# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

## 1. NAME

- Shelton Plantation House
- Hoskins House

## 2. LOCATION

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - On lane off west side of N.C. 32, 0.9 mi. north of S.R. 1200

- **CITY OR TOWN:** Edenton

- **STATE:** North Carolina

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public Acquisition:</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>In Process</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### PRESENT USE

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)  

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

- **OWNER'S NAME:** Mrs. W. E. Bond
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** Clement Hall Farm
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Edenton
- **STATE:** North Carolina

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:** Chowan County Courthouse
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Edenton
- **STATE:** North Carolina

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- **TITLE OF SURVEY:**  
- **DATE OF SURVEY:**  
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**  
- **STREET AND NUMBER:**  
- **CITY OR TOWN:**  
- **STATE:**  
- **CODE:**
At Shelton Plantation is a two-story frame temple-form plantation house, standing at the end of a long lane in the flat farm country near Edenton. It is in good condition, having been renovated after a period of neglect. The Federal period dwelling is covered with molded weatherboards and stands upon a brick cellar. The main (east) facade is three bays wide, with a central entrance protected by a small pedimented entrance porch. The doors and windows are framed with molded architraves and have molded sills. The windows have nine-over-nine sash at the first level and nine-over-six at the second. The main pediment is flush-sheathed and has a semicircular fanlight. The pediment is outlined with a molded cornice adorned with undercut modillions, which carries along the sides of the house but does not continue across the rear elevation. The front porch repeats the pediment treatment of the building; the porch features four fluted, necked pillars, square in section (replacements for the original) with corresponding pilasters. A similar porch shelters the first bay of the north side. On the south side of the house is a recent one-story addition, which extends along the side and across half of the rear elevation. At the rear are two chimneys of brick laid in Flemish bond with smooth single shoulders; their stacks have been rebuilt.

The plan is the usual one for temple-form houses: a lateral front hall with the stair rising at the north end and two large rooms to the rear. Restrained Federal finish is used consistently. An unusual feature is the placement of a transverse arch in the middle of the hall. On the inner wall it springs from a pilaster, but on the front wall the arch ends abruptly over the front doorway, resting on the door architrave. The pilaster is flat-paneled; the arch has a fluted soffit and is framed by a corbeled molded band and adorned with gouge work garland-and-tassel motif; and the soffit above the door features a radiating gouge work design. Consistent throughout the first floor is the use of a flat-paneled wainscot with a molded chair rail, and a rather heavy molded cornice. The doors have six panels raised on molded fillets and are hung on rising butt plate hinges, with three-part molded architraves. The stair, which rises in several flights to the third-floor attic, has a square newel and posts with molded caps and square balusters, which carry a molded handrail. The open-string features unusual curvilinear brackets, and the spandrel is flat-paneled.

The two parlors are finished much like the hall. The mantels are simple but unusual, with Federal ornament and a hint of Greek Revival. A beaded architrave is flanked by reeded pilaster strips, and a similar strip runs across the fire opening; where the vertical and horizontal bands join the reeding stops, leaving a blank square resembling a corner block. This scheme recurs to frame the frieze, which is adorned by an applied molding forming a long cornered oblong. The cornice and shelf are handsomely molded. There are no end blocks or center tablet. The mantels in both rooms are alike, but that in the north room features a band of pierced lozenge fretwork beneath the cornice.

The second-floor plan is similar to the first, but there is a small unheated room at the end of the hall opposite the stair, and the rear rooms
are of unequal size. The finish is simpler, with a molded chair rail and baseboard and plaster dado. The mantels follow a pattern similar to those below, but are less elaborate, lacking the frieze ornament and fretwork. The third floor attic is also finished but unheated, having plastered walls and a plain chair rail and baseboard.
The plantation house at Shelton is a significant and well-preserved member of the Federal period temple-form dwellings in North Carolina. It features handsome, restrained vernacular Federal finish, including an unusual treatment of the hall arch. Of considerable historical importance is the early association of the plantation with the colonial missionary and author, Clement Hall.

In 1728 the Lords Proprietors granted Thomas Jones 366 acres in Chowan County which he divided among his three sons; Thomas Jones, Jr., came into possession of the entire property and sold the whole to Clement Hall on April 15, 1755. On December 30 of that year the house burned, along with many papers including deeds involving the property. In 1756 and 1757 Hall was involved in having a small house built on the place. On September 9, 1757, Hall bought an adjoining tract and evidently other land as well. Clement Hall was an outstanding colonial missionary (beginning in 1744 and traveling widely in the northeast part of the colony), priest of the Parish of St. Paul’s in Edenton, and the colony’s first citizen to have a book published at home—A Collection of Many Christian Experiences. After Hall’s death in 1759, his widow continued to live at Shelton, as her husband had called the farm.

In 1796 Clement Hall, Jr., sold the property and it passed through several owners before being purchased in 1817 by Baker Hoskins who owned it until his death in 1833. The present house was probably built for Hoskins and his second wife, Martha Ann Skinner. Baker Hoskins represented Chowan County in the House of Commons 1806-1808. Hoskins had married into the locally prominent Skinner family—he had married first Sarah Skinner and, after her death in 1811, he married her younger sister, Martha Ann. They were daughters of Joshua Skinner, whose sons were wealthy planters and businessmen, for whom were built a number of handsome and stylistically related houses in the Albemarle. The house built for Martha Ann and Baker Hoskins is not related stylistically to the houses built by her brothers, but the apparent family interest in architecture should be noted.

After Baker Hoskins’s death the property went to Martha Ann for her lifetime, then to their son Blake Baker Hoskins. After two mortgages, Baker sold the place to his brother Wilson Hoskins in 1862; Wilson sold it to Mayland Bond in 1868. In the late nineteenth century the property passed through several hands, before being sold in 1881 to Frederick White and descending in his family to William E. Bond, whose family still own and occupy the house.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Elizabeth Moore, consultant; architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor.

Chowan County Records, Chowan County Courthouse, Edenton, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, miscellaneous papers).

Chowan County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, miscellaneous papers).


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
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<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>36° 04' 52&quot;</td>
<td>76° 37' 59&quot;</td>
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</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 15 acres

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

Survey and Planning Unit

Division of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

12. STATE LIASON 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: Thornton W. Mitchell

Title: Acting Director, Division of Archives and History

Date: 21 June 1974

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

Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date