NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC Dr. Beverly Jones House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER NW corner of jct. of SR 1794 with SR 1611

CITY, TOWN Bethania
STATE North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CITY, TOWN
STATE

CITY, TOWN
STATE

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT X
BUILDINGS)
STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

STATUS OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dove

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 30

CITY, TOWN Bethania
STATE

VICINITY OF North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Forsyth County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Winston-Salem
STATE North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
The Dr. Beverly Jones House is an imposing, well-preserved Classical Revival plantation house built 1846-1847, which crowns a bluff above Muddy Creek on the outskirts of Bethania, an eighteenth century Moravian village. The two-story brick house is surrounded by beautifully landscaped lawns and has a nearly complete collection of contemporary outbuildings, including a kitchen, smokehouse and three slave houses. These last are of log construction, one a single-pen structure, the others joined to form a two-pen structure. The log barn from the plantation was moved nearby to Old Salem and has been restored as part of the exhibit area.

The house is three bays wide and two deep with a rear two-story wing. A half basement occurs beneath the west half. Of brick laid in one-to-four common bond with Flemish variation, the house has a gable roof covered with tin. Five interior end brick chimneys rise through the roof. The entrance, in the center bay of the main (south) facade, contains a double door, each leaf with three flat panels, with a four light transom, and flanking Doric colonnettes supporting a pediment. The window openings on the facade contain six-over-six sash within an unadorned surround with corner blocks. Two-panel raise paneled shutters occur on the first floor windows and on the central window at the second level. Between the first and second story window in each end bay of the main facade is a recessed stuccoed panel. The windows on the side and rear elevations are identical except that the rear elevation lacks stuccoed panels and some shutters are missing. Each gable end contains a central attic window. The rear wall of the wing contains no openings. In the foundation are basement grilles with horizontal bars square-in-section set diagonally. The center bay rear entrance is identical to the front entrance except that it has a corner block surround like the windows. The northwest rear bay at the first level originally contained a window, and now contains a door. In the west side of the rear wing is a single door of four flat panels in a corner block surround. Across the rear elevation and the west elevation of the rear wing is a two-story shed porch formed by the extension of the roof. The rafters are exposed, and the roof extends to cover the rafter ends. The interior is nearly unaltered, and features a center hall plan two rooms deep at both levels. The original plasterwork, woodwork, mantels, and hardware are intact.

The most ornate room in the house, the southwest first floor room, is trimmed with symmetrically molded surrounds featuring flat paneled corner blocks. The mantel, surrounding a rectangular fireplace opening with a marble facing and a brick hearth, has a symmetrical architrave with plain corner blocks, above which rises a short run of the same symmetrical molding. A plain frieze spans the space in between and the mantel is capped with a boldly molded cornice and heavy blocky shelf. The lovely molded plaster ceiling cornice contains sheaf of wheat motifs with acanthus bosses as corner accents.

The northwest rooms, center hall, southeast, and the wing room of the first floor have strip-paneled surrounds with plain corner blocks, and simpler mantels with pilasters flanking a fire opening topped by a plain frieze and shelf. The northwest room fireplace has a marble surround and a brick hearth; the two east side fireplaces have slate surrounds and hearths. The two rear rooms feature built-in cupboards with double doors, each with four flat panels between the chimney and the
center partition walls. The fireplace of the wing room has been rebuilt and its mantel, similar to the others, is now in the rear outbuilding. East of the chimney is a built-in cupboard like the others. The doors, front and rear, the exterior wing door, and all interior doors opening from the hall at both floors contain large iron locks with brass knobs and seals inscribed "A. Carpenter, patentee". The doors between the side rooms at both floors contain smaller rim locks of several makes: some contain the inscription "J. M. Provee-rim lock No. 80", others: "No. 60-Improved Lock". Some of the latch keepers have ornate brass applied ornament. All of the doors between rooms have five flat panels, two vertical ones with a horizontal one in between.

The stair, which rises in a single flight against the west hall wall, has an open, plain string, a polygonal, tapering newel, rectangular balusters and a shaped handrail which neither ramps nor eases. The space beneath the stair, originally enclosed as a closet, now contains a stair to the basement, reached through the original closet door of four flat panels. The stair reveal is flat-paneled and employs flat broad Greek Revival moldings like those used on the doors.

The only significant interior alteration is the partitioning of the northeast second floor room into three small baths and dressing rooms.

The second floor contains simple molded surrounds and plain corner blocks in each room except the rear wing room, which has plain surrounds and corner blocks. The mantels are similar to the secondary first floor mantels with the exception of the rear wing mantel, whose shelf is supported by simple brackets. The west side fireplaces and the southeast fireplace have marble surrounds and brick hearths. The northeast fireplace is concealed and the wing fireplace has a slate surround and brick hearth. In the hall above the first-floor stair, a smaller stair rises in a single flight to the unfinished attic. The closed string stair has a similar railing to the main stair, and beneath it, enclosed within a vertically sheathed wall, is a closet with a four panel flat paneled door. At the head of the stair is a door with two vertical flat panels which opens to the attic.

The basement, only roughly finished, beneath the center hall and west side of the house, is divided exactly like the first floor, with batten doors hung on strap hinges between rooms. The brick walls are left uncovered and the ceiling joists are exposed. The original basement entrance is through a gabled wooden bulkhead in the center west side bay.
PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. Beverly Jones House, a two-story brick house with a full complement of outbuildings, is one of two known documented surviving examples in the state of the work of Virginia-born architect-builder Dabney Cosby. Cosby (1779-1862) was responsible for several important Virginia buildings and a good number in North Carolina, most of the latter of which have been destroyed. His 1846-1847 correspondence with Dr. Beverly Jones, prominent local physician, concerning the construction of the house has been preserved.

The Beverly Jones house was completed around 1847 in what was then Stokes, and is now Forsyth County. Beverly Jones was born in 1811 in Martinsville, Virginia, the son of Gabriel Jones and Mary Bryant Jones. It is not certain when he moved to North Carolina. However, family records show that he was a practicing physician in the Stokes County area as early as 1838. In 1843 he married Julia Conrad, the only daughter of Abraham Conrad and Phillipina Lash Hauser Conrad.

In 1846 Jones contracted Dabney Cosby to build a house. The spot chosen for the house was about one mile north of Bethania, a small village founded by Moravians in 1759. The Beverly Jones house was built on land owned by his wife's father, Abraham Conrad.

Dabney Cosby (1779-1862) was born in Virginia, lived in Prince Edward County, Virginia, and moved to North Carolina in the 1840s. In Virginia he built a number of courthouses and plantation houses in the Federal and Classical Revival styles and is credited with several buildings at Hampden-Sydney and Farmville. He worked under Thomas Jefferson in the construction of the University of Virginia. His first documented North Carolina work was a house in Raleigh for the Mordecai family. From 1845 to 1847 he worked under A. J. Davis as masonry contractor for the remodeling and expansion of Old East and Old West at the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. In Raleigh Cosby built, with his sons, the North Carolina Deaf and Dumb Institute, and in 1850 the mammoth Yarborough Hotel on Fayetteville Street. Many of his Virginia buildings survive, but most of his North Carolina work has been destroyed, except for the Chapel Hill project and Dr. Beverly Jones's house.

Cosby's correspondence with Jones in 1846 and 1847 reveals that he placed a high priority on Jones's house. In one letter he asks Jones to publicize himself: "I wish you would publish to the world who you are... and if any (and there will be some in the spring) come that way they will be coming to see, why it is you got me to come that distance to work." Cosby--by then in his late 60s--employed a force of
plasterers, carpenters, bricklayers, and was quite particular as to the quality of materials he used. Nonetheless, he was willing to allow the Jones family to make decisions about the building:

The kitchen, I hope, Mrs. Jones will be permitted to build that without any interference from father, mother, or you. If she has many wrong notions I will put them right. You have done enough on the house — let us alone for the balance, if she wants a little over she can have it in or out of the kitchen.

A letter from Cosby to Jones dated October 8, 1847, asks if Jones is "ready to go into your house or not", implying that the house was completed in the latter part of 1847. Phillipina Conrad had died on August 3, 1847. Therefore, Beverly and Julia Jones moved into the new house with their children, sons Abraham and James, and Abraham Conrad. The 1850 census lists the value of the farm, still owned by Conrad, as $3000, with 120 improved acres, and 380 unimproved acres. Produce included potatoes, butter, flax, flaxseed, live-stock, wheat, oak, and corn. Abraham Conrad is credited with owning 21 slaves. Also living at the house was John Krammer, a white laborer. The land stayed in the possession of Conrad until 1864, when he deeded approximately 1200 acres to Jones, including "the dwelling house . . . /in/ which the said Beverly Jones, his wife Julia A. Jones, and the said Abraham Conrad now reside."11

Nearly seventy years after the close of the Civil War, an obituary published in the Winston-Salem Journal for Abraham Gabriel Jones, eldest son of Beverly and Julia Jones, describes in idyllic terms the ante-bellum life style of the plantation:

There he /Abraham Jones/ spent his boyhood with his brothers and sisters, growing up amid the activities of an ante-bellum plantation. . . . /He/ and his brothers and sisters were tutored at the plantation home and attended the village school. Boyhood days were spent roving over the plantation, at the grist mill, the saw-mill, the blacksmith shop, the shoemaker shop, dyeing, spinning and weaving cotton and woolens, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding with his brothers and sisters or with the slave boys.12

Abraham Jones enlisted in the Confederate Army on September 4, 1862, two days shy of his eighteenth birthday. He was captured in Carteret County, on May 4, 1863, paroled May 28, 1863, promoted to sergeant August 20, 1863, and wounded in northern Virginia in April of 1865, just prior to Lee's surrender. He returned to the plantation, hired help, and restored the farm to such an extent that he was able to attend school at the University of Virginia, and the University of New York, graduating from the latter as a physician in 1868.13 The 1870 census found Abraham and his father both practicing physicians on a farm producing 1000 bushels of corn, plus
healthy quantities of potatoes, dairy products, and molasses. At this time, the Jones farm consisted of 500 acres of improved land, and 1000 acres of woodland.14

Beverly Jones was progenitor of a long line of important Forsyth County professionals. His eldest son Abraham married Nannie Dalton in 1876 and settled in Walnut Cove, where he was a practicing physician and druggist until his death in 1934.15 James B. Jones became a minister of the Disciples of Christ. Alexander Jones died in 1865 of illness. Robert H. Jones became a Forsyth County dentist. Erastus B. Jones was a Winston-Salem lawyer. He was elected Superior Court judge in 1903 and served in that capacity until 1909. Virginia Jones, the eldest daughter, married into the Sullivan family, while the other three daughters, Ella, Julia, and Catherine, remained unmarried and lived at home. The youngest of the ten children, Lucien, also remained at home, and helped run the farm.16 Abraham Jones named his eldest son after his father, and Beverly Nicholas Jones became a Winston-Salem surgeon. Abraham Jones' other sons were Robert Rives Jones, who became a Winston-Salem physician, and Abraham Dalton Jones, who became editor of the Greensboro Record.17

Beverly Jones died on November 2, 1902, after an illness of several weeks. The Winston-Salem Journal eulogized him as "one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of this county," and pointed out that the 91-year old doctor had been a practicing physician up until three months of his death.18 Julia Jones died May 1, 1913. The estate was divided into nine tracts of land, ranging between 120 and 150 acres, with the nine heirs all receiving a one-ninth interest in the home place. The house passed out of the Jones family in 1956 when it was sold to Dale Hoagland. The current owners are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dove.19
FOOTNOTES

1 Forsyth County was formed from Stokes County in 1848.

2 Genealogical material found in Introduction to Jones Family Papers, Southern Historic Collection, University of North Carolina, hereinafter cited as Introduction, Jones Papers; Account Book of Beverly Jones, Jones Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Repository hereinafter cited as Southern Historical Collection.


4 Burlingame's Biographical Dictionary of North Carolina.

5 Dabney Cosby to Beverly Jones, January 30, 1847, Jones Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

6 Dabney Cosby to Beverly Jones, January 30, 1847, February 17, 1847, Jones Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

7 Dabney Cosby to Beverly Jones, January 30, 1847, Jones Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

8 Dabney Cosby to Beverly Jones, October 8, 1847, Jones Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

9 Introduction to Jones Papers.


11 Forsyth County Deeds, Book 119, p. 482.


17 Winston-Salem Journal, January 16, 1934.

18 Winston-Salem Journal, November 4, 1902.

19 Winston-Salem Journal, May 2, 1913.

20 Forsyth County Deeds, Book 97, pp. 181-204; Book 737, p. 234.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Forsyth County Deed Books. Microfilm Copy. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres (present tract owned by Doves)

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE July 14, 1977

FOH NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER


University of North Carolina—Southern Historical Collection. Jones Family Papers.

Dr. Beverly Jones House
Forsyth County
Bethania, North Carolina

UTM References
17/559640/4005410