**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

1. **NAME**
   - **COMMON:**
     - The Twin Houses
   - **AND/OR HISTORIC:**

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
     - On Highway 168 at junction with SR 1203 and SR 1147
   - **CITY OR TOWN:**
     - Shawboro (First Congressional District, The Hon. Walter B. Jones)
   - **STATE:**
     - North Carolina
   - **CODE:** 37
   - **COUNTY:** Currituck
   - **CODE:** 053

3. **CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

   **PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**
   - Agricultural
   - Commercial
   - Educational
   - Government
   - Industrial
   - Military
   - Museum
   - Object
   - Religious
   - Scientific
   - Private Residence
   - Transportation
   - Other (Specify)
   - No

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - **OWNER'S NAME:** Annie Mae Gregory Etheridge
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
     - Highway 168
   - **CITY OR TOWN:** Shawboro
   - **STATE:** North Carolina
   - **CODE:** 37

5. **LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
   - **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**
     - Currituck County Courthouse
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
     - Currituck
   - **STATE:** North Carolina
   - **CODE:** 37

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - **TITLE OF SURVEY:**
   - **DATE OF SURVEY:**
     - Federal
     - State
     - County
     - Local
   - **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
   - **CITY OR TOWN:**
     - **STATE:**
     - **CODE:**
The name, the "Twin Houses" is very descriptive of the unusual dwelling located near Shawboro. The house is composed of two separate structures, identical in exterior appearance, joined by a transverse hall. Each is a two-story frame building, five bays wide and two bays deep, set on a brick foundation and having brick exterior end chimneys laid in common bond. The chimney on the south gable end of each house has smooth tumbled weatherings, and those on the north side have been completely stuccoed. The details of the two houses, including the slopes of the gable roofs and the molded cornices below the eaves, are identical.

Both houses face east, one in front of the other. Apparently the west building was built first with the east house being added in front of it soon afterward. The east side of the east structure now serves as the main facade of the Twin Houses. There is an entrance in the central bay and a secondary entrance to the left. The remaining bays at the first level contain windows with nine-over-nine sash while those at the second level have nine-over-six. This window arrangement is repeated around both buildings. Covering the first story of the main facade is a low hip-roof porch on brick piers with heavy square wooden pillars, enclosed by a rounded handrail and balusters square in section.

The one-story connecting hall has a low gable roof with its ridge perpendicular to the ridges of the two house roofs and an entrance flanked by half sidelights at the north and south ends.

Each house has a hall-and-parlor plan at the first level and a center hall flanked by bedrooms at the second. Both are finished with walls plastered above and below reeded chair rails and simple Federal mantels, those in the later house being slightly heavier and less elaborate in design. The finest mantel appears in the south parlor of the earlier (west) house. It consists of a tiny molding around the rectangular opening and slender symmetrically molded pilasters supporting unadorned end blocks and a plain frieze. The cornice shelf which breaks out over each end block is ornamented with vernacular molded dentils. A stair once ascended from this parlor to the second floor but was removed when the houses were joined. Access to the second floor of both houses is provided by a closed-string stair that rises along the east side of the connecting hall. The stair spandrel is flat-paneled, and the railing consists of balusters square in section supporting a rounded handrail which terminates in a chamfered newel. At the second level the stair opens into a narrow hall which connects with the second-floor center halls in both houses, forming one long central hall. Corresponding to the roof ridge above, the ceiling of the connecting hall forms a low triangular arch.
The "Twin Houses" was built sometime before 1797 by John Perkins. After his death in that year, twelve jurors met to set apart for his widow, Affiah Perkins, her dower in Perkins' estate. The record of their deliberations, unusually specific concerning the house, suggests that a twin house arrangement already may have existed at that time:

We the jurors do lay off & set apart for Affiah Perkins widow her thirds of both plantations... on which third the Manner or Dwelling house it stands which we say the widow may have the hole until the orphan arrives to the age of twenty one years old or marries then she is to have the westward end of the dwelling house above and below & [undecipherable, but possibly "orphan"] the opp = it ["opposite," a hyphenation and apparent lacuna].

This allocation of an "end" of the dwelling to the widow and its opposite to the other heir seems to imply the possibility of two main sections linked by a hall. If the house was an ordinary single dwelling, it would have been an unusual and relatively complicated matter to allot separate spaces within it. The "orphan" Alfred Perkins, eventually came into exclusive possession of the Twin Houses, and he made his home there until he died. By the terms of his will proved in 1857 the house with its 160 acre tract was left to his wife, Lovy Perkins. Mrs. Perkins afterwards became the wife of Thomas L. Sanderson into whose hands the property passed. In May, 1858, Sanderson sold the house and acreage with an additional tract of 50 acres to Henry Muchmore Shaw for $6,750.

Considerably more is known about Shaw than about the previous owners of the house. He was born in Rhode Island, but came to Currituck County at an early age and studied medicine under a Dr. Marchant. After additional training at the University of Pennsylvania, Shaw became a doctor. A few years after buying the Perkins' Twin Houses, he was listed in the 1860 census as having a personal estate valued at $20,000. When the Civil War erupted, Dr. Shaw joined the Confederate Army, attaining the rank of colonel commanding the 8th North Carolina Regiment. During the war he saw action in several coastal areas. From Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, he wrote in 1863, "There is nothing at all stirring hereabouts. The Yankees have thrown up some immense sand batteries..." That particular campaign he lived through, but the next year, during a similar deployment on Roanoke Island, he was shot and killed. His courage and example caused the issuance of a
general order that "the Battery on Oak Island, between Caswell and Campbell will be known as 'Battery Shaw', in honor of the late Col. Henry M. Shaw."

The Twin Houses remained in Colonel Shaw's family until it was sold in 1897 by his son, Henry Marchant Shaw, who was then living in the house. His deed for $4,028.72 conveyed the property to P. H. Morgan, excluding the graveyard where Colonel Shaw is buried. The will of P. H. Morgan conveyed the "Shaw farm," as he called it, to his son Charles D. Morgan. After the death of Charles's wife, Annie Newton Morgan, ownership of the house was transferred to Elmer Spence Gregory. It is now owned by his daughter, Annie Mae Gregory Ethridge.

The "Twin Houses" is significant not only as being among the oldest houses in Currituck County, but also as a well-preserved Federal structure with a most unusual configuration. This arrangement is apparently unique in North Carolina--two nearly contemporary and identical houses, joined with one directly in front of the other.
### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Currituck County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).


### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
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<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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#### LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF Nominated PROPERTY: 2 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION:

State Department of Archives and History

DATE: 22 November 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

### 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [ ]
- State [x]
- Local [ ]

Name: H. G. Jones

Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date: 22 November 1971

### NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date ________________

ATTEST:

__________________________

Keeper of The National Register

Date ________________
The present highway map is an accurate representation of the area as of July 1, 1966. The scale of the map is 1" = 1 mile. The latitude and longitude data are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36° 24' 13&quot; N</td>
<td>76° 05' 52&quot; W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The map includes various geographical features such as roads, landmarks, and other points of interest. It is designed to provide a clear and accurate representation of the area for planning and navigation purposes.