eliza, Dr. Hall raised two daughters, the oldest of which married the eminent lawyer and educator John Manning in 1856.⁸ The Mannings' wedding was held in the Hall's home and it may have been for this occasion that the north parlor was enlarged and the Gothic Revival porch built. Following Isaac Hall's death in 1858, Mrs. Hall and her youngest daughter Eliza continued to live in the house for a length of time.⁹ During the Civil War it is said that Mrs. Hall let the family of Thomas C. Cowan of Wilmington take refuge in the house and their arrival may have precipitated Mrs. Hall's own move to the home of her daughter and son-in-law John Manning.¹⁰ While the 1870 census showed Mrs. Hall residing with the Mannings, it showed no evidence of the Cowans.¹¹ Although it is not known who lived in the Hall house during the 1870s it seems likely that Mrs. Hall may have rented it out or lent it to friends or family.¹²

Following the Civil War Henry Armand London (1846-1918), who as courier for Confederate Major General Bryan Grimes, had carried General Lee's final order to cease fire, returned to Pittsboro to pursue law under John Manning.¹³ The son of the prominent local merchant Henry Adolphus London, the young lawyer was born in Pittsboro and pursued his education at Pittsburgh Academy. He entered the University of North Carolina in 1862 and for two years kept a student diary which reflected life at the university during the war. Finally in 1864 he departed for the conflict but returned to complete his education when the war was finished. In 1878 London, who was a keen supporter of the Democratic party, brought together his many interests and founded The Chatham Record, a weekly newspaper which he edited and published until his death in 1918. In addition to his other commitments, London had served as president of the Pittsboro Railroad Company, director of the Bank of Pittsboro and vestryman of St. Bartholomew's Church.

During much of the 1870s Henry Armand London had resided with his family in the London Cottage, Pittsboro's only Gothic Revival residence, near the northwest edge of town.¹⁴ London's marriage in 1875 to Bettie Louise Jackson, the daughter of Pittsboro lawyer Joseph John Jackson and the granddaughter of Governor Jonathan Worth, no doubt, prompted his search for a home for his new family.¹⁵ In 1879 the Chatham Record moved into offices in the old Eagle Hotel on the east side of Hillsboro Street and the former home of Isaac Hall stood one block to the north.¹⁶ The site of the old home must have appealed to London and in 1880 he purchased the residence from Hall's widow for \$800.¹⁷ Besides housing the Londons and their eight children, the residence became the birthplace in 1898 of the Winnie Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.¹⁸ Mrs. Henry Armand London served as the group's first president and continued to entertain the chapter in her home for thirty years. As president of the organization Mrs. London was also the person most responsible for establishing the Confederate Monument on the public square and her name is honored on the statue's base.¹⁹ Around 1900 with their eight children in or approaching their teens, the Londons added the two-story southeast wing onto the Hall-London House.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

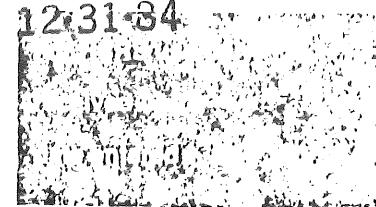
National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Hall-London House

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When Henry Armand London died in 1918, he left his property to his wife Bettie and she resided in the Hall-London House until her death in 1930.²⁰ Under the provisions of her will, Mrs. London's property was to be divided up equally among her five children.²¹ Until the title of the Hall-London House was actually transferred to them in 1939, Mrs. London's daughter Camelia and her husband Fred Jerome got the family's approval to live in the house.²² Camelia London had married Fred D. Jerome, the son of a Methodist minister in 1922.²³ Shortly before 1933 the young couple moved into the Hall-London House and Mr. Jerome took a job as engineer with the Federal Highway Department in Raleigh.²⁴ Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Jerome remained in the house until her own death in 1977.²⁵ The property was left to Mrs. Jerome's three sons who sold it to Elizabeth C. Anderson and Wallace Kaufman in 1978.²⁶ Miss Anderson and Mr. Kaufman are local realtors who have rented out the Hall-London House to a variety of people. The first floor until recently accommodated both a lawyer's office and gift shop. The house is currently for sale.

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

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Hall-London House

Mem number 8

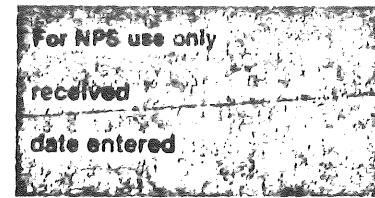
Page 3

1. Chatham County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, Deed Book A-D: 427.
2. In 1827 Abraham Rencher purchased lots nos. eleven, twelve and thirteen from Frederick Hill for \$250 (AD: 312). Rencher sold the southern half of lots nos. eleven and twelve to Dr. William G. Hill in 1929 for \$125 (AB: 321). In 1830 Spense McClenahan purchased lot no. 10, directly across Hillsboro Street from lot no. 11, from J. Haralson for \$100 (AC: 31). When Frederick Swann purchased the north and south halves of lots nos. eleven and twelve in 1833 and 1834, they obviously were improved. Rencher sold the northern half, on which the Hall-London House now stands, to Swann for \$600 and Hill sold his southern half for \$400 (AD: 140; AD: 235). Rencher, who was elected to Congress from 1829 to 1839, was not listed for Chatham County in the 1830 census and it is unlikely that he lived in the small house on lot no. eleven (Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: Chatham County, Population Schedule). In 1830 William G. Hill purchased a newly-built residence and an array of outbuildings located on lot no. ten for \$2000 (AC: 32). The high price paid by Hill for a house on Hillsboro Street is curious in so much as St. Bartholomew's Church was built in 1831-33 for \$1125. (The original contract for St. Bartholomew's Church: courtesy of John H. London, Pittsboro). However, it seems to confirm the modest dimensions of the house built by Rencher on the northern portion of lot no. eleven.
3. Chatham County Deed Book AD: 235.
4. Chatham County Deed Books AD: 140; AD: 235.
5. Fifth Census of the United States, 1830.
6. An 1887 newspaper account may suggest that Renchers small house was indeed moved and used as his law office:"The law office of the Hon. John Manning but recently occupied by his son Dr. Manning has been sold and is now owned by Capt. W. L. London. The office was built in the 'long ago' by the late Hon. A. Rencher" (The Home, November 10, 1887). Indeed older members of the town remember a rather substantial office facing Hillsboro Street on the southern half of lot no eleven.
7. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Chatham County, Population Schedule: Hall was listed as being worth \$5500; Pittsborough Town Commissioners' Minutes 1826-1878 (Microfilm) February 5, 1846, Chatham County Miscellaneous Books, North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.
8. Vestry Records of St. Bartholomew's Church: courtesy of John H. London.
9. Chatham County Will Books, Superior Court Clerk's Office, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro Will Book D: 13; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Chatham County, Population Schedule.
10. W. B. Morgan, "Interesting Old Places to be Found in Chatham," Greensboro Daily News, June 26, 1949; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Chatham County, Population Schedule.

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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11. Ibid.
12. One newspaper account claimed that Henry Armand London took up residence in the Hall house as early as 1876 (Lucy London Anderson, "Old Pittsborough People and Homes," "The News and Observer (Raleigh), August 6, 1933) but both the 1870 and 1880 census show him residing with members of his family (Ninth Census of the United States, 1870; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Chatham County, Population Schedule).
13. The biographical information on Henry Armand London was taken from the following sources: Wade H. Hadley, Doris G. Horton and Nell C. Strowd, Chatham County 1771-1971 (Durham: Moore Pub. Co., 1976), pp. 131-132; Claiborne T. Smith, Jr., "Henry Armand London," an unpublished biography: courtesy of Lawrence F. London, Chapel Hill.
14. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870.
15. Vestry Records of St. Bartholomew's Church; Smith, "Henry Armand London."
16. "Our New Quarters," Chatham Record, October 17, 1895.
17. Chatham County Deed Book AZ: 248.
18. Hadley, p. 178.
19. Ibid., 207.
20. Chatham County Will Book H: 66.
21. Chatham County Will Book I: 310.
22. Chatham County Deed Book 1G: 273; Ruth Selden-Sturgill, telephone interview with John H. London, Pittsboro, April 21, 1982.
23. Vestry Records of St. Bartholomew's Church
24. John H. London interview.
25. Mrs. Jerome died July 14, 1977 according to her tombstone in the St. Bartholomew's Church graveyard: courtesy of John H. London.
26. Chatham County Estate File, Superior Court Clerk's Office, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, File 77E: 116; Chatham County Deed Book 418: 821.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

663

5155 1 SW
(BYNUM)

665

CHAPEL HILL 1 1/2 MI
BYNUM 2 1/2 MI

10'

666

667

Pittsboro Multiple Resource
Nomination
Pittsboro, N.C. Quadrangle

Zone 17

Scale 1:24 000

London Cottage
17 663990/3954960

Kelvin
17 664240/3954340

Lewis Freeman House
17 664590/3954370

A. P. Terry House

- A 17 663980/3954000
- B 17 664150/3954000
- C 17 664310/3953740
- D 17 663950/3953720

Reid House
17 664650/3954420

Moore-Manning House
17 664890/3954800

Pittsboro

Hall-London House
17 664890/3954440

Patrick St. Lawrence House
17 664710/3953070

McClenahan House
17 664730/3954060

Turkey

Luther Clegg House
17 666140/3951860

Substation

BM 395

