**Name**

A. P. Terry House

**Location**

**Street & Number**

601 Womack Street

**City & Town**

Pittsboro

**State**

North Carolina

**Classification**

**Category**

- District
- Building(s)
- Structure
- Site
- Object

**Ownership**

- Public
- Private
- Both

**Status**

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress
- Accessible
- Yes: Restricted
- Yes: Unrestricted
- No

**Present Use**

- Agriculture
- Commercial
- Park
- Educational
- Private Residence
- Entertainment
- Religious
- Government
- Scientific
- Industrial
- Transportation
- Military
- Other

**Owner of Property**

**Name**

Roscoe M. Farrell, Jr.

**Street & Number**

601 Womack Street

**City & Town**

Pittsboro

**State**

North Carolina

**Location of Legal Description**

**Courthouse Registry of Deeds, etc.**

Chatham County Courthouse

**Street & Number**

**City & Town**

Pittsboro

**State**

North Carolina

**Form Prepared By**

**Name / Title**

Ruth Selden-Sturgill

**Organization**

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

**Street & Number**

Archives and History

**City or Town**

Raleigh

**State**

North Carolina

**Date**

March 1, 1982

**Telephone**

(919) 733-6545
Facing north from a knoll planted with a number of mature maple trees, the A. P. Terry House is the main focus of an early-twentieth century farm complex made up of around ten frame buildings which include a barn with vented loft and two hog sheds. Also preserved within the farm yard is a frame smokehouse with a shingle-clad pyramidal roof. The smokehouse is the only remaining evidence of the early-nineteenth century home of Abraham Rencher which stood near or perhaps on the Terry House site.

The A. P. Terry House is a well-preserved two-story Queen Anne frame residence with an irregular plan cut by a central hall. The three-bay facade is encircled by an elaborate shed-roof porch featuring turned posts, a spindle-work frieze and foliated brackets. An open second-story tower sheathed in mouse-tooth shingles punctuates the entrance which is further emphasized by a gable projection with sunburst brackets. The front door, like several of the stairhall windows, is lit by a colored-glass panel. Decorative transoms are also employed. The roof, which is a complex design of gables emerging from a pyramidal core, is surmounted by a number of interior chimneys with corbelled caps. Miniature Palladian windows light the gables which are patterned with a half timbered effect. Like A. P. Terry's first house at 309 Hillsboro Street, the house at 601 Womack Street is an obvious product of Bennett Nooe, Jr.'s construction business which used both locally produced ceiling board and the elaborate gouged and turned ornament available through building catalogues.

The highlight of the interior is the stairhall which has a panelled wainscot and beautifully turned closed-stringer staircase lit by the colored glass panes of the adjacent windows. The stair ascends on the left side of the hall with a quarter turn and landing. A ramped handrail descends on bobbin-like balusters and is terminated by panelled newel posts. A spindle-work arch with a curtain pole separates the front hall from the rear and diagonally laid ceiling boards sheath the walls of the second floor hallway. The three first floor rooms are distinguished by their diagonally sheathed wainscoting and their Eastlake mantelpieces which incorporate a variety of spindle-work and hevelled mirrors into the double-tiered framework. The dining room also boasts a built-in china cupboard.

At the rear of the house a one-story L-shaped kitchen wing has been joined to the plan by enclosing a breeze-way.
Built near the site of the old Abraham Rencher home, the A. P. Terry House with its lavish Eastlake interior was constructed ca. 1900 for a prosperous saloon-keeper and is the most ambitious and best-preserved Queen Anne residence to be erected in Pittsboro by local lumberman/contractor Bennett Nooe, Jr. Nooe, a pivotal figure in the town's early-twentieth century history, served as mayor of Pittsboro for over a decade and is said to have built an estimated 1000 houses or stores in Pittsboro, Raleigh, Durham, Lexington and Chapel Hill between 1893 and 1904.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. The A. P. Terry House is associated with the important period of economic expansion which took place in Pittsboro after 1887 when the Pittsboro Rail Road Company began operation.

B. The A. P. Terry House is associated with the career of lumberman/contractor Bennett Nooe, Jr. who came to Pittsboro around 1887 and established himself as one of the most important forces in the town's economy. Following his early success in the lumber business, Nooe branched out into the construction industry and is said to have built an estimated 1000 houses or stores in Pittsboro, Raleigh, Durham, Lexington and Chapel Hill between 1893 and 1904. At the end of this period Nooe gave up the construction business and once again concentrated his efforts in lumber. Nooe was also a devoted public servant and between 1910 and 1923 he served as mayor of Pittsboro for twelve years.

C. With its lavish Eastlake interior the A. P. Terry House is the most ambitious and best-preserved Queen Anne residence constructed in Pittsboro by local lumberman/contractor Bennett Nooe, Jr.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1895 Aaron P. Terry (1853-1936) purchased an eighty-six acre tract of land adjoining the southwest boundary of the town of Pittsboro. Originally owned by lawyer and legislator Abraham Rencher (1798-1883), the land had only recently held the one-and-a-half story residence of this Pittsboro resident who served as Charge d'Affaires to Portugal under President Tyler and Governor of the Territory of New Mexico under President Buchanan. The transfer of the property to Terry specifically included "the residence of the late A. Rencher" and the nineteenth century smokehouse which stands behind the Terry House strongly suggests that the Rencher home was located very near if not on the site of the later home.3

The owner of a successful saloon in the northeast corner of the courthouse square, A. P. Terry, like lumberman/contractor Bennett Nooe, Jr. who built the house, was representative of the aspiring young men who were drawn to the economic opportunities of Pittsboro after 1887 when the railroad began operation.4 With the profits from his saloon and, perhaps, as a security against local temperance efforts which had become more vigorous in the 1890s, Terry invested his money in local real estate.5 Described in 1897 as "a clever citizen, who has been here for a number of years," Terry erected what was described as "one of the nicest homes in town" at 309 Hillsboro Street.6 Although A. P. Terry purchased the Rencher farm in 1895, he continued to live in the Hillsboro Street house for several years.7 About 1900, at the age of forty-seven, Terry and his wife Mary moved out to the farm where Bennett Nooe, Jr. had constructed an imposing Queen Anne residence. It was also at this time that A. P. Terry abandoned his earlier profession and took up farming.8 Terry lived in the house until 1920 when he moved to 505 West Salisbury Street where he resided until his death in 1936.9

The most ambitious and best-preserved residential commission built in Pittsboro by lumberman/contractor Bennett Nooe, Jr., the A. P. Terry House is a two-story Queen Anne residence marked by a fanciful tower and encircling porch. Nooe and his wife Fannie Rothrock Nooe came to Pittsboro from Lexington, North Carolina shortly after the opening of the railroad in 1887 and began a shuttleblock manufacturing business.10 When the needed supply of hardwood was exhausted Nooe turned his attention to the sawmill operation which he had started in conjunction with his shuttleblock manufacturing concern. The demand for housing and other buildings in Pittsboro and the surrounding area was on the increase and while the shuttleblock business slowed down, Nooe's sawmill prospered. With the additions of a planing mill, dry kiln, portable sawmill and brickmaking concern,

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chatham County Records. Chatham County Courthouse.


GEORGICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11 acres

UTM REFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>1,7</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>6,3</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>8,0</th>
<th>3,9</th>
<th>5,4</th>
<th>0,0</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ZONE</td>
<td>EASTING</td>
<td>NORTHING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>1,7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6,4</td>
<td>3,4,0</td>
<td>3,9</td>
<td>5,3</td>
<td>7,4,0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

维尔所围边界描述

All of Lot 1 Block 2 Map 9 Pittsboro Township, Chatham County Tax Map.
Nooe plunged into the construction business around 1893. It has been said that from the time it began until around 1904 Bennett Nooe's construction operation built an estimated 1000 houses or stores in Pittsboro, Raleigh, Durham, Lexington and Chapel Hill. As Bennett Nooe's business interests grew, so too did his involvement in the Pittsboro community. From 1902 to 1905 Nooe was listed in a North Carolina business directory as a manufacturer and retailer of bricks, lumber, shingles and caskets. Besides his construction business, other sources of income included a woodworking shop and a blacksmith shop. During this period Nooe served the community as a member of the school board, a member of the board of Pittsboro Academy and vice-president of the Bank of Pittsboro. Sometime around 1905 Bennett Nooe withdrew from his heavy involvement in the construction business and concentrated his efforts on his sawmill operation. In addition he served as mayor of Pittsboro from 1910 to 1912. During World War I, Nooe acted as Captain of the Home Guard and held the office of mayor again from 1915 to 1923. It was also at this time that Nooe, with the help of his sons Bennett and Henry, expanded his operations to several sections of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. In 1924 following the death of his wife, Bennett Nooe moved to Ridgeway, South Carolina to live with one of his daughters and he bought out the Ridgeway Lumber Company.

Like much of Nooe's work the A. P. Terry House is characterized by the patterned surface which was popular in the 1880s and which was associated with the design tenets of Charles L. Eastlake and the Queen Anne Style of architecture. Although it has been said that the intricate sawn and turned decoration of Nooe's homes was all manufactured locally, it is likely that at least in the beginning, as contemporary newspaper advertisements suggest, the local manufacturer concentrated his efforts on weatherboarding, ceiling and flooring. By the 1890s the railroad and the advance in manufacturing technology had brought a high degree of specialization to the woodworking industry. Molding mills, turning companies and turning and scroll sawing establishments offered their products to planing mills and sash and blind factories through sales catalogues. The specialized machinery needed to turn out this fancy woodwork would have been an unlikely component of Nooe's early inventory. However by 1902, and probably a number of years earlier, Nooe was indeed operating a woodworking shop in Pittsboro. Much of the turned ornament used on the A. P. Terry House was, more than likely, produced by Thomas Hackney who is generally cited as Nooe's chief carpenter and woodworker.

In 1920 the A. P. Terry House and property was purchased by Thomas Montreville Bland and his wife Antoinette Poe Bland. The son of William "Buck" Bland, T. M. Bland grew up in Chatham County and became a prosperous sawmill operator/lumberman. Bland moved his family around the Pittsboro area; at one time living in the old home of Mial Scurlock, now demolished, which stood near the site of Chatham Courthouse. Late in their lives the Blands purchased the land and house of A. P. Terry and it was here that they both died.

Following the death of Thomas M. Bland in 1925, the Bland family held onto the A. P. Terry farm until 1928 when the title was transferred to Charles Lee Lindsay.
and his wife Mary McCauley Lindsay. Born near Chapel Hill, Charles Lindsay had attended the University of North Carolina for one year and had gone on to a lucrative career in banking, life insurance and real estate. A resident of Durham's Washington Duke Hotel, Lindsay, like a number of other men, saw a fine opportunity for investment in Pittsboro real estate during the 1920s. It was at this time that speculators were having land surveyed for the proposed developments called Cornwallis Heights and Sunset Park. Lindsay worked with local speculator George Walker Blair in establishing the Grove Park area on the northern edge of Pittsboro and in 1928 Lindsay, Blair and C. C. Edwards had the Bland property surveyed and mapped out as Bland Heights. While the developers paid for street improvements in the area of Bland Heights, their overall intention, other than to make money, is unknown. The Grove Park area eventually grew into a fine residential neighborhood following the Depression but the land in Bland Heights was either sold off or traded in large parcels; one area being set aside for a county school.

Three months after Lindsay took title to the Bland property, the ownership was shifted to local associate G. W. Blair. A native of the Hickory Mountain area of Chatham County, Blair served as sheriff of the county from 1920 to 1932. As a young man Blair had worked for a successful horse and mule trader from Burlington name Henry Kime. Blair worked closely with Kime and became his representative in Kime's dealings over a broad area including Chatham, Moore, Caswell, Alamance and Randolph counties. G. W. Blair, no doubt, acquired a taste for trading and considerable skills from his association with Kime. Blair eventually went into business for himself in Pittsboro and although he continued on in the livestock trade, he also branched out into real estate speculation and the hotel business. In 1917 his most evident contribution to the town of Pittsboro, the Hotel Blair, was nearing completion on the northwest side of the courthouse square. During the 1920s Blair moved out of the hotel business and concentrated more of his efforts in real estate speculation.

In 1929 a considerable amount of the land in Bland Heights, over half the acreage by estimation, and the A. P. Terry House were sold to Pittsboro dentist Roscoe M. Farrell (1890-1957). The son of a local farmer, Farrell studied dentistry in Baltimore and returned to Pittsboro around 1915 to open his practice. As the only dentist in the town, Dr. Farrell prospered and eventually built his family the fine two-story residence at 411 Thompson Street in the early 1920s. Besides trading in real estate, Dr. Farrell's other financial commitments included the construction of the two-story Farrell Building in 1925 at 133-139 Hillsboro Street. His love of farming, no doubt, prompted Dr. Farrell, whose first son was not even one year old, to buy the old Terry farm and move his family into the house which lacked running water. Soon after Dr. Farrell moved into the A. P. Terry House, he had both running water and electricity installed but he did little else to alter the fine Queen Anne dwelling.

The Farrell family weathered the Depression without any significant change but sometime in the 1940s Dr. Farrell suffered a paralyzing stroke which curtailed his career as a dentist. In the early 1950s Dr. Farrell and his eldest son Roscoe M. Farrell, Jr. operated the farm as a dairy business for a number of years. When they decided to give up the dairy operation, R. M. Farrell, Jr.
went to work for the research and development branch of Kayser-Roth Corporation in Burlington. R. M. Farrell, Jr., the present owner of the A. P. Terry House has lived in his family's home for almost his entire life and he took title to the house and property following his father's death in 1957. Since he began working for Kayser-Roth, Farrell has maintained the A. P. Terry House as his home and has occasionally raised a small number of beef cattle on the place.


5. A. P. Terry brought suit against the county commissioners when they determined that they had the power to arbitrarily grant or refuse liquor licenses. The commissioners finally decided against a blanket refusal and agreed to deal with each case individually. Chatham Record, July 15, 1897; September 30, 1894. The following property has also passed through Terry's hands: 105 East Chatham St., (DK: 562); 104 East St.; 200 East Salisbury St. (FP: 431).

6. "Pittsboro's Write-up," Chatham Record, September 9, 1897; Chatham County Deed Book BW: 78 (1887); DV: 123 (1903).

7. 309 Hillsboro Street "present home place of A. P. Terry." Chatham County Deed Book DB: 284 (1898).

8. Twelfth census of the United States, 1900: Chatham County, Population Schedule.


10. The following biographical information on Bennett Nooe, Jr. was taken from one particular source made available to me by Fred Nooe, Jr. of Pittsboro: E. C. Tatum, "Bennett Nooe, South Carolina Lumber Pioneer," The Southern Lumber Journal, March 15, 1930, pp. 20, 50 & 51.

11. Ibid, p. 50.


13. Ibid.


15. The North Carolina Year Book, 1910, pp. 139; The North Carolina Year Book, 1912, pp. 163.
17. Tatum, p. 51.
18. Ibid.
19. Chatham Record, June 20, 1895.
29. H. K. Blair interview; Chatham County Plat Book 1:3; 1:28.
30. H. K. Blair interview.
32. Hadley, p. 441.
33. H. K. Blair interview.
34. Ibid.
35. Chatham County Deed Book GW: 280.
36. Ruth Selden-Sturgill, interview with Mrs. Roscoe M. Farrell, Jr.,

37. Mrs. Roscoe M. Farrell, Jr. interview.

38. Chatham County Property Ownership Maps, Office of the Tax Supervisor, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, Map 3 Block 1 Lot 9 Pittsboro Township.


40. Ibid.

41. Chatham County Deed Book 257: 125.
Pittsboro Multiple Resource Nomination
Pittsboro, N.C. Quadrangle

Zone 17  Scale 1:24 000

Reid House 17 664650/3954420
Moore-Manning House 17 664890/3954800
Hall-London House 17 664890/3954440
Patrick St. Lawrence House 17 664710/3953070
McClenahan House 17 664730/3954060

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

Luther Clegg House 17 666140/3951860