NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME:
   Bartlett Yancey House

2. LOCATION:
   South side of U.S. 158, 0.3 mi. west of intersection with S.R. 1500
   Yanceyville vicinity

  Cancelable:
   The Hon. L. H. Fountain

3. CLASSIFICATION:
   CATEGORY (Check One):
   □ District □ Building □ Site □ Structure □ Object

   OWNERSHIP:
   □ Public □ Private □ Both

   PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
   □ In Process □ Being Considered

   STATUS:
   □ Occupied □ Unoccupied □ Preservation work in progress

   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:
   Yes □ Restricted □ Unrestricted □ No

   PRESENT USE (Check one or more as Appropriate)
   □ Agricultural □ Government □ Park □ Transportation □ Commercial
   □ Industrial □ Private Residence □ Other (Specify)
   □ Military □ Religious □

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY:
   □ NAME:
   Mrs. Allen Green

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC.
   Caswell County Courthouse

6. ORIENATATION:
   EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OR SURVEY:

   CO-SURVEYED BY RECORDS:
   Federal □ State □ County □ Local

   REEL AND NUMBER:
   REEL AND NUMBER:

   STATE:
   North Carolina
   COUNTY:
   Caswell

   CODE:
   37

   CODE:
   033
The Bartlett Yancey House, the result of three stories of eighteenth-century construction, is composed of a Federal cottage built early in the century, a two-story L-shaped Greek Revival block added to the front of the original house in 1836, and a Victorian overlay of front and side porches added late in the century. The house, which occupies a spacious setting west of Yanceyville, is surrounded by the original smokehouse, a Federal period law office, and several log tobacco barns. East of the house is the Yancey family graveyard, enclosed by an ornate cast-iron fence.

The original one-story house, three bays wide and two deep, is covered by a steep gable roof of standing-seam tin which extends in the rear to cover two original shed rooms. The north (front) facade and the east side are obscured by the Greek Revival addition. The rear center bay is open as a recessed porch, with walls covered with wide flush horizontal sheathing. Some of the original exterior fabric remains: beaded siding, nine-over-nine sash windows, four-pane gable casement windows, molded architraves, boxed molded cornices with pattern boards, and beaded raking cornices. The west chimney, the only original chimney intact, has double stepped shoulders with a freestanding stack and molded cap; the brick is laid in random Flemish bond, with glazed headers forming vertical bands. The east side has two chimneys: the smaller rear chimney, laid in one-to-five common bond, now stands in ruins; the larger front chimney is an 1856 replacement. A frame basement bulkhead projects from the west side.

The interior hall-and-parlor plan of the Federal cottage has several interesting variations. The enclosed stair in the inside rear corner of the larger west room is accessible from the east room as well. The two rear shed rooms open off the recessed porch, which is reached through a door from the west room. The east shed room can also be reached by a door from the east room. The west room finish is virtually unaltered, consisting of a wainscot of raised vertical panels beneath a molded chair rail, plastered walls and ceiling, and a Federal mantel with fluted Doric pilasters. The east wall wainscot has been altered, and the mantel is a simpler Federal design than the west mantel. The flat-pasted doors throughout the house are hung on HL hinges. The west shed room retains its original flush-sheathed wainscot with simple chair rail. The original finish of the east shed room and the two rooms in the attic has been altered.

The Greek Revival L-shaped addition is three bays wide and one bay deep, with a two-story wing extending from the rear east side which is built into the Federal cottage. The exterior fabric of the addition consists of plain siding, large two-over-two sash windows with wide molded architraves, louvered shutters, and overhanging eaves with a simple cornice and eave moldings. The central entrance in the main (north) facade is a double door, flanked by symmetrically molded Doric pilasters and framed by sidelights and a transom set within a symmetrically molded architrave. Flanking this block are single stepped-shouder exterior and chimneys of brick laid in common bond, identical to the rear east chimney. A hip roof of standing-seam tin covers the block. A one-story shed porch with turned posts and balusters and spindlework trim extends across the facade and partially around the east side. A three-bay one-story shed porch with
Doric columns, perhaps a remnant of the porch original to this block, adjoining the Victorian porch on this side. At the juncture of the Federal house and the Greek Revival block on the west side is a smaller porch identical to the facade porch.

The front block follows a center-hall plan one room deep and the original trim is intact. Throughout this block are plastered walls and ceilings, wide symmetrically molded architraves and paneled corner blocks, high molded baseboards, flat-paneled doors and heavy mantels with swelling pilasters and friezes, flanked by arched wall niches. The east first-floor room and the hall have a wainscot with a simple chair rail, and the second floor rooms have dadoes plastered beneath simple chair rails. The open-string stair, which rises against the east wall of the wide hall, has a paneled spandrel and wall brackets in deep relief. The distinctive railing consists of a heavy newel post in the form of an "S" curve, slender plain balusters, and a shaped handrail. The large mantel in the west first-floor room, the most handsomely finished, has Ionic colonnettes supporting the frieze and shelf. The flanking round-arched niches are outlined by symmetrically molded architraves with fluted keystones.

The law office in the west rear yard, stylistically contemporary with the Federal cottage, is a one-story single-room frame building with a steep gable roof with eave treatment identical to the Federal house. Simple molded architraves surround the four-over-four sash windows and door openings. The interior is flush-sheathed, with simple molded chair rail and architraves and an enclosed stair in the southeast corner ascending to the left.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bartlett Yancey, one of Caswell County's most noted citizens, built his dwelling between 1808—when he settled at "Caswell Court House" to practice law and married Ann Graves—and 1814, the date of death of a son whose grave is the earliest interment in the family cemetery near the house. Yancey, who studied law under Archibald D. Murphay in Orange County, was admitted to the North Carolina bar in 1807. He lived in this house until his untimely death in 1828, after rejecting several political appointments which would have called him from his native county: a Superior Court judgeship offered him in 1818, and an appointment as minister to Peru in 1826.

Bartlett Yancey is remembered chiefly for his outstanding service in the North Carolina Senate which began in 1817 following four years' service in the United States House of Representatives. Serving as speaker of the Senate from his first term to his death (a total of ten terms), he exerted his influence for the establishment of a state supreme court, the promotion of internal improvements, the creation of the first state fund for public education, and the reform of the state constitution. Bartlett, a literal statesman, and his older brother James, who was prominent in local affairs, were so revered by their fellow Caswell County citizens that the name of the county seat was changed to Yanceyville in 1833 in honor of them.

The house, located between Country Line Creek and U.S. 158, the main road from Yanceyville to Greensboro, remained in the possession of Bartlett's widow, Ann, until her death on April 8, 1835; she willed it to her daughter, Ann Elizabeth Yancey. Ann Elizabeth married Thomas J. Jones several months later, and the house became their residence. It appears that the Yanceys expanded the house, for the rear east chimney, which was rebuilt when the front block was built, bears the date "1856".

Yancey's original dwelling, though small, is solidly built and one of...
the few remaining examples in the county of a Federal cottage with interior finish equal to that of large Federal plantation houses. The unique floor plan, consisting of a hall-and-parlor with an enclosed stair which can be entered from either room and a rear recessed central porch opening into shed rooms, is of particular interest. The 1856 Greek Revival addition is noteworthy for the individuality and awkward vitality of its woodwork, which is strikingly similar to the known work of Tom Day, one of North Carolina's most famous cabinetmakers. The voluptuous curve of the stair newel is echoed and balanced by the wave brackets of the open string. The Ionic pilasters of the parlor mantel are undercut to carry successfully the illusion of three-dimensionality. The attribution of this architectural trim to Tom Day is strengthened by the fact that Day had business associations with Ann Yancey, Bartlett's wife. The 1855 inventory of Mrs. Yancey's estate lists notes on Thomas Day to the sum of $180, falling due between 1853 and 1855, and it is possible that Day executed this trim to pay off the note.
Research and architectural description by Ruth Little Stokes, survey specialist.


**Geographical Data**

**Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property**

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**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:** 9.9 acres

**List All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or County Boundaries**

**Form Prepared By**

Survey and Planning Unit

**Division of Archives and History**

**Date:** 33 September 1973

**State and Number:**

165 East Jones Street

**State:** North Carolina

**Oath of Examination**

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 [ ]

**Oath of Examination:**

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

**Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Date:**

**Attest:**

**Signatures:**

**Date:** 13 September 1973
Caswell County Marriage Bonds, M.B. 101, No. 354.
Caswell County Records, Caswell County Courthouse, Yanceyville, North Carolina,
Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
Caswell County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).