United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 16A). 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 _________

2. Location
   street & number _______ street _______ state _______
   city or town ____________ code _______
   county ____________ code _______
   state ____________ code _______
   county ____________ code _______
   zip code ________

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]
   [Date]

   In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet for additional comments.

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

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]
Moore, Robert Joseph, House
Name of Property

5. Classification
Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

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

5. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
- DOMESTIC single dwelling
- DOMESTIC secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
- DOMESTIC single dwelling
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
- Other: Four-Square House
- Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
- foundation: BRICK
- walls: BRICK
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: WOOD

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Moore, Robert Joseph, House
Name of Property

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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance
1929

Significant Dates
1929

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Cheek, Romy - Contractor

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.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# ____________

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ____________

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
Moore, Robert Joseph, House  
Name of Property  
Chatham Co., NC  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.7 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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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
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Frances Moore Danek et al.
street & number 981 Old Graham Rd.  
telephone 919/542-3686

city or town Pittsboro  
state NC  
zip code 27312

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.
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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Robert Joseph Moore House
Chatham County, North Carolina

DESCRIPTION:

Summary -

The Robert Joseph Moore House is located in a wooded area on the outskirts of the small Chatham County community of Bynum. It faces southeast on SR 1713 (Bynum Road) across from its junction with SR 1711 (Bynum Ridge Road). US 15/501 runs along the northwest corner of the property. The nominated property consists of 8.7 acres laid out within an irregular, seven-sided boundary that encompasses a 1929 two-story brick house, a ca. 1930 frame garage, a mid-twentieth-century wood shed, a ca. 1980 well/pump house, a ca. 1970 raised chicken coop, a mid-twentieth-century shed, and a ca. 1930 barn. All outbuildings are of frame construction. Most are grouped behind the house, although the shed and the barn are farther away to the north. Of the seven resources associated with the property, three contribute to its historic and architectural character. Of the four that don't, three are small buildings or structures.

The grounds surrounding the house are modestly designed but handsome. Fronting the property is a low stone wall lined with daffodils. The daffodils continue along the driveway that enters the property near the southeast corner and extends back to the house, where it forms a circle looping through the porte-cochere. The front lawn is accented by boxwood bushes, a variety of trees, and various flowering plants. Flanking the house are a former pasture to the southwest and a vegetable garden to the northeast. A split-rail fence believed to have been built in the early years of the property borders the pasture. The remaining acreage, primarily northwest of the house, is wooded.

Perhaps because the property has remained in Moore family ownership since the house was constructed in 1929, it has undergone few alterations. The primary change to the house consists of the one-story frame ell added in the 1950s to the north rear corner. On the interior of the house, the kitchen has been remodeled. In its well preserved state and with its long-time family associations, the Moore House possesses a high degree of physical integrity that includes location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Inventory -

The following is a descriptive listing of the resources associated with the Robert Joseph Moore property. The heading for each resource provides its name, number keyed to the accompanying sketch map, date(s) of construction, and contributing or non-contributing status.
1. **HOUSE**

1929

1 contributing building

The house is a two-story, four-square, brick dwelling with a brick foundation, French doors, eight-over-one sash windows—often in pairs—and a low pyramidal roof. The straight-forward, no-nonsense house is handsome in the regularity of its features, while exhibiting hints of both the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles popular at the time it was built. The facade is best characterized by the symmetry of its features. A central French door with sidelights is flanked by pairs of windows repeated on the second-story level with a single window above the door. The symmetry continues to the roof, which is pierced by a central eyelid louvered vent and a pair of interior brick chimneys. Dominating the facade is the one-story front porch, whose broad gable decorated with stickwork stretches across the entire facade. Plain brick posts support the porch at its corners, and a balustrade-height brick skirt capped with concrete and with segmental-arched drain openings borders the porch on three sides. The side elevations of the double-pile house feature single windows at the front rooms and paired windows at the rear rooms on both stories. The southwest facade is distinguished by its plain, brick porte-cochere with hipped roof. A short, one-story ell with enclosed porch projects from the north side of the rear elevation. Appended to the ell on its northeast side is a narrow, one-story frame addition with a gable roof and German siding that constitutes the primary alteration to the house. It was constructed in the 1950s. A gable-roofed entrance to the partial cellar projects from the rear of the frame wing.

The interior of the house follows a predictable, center-hall plan with two rooms on either side. Plain finishes characterize the interior and consist of plastered walls and ceilings, hardwood floors, two-panel doors, simple door and window surrounds and baseboards, and narrow crown molding. A pair of French doors open from both front parlors into the hall, giving the house a light and airy feeling. Mantels vary in elaborateness, but follow classical, Colonial Revival designs. The fanciest are those in the front parlors, which display fluted pilasters topped with urns and a central frieze panel with an oval decoration. In the dining room, a built-in cupboard flanks the northeast side of the mantel. Although the stair is of graceful Colonial Revival design with a ramped handrail and a turned newel, it rises from northwest to southeast in a narrow rear hall. The kitchen and a bathroom are located in the rear brick ell, along with a pantry. The modern rooms of the added frame wing open from the kitchen.
On the second floor, a glassed-in bookcase is built in beneath with window at the front end of the hall. The most intriguing feature of the second floor is the north rear room. Used as a lumber room for storage, it is finished with board walls and ceiling and pine flooring. Its mantel is less classical than the others in the house and features a simple shelf supported by carved brackets.

2. **GARAGE**  
   ca. 1930  
   1 contributing building

The one-story frame garage stands to the rear of the porte-cochere and circular driveway. It features two bays with hinged wooden doors and a low pyramidal roof. A shed room extends across the rear of the garage, and an open shed projects from the southwest side of the garage. The rear shed has an unusual batten door with vertical cut-outs in the upper half.

3. **WOOD SHED**  
   mid-20th century  
   1 non-contributing building

Behind the garage stands a dilapidated wood shed with metal roofing partially covering the sides and with a nearly flat roof.

4. **WELL/PUMP HOUSE**  
   ca. 1980  
   1 non-contributing structure

Directly behind the house and northeast of the garage stands a small, low-to-the-ground well/pump house. It has vertical wood siding, a shallow gable roof, and a square door on the southeast end.

5. **RAISED CHICKEN COOP**  
   ca. 1970  
   1 non-contributing structure

A small, frame, chicken coop raised a couple of feet off the ground on pole stilts and with a shallow shed roof stands north of the well/pump house.
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Robert Joseph Moore House
Chatham County, North Carolina

6. SHED
   mid-20th century
   1 non-contributing building

   Beyond the garden plot north of the house, at the edge of the woods, stands a four-bay, frame, equipment shed with pole supports on the open, southeast side and a shed roof.

7. BARN
   ca. 1930
   1 contributing building

   The barn, originally used to shelter the miscellaneous livestock kept by the Moores, is located in the wooded area southwest of the shed. It is a small, narrow, two-story frame building with weatherboard siding and a gable roof. Stalls open from the southwest side. Several batten doors are scattered around the rest of the building.
In 1929, Robert Joseph Moore commissioned the construction of a house for his family that conveyed his status in the Bynum community of Chatham County. In a village where most of the residents worked in the local textile mill, mill superintendents and store owners occupied prominent positions in the community. Robert Moore was such a man, operating a store in Bynum for forty-eight years. Moore's house was built the year after Bynum's textile mill—the economic engine of the community—expanded, and soon after the family returned to Bynum to capitalize on the mill's prosperity after several years' residence in Salisbury. The fashionable architecture of that larger and more affluent Piedmont North Carolina town apparently impressed the Moores; their new house in Bynum reflected the urban architectural trends of the period. Although the two-story, brick, four-square house with modest Colonial Revival interior detailing was typical of many dwellings built in urban areas at the time, it was exceptional in the Bynum community, where frame construction prevailed in residential work and where one-story mill houses and two-story owners' and superintendents' houses from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were the rule. The Robert Joseph Moore House fulfills Criterion C for listing in the National Register because of its local architectural significance in the Bynum community. Its period of significance coincides with its date of construction, 1929. The well preserved, little altered house remains in the ownership of the Moore family, who is committed to its preservation.
Located above the north bank of the Haw River, Bynum is a small, rural community centered on Chatham County's first important textile mill. Brothers Luther and Carney Bynum founded the Bynum Mill in 1872 and developed the community by building houses for themselves and for the mill workers. In 1886 the Bynums sold the mill to J. M. Odell of Concord; it continued to operate in the original three-story, frame, Italianate building until that structure burned in 1916. By 1918, the Odell Manufacturing Company had rebuilt the mill as a long, three-story brick structure; in 1928 the facility expanded. The mill became a division of Tuscarora Yarns in 1979, but then ceased to operate in the 1980s (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, 48, 171-172).

Around 1880, one of the original mill owners, Luther Bynum, built a vernacular two-story, three-bay, frame house with gable-end chimneys and a one-story front porch with an ornamental sawnwork balustrade and brackets. It faced northwest toward the hill where Carney Bynum--Luther's brother and the mill co-owner--built his house, also around 1880. Carney's house was a substantial, two-and-a-half-story, double-pile residence with a cross gable roof and simple Italianate detailing. Around 1905, a new house was built for Carney Bynum nearby on North Main Street. This one-story, Queen Anne-style, frame house remains one of the most fanciful in the county. Several other houses were built by individuals along North Main Street in the years between ca. 1900 and ca. 1930. These simple vernacular dwellings include both one- and two-story houses with either gable or triple-A gable roofs, as well as several modest bungalows. All are frame (Osborne and Selden-Sturgill, 172, 174).

The majority of houses in Bynum, however, are the simple frame dwellings built for the mill workers by the company. These are arranged along streets on "Mill Hill," located above the cotton mill and behind Luther Bynum's house. The more than forty mill houses were constructed in several phases that coincided with growth and change at the mill. The first houses, those closest to the mill, were built during the Bynum ownership between the opening of the mill in 1872 and the sale of the mill to Odell in 1886. Some of these houses were one-and-a-half-story, hall-and-parlor plan dwellings; others were one-story. Subsequent houses were one-story with two main rooms and a rear ell, hall-and-parlor or center-ell plans, and side-gable or triple-A-gable roofs. They were constructed after Odell purchased the property in 1886, after electricity was installed at the mill in 1922, and after the mill expanded in 1928. In the late 1970s, the Chatham County Housing Authority purchased the mill houses from Odell, rehabilitated them, and sold them to their tenants. From that point, the houses began to acquire more individuality in appearance (Osborne and Selden-Sturgill, 48, 173).

When Robert Joseph Moore built his up-to-date, two-story, brick house on the edge of Bynum
in 1929, it broke sharply with the traditional architectural fabric of the community. Although its four-square form, brick construction, and Colonial Revival interior detailing were common in urban areas, the house was, and is, unique in Bynum. It not only introduced a new architectural vocabulary to Bynum, but also served as a clear statement of Moore's economic and social status in the community.

Bynum developed little after 1930. The Great Depression dampened growth, as it did in so many places, and the shifting of U.S. 15-501 just north of town in the 1950s ended the community's place as a crossroads. As a result, new buildings in Bynum were rare. Other than the one-and-a-half-story, brick bungalow built by Moore's son, Robert, in 1932 near Bynum, no other brick dwellings are known to have been constructed in the Bynum area until several brick ranch houses were built after 1950 (Sasser, Durham Morning Herald; Osborne and Selden-Sturgill, 176; Author's on-site observations).

Historical Background -

Robert Joseph Moore was born in eastern Chatham County in 1877, the son of Annie Bland and A. C. Moore. A. C. died before Robert was ten years old, leaving Annie a widow pregnant with their eighth child. In an effort to support her family, Annie Moore moved to Bynum so that her children could go to work in the mill. Robert worked to help support the family until the age of twenty-one, when he left home to attend Massey Business College in Richmond. After graduating, Robert returned to Chatham County, where he married Cara Bland in 1906 and began operating a general store in Bynum around 1908. Robert and Cara Moore had four children: Robert Bland (1907-1988), Lina Burnett (1910-1993), William Lawrence (1912-1994), and Edgar Pace (born 1919) (Danek, "History;" "Moore Dies," Chatham Record).

The first store in Bynum was a company store operated by the mill. In 1904, the first privately owned store was built; several others--including R. J. Moore & Co.--followed. Moore's store sold groceries, dry goods, notions, shoes, country produce, home remedies, overalls, grain, horse feed, horse collars, plow blades, water pails, and other such items commonly found in country stores. The post office was also housed in the store building. In 1949, a newspaper article claimed that "practically anything a person would need" could be found at Moore's store, which the article described as "typical of an institution which is fast fading from the American landscape." Moore operated his store for forty-eight years, but after his death, it was demolished around 1960 (Carroll, Durham Morning Herald; "Moore Dies," Chatham Record; R. J. Moore & Co. Letterhead).

In 1920 Robert Moore and his family moved to Salisbury, where he operated another store. In 1928, when the textile mill in Bynum expanded, the Moores returned to Chatham County, where Robert resumed operation of his Bynum store, taking advantage of the enlargement of the mill and
Robert Joseph Moore House
Chatham County, North Carolina

its workforce. On June 29, 1929, Moore bought the first of three parcels of land, totaling approximately thirteen acres, that became the family homestead. He hired contractor Romy Cheek of Chapel Hill to construct the two-story brick house that remains on the property. A garage and a small barn were built at about the same time as the house, and several other small outbuildings followed (Osborne and Selden-Sturgill, 175; Deed Book GZ, p. 339; Deed Book GQ, p. 220; Deed Book HG, 439).

Robert Joseph Moore died in 1956 without leaving a will. The property passed to his widow, Cara, and their four children. Cara continued to occupy the family home until her death in 1976. In addition, the Moores' two unmarried children, Lina and Lawrence, continued to live in the house after the deaths of their parents, except for a few years in the late 1930s when Lina worked in Raleigh, and the years of Lawrence's service during the Second World War. Lina Moore died in 1992, and Lawrence followed in 1994. Today the property is owned by Frances Moore Danek, granddaughter of Robert and Cara Moore, and by her grown children, Julia, Richard, and Martha Danek. The house is currently unoccupied and is undergoing restoration (Danek, "Moore's House;" Danek Interview).
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY:


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


R. J. Moore & Co. Letterhead.


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description -

The boundary of the nominated property is defined as Tract L4-48 on Chatham County Tax Map 9763.01. It is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying tax map, drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification -

The nominated property, consisting of 8.7 acres as shown on Chatham County Tax Map 9763.01, creates an appropriate setting for the Robert Joseph Moore House and its associated outbuildings and forms the home tract established by Moore.

Note: While the tax map labels this property as containing 8.7 acres, deeds support the family's assertion that the property actually consists of 13.15 acres. This discrepancy has not been resolved and awaits clarification through a property survey.
PHOTOGRAPHS:

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

1) Robert Joseph Moore 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 N  
    B: Context, view to NW  
    C: SW elevation, view to NE  
    D: Rear (NW) elevation, view to SE  
    E: Barn, view to W  
    F: Landscape features, view to SE  
    G: Parlors and center hall, view to SW  
    H: Dining room, view to SE  
    I: Stair, view to SE