State of North Carolina  
Division of Archives and History  

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR  
Chatham County  

1. NAME  
HISTORIC  
Reid House  
AND/OR COMMON  

2. LOCATION  
STREET & NUMBER  
200 West Salisbury Street  
CITY, TOWN  Pittsboro  
STATE  North Carolina  

3. CLASSIFICATION  
CATEGORY  OWNER  
_DISTRICT  _PUBLIC  
_BUILDING(S)  _PRIVATE  
_STRUCTURE  _BOTH  
_SITE  PUBLIC ACQUISITION  
_OBJECT  IN PROCESS  

OWNERSHIP  STATUS  PRESENT USE  
_PUBLIC  _UNOCCUPIED  _AGRICULTURE  
_PRIVATE  _UNOCCUPIED  _MUSEUM  
_BOTH  _WORK IN PROGRESS  _COMMERCIAL  
_PUBLIC ACQUISITION  ACCESSIBLE  _EDUCATIONAL  
_IN PROCESS  _YES: UNRESTRICTED  _ENTERTAINMENT  
_BEING CONSIDERED  _YES: RESTRICTED  _RELIGIOUS  
_N/A  _IN PROCESS  _GOVERNMENT  

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
NAME  Charles W. Cameron  
STREET & NUMBER  P. O. Box 1024  
CITY, TOWN  Pittsboro  
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. 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
Overlooking West Salisbury Street from its terraced and well-planted front yard, the Reid House is a one-and-a-half story Federal/Greek Revival house with a broad gable roof and two interior chimneys resting behind the ridge. The focal point of the three-bay facade is the pedimented entrance porch. Set on a modern brick foundation, the porch features square columns which support a molded pediment. The ceiling of the porch is sheathed as is the entrance wall with its transom and sidelights. The front entrance originally accommodated a double door and when this was removed in the 1930s, sidelights were inserted to fill the extra space and add light to the entrance hall. The porch pediment echoes the slope of the main roof and the pedimented dormers suggest the porch design. Encased in a simple molded architrave, the six-over-six sash windows of the dormers surmount the nine-over-nine sash windows of the first floor. The early weatherboards are hidden by asbestos shingles.

The box cornice of the front is finished with end boards which, like the cornerblocks and rake boards, were undoubtedly altered when the house was resurfaced. On the east end of the house where two nine-over-nine sash windows are surmounted by six-over-six sash, the early fenestration is intact. On the west the original design has been changed by the addition of a bay window in the 1930s. The rear of the house is marked by considerable alteration. A small one-story gable-roofed addition was built into the northwest corner of the house during the rebuilding effort.

The interior of the Reid House is characterized by a broad central hall flanked by a double pile of rooms. Low-relief wainscoting and picture moldings relieve the eighteen foot ceiling. The house also underwent interior renovation in the 1930s. A series of small windows was added at this time to light the landing of the dodleg stair. Other changes included a new handrail, panelled newel post and hall floor.

Three of the parlors preserve their high ceilings, flat-panel wainscoting, and picture moldings. The two Tuscan mantels in the front parlors date from the 1930s as do the six-panel doors with their Colonial Revival hardware. The fireplace in the northeast parlor like that of the second floor’s west chamber is surrounded by an early mantel edged with a molded architrave. All the mantels of the first floor extend beyond the corners of the projecting chimney breasts.

Other modifications from the 1930s include the addition of the kitchen at the northwest corner of the house and the bay window which was inserted into the dining room to create an access to the kitchen. The dining room ceiling was also lowered to correspond to that of the new kitchen.

On the second floor, board and batten doors lead from the hall to the bedrooms and in the west bedroom, the early fireplace has a segmental arched opening.
Overlooking what was one of Pittsboro's busiest nineteenth century intersections, the Reid House was built around 1850 and is a fine example of the small three-bay dwelling with a central-hall double-pile plan which began to take shape in North Carolina towns at the middle of the century. The only surviving representative of this house-type in the town of Pittsboro, the Reid House is marked by a Greek Revival pedimented porch and the town's only early examples of the once-popular dormer window. The Reid House is an invaluable part of the town's important cross-section of nineteenth century architecture and helps to demonstrate the progression of Pittsboro's more modest dwellings from the one-room house of the settlement period to the double-pile residence of the developed town.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. The Reid House is associated with the town of Pittsboro's second period of substantial growth during the 1850s when such internal improvements as the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company and the plank road movement brought the community increased prosperity.

C. The Reid House is the town's last surviving example of the small three-bay double-pile plan house which began to take shape in North Carolina towns after 1850. Marked by a Greek Revival pedimented porch and the town's only early representatives of the once-popular dormer window, the Reid House is an invaluable part of the town's important cross-section of nineteenth century architecture. In addition, the Reid House helps to demonstrate the progression of Pittsboro's more modest dwellings from the one-room house of the settlement period to the double-pile residence of the developed town.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Situated at the corner of West Salisbury and Fayetteville streets, the Reid House once overlooked one of Pittsboro's busiest nineteenth century intersections. Described in some deeds as "the main street," Salisbury Street led west while Fayetteville Street, which appears in early photographs as a wide muddy course for wagon travel, led south towards the ford at Roberson Creek.

In 1849 William "Buck" Bland, his wife Francis, John Farrell and his wife Emeline Farrell sold lots nos. five and six to three sisters by the names of Mary S., Sarah A. and Eliza I. Reid. The purchase price included a small house, now demolished described as the former residence of Hilery H. Yeargen, which had been built on lot no. six in the 1830s. Shortly after they bought the Pittsboro property, the sisters had a one-and-a-half story frame house, now known as the Reid House, constructed on lot no. five. Marked by its prominent Greek Revival features, including a pedimented porch and dormers, the Reid House is typical of the small three-bay dwelling with a central-hall double-pile plan which began to take shape in North Carolina towns around 1850. Set off by interior chimneys, this house-type was only occasionally built, as was the Reid House, with a gable roof. More typical of the style was a hipped roof. Crowned by the town's only early examples of the once-popular dormer window, the Reid House deviated slightly from the usual representative of the style which more often as not maintained the height of a single story. While the exterior detailing of the Reid House echoed the contemporary Greek Revival taste, the plan and interior finish clung adamantly to the Georgian/Federal tradition with its double-pile plan, mantels ornamented with a simple molded architrave and sheathed wainscoting. The Reid House aptly demonstrates the progression of Pittsboro's more modest dwellings from the one-room house of the settlement period to the double-pile residence of the developed town. The only surviving house of its type in Pittsboro, the Reid House is an invaluable part of the town's important cross-section of nineteenth century architecture.

The background of the Reid family is indistinct. The eldest sister Mary S. Reid (1821-1879) who was twenty-nine years old in 1850 was born in Georgia and does not appear in any town records until she joined the Episcopal Church in 1847. The two younger sisters were twenty-six year old twins who were born in North Carolina. The census information would seem to indicate that the Reid family moved from Georgia to North Carolina sometime between 1821 and 1824. Sarah A. Reid was a founding member of Pittsboro's Presbyterian Church established in 1849 and her sister Eliza married a young tailor by the name of James R. King around 1850. The young couple resided with the two sisters in the house on West Salisbury Street.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chatham County Records. Chatham County Courthouse.

Hadley, Wade. Chatham County 1771-1971. Durham:

GEOPGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTING

ZONE EASTING NORTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 1 Block 3 Map 6 Pittsboro Township, Chatham County Tax Map.
By 1860 the Reid House was clearly built. The census showed Mary S. Reid, as the head of the household owning $2000 worth of real estate and $1500 worth of personal property. The household, at this time also accommodated Eliza Reid King, her ten year old daughter Sarah, and two sixteen year old girls named Bettie Lulley and Mary Nunley. James King and Sarah Reid were no longer listed in residence with the family. Ten years later Mary S. Reid's personal property, now valued at $500, clearly showed the strain of the war years and Eliza Reid King had taken up dressmaking, no doubt to supplement the family's income. Young Sally King continued to live with her mother and aunt and the household was completed by two black domestics. Mary S. Reid died in 1879 and by 1880 only Sally King remained in Pittsboro. Reid family members from Darlington County, South Carolina sold lot no. five and the Reid House to James Moore for $450 in 1883.

A descendant of "King" Roger Moore, the founder of Orton plantation outside of Lilmington, James Moore had resided in a fine home on land to the southwest of Pittsboro. Subsequent owners of the Reid House have passed on the story that Moore's home was destroyed by fire and he moved his family to the Reid House. The omission of Moore's name in the 1880 census for Chatham County, however, can not be explained. The chain of title to the property becomes unclear after James Moore's acquisition of the Reid House in 1883. Sometime before 1896 Moore sold the property to T. J. Woolridge and his wife Mary M. Woolridge who then sold it to Fannie B. Moore.

In 1893, as family sources recount, following the death of her husband, Fannie Bynum Moore (1850-1924) moved with her two children into Pittsboro from their home five miles east of town and took up residence in the Reid House. Her husband, the Reverend George P. Moore (1824-1893), who was no relation to James Moore, was a well-known Baptist minister who had founded Trades Hill Church, now known as Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, in 1871 and who served as the congregation's first pastor. Besides his pastoral duties Moore was an active farmer and miller who served in the state senate in 1866. Mrs. Moore's choice of the Reid House which stood directly across the street from the Pittsboro Baptist Church can surely have been no accident. Her children entered into local schools, Mrs. Moore maintained strong ties with the church.

In 1915 Fannie Moore's daughter Julia married William Fowle Bland (1888-1958) in the parlor of the Reid House and following a honeymoon in Richmond, Virginia, the young couple took up residence with Mrs. Moore in the house. The grandson of William "Buck" Bland who had sold the property to the Reid sisters and the son of Thomas Montrevi Ie Bland, a local sawmill operator who also dealt in real estate, William F. Bland followed his father into the sawmill business. When Fannie Moore died in 1924 she left no will but according to a family agreement Julia Moore Bland inherited the Reid House. Sometime in the 1930s family sources recount that a renovation of the house was undertaken. It was at this time that the wooden railing of the front porch was taken down. Other exterior changes included the addition of the kitchen at the northwest corner and the bay window in the dining room. The dining room ceiling was, also, lowered to correspond to that of the new kitchen. The front entrance originally accomodated a double door and when this was removed sidelights were inserted to fill the extra space and
add light to the entrance hall. On the interior the front hall was fitted out with a new floor and the stair was given a different newel post and handrail. Other changes included new mantels in the front parlors.

For forty-three years the Blands lived in the Reid House and it was here that they raised their four children. Mr. William Bland, a Methodist, was a Mason and a charter member of the Lion's Club. Mrs. Bland continued her family's devotion to the Pittsboro Baptist Church and served the congregation as organist for a great many years. When William F. Bland died in 1958, Julia Bland lived on in the house until her death in 1979. Mrs. Blands heirs sold the Reid House to Charles W. and Marian G. Cameron in 1981. The Camerons are undertaking a restoration of the house.

2. In 1842 the transfer of the property described lot no. five and lot no. six "whereon said Yearglin now resides" and the purchase price for both lots was $500 (AF: 394).

3. The Reids purchased both lots nos. five and six, which had a small house on it, for $550 (AH: 190). In 1883 they sold lot no. five and the Reid House for $450 (BG: 372).


5. Ibid.


7. Seventh census of the United States, 1850.


9. The family of Julia Moore Bland (1893-1979) who lived her entire life in the Reid House recounts that for at least part of their stay in Pittsboro the Reid sisters lived in the old Yearegen house on lot no. six and rented out the newly-built Reid House on lot no. five. Among the people who rented the Reid House at this time were the Leach family and the family of Gideon Alston (1806-1856). The Alston family is said to have used the home as a residence when school was in session.


11. Ibid.


17. Tenth census of the United States, 1880.


22. Alice P. Garrison interview.

23. Frances B. Moricle interview.

24. Ibid. The title was actually transferred to Julia Moore Bland in 1927 (GK: 42).

25. The following review of the alterations made in the 1930s was furnished by Frances B. Moricle.

26. Frances B. Moricle interview.

