

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Rose Hill

Louisburg vicinity, Franklin County, FK0431, Listed 5/3/2006
Nomination by M. Ruth Little
Photographs by M. Ruth Little, August 2005 and January 2009



Front and side view, during rehabilitation



Side view, before rehabilitation

**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 Rose Hill

other names/site number Timberlake House

2. Location

street & number West side of US 401 Highway South, .25 mile north of SR 1110 not for publication N/A

city or town Louisburg vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county Franklin code 069 zip code 27549

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X 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 ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
___ other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Rose Hill
Name of Property

Franklin County, N. C.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling
Domestic secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in progress Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: transitional Georgian-Federal
Queen Anne
Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof tin
walls weatherboard

other brick
wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Rose Hill
Name of Property

Franklin County, N. C.
County and State

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.

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

ca. 1803-ca. 1910

Significant Dates

ca. 1803

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

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Rose Hill
Name of Property

Franklin County, N. C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 9 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 740300 3994900
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____
____ See continuation sheet.

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 M. Ruth Little

organization Longleaf Historic Resources date June 2005

street & number 2709 Bedford Avenue telephone 919.836.1885

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27607

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 Joe Webb and Sonja Bunn

street & number 10530 Cokesbury Lane telephone 919.841.9559

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27614

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N. C.

Section 7: Description

Rose Hill, prominently sited amid large trees on the west side of U.S. 401 one mile south of Louisburg, is a large, impressive two-story frame house that blends architectural features from several eras. The house faces east to the road. A wide driveway, edged near the house by a border of quarried granite blocks, leads to the main entrance. The house sits in the center of the nine-acre wooded tract. Although vines and other underbrush have grown up on the grounds in the past two decades, ornamental shrubs and bulbs are visible and indicate that a garden once surrounded the house.

Located to the sides and rear are a collection of eight outbuildings representative of life in rural Franklin County. Four outbuildings are antebellum: a smokehouse, a slave quarter, a wash house, and a kitchen. The smokehouse and wash house are in such deteriorated condition that they have lost integrity and are noncontributing. The quarter and kitchen are both small gabled buildings, built ca. 1840, that are in stable condition. A small frame playhouse and a hip-roofed frame generator house that shelters a well were built about 1910. A twentieth-century ruinous, gabled shed covered with metal siding is noncontributing and will be demolished. A noncontributing mobile home serves as a temporary caretaker's residence. (See sketch map.)

The house itself developed in several stages, revealed in various extensions and in the front porch treatment. The original main block, built ca. 1803, is transitional Georgian-Federal in character. The five-bay-wide, two-story, one-room-deep, side-gabled main block has handsome double-shoulder end chimneys of brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and narrow paved shoulders. The house rests on a high foundation of quarried stone, with at least one original wooden vent still in place. The exterior finish includes handsome molded weatherboards, narrow corner boards, three-part molded window frames with heavy well-molded sills, and nine-over-nine sash at the first level, with six-over-nine sash at the second level. The wide front door is framed by pilasters carrying an open pediment. At the second level is a single door with a molded surround and a four-light transom. The lower ell room, adjacent to the main block, appears to be original because it rests on the same high quarried granite block foundation as the main block. The north wall of the ell room, sheltered by the porch, has the same molded siding as the main block.

A second construction phase occurred about 1840. The rear ell was expanded with a second room on the first story and two rooms upstairs, with a central interior chimney. The ell addition has a random-laid granite foundation, with beaded siding that survives on the side protected by the enclosed porch. The date of construction is estimated based on the late Federal character of the interior finish.

A third construction phase occurred about 1880. A late nineteenth-century documentary photograph shows the house at this stage of its development. At this time the original two-story porch, the appearance of which is unknown, was replaced by a one-story Queen Anne-style verandah stretching across the full façade and the entire south elevation. Italianate-style posts with brackets support the porch roof. The porch railing consists of flat, sawnwork balusters. Also at this time, a porch with square wooden posts and a flat sawnwork railing was built along the north side of the ell and the roof of the main block was modified with the addition of a central

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 2
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N. C.**

cross-gable on the main façade and wide boxed eaves with ample returns. The sheathing of the earlier gables was changed to match the new gable with narrow flush boards placed vertically. The two-over-two sash windows on the south elevation of the house and on all elevations of the rear ell probably replaced the earlier sash windows at this time. The two-room kitchen addition at the rear of the ell also appears to date from this construction phase. It rests on high random-laid granite piers and has plain weatherboard and a mixture of two-over-two and small six-over-six sash windows.

The fourth construction phase occurred about 1910, when a monumental classical portico was added over the veranda, with paired fluted Doric columns rising to a pediment that extends outward from the center gable added in the late nineteenth century. A balcony with plain railing was added at the center second story level at this time. Surprisingly, the Neo-Classical Revival portico blends harmoniously to create an impressively "Southern" façade. Another change from this phase was the addition to the south side of the verandah of the large hipped canopy and stairs. The two-story bathroom wing, probably added at this time, contains a bathroom and another small room at both levels, wrapping around the northwest corner of the main block to abut the chimney.

The only significant later change occurred in the mid-twentieth century, when a low porch was added to the north side second story of the rear ell. The house has received no alterations since about 1950. In 2005 a tree fell on the front porch, destroying most of it. The porch is now being reconstructed using a combination of original and reproduction elements.

The interior of the ca. 1803 main block follows a center hall, one-room-deep plan, with two rooms flanking the hall on the first floor and two rooms flanking the hall on the second floor. The rear ell, built partially ca. 1803 and partially ca. 1840, contains two rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor. (See floor plans) The original room usage is conjectural. The two rooms on the first floor of the main block were probably parlors. The two upstairs rooms of the main block and the original ell room were presumably bedrooms. The second ell room was added about 1840 as the dining room, and the rear ell room was the kitchen. The second floor ell rooms were bedrooms.

The finish of the main block primarily reflects the original transitional Georgian-Federal era. Walls are plastered above a wainscot, which consists of raised panels in the hall, flat panels in the north parlor, and flush sheathing of two wide boards in the south parlor. Some original six-raised-panel doors survive. They are hung on HL hinges and are unusually wide. Photographs taken of the interior in the early 1970s show the original north parlor mantel, which has been stolen. This was an original transitional Georgian-Federal-style composition with a deeply molded cornice with a center block and end blocks that rested on a molded architrave around the fireplace. The rest of the doors and remaining mantels have a late Federal character. The three surviving mantels, located in the south room of the first floor, the dining room, and the rear ell bedroom on the second floor, are of simple late Federal style, with a single or double flat-paneled frieze and simple surround. Most of the doors in the main block and rear ell are four-flat-panel doors. All of the ceilings of the original house appear to have been plastered originally, but are now covered with beadboard sheathing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 3
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N. C.**

The primary ca. 1910 Neoclassical alteration to the interior of Rose Hill is the staircase in the center hall. It has large paneled newel posts, turned balusters, a heavy molded and ramped rail, and a landing at the rear of the hall. The stair wainscot and that of the upper hall is vertical beadboard. Dramatic decorative painting in the dining room and the upper hall probably also dates to ca. 1910. The dining room plaster, above a beadboard wainscot, is painted with bright yellow trompe-l'oeil panels with brightly-colored modillions at the cornice level. This room contains a ca. 1880 bay window extending onto the porch on the south side. On the interior, a window seat occupies the bay, and the ceiling has an arched opening. In the main block, the upper hall walls are painted a bright green, with a tall hand-painted cornice featuring a stylized floral design of Arts and Crafts character.

Rose Hill is structurally sound and retains an unusually high degree of architectural integrity. While the peeling paint and shredded wallpaper give it a deteriorated look, these are merely cosmetic conditions. Its original ca. 1803 main block and its ca. 1840, ca. 1880, and ca. 1910 alterations and additions each have their own architectural significance that reflect changing architectural needs and aesthetic taste. With the exception of a small mid-twentieth century porch on the upper rear ell, no alterations have been made to the house since about 1910. The house has lost most of its original mantels but retains other original decorative finish. The partial destruction of the nineteenth century verandah and ca. 1910 portico lessens the house's integrity, however these will be rebuilt using a combination of original and replacement materials. The slave quarter and wash house are structurally unsound, but the owners intend to stabilize these outbuildings. They are gradually clearing the overgrowth around the house and will replant the lawn, shrubs and trees that once beautified the property.

The eight outbuildings are listed below:

NC 1. Smokehouse. Ca. 1803. The square, side-gabled building with molded weatherboard and hand-made nails is ruinous. It has collapsed to the ground and will be demolished.

C 2. Slave Quarter. Ca. 1840. The rectangular, side-gabled building has beaded weatherboard and boxed cornices with molded patternboards. At one gable end is an exterior stone chimney. The interior has plastered walls with exposed, whitewashed ceiling joists. The building has suffered much structural damage but is basically stable. The owner plans to stabilize the damaged area and eventually to restore it.

NC 3. Wash House. Ca. 1840. The small side-gabled building has beaded weatherboard, two front doors, and was plastered on the interior. It is in nearly ruinous condition. The owners plan to stabilize it and eventually to restore it.

C 4. Kitchen. Ca. 1840. One-room, side-gabled kitchen with weatherboard, a front batten door, and a four-over-four sash window beside the door. The stone foundation of the north gable end chimney is partially in place, but the rest of the chimney has been removed. A small brick flue now rests atop the foundation rubble. The interior has horizontal sheathing and exposed ceiling joists. Shadow marks of a ladder-type stair to the loft area are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 4
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N. C.**

visible. This has the proportions of a detached kitchen, with a loft used for storage or as sleeping quarters.

C 5. Playhouse. Ca. 1910. Tiny side-gabled building with weatherboard siding, a front door, a decorative gable above the front door, and window openings on the side elevations.

C 6. Generator/Wellhouse. Ca. 1910. Hip-roofed frame building with weatherboard siding, four-over-four sash windows, a patterned tin roof, and exposed rafter tails. The building contained the electric generator. The roof, supported by one remaining chamfered wooden post, extends over the well. A low gabled brick well-house has been built over the well. Although one porch post has collapsed, causing the collapse of a portion of the porch roof, the remainder of the building is structurally sound.

NC-age. 7. Shed. Ca. 1930. One-story gabled frame shed, covered with metal siding. This is deteriorated and will be demolished.

NC-age 8. Mobile Home. Ca. 1980. Modern metal mobile home, used as living quarters for a caretaker.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N.C.

Section 8: Statement of Significance

Summary

Rose Hill, constructed about 1803 as the seat of a large plantation, is a major historic landmark on US 401 about one mile south of Louisburg, in Franklin County. The substantial two-story, five-bay frame house of transitional Georgian-Federal style with decorative Flemish bond chimneys is one of a group of large plantation houses of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century construction that have survived in Franklin County. Owner Lark Fox operated an over-1000-acre plantation at Rose Hill from ca. 1803 until about 1830, when merchant Richard Fenner Yarborough purchased the plantation. The Yarborough family owned Rose Hill until 1877, when Richard's son W. H. Yarborough sold it to Julius Poindexter Timberlake. About 1880 the Timberlakes remodeled the house with a decorative wraparound Victorian piazza and about 1910 they added a grand Neoclassical-style portico to the main façade and an equally impressive staircase in the center hall. The Timberlake family lived at and farmed Rose Hill until the late twentieth century. In the year 2001 the current owners purchased the nine-acre home tract. The property meets National Register Criterion C as one of Franklin County's architecturally significant early nineteenth-century plantation houses, with significant alterations from the late Federal, Victorian, and early twentieth-century eras. It has a complement of outbuildings that reflect its occupancy over nearly two hundred years. The period of significance extends from initial construction ca. 1803 through ca. 1910, when the Neoclassical-style portico and interior remodeling was carried out. In its expression of the various periods of construction, Rose Hill expresses the changing styles and phases of modernization of domestic life throughout the period.

Historic Background

Franklin County, located in east central North Carolina near the Virginia border, was settled in the mid-eighteenth century by families moving west from eastern North Carolina and south from Virginia. The land, with its bedrock of granite and gneiss, supported a few large plantations of more than 1000 acres, but most of the area plantations were smaller. By 1810 Franklin County was unusual in the piedmont of North Carolina for having a majority black population. Mixed agriculture, including the cash crops of tobacco and cotton, supported the county's farms.¹ In 1803 Samuel Jones of Franklin County sold to Lark Fox, also of the county, a 902-acre tract on the north side of Cedar Creek, bounded by the lands of James Perry, Richard Fenner, the Jeffreys family, and an unnamed road (probably the Raleigh Road, now known as US 401). Fox paid "nine hundred and two pounds Virginia money" to Jones for the property (DB 11, 250). Lark Fox named the plantation Rose Hill, and apparently built the current dwelling soon afterward.

By 1828 Fox had enlarged his plantation to 1,333 acres and had substantially improved the land. His property included corn and cotton crops, horses, sheep, hogs, and other kinds of stock, a cotton gin, blacksmith tools, ox

¹ Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 138.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

Rose Hill

Franklin County, N.C.

carts, and wagons. His furniture included an eight-day clock, and his vehicles included a "pleasure carriage." Unfortunately Fox had amassed burdensome debts, including \$10,000 to the State Bank of North Carolina and \$1,700 owed to Sarah Fenner, a guardian for the orphans of Richard Fenner. (Richard Fenner's property lay on the north side of Rose Hill.²) In 1828, he was forced to mortgage the Rose Hill plantation to William Harrison, whose land bordered Rose Hill on the south, and William Gholson of Brunswick, Virginia, through a trustee named William Arendell (DB 24, 96). The April 1830 term of the Superior Court of Equity of Franklin County decreed that Rose Hill be sold at public or private auction in order to pay a still-outstanding debt to the State Bank. Accordingly, Gholson and the heirs of Harrison (who died about 1829) sold Rose Hill, containing 1,333 acres, for \$5,750 to Richard Fenner Yarborough of Fayetteville in 1830 (DB 26, 117).

The new owner of Rose Hill, Richard Fenner Yarborough (1797-1851), was the son of Nathaniel and Mildred Fuller Yarborough of Franklin County. He had moved to Fayetteville in the 1820s and operated a mercantile establishment there. Advertisements for R. F. Yarborough & Co. Groceries ran in the *Fayetteville Observer* in the mid-1820s.³ Richard had married Agnes Brown about 1828, and the family, with first-born son James H., moved from Fayetteville back home to Franklin County, where they lived at Rose Hill in the first half of the 1830s.

In 1834 Richard and Agnes Yarborough purchased an entire block of land on North Main Street in Louisburg, and constructed a large house there. The Yarboroughs lived in Louisburg for the rest of their lives. In 1850 Richard was a fifty-three year old farmer with real estate valued at \$6,000. His wife Agnes, born in Virginia, was forty-two years old. In 1850, their six children James H., Mary, Richard F., John Brown, William Henry, and Fanny ranged in age from twenty-one to eight. William Henry Yarborough, the youngest son, was ten years old at this time. The neighborhood around the Yarborough residence included a number of professionals, artisans and tradesmen. N. B. Walker, silversmith, was head of an adjacent household. Philemon Hawking, hotelkeeper, lived nearby. Other neighbors were John Pace, shoemaker; merchant John Skinner; Abraham Spencer, a Connecticut-born mechanic; and physician William R. King.⁴ Richard's grocery store, R. F. Yarborough & Co., was located in Louisburg. Rose Hill is fixed in Yarborough family tradition as the first home of the R. F. Yarborough family before they moved to Louisburg.⁵ It is likely that the Yarboroughs operated the Rose Hill plantation as a tenant farm after moving into town.

At Richard Yarborough's death in 1851, his property was divided among his wife Agnes and the children. In 1860, the youngest son, W. H. Yarborough, was a twenty-year-old merchant with real estate valued at \$3,000 and personal estate at \$15,000. He lived with six other young men, all working as mechanics, in the household

² This information is contained in Franklin County deeds, DB 11, 250 and DB 26, 117.

³ Newspaper clippings, including Oct. 18, 1827, *The Fayetteville Observer*, in family papers of Charles Yarborough Jr., Louisburg, N.C.

⁴ 1850 Census, population schedule, Franklin County, N.C. (Perrys Mill District)

⁵ Charles Yarborough, Jr., Louisburg. Interview on May 18, 2005.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 7

Rose Hill

Franklin County, N.C.

of Fincend and Mary Gupton and their five children.⁶ In 1861, W. H. joined the Franklin Rifles regiment and went off to fight in the Civil War as a second lieutenant. At the end of the war, he fought at Appomattox, now a colonel in command of the 122 men left in the regiment. He had been wounded four times during the war.⁷ Nothing is known of his return to Franklin County following the end of the war. In 1877 W. H. Yarborough sold the home tract of Rose Hill Farm, containing 482 ½ acres, to Julius Poindexter Timberlake (DB 45, 200-201).

J. P. Timberlake made Rose Hill his home for the remainder of his life. The Timberlake family had lived in Franklin County since at least the early 1800s. Julius B. Timberlake, perhaps an ancestor, became the postmaster of the nearby village of Youngsville in 1848. The J. P. Timberlake Store was advertised in the *Youngsville Record* in 1900-1901. Timberlake apparently added the wraparound verandah to Rose Hill about 1880. He died intestate in 1901, and his son Julius P. Timberlake Jr. received the home tract containing the house and 467 acres, then valued at \$5,000.⁸

Julius P. Timberlake Jr. married Lucy Harris about 1901, and the couple lived in the house and farmed the land during their entire lives. In 1920, J. P. Timberlake Jr. was vice-president of the Merchants & Farmers Bank of Louisburg.⁹ He died in 1954, leaving the farm to Lucy. In 1958 she conveyed the 467-acre home tract to her son, Charles E. Timberlake (DB 537, 253). Lucy died in 1962.¹⁰ Charles died in 1963, leaving his property to his daughters Frances Ann Timberlake Kline and Martha Carol Timberlake. They conveyed the property to their mother, Frances Underhill Timberlake, who owned the property until 2000 (DB 734, 667-670). An old sign inscribed "Rose Hill Farm" survives in the possession of the Timberlake family. In 2001 Joe Webb and Sonja Bunn purchased the house with nine acres. They are currently in the process of restoring the house and outbuildings.

Architecture Context

Rose Hill is featured in the *Early Architecture of Franklin County*, published in 1977, as the Perry-Timberlake House. It is said to be one of a series of large, impressive houses connected with the Perry family. However, no connection with the Perry family, owners of Cascine plantation located on the south side of Cedar Creek, was documented during research for this nomination. It is likely that members of the original family, the Foxes, or the second owners, the Yarboroughs, may have intermarried with the Perrys, yet no record of Perry ownership was found.

The earliest surviving plantation houses in Franklin County were one-and-one-half story houses with hall-and-parlor plans. The gambrel-roofed Shemuel Kearney House, ca. 1760, is the oldest known house in the county. A

⁶ 1860 Census, population schedule, Franklin County, N.C.

⁷ Grantee and grantor indexes for Franklin County real estate, early 1800s; T. H. Pearce, *Franklin County 1779-1979*, 63, 67.

⁸ Franklin County DB 135, 3-28.

⁹ Pearce, *Franklin County 1779-1979*, 53, 115, 156.

¹⁰ Franklin County DB 537, 253

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 8
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N.C.

significant group of late Georgian houses built from ca. 1790 to 1810 for the increasing number of wealthy planters stand in Franklin County. These are generally two stories tall and three bays wide. A group of such houses were built around Louisburg, and several of these have survived. The two-story, three-bay-wide Andrews-Moore House, built in the 1790s, has an unusual three-room plan with central enclosed stair. The double-shouldered chimneys have decorative, all-glazed header bricks in the Flemish bond brickwork. Locust Grove, on U.S. 401 in the Louisburg vicinity, was built about 1800. It is two-stories, five-bays-wide, with a hall-parlor plan and a stair in the rear ell. It has three Flemish-bond brick chimneys and austere late Georgian decorative trim. The finest Georgian-style house in Franklin County is the Patty Person Taylor House, a two-story, five-bay-wide side-gable house with Flemish bond chimneys built in the late 1700s. Its stylish Georgian interiors include mantels with crosstetted surrounds, six-panel doors, and an original staircase with a turned balustrade.¹¹

Rose Hill is one of the larger houses in the late Georgian group. Its most significant features are the large central stair hall with flanking parlors and an original rear ell that was enlarged in several stages. Its original fabric consists of the main block, on its high quarried stone foundation, with handsome Flemish bond chimneys, as well as some decorative trim including three-part molded surrounds, six-panel doors, and a number of original small-paned sash windows. It is one of the earliest examples of the formal center-hall plan in Franklin County, which would become the dominant plan by the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Because of the extent of later changes to Rose Hill, its architectural significance lies more in the evolution of its form and style from ca. 1803 to ca. 1910 rather than in its initial Georgian-era construction. Historian T. H. Pearce presents a number of plantation houses in the county which he calls "combination type" houses because they exhibit elements of Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian, and Neoclassical styles of architecture.¹² Such houses include Cypress Hall, the Jacobina Milner House, and the Williams-Allen House. Rear ells were the most common form of additions to antebellum houses in Franklin County. The ca. 1840 late Federal-style enlargement of the rear ell of Rose Hill added an additional room on the first floor, probably a dining room, and two additional bedrooms upstairs. The ell has architectural significance for its workmanlike decorative mantels of two-flat panels, four-panel doors, and molded surrounds. At the Jacobina Milner House, the original Georgian-era house received a large two-story addition that became the main block, leaving the original house to function as a rear ell.¹³

The ca. 1880 remodeling of Rose Hill replaced the original two-story porch, which was probably not a full-width porch, with a spacious Queen Anne-style piazza that wraps around the front and south side. The piazza with its decorative sawnwork brackets and railing gave the old house an up-to-date architectural fashion, as well as reflected the new popularity of leisure time spent on the verandah. The addition of a bay window that projects from the dining room onto the verandah also expresses the Victorian love of the window view to the outdoors.

¹¹ Pearce, *The Early Architecture of Franklin County*. The houses mentioned in this paragraph are discussed in this publication.

¹² Pearce, *The Early Architecture of Franklin County*, 108.

¹³ Pearce, *The Early Architecture of Franklin County*, 108.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 9
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N.C.

To replace the old detached kitchen, this remodeling added two kitchen rooms to the ell. The incorporation of the kitchen into the main block of the house reflects the national modernization of domestic life as well as the postbellum reality of life on a plantation without slaves. The Milner House in Louisburg received a replacement porch during the late 1800s.¹⁴ The two-story, four-bay-wide front porch has ornate sawnwork brackets and a railing of similar stylishness to the Rose Hill verandah.

The final stage of Rose Hill's architecture is the Neoclassical Revival-style remodeling that occurred about 1910. Like the late 1800s remodeling, this phase brought the façade of the house stylistically up to date and created a more comfortable interior. An entrance portico with full-height fluted columns and an upstairs balcony was constructed over the Queen Anne piazza. The original stair, of unknown appearance, was replaced with a finely-crafted stair with two landings and a curved balustrade in the upper hall. Bathrooms were added at both levels of the main block. About the same time that Rose Hill was given its new Neoclassical look, the Williams-Allen House in Louisburg was transformed. The mid-nineteenth-century, two-story, double-pile house of Greek Revival style was completely rebuilt into a Neoclassical Revival-style house with a high hip roof, a grand Ionic pedimented portico, and a staircase that is said to be the most spectacular in the county.¹⁵ A less ostentatious remodeling of this era is found at Cypress Hall plantation house, a two-story double-pile center-hall plan dwelling built about 1830, which received a replacement full-width one-story classical porch.¹⁶

The slave quarter, kitchen, playhouse, and generator/well house are contributing outbuildings, since they were constructed during the period of significance for Rose Hill. The ca. 1840 quarter and kitchen and ca. 1910 playhouse and generator/well house are typical of the types of outbuildings found on Franklin County's plantations and farms. Plantations in the county were complex operations which had a variety of domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Today, however, it is uncommon to find even individual outbuildings that survive, much less a group. Therefore the ensemble of outbuildings at Rose Hill has strong architectural significance for their rarity.

¹⁴ Pearce, *The Early Architecture of Franklin County*, 108.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 69-70.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 9 Page 10
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N.C.**

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 10 Page 11
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N. C.**

Section 10: Boundaries

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated tract of approximately 9 acres is shown on Franklin County GIS Map, Pin # 1894-75-7507. The parcel is No. 1738.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries constitute the home tract currently associated with Rose Hill.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 12
Rose Hill
Franklin County, N. C.

Photographs:

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: M. Ruth Little

Date: February and August 2005

Location of Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

- A. Front view from east
- B. Overall view from northeast
- C. Side view from south
- D. Rear view from west
- E. Interior stair hall
- F. View from south parlor into stair hall
- G. View of upstairs stair hall
- H. View of kitchen and playhouse from east. (Log outbuilding in center has been demolished)
- I. View of well house and shed from northwest
- J. View of washhouse and slave quarter from northeast
- K. View of kitchen from northeast