

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Roberts Justice House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 133 North Main Street

not for publication N/A

city, town Kernersville

vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code N.C. county Forsyth

code 067 zip code 27584

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historical and Architectural Resources in
Kernersville, N. C.

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Fair, Jr.
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer

12-18-87
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate
Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls brick
roof metal
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Roberts-Justice House is situated in the 100 block of North Main Street in Kernersville. The lot on which it sits once stretched through the block to Cherry Street to the rear, but early in the 20th century the rear portion was sold (see R. C. Morris House, #6, North Cherry Street Historic District). The L-shaped house was built in 1877 of common-bond brick. Bays all have decorative lintels and sills of stone. There is an original one-story kitchen ell, with latticed porch to the rear.

Prior to its remodeling, ca. 1916, the house was similar to other T- and L-plan houses of the 1870s in Kernersville. The style, plan and massing were very popular in Kernersville in the 1870s, as discussed in Context II, Industrial and Commercial "Boom" Period, Property Type A, Brick Italianate Residences of the "Boom" Period, of the Multiple Property Format cover.

The original plan of the house was L-plan, with two smaller rooms to the south, and a larger room to the north of a center hall. An interior chimney served the two southern rooms and an exterior chimney served the north room. The porch ran along the leg of the L, the north room.

In 1909 the house was purchased by J. T. Justice, a physician who cared for Mr. Roberts in his last years, and some time after moving into the house Dr. Justice remodeled it. According to family tradition this occurred before 1916, and stylistically, this date is appropriate.

The roof was changed from side gable to hip with a side gabled section and smaller off-center main and side facade gables. The gable ends were stuccoed with colored glass chips embedded in them, and contain round ventilators. A two-story rear ell was added to accommodate a dining room on the first floor and a bedroom on the second, converting the plan to a center hall with two rooms on either side. A latticed porch flanks the two-story ell. The front porch was replaced and a portecochere was added to the north end. The porch roof is flat, with a balustrade, and is accessible from a second-floor door over the central entry. Bays are flat arched with stone lintels; windows are one-over-one sash. The central entry contains a wood door with nearly full-length oval light. The side-lights are leaded bevelled glass; the transom contains three bevelled and stained glass lights.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Although the original plan of the house was retained, interior trim was replaced with Colonial Revival details. The original interior trim was probably late Greek Revival, with simple post and lintel mantels, and molded door and window surrounds. This trim is found in the three other surviving examples of this Italianate dwelling. The stairs still rise against the south wall of the house, with a landing lit by a stained glass window across the rear wall, and a short flight along the north wall. The interior trim is heavy mahogany against white plaster over the brick walls which are 18 inches thick.

The south front parlor has a delicate delicate Colonial Revival mantel with an overmantel and spindle work. The north parlor has a simpler Colonial Revival mantel without an overmantel.

Beyond the front parlors are a (bed) room to the south and a dining room to the north. The rear southern room has a mantel similar to that in the north front parlor. The dining room mantel is more ornate with mirrored overmantel, and is reached through paired French doors. The kitchen, which was remodeled in the twentieth century, is accessible only through the dining room, while all other first floor rooms also open onto the stairhall.

The second floor also follows a center-hall, two-room-deep plan, with a doorway leading onto the porch balcony at the east end of the hall. The rooms on the second floor are finished with plaster and early twentieth century woodwork, including more modest Colonial Revival mantels with shelves and pilasters. The rear room on the north side was altered to accommodate a bathroom against the hall wall.

In the rear yard are a frame two-bay garage with German siding, and a shed roof. The garage is contemporary with the ca. 1916 remodeling of the house, and is a contributing resource. Just south of the garage is a block storage building, which appears to date from the mid-twentieth century and which is a non-contributing resource.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1877 - ca. 1916

1877
1916

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Roberts-Justice House, 141 North Main Street, Kernersville, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, because it is one of a group of four 1870s two-story brick Italianate houses in Kernersville (Context II, Commercial "Boom" Period, 1873-1900; Property Type B, Brick Italianate Residences) and for its intact ca. 1916 Colonial Revival interiors, which are comparable in style, execution, and date, to the George Virgil Fulp House in the North Cherry Street historic district. The Roberts-Justice House is a beautifully maintained example of the L-plan brick house as seen in Kernersville, with a ca. 1916 Colonial Revival interior. The house retains its mahogany first floor trim, hall arch and stair. The woodwork is similar to that in the George Virgil Fulp House (#2, North Cherry Street Historic District) and is some of the finest surviving in the town of Kernersville. The Colonial Revival style was one of the most popular building modes in the early twentieth century (Context III: Maturation and Diversification, 1900-1930 and Property Type A. Early Twentieth Century Dwellings).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

The Roberts-Justice House was built about 1877 for Calvin Roberts who moved to Kernersville about 1870. from the Oak Ridge section of Guilford County. In Kernersville Roberts and James W. Beard, operating as Beard and Roberts Store, were dealers in general merchandise and country produce, specializing in buying and selling dried fruits and berries. (1). In 1880 Roberts and Beard entered another business venture as Beard and Roberts Tobacco Company, manufacturers of plug tobacco. (2)

In 1903 Robert's wife, Carrie Connell Roberts, died, leaving Mr. Roberts, who was not well, to take care of himself. (3) About that time Dr. J. T. Justice and his wife and young son, moved to Kernersville. Dr. Justice moved his family into Mr. Roberts' house on November 22, 1906, in order to care for the invalid Mr. Roberts. The Justices lived with Mr. Roberts until his death in 1909, at which time Dr. Justice was able to purchase the house from the Roberts estate for the sum of \$1533. (4)

Between his acquisition of the house in 1909 and 1916, according to family tradition, Dr. Justice remodeled the house to its present appearance, both inside and out. (5) The house reflects its 1877 form and construction methods, with updated embellishments which include stucco and colored glass gable end sheathing, a hip roof, remodeled and elongated porch with porte cochere, dark mahogany woodwork, and a selection of Colonial Revival mantels. Virtually the only alterations since ca. 1916 have been the remodeling of the kitchen and the division of the rear northern bathroom into a bath and small storage room.

Dr. Justice was active in the civic and business communities in Kernersville. He served as a town commissioner for seventeen years, and was on the school board for several years as well. He was one of the organizers of the Kernersville Loan Company, helped organize Vance Knitting Company and was president of Acme Lumber Company. (6)

Dr. Justice continued to live in the house until his death in 1939, when his elder son, J. T. Justice, Jr., and his wife, inherited the property. The rear portion of the lot, which originally stretched a full block to North Cherry Street in the rear, was sold about 1925. J. T. Justice, Jr., had spent two years in medical school, but returned to Kernersville in 1934. He opened a theater, called the Pick Fair until the 1940s when the name was changed to the Justice Theater, which he operated until he retired in 1967. This was the first, and only, theater in Kernersville for many years, and was the main source of entertainment for years. (7) A photographer came to Kernersville every few weeks and took movies of the town, including children from the school, the workers leaving mills and factories, local parades and people leaving the theater. These movies were shown at the theater the following week. These movies are in good condition, and have been shown to the citizens of Kernersville on occasion. (8) The theater was demolished in recent years for a parking lot.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

J. T. Justice left the house to his wife when he died in 1971. Mrs. Justice continues to live in and maintain the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Census of the United States, Forsyth County, North Carolina, 1880.
- 2 Bicentennial Committee. Kernersville, North Carolina, Bicentennial. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1971, revised 1976, p. 74; hereinafter cited as Bicentennial.
- 3 Interview with Mrs. J. T. Justice, Jr., February 28, 1987, Kernersville, N. C., notes on file in Survey and Planning Branch; hereinafter cited as Justice interview.
- 4 Deed of Sale, in possession of Mrs. J. T. Justice, Jr., Kernersville, N. C.
- 5 Justice interview.
- 6 Bicentennial, p. 82.
- 7 Justice interview.
- 8. Pickford Theater file, Forsyth County, Survey and Planning Branch.

Bicentennial Committee. Kernersville, North Carolina, Bicentennial. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1971, revised 1976.

Interview with Mrs. J. T. Justice, Jr., February 28, 1987, in Kernersville, N. C., notes on file with Survey and Planning Branch.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	7
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5	8	3	4	2	0
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3	9	9	7	5	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated is the lot on which the house was built. See tax map with property outlined in red, Block 2101, Lot 18.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property being nominated is the lot on which the house was built, and is what remains of the original lot associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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organization Consultant, Survey and Planning Branch date October 1987
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