National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 15A). Complete each item by marking “X” in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter “N/A” for “not applicable.” For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name ________________________________________________
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 400 W. Salisbury Street N/A not for publication
city or town Pittsboro N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Chatham code 037 zip code 27312

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [ ] locally. [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.

[Signature of certifying official/Title]
[State of Federal agency and bureau]

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[ ] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain) ____________________________________________

[Signature of the Keeper]
[Date of Action]
London, Henry Adolphus, House
Name of Property

Chatham Co., NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing  Noncontributing

2 1 buildings
0 0 sites
0 0 structures
0 0 objects
2 1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
WORK IN PROGRESS
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls Weatherboard
Shingle
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
London, Henry Adolphus, House
Name of Property

Chatham Co., NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:
- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Primary location of additional data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC

Chatham Co., NC
County and State

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Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC
London, Henry Adolphus, House  
Name of Property  
Chatham Co., NC  
County and State  

10. Geographical Data  
Acreage of Property 2.1 acres  

UTM References  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)  
<table>
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<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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</table>

Verbal Boundary Description  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)  

Boundary Justification  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)  

11. Form Prepared By  
name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian  
organization N/A  
date March 31, 1998  
street & number 637 N. Spring Street  
telephone 336/727-1968  
city or town Winston-Salem  
state NC  
zip code 27101  

Additional Documentation  
Submit the following items with the completed form:  

Continuation Sheets  
Maps  
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.  

Photographs  
Representative black and white photographs of the property.  

Additional items  
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)  

Property Owner  
name Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Edwards  
street & number 306 S. Dogwood Avenue  
telephone 919/542-5649  
city or town Siler City  
state NC  
zip code 27344  

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).  

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Henry Adolphus London House
Chatham County, North Carolina

DESCRIPTION:

Summary -

The Henry Adolphus London House is a Queen Anne-style cottage located on the north side of W. Salisbury Street in an older residential neighborhood near downtown Pittsboro, a small town in Piedmont North Carolina. The house is set back more than one hundred feet from W. Salisbury Street on its 2.1-acre lot. Northwest of the house stands a frame barn believed to have been built around the same time as the house. The date of construction of the small shed behind the house is unknown. Various landscape features help to convey the historic character of the property. Most important is the driveway on the west side of the house, which continues past the house to form a circle in front of the barn. Deeds reveal the driveway to have been originally the site of the old road to Hillsborough. It is bordered on the east side by a row of mature cedar trees. Stone steps lead from the front corner of the driveway to the slightly raised front yard. The growth pattern of the grass in the ample front yard indicates the location of a former walkway leading from the stone steps at the front of the driveway to the front steps of the house. A brick walk leads from the driveway to the west side entrance of the house. A variety of mostly volunteer trees and bushes runs along the north and east sides of the property.

Architectural Features: Exterior -

Believed to have been built ca. 1895, the Henry Adolphus London House is a one-story, frame, Queen Anne-style cottage distinguished by its lively surface treatment. The house rests on a brick pier foundation, has weatherboard and wood shingle siding, and is crowned by a side gable primary roof edged with boxed and molded eaves and intersected by a smaller front gable and the gable of the projecting bay. The roof is pierced by two interior brick chimneys. The irregular configuration of the house is characteristic of the Queen Anne style. The three-bay facade is made more complex by the projection of a front-facing, three-sided bay at the east end. From the projecting bay, a porch with slender, chamfered posts and a turned balustrade wraps around the west two-thirds of the facade, the west elevation, and part of the north, rear, elevation. On the west end of the house, the hipped roof of the porch breaks for the gable defining the side entrance. Shed room additions carry across the remainder of the rear of the house; the east elevation is plain, with no porch or ornamentation. Except for the windows of the rear shed rooms, which are additions, and two replacement windows near the rear of the east elevation, all other windows are two-over-two sash. The main entrance is a double-leaf, glass-and wood-panel door that defines the center bay of the facade.
The most striking feature of the exterior of the house is the use of decorative wood shingles. While the alternating bands of diamond-and square-cut wood shingles on the smaller front gable and west side gables are stylistically typical, the use of the same bands of decorative shingles on the entire front of the projecting bay is unusual. The projecting bay is further distinguished by the use of drop pendant brackets beneath the return eaves at each corner of the bay.

Architectural Features: Interior -

The interior has a modified center passage plan typical of the era, made irregular by the projection of the east bay. The front door opens into a square entrance vestibule, behind which is a center hall, currently made rather narrow by the enclosure of the right third in 1984 to create closets and a stair to the attic. On either side of the vestibule and hall are rooms of uneven size—two on the left and three on the right. The southeast corner of the left rear room (of the original portion of the house) has been enclosed to create a modern bathroom that is entered from the closet of the front room. The enclosure of the rear porch and associated small additions have formed a collection of smaller service rooms at the back of the house.

The treatment of the interior is largely consistent throughout the house. Floors are hardwood or pine. Walls are plastered or sheetrocked. The vestibule and the dining room have wainscots created by diagonal board sheathing and a chair rail. A narrow picture mold encircles the parlor about a foot from the ceiling. Most ceilings are composed of beaded boards, though a couple of rooms utilize sheetrock or acoustical tiles. The ceiling of the vestibule is exceptional. Its beaded boards are arranged to form four triangles that converge at the center. The original part of the house uses four-panel doors; doors and windows have molded surrounds. The double-leaf door between the parlor and the dining room is quite tall for the scale of these rooms, reaching upward to picture-mold height. The vestibule, parlor, and dining room have corner fireplaces; four of the five fireplaces in the house have identical mantels, each composed of a bracketed shelf and raised pilasters flanking the opening. Only the parlor mantel is different, and is probably a replacement of the original. It features a boxed design with simple classical pilasters supporting a plain shelf. At the rear of the house, the added rooms are finished primarily with beaded board or sheetrocked surfaces and five-panel doors.

Alterations and Integrity -

The house remains largely intact, although there have been several twentieth-century alterations. The most significant of the changes is at the rear of the house, where it cannot be seen from the street. Although the exact sequence of events is not totally clear, it appears that alterations
were made to the rear more than once, probably during the first third of the twentieth century, resulting in a collection of shed rooms across the rear. One of these additions, probably the first, enclosed a portion of the wraparound porch, which appears to have continued originally across two-thirds of the rear of the house to the east side of the center hall. Plans of the present owners call for the removal of the added shed rooms and restoration of the rear porch to its original appearance. On the front and west side of the house, the simple chamfered posts of the porch are believed to have replaced the originals, and the spindle frieze was removed during an early twentieth-century renovation. The turned balustrade survives.

Interior alterations include changes made by previous owners during the 1980s. The east third of the rear center hall was enclosed to create closets and a stair to the attic. (The present owners intend to remove this enclosure.) The southeast corner of the west rear bedroom was enclosed to create a bathroom, entered through the existing closet door of the front room. The kitchen was also remodeled. The history of another alteration is unclear. It appears to be an early change, and could even have been a change during construction. Cut marks on both the exterior and interior indicate that the window at the east end of the front porch which opens into the front projecting room (the parlor) was originally a door. However, except for the cut marks, the finishing details match those of the rest of the room.

Despite these alterations, most of the salient features of the house survive, so that it continues to convey its original image as a well-detailed Queen Anne-style cottage of the 1890s. Overall, it retains a high degree of integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Outbuildings -

Two outbuildings accompany the London House on its lot. A barn stands northwest of the house. Believed to be contemporary with the house, and contributing to the historic character of the property, it is a narrow, two-story building with weatherboard siding, a gable roof, and a series of one-story sheds--both open and enclosed--projecting from either side. Other than for storage, its original use is not clear.

Northeast of the house stands a small frame shed of undetermined date, but which probably was built in the twentieth century. It has weatherboard siding, a gable roof, and a plain, gable-end door. It is not believed to contribute to the historic character of the house.
The Henry Adolphus London House is as an excellent example of the work produced by contractor Bennet Nooe, Jr. in Pittsboro. Probably more than any other person, Nooe influenced the physical growth and resulting built environment of Pittsboro during the 1890s and early 1900s. In addition to the many buildings he erected in Pittsboro, Nooe was responsible for the construction of an estimated one thousand houses, stores, and other buildings in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, and Lexington. A representative Queen Anne-style cottage of the period, the one-story frame London House is distinguished from even the finest of Nooe's other work in Pittsboro through the retention of its extensive decorative surface patterning, seen most notably in the wood-shingle treatment of its projecting front bay and gables. The London House fulfills Criterion C for listing in the National Register because of its local architectural significance in Pittsboro. Strong family tradition asserts that the house was built for Henry Adolphus London (1867-1964) in 1892, the year before his marriage to Mary Norcott Bryan. However, since there is no firm documentation for the 1892 construction date, the period of significance is ca. 1895. Henry Adolphus London was a local merchant who was a member of one of Pittsboro's most prominent families. The present owners of the London House are preparing to undertake its restoration.
Architecture Context: The Work of Bennet Nooe, Jr., in Pittsboro during the 1890s and Early 1900s -

Bennet Nooe, Jr. (1859-1924), was the man who probably had the most to do with the physical growth of Pittsboro during the 1890s and early 1900s. Nooe established himself in his hometown of Lexington as a manufacturer of shuttle-blocks for the growing textile industry. He moved to Pittsboro in the late 1880s because of that area's abundant supply of the dogwood and persimmon trees--unusually hard wood--necessary for the production of shuttle blocks and because of the accessibility of the nearby railroad and cotton mills. When the dogwood and persimmon timber became scarce, Nooe gave up manufacturing shuttle blocks and went into the sawmill business. Pittsboro had begun to grow in response to the arrival of the railroad, and there was a need for lumber for building purposes. Because there was also a demand for flooring and ceiling, Nooe added a dry kiln and a planing mill to his operation. He soon realized that while there were plenty of people who wanted to build houses in Pittsboro, there were no contractors to build them. To solve this problem and to create a larger market for his lumber, Nooe entered the contracting business. Then, because bricks were also needed for building, and since there was no local source for them, Nooe erected a brick manufacturing plant. Bennet Nooe's contracting business flourished for a decade, during which time it was responsible for the construction of an estimated one thousand houses, stores, and other buildings in Pittsboro, Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, and Lexington. When building activity in the area seemed to reach its saturation point around 1904, Nooe abandoned the construction business and devoted his time totally to the manufacturing and shipping of lumber to other markets. Nooe also played a significant civic role in the Pittsboro community, serving as vice-president of the Bank of Pittsboro and as the town's mayor (Osborne and Selden-Sturgill, 70; Tatum, 20, 50-51).

Much of Nooe's work is characterized by the patterned surfaces popular during the late nineteenth century. Porches with turned posts and balusters, bands of diagonal board sheathing, sawn brackets, drop pendants, and patterned shingles--all part of the Queen Anne style--were utilized by Nooe in his building. Most of Bennet Nooe's plans and elevations demonstrate an intricacy that complements his woodwork. Many of his houses begin with a one-story block surmounted by either a pyramidal or gable roof onto which a central gable or gabled wing is appended. Some of his houses featuring a central gable resemble the earlier triple-A cottage design. These include the houses at 106 East Street, 302 Hillsboro Street, and 215 East Salisbury Street. Among Nooe-attributed houses that display an irregular plan created by an advancing wing are the houses at 104 East Street, 309 Hillsboro Street, 440 West Salisbury Street (the Henry Adolphus London House), and 200 East Salisbury Street. Designed with a series of gables, the houses at 211 East Street and 117 West Salisbury Street serve as two-story versions of some of Nooe's one-story models. While
some of Nooe's house plans display a traditional simplicity; others suggest the contemporary taste for complexity. Nooe embellished the Captain Alston House at 100 Small Street with German siding and a porch displaying turned posts, sawn pendants, and a sawn openwork balustrade. The Pilkington House at 210 East Salisbury Street is a cube capped with simple Stick-style motifs, an overhanging gable roof, exposed rafter ends, and open gable-end trusswork. Perhaps the most inventive of Nooe's architectural motifs was the shingled belfry (no longer surviving) used to crown the entry of the Terry-Hayes House at 309 Hillsboro Street. Nooe's most ambitious residential commission is the two-story Queen Anne house he built for A. P. Terry at 601 Womack Street. In addition to its fanciful tower and encircling porch, the house retains its Eastlake-style interior with robustly turned and gouged ornament, tiered overmantels enclosing beveled mirrors, a spindlework arch, paneled wainscoting, and diagonal narrow-board sheathing (Osborne and Selden-Sturgill, 70-71).

The Henry Adolphus London House is a handsome representative of Bennet Nooe's work in the Queen Anne style. Characteristic features of the one-story frame house include its irregular massing, three-sided projecting bay with drop pendant brackets, and wraparound porch with a turned balustrade. Interior highlights include diagonally sheathed wainscoting, a beaded board ceiling patterned with four triangles in the vestibule, and corner fireplaces with simple Victorian mantels decorated with carved shelf brackets and raised-panel pilasters. The London House, however, is distinguished from even the finest of Nooe's other work by the retention of its exceptional use of surface pattern. Not only the gables, but also the entire front of the projecting bay are sheathed with alternating horizontal bands of diamond-cut and square-cut wood shingles. Only the Henry H. Fike House (211 East Street), prior to its renovation, rivaled this sheathing (Osborne and Selden-Sturgill, 109-110).

Historical Background -

Henry Adolphus London (1867-1964) was a member of a very prominent extended family in Pittsboro. His father, William Lord London (1838-1916), was one of the contractors (with A. J. Bynum) who built the Chatham County Courthouse in 1881. In addition to operating a store, he helped organize the Bank of Pittsboro in 1901 and became its first president, a position he held until his death. In 1902 he became secretary-treasurer of the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company, whose textile mill was located in nearby Bynum. He served as senior warden of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church for thirty years (Stirk, 2, 8; Osborne and Selden-Sturgill, 78; Hadley et al., 204, 252, 420.)

Henry Adolphus London, known as Hal, was the second child of William Lord and Maria Carolina Haughton and was named for his grandfather Henry Adolphus London (1808-1882) (Stirk,
9). He grew up in Pittsboro and went into the mercantile business with his father, under the name of W. L. London & Son. According to family tradition, W. L. London gave his son a parcel of land on W. Salisbury Street that had been a part of his own home tract, so that Hal London could build a house prior to his marriage to Mary Norcott (Minnie) Bryan on January 21, 1893 (London Interview; Stirk. 18).

The building of Hal London's house is attributed to Bennet Nooe, Jr., the most active contractor in Pittsboro at the time. Not only does the house display many characteristics typical of Nooe's work, but there were also close connections between Nooe and the Londons. One of Nooe's most publicized projects was the building of a brick store in 1895 for the firm of W. L. London & Son (Osborne and Selden-Sturgill. 71). While W. L. London was president of the Bank of Pittsboro, Bennet Nooe, Jr., was vice-president (Tatum, 50). In 1890, W. L. London, B. Nooe, and H. A. London were all incorporating directors of the Elizabeth Hosiery Mill (Hadley, 378). Although strong family tradition supports a construction date of 1892, prior to Hal London's marriage, the only recorded deed from W. L. London for the property is the deed dated April 1, 1895, in which W. L. and Caroline H. London conveyed the lot to Minnie B. London (Deed Book CR, 343-344).

Hal and Minnie's first child, Mary Norcott London, was born in Pittsboro on March 7, 1895 (Stirk, 18). Sometime between then and January 1, 1902, when their second child, Henry Adolphus London, Jr., was born in Charlotte, the Londons moved away from Pittsboro (Stirk, 18). Family tradition claims that Minnie was accustomed to a more cosmopolitan town (she was from New Bern!), and that she desired to live in a place that was larger and more interesting than Pittsboro. Thus, the family moved first to Lynchburg, Virginia, and then to Charlotte, where Hal had a successful career in the insurance industry and where the family, with the addition of third child John Bryan London in 1903, remained (London Interview).

Although they had moved to Charlotte by 1902, Hal and Minnie London did not sell their house in Pittsboro until 1919. On January 24 of that year, they conveyed the property to W. P. Horton (Deed Book FP, 133). Between then and 1998, the property changed hands eight more times, with the longest owners being W. L. and Blanche Farrell, from 1929 to 1954 (Deed Books FP, 384; GB, 407; GA, 501; GZ, 332; LS, 579; 367, 713; 471, 167; 735, 498). Present owners Thomas S. and Cynthia B. Edwards purchased the house on November 17, 1997 (Deed Book 735, 498). They plan to restore it.
Henry Adolphus London House
Chatham County, North Carolina

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chatham County Records, Office of the Register of Deeds, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, N.C.


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number  10  Page 9  Henry Adolphus London House
Chatham County, North Carolina

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is defined as Tract 8-1-7 on Chatham County Property Map 9741.06. It is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying property map, drawn to a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, consisting of a town lot of 2.1 acres, constitutes the historic and current setting of the Henry Adolphus London House.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number  Photographs  Page 10

PHOTOGRAPHS:

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

1) Henry Adolphus London House
2) Chatham County, North Carolina
3) Laura A. W. Phillips
4) 3/98
5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

6-7) A: Overall, view to NE
B: Context, view to NE
C: Projecting front bay, view to N
D: Facade details, view to NW
E: S & W elevations, view to NE
F: E & N (rear) elevations, view to SW
G: Vestibule, view to NE
H: Vestibule ceiling, view to SE
I: Parlor, view to NW
J: Dining room, view to SW
K: Barn, view to NW

Key:
- Contributing Resource
- Non-Contributing Resource
- A^2 Photo + Vantage Point

1" = 50'

RY STREET

W. Salisbury St.

E. Intersection:
- 1.36"W 330.22"