

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cotton Press

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Tarboro Town Common (Northeast corner of Albemarle and Wilson Sts.)

CITY OR TOWN:
Tarboro

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Edgecombe	CODE 065
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Tarboro

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Tarboro

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Edgecombe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
301 St. Andrews Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Tarboro

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C.	CODE 11
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STATE: North Carolina
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The cotton press is approximately twenty-two feet in height and is constructed of heart pine, mortised and tenoned together. The frame, supporting the central shaft, consists of four posts measuring eleven inches in width and approximately seventeen feet in height, each supported by two braces. The upper portion of the shaft is enclosed by girts mortised into the posts with flat panels. Across the top of the shaft is a single beam with an animal hitch, or sweep, attached to each end. The sweeps were rotated by mules which drove the shaft, a large wooden screw measuring nineteen inches in diameter, down on a wooden packing block. Under the packing block was placed from 300 to 350 pounds of cotton to be compressed by the block into bales. The press is protected by a small octagonal roof above the central shaft, and originally had a shed roof covering the rest of the structure. The Edgecombe County Historical Society plans to replace the shed roof in the near future.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The cotton press was constructed by Isaac Norfleet about 1840 on his plantation two-and-a-half miles southwest of Tarboro. Norfleet was a wealthy planter and politician. He was Justice of the Peace and in 1815 was appointed to codify the laws of North Carolina. The press was powered by mules and was originally used for pressing cider and wine. It was converted to baling cotton about 1860. Edgecombe County in 1860 was the largest cotton producer in North Carolina with an annual production of 15,000 bales.

The press was moved from the plantation to the Tarboro Town Common about 1938 by the Edgecombe County Historical Society and is one of the few remaining examples of the type of machinery used by Southern cotton growers in the nineteenth century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edgecombe County Records, Edgecombe County Courthouse, Tarboro, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Edgecombe County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Turner, J. Kelly and Jonathan L. Bridgers. History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1920.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	53'	53"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	32'	09"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John B. Wells, Survey Specialist; Sherry I. Penney, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: October 9, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Dr. H. G. Jones
Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date October 9, 1970

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 _____

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Edgecombe	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Waterman, Thomas T. and Francis Benjamin Johnston. Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

Cotton Press
Tarboro Town Common
Tarboro

Map of the Town of Tarboro
Town of Tarboro
Scale: 1" / 600'
July 26, 1967

Latitude		Longitude			
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35°	53'	53"	77°	32'	09"



