Kinchen Holloway House
Durham, Durham County, DH2369, Listed 8/29/2008
Nomination by Heather Wagner
Photographs by Heather Wagner, March 2007
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 any 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 Holloway, Kinchen, House

other names/site number Guess Mill House

2. Location

street & number 4418 Guess Road

not for publication N/A
city or town Durham

vicinity N/A
county Durham

zip code 27712

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Kinchen Holloway House

Durham County, North Carolina

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

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Category of Property

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Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: I-house

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: fieldstone

roof METAL: tin

walls WOOD: weatherboard

shingle

other:

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Kinchen Holloway House
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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.

X 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.)

___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or a 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

C. 1870

Significant Dates

C. 1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

X State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: ________________________________
Kinchen Holloway House
Name of Property
Durham County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  1.78 acres + -

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

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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 Heather M. Wagner, Design & Preservation Consultant
organization Trinity Design / Build
date March 19, 2008
street & number 213 N. Gregson Street
telephone 919-321-6636

city or town Durham state NC zip code 27701

12. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Marsha Seaton
street & number 4418 Guess Road
telephone 919-477-2190

city or town Durham state NC zip code 27712

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
This mid- to late-nineteenth century farmhouse is an I-house with one-story rear ell. It stands north of downtown Durham, but with the city’s gradual expansion, is now within the city limits. The house stands on a slight hill, facing Guess Road to the west. Guess Road (now NC 157) runs north from Durham, through rural Durham and Orange Counties to Roxboro. Developed from an early trading path, Guess Road was named for the Guess family, who owned the Guess-Geer Mill that once stood just south of the house, on the opposite bank of the Eno River.

The house itself is sheltered from the noise of the road by vegetation and large trees and is accessed by a drive framed by a stone wall that cuts an arc through the front of the property. North of the house is a manicured lawn, framed by foliage and slightly higher than the foundation. To the rear of the house are a series of gardens framing a terraced lawn. The entire site slopes south toward the Eno River. The land to the south and east of the current tract is owned by the City of Durham and operated as Eno Park. South of the house lies a gravel parking area and a 1989, non-contributing frame tool shed. The 1.78-acre site is surprisingly quiet and serene considering its proximity to Guess Road. Its location above the road and the landscaping give the house a stately presence while contributing to the continued rural atmosphere of the property.

The main block of the house measures approximately forty-feet wide by sixteen-feet deep. The house has two exterior end stone chimneys with projecting stone bases. The chimneys have been covered with parging and the north chimney is partially concealed by vegetation. A stone foundation was built under the entire house in the 1940s, replacing the original stone. The two-story block is covered with plain painted wood weatherboards and has a standing seam metal roof with boxed eaves and gable returns and simple cornice molding.

The current front porch was replaced in the 1940s. The original nearly full-façade hip-roofed porch, common on late-nineteenth century I-houses (and shown in a 1939 photo of the house), was removed. The new porch roof retains the same slope and material, but the simple square columns were replaced with square posts and wood lattice. In 1988, when the house was renovated, square columns similar to the original posts were installed and the porch floor was replaced. Stone stairs matching the new foundation provide access to the porch.

The original front door remains in place though it has been altered from a four-panel door to a two-light over two-panel configuration. A similarly altered door opens to the rear
Kinchen Holloway House
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A screened porch. Windows on the front and rear elevations have six-over-six double-hung wood sashes; they retain their original size and placement. In the 1940s, the existing windows in the gable ends were enlarged to match those on the front elevation. At the same time, vertical six-pane windows were installed on either side of the chimneys in the gables.

A one-story, gable-roof rear ell, measuring approximately twenty feet by twelve feet extends from the rear at the north end of the house. The rear ell is covered with replacement wood shingles on the north side and beaded weatherboards on the other two sides. It has a standing seam metal roof (replaced in the early 1990s) and eight-over-eight double-hung wood windows. The 1939 photo of the house shows two small windows on the north side of the rear ell. The west window was enlarged and the right window removed to accommodate a remodeled kitchen in the early 1940s.

A shed-roof porch was constructed at the intersection of the main block and rear ell. The porch has a stone foundation and standing seam metal roof matching those on the rest of the house. The original wood weatherboards and a six-over-six window are visible inside the porch. Screened in the summer months, the porch has windows that can be installed when the weather turns cold.

An earlier house, circa 1850, faced the Eno River and was described as a log house. In 1870 the current house was erected and the property re-oriented to face Guess Road instead of the river. The interior of the two-story I-house was a traditional center-hall plan with two rooms on each floor. This plan was modified in the 1940s, when the right wall of the hall was removed, creating a larger living area and resulting in a hall-and-parlor plan for the house. Additionally, a bathroom and closet were added to the second floor, reducing the size and altering the shape of the two bedrooms, but keeping the hall intact.

The four rooms of the main block have very simple finishes including pine floors and ceilings and wood sheathing covering the interior walls. Cove molding around the ceiling and base of the walls was likely added during later renovations to the house. Door and window surrounds are square boards held in place by cut nails. Interior doors are four-panel doors with original hardware intact. The stairwell has square wood balusters and chamfered newels with square caps at the base and top of the stair. Mantels in the living and dining room are original to the house and have fluted pilasters and simple moldings. The mantel in the south bedroom is even less detailed than those on the
first floor with smooth Doric pilasters on either side. A decorative Victorian-style mantel with turned posts is currently in the north bedroom, but is a later replacement.

The two northern rooms on the first floor, the kitchen and dining room, share a number of interior elements unique to these two rooms. Both rooms have wide, fourteen to eighteen inch sheathing on the walls. In the dining room, a chair rail was installed with wide horizontal sheathing below and with narrower boards, matching the rest of the house, above. This may have been done as a response to termite or water damage, as termite damage was the reason for the west wall being covered with plasterboard in the 1980s. The kitchen retains wide sheathing on the ceiling, but the original floor was removed and salvaged for use in the powder room at the rear of the house in the 1980s. The kitchen ell was also divided into two rooms; the dividing wall was later removed in the late 1980s, enlarging the kitchen and creating a dining space at the east end of the ell.

The house retains most of its original form and fabric as well as its rural setting and context. Although the plan has been altered to include baths and a modern kitchen the overall form remains unaltered. Twentieth-century renovations were necessary to repair foundation problems and water and termite damaged areas of the house, yet much original fabric remains, including horizontal wood sheathing, wire-cut nails, and even the names etched in a wall of the master bedroom (“Ollie & [another name],” Kinchen’s children).

South of the house stands a noncontributing one-story asymmetrical side-gable frame tool shed, constructed in 1989 from the materials of a former shed on the property. The building is supported by stone piers and covered with molded weatherboards. It has a standing seam metal roof with exposed wood framing and open soffits. The building has a pair of plank doors on the north side and a small window opening on the west gable end, both with simple trim.
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Summary –

The Kinchen Holloway House is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture. The house was built around 1870 by Kinchen Holloway, a farmer and miller. It represents the once-popular I-house form, a vanishing nineteenth-century house type in Durham County. The house, located just north of the Eno River and facing Guess Road (formerly Guess Mill Road) in northern Durham County, retains its original form and many original interior and exterior finishes.

Historic Context –

Durham County was formed from a portion of Orange County in 1881; however, both counties were initially settled in the early- to mid-eighteenth century. Many of the earliest inhabitants migrated to the area from northern states via the eastern counties of North Carolina: the Umsteads from Pennsylvania, and the Lipscombs and Guesses from Virginia.¹ Farmers were attracted to the area for the moderate weather and fertile soil. Mill owners found the Eno, Little, Flat, and Neuse rivers to be suitable for mills.

The proximity of mills to farmland was essential to the efficiency and success of both and to the development of the Eno River Valley and Durham County. Thus, it is no surprise that the land around the Guess-Geer Mill was worked by farm families like the Holloways. Farmers provided raw material to be sawn or ground. At the same time, millers, “supplied the farmer with cornmeal for his daily bread and lumber for his farm buildings; they made possible his participation in the market economy with his corn, wheat, and lumber.”² Public mills, regulated by law, collected a toll for their services and often produced profits for their owners/millers.

The Guess Mill was one of the last of seventeen mills to be built on the Eno River between 1750 and 1850. William W. Guess operated the mill into the 1860s when financial hardship caused by the Civil War led to the mill’s confiscation and sale at auction. Frederick Geer took over the mill in 1874, at which time Kinchen Holloway was already employed as the miller. Geer operated the mill until 1918 when he sold the mill and property to Mattie Jackson Bowling (thereafter the mill was known as the Bowling Mill). By the early 1920s, the mill was no longer in use. After its sale in 1933, it was

² Anderson, p. 49.
Kinchen Holloway House
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destroyed by owner George Johnson. All that remains of the mill is the mill race, remnants of steps and a chimney, and a large round, grindstone on the southwest side of the Eno River.

The Holloway family has owned property in northern Orange and Durham Counties since the late 1700s. In 1787, Thomas Holloway (1747-1835) purchased a 260-acre tract of land on the north side of the Eno River near the corner of Cole Mill and Umstead Roads. In 1816, Holloway purchased an additional 433 acres of land, though the location of this second tract is unknown. Thomas Holloway most likely farmed his 693 acres; he had nineteen children, one of whom was James H. Holloway.

In 1848, James Holloway (1814-1890) purchased 165 acres of land on the north side of the Eno River, along the present Guess Road. He bought the land from Moses Leathers, his father-in-law, who retained an adjoining tract of land. James and his wife, Martha “Patsy” Leathers, established a farm on the property and constructed a one-story, two-room log house that faced the Eno River. It is possible that the Holloways constructed the house as early as 1838, after their marriage, and leased the home and property from Martha’s father until they purchased it in 1848.

James and Martha Holloway had three children: Kinchen, Jeanette, and Mary E. According to Kinchen’s daughter, Ida Inez Holloway Roberts, he was born on December 21, 1841 in the log house that James Holloway had built. In the same article she claims herself to have been born in a log house on the property, though at the time of her birth in 1873 construction of the two-story front portion of the house had already begun. This indicates that the original two-room log house stood on the property as late as the early 1870s.

In July 1869, James Holloway lost the property on Guess Road. He owed a total of $375.15 to the County of Orange and his land was confiscated and sold at public auction. The “land and appurtenances” were bought by John D. Lipscomb for a sum of

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3 Cross, Jerry L. Historical Overview of Orange and Durham Counties with Special Emphasis on the Milling Industry in the Lower Eno Valley. October 12, 1979, p. 17.
4 Holloway, David. Photos and histories provided to the current homeowner. David is the great-great-grandson of Kinchen Holloway.
Kinchen Holloway was prominent throughout the area. He was a horn player for the Durham Light Infantry and fought for the Confederacy as part of the 6th North Carolina Regiment during the Civil War. After his return, he married Mary Jane Dunnegan in 1868. The Holloways had twelve children while living in the house, ten of whom lived into adulthood. Mary Jane kept house and, in the 1900 census, was listed as a tobacco leaf stringer. As well as being a prominent and successful farmer (he owned and farmed 162 acres), Kinchen was the miller at the Geer Mill (formerly the Guess Mill) beginning just before Geer purchased the mill in 1874. He was also a member of the Durham County Board of Education in the 1880s and was a Durham County Commissioner from 1890 to 1894.

Kinchen died in 1921, at the age of 80 from complications due to old age. He had been a farmer and Orange County/Durham County resident his entire life. Mary Jane Dunnegan Holloway died in December 1931; she was living in a house on Old Hillsborough Road at the time of her death. The Holloway heirs sold the property on Guess Road, totaling 123 acres, in 1938.

The Popes purchased the property and owned it for a very short time, likely never living in the house, before selling it to the Easleys in 1941. Local lore states that the Easleys traded a property on Nation and Legion Streets for the Holloway property, which is supported by the fact that the Pope’s son, George, went to live in the house on Nation and Legion when the Easleys moved into the Holloway House, which had been vacant for several years.

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7 Deed. Lipscomb to Holloway, July 10, 1870. (book 1, pg 472).
8 “Prominent Farmer Buried Yesterday.” Durham Herald. 18 October 1921.
9 Holloway.
Howard Easley and Eleanor Easley moved to Durham in 1930 for a teaching position that Howard had secured with the Psychology Department at Duke University. They moved to the Holloway House in 1941 and modernized the house, completing many of the twentieth-century alterations to the house. They constructed a new stone foundation, installed oil heat, a bathroom, and plumbing, as well as altering the front porch and gable-end windows.\(^{11}\) Howard retired from Duke in 1957 and turned his focus to farming the approximately 300 acres on Guess Road. The farm was a popular spot to visit, especially during harvest, when Easley was known to give out armfuls of fresh corn to visitors.\(^{12}\) Additionally, Easley raised a grove of maple trees between Guess Road and Lebanon Circle, many of which he is said to have sold to the state capital.\(^{13}\)

The Easleys were prominent citizens, well-known amongst their neighbors and residents of Durham. Eleanor entered the first class of Duke Medical School and went on to become a prominent obstetrician in Durham.\(^{14}\) The couple sold the house in 1950, but not before Howard Easley gave a 115-acre tract of land to the Eno River State Park, land that included a former Girl Scout camp. The Easleys also donated land to Durham County for the future Easley Elementary School on Lebanon Circle. When asked why he simply gave the land away, he replied, “because I couldn’t eat it.”\(^{15}\)

Later residents of the house include John Curtis, a Russian History Professor at Duke University, and Tim and Gail Crowley. From 1986 to 1996, owners David Lutz, Holly Reid, and Rich Shaw renovated the house again, earning them a preservation award from the Historic Preservation Society of Durham. Lutz, Reid, and Shaw were also instrumental in the struggle to protect the property from the proposed widening of Guess Road.

**Architectural Significance** –

The Kinchen Holloway House, built around 1870, is significant as an intact example of the I-house form in northern Durham County. The I-house form derived from northern British precedents and, in the pre-railroad era, was especially popular in the

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11 Reid, Holly and Rich Shaw. Interview with Dr. Eleanor Easley. 30 December 1990.
12 Hodges, Ed. “Guess Road Farmer Had Corn, Good Tales to Offer.” *The Durham Morning Herald*. 12 February, 1989, pg. 1A.
15 Hodges, Ed. “Guess Road Farmer Had Corn, Good Tales to Offer.” *The Durham Morning Herald*. 12 February, 1989, pg. 1A.
Tidewater region of the South. In fact, the center-hall I-house was the dominant type of folk housing in the Upland South from the late eighteenth-century to the early twentieth-century as, “a symbol of economic achievement and social respectability in a democratic agrarian society.”\textsuperscript{16} The Kinchen Holloway House displays the traditional I-house plan with four rooms, two upstairs and two down, separated by a central hall. One wall of the central hall has been removed on the first floor, however, a beam in the ceiling and seam in the flooring acknowledge that alteration.

Surviving reconstruction period houses are rare in Durham County and tend to be either log structures or frame I-houses. In 1991, at the conclusion of the county-wide architectural survey, the Kinchen Holloway House was listed as one of only eight remaining I-houses from this period (1865 to 1880). The Adolphus Umstead House, listed to the National Register in 1989, was initially constructed as a small log structure around 1850 and enlarged to an I-house around 1880. The c. 1887 Phillip Southerland House, though listed as an I-house, is actually an adaptation of the form with an asymmetrical façade, two central rooms, and a secondary hall leading to rooms on the north end of the house. The Wiley Ball House, like the Kinchen Holloway House, was constructed as early as the 1870s and represents a transition between antebellum and late-nineteenth century construction.

There are two reasons for the scarcity of buildings from this period. First, Reconstruction hit the rural south even harder than urban areas, resulting in slowed construction overall. Second, the buildings that were erected may have been considered less valuable or temporary by later generations, resulting in their destruction or heavy alteration.\textsuperscript{17} In fact, there are likely other survivors from this period, but they have been altered to a degree that they are no longer recognized as Reconstruction-era houses, such as the Dee Umstead House (c. 1877), which was extensively remodeled in the early and mid-twentieth century. Just as it was not uncommon for an existing one-story log structure to be enlarged into a two-story frame I-house (the Adolphus Umstead House) the house was just as often enlarged further and renovated to keep up with the standards of twentieth-century housing.


\textsuperscript{17} Little, M. Ruth. “Durham County Multiple Property Documentation Form: “Historic Resources of Durham County.”” p. 34.
The Kinchen Holloway house is a rare intact example of a Reconstruction-era I-house in an area that continues to experience rapid growth and development. Its architectural significance lies in the retention of its I-house form and most of its interior and exterior finishes, such as wide interior sheathing, pine flooring, and original doors, windows, and exterior siding, in spite of twentieth-century renovations. The footprint of the house has not been altered since its initial construction nearly 140 years ago although the kitchen has been updated and bathrooms added.
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Section 9 – Bibliography


Eno River Association Website:


Hodges, Ed. “Guess Road Farmer Had Corn, Good Tales to Offer.” *The Durham Morning Herald*. 12 February, 1989, pg. 1A.
Holloway, David. Photos, lineage, gravestone inscriptions, and family history provided to Marsha Seaton (the current homeowner). David is the great-great-grandson of Kinchen Holloway.


“Mrs. Mary Holloway to be Buried Today.” *The Durham Morning Herald*. 28 December 1931.

“Prominent Farmer Buried Yesterday.” *The Durham Morning Herald*. 18 October 1921.

Reid, Holly and Rich Shaw. Interview with Helen Bevington. 29 November 1986.


Reid, Holly and Rich Shaw. Interview with Dr. Eleanor Easley. 30 December 1990.

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**Section 10 – Geographic Data**

Verbal Boundary Description –
See attached tax ID map for parcel no. 0814-02-95-7767.

Boundary Justification –
The boundary includes the remaining 1.78 acres of the property historically associated with the Kinchen Holloway House and provides an appropriate setting for the house and outbuilding.