

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Currituck	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:

CITY OR TOWN: 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:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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's 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 untill 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, Lovey 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

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(Number all entries)

8.

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, Currituck County Courthouse, Currituck, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

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

Shaw, H. M. "The Shaw Family," 1965. Unpublished manuscript, Archives, State Department of Archives and History.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 24' 33"	76° 05' 52"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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 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 Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6-30-93 Hwy 168 HAS BEEN CHANGED TO Hwy 34

The map shows Highway 168 at its junction with SR 1203 and SR 1147 near Shawboro, North Carolina.

State Highway Commission
 Scale: 1" = 1 mile
 Date: July 1, 1966

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36°	24'	33"	76°	05'	52"



