### National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form

1. **Name**
   - Melrose

2. **Location**
   - **Street and Number:**
     - 109 East Broad Street
   - **City or Town:**
     - Durham
   - **State:**
     - North Carolina
     - **Code:** 37

3. **Classification**
   - **Category:**
     - District
     - Building
     - Site
     - Structure
   - **Ownership:**
     - Public
     - Private
     - Both
   - **Status:**
     - Occupied
     - Unoccupied
     - Preservation work in progress
   - **Accessible to the Public:**
     - Yes
     - Restricted
     - Unrestricted
     - No
   - **Present Use:**
     - Agricultural
     - Commercial
     - Educational
     - Government
     - Industrial
     - Military
     - Private Residence
     - Religious
     - Other (Specify)
     - Transportation
     - Comments

4. **Owner of Property**
   - **Owner's Name:**
     - Richard T. Yeon
   - **Street and Number:**
     - 109 East Broad Street
   - **City or Town:**
     - Durham
   - **State:** North Carolina
     - **Code:** 37

5. **Location of Legal Description**
   - **Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, Etc.:**
     - Hertford County Courthouse
   - **Street and Number:**
     - North Carolina
     - **Code:** 37

6. **Representation in Existing Surveys**
   - **Title of Survey:**
   - **Date of Survey:**
   - **Federal:**
   - **State:**
   - **County:**
   - **Local**
   - **Depository for Survey Records:**
   - **Street and Number:**
   - **City or Town:**
   - **State:**
     - North Carolina
     - **Code:** 37
Melrose was originally a two-story gable-roof, brick structure with interior end chimneys and a modillion cornice. It was constructed with its main entrance on the five-bay east facade. Early in the Greek Revival period a pair of brick two story, two-bay wings were added to the south ends of the east and west facades. This shifted the axis from east-west to north-south and made the house essentially T-shaped.

The present main (south) facade is seven bays wide. The central block on both the first and second floors contains two windows separated by a double door with a leaded lunette and sidelights. The upper entrance opens on a semi-circular balcony with plain square balusters. The facade is dominated by a heroic tetrastyle portico supported by columns of the Ionic order; it is not pedimented. The Greek Revival wings form the remainder of the main facade with each containing two windows separated by brick pilasters. The windows have six-over-nine sash on the first story and six-over-six on the second. Those on the first level have stone lintels with keystones. The portico and wings are surmounted by a balustrade with turned balusters. The rear of the house has undergone extensive alteration in recent years. The brick in the north gable has been reworked and two brick additions have been constructed in the last decade.

The south room of the oldest section serves as an entrance hall and is finished with plaster walls above a paneled wainscot. A two-flight stair with ornamental brackets and turned balusters rises from the west wall. The north room is finished in similar fashion but with slightly different moldings around the doors and on the chair rail. This room contains a simple Adam mantel decorated with attenuated colonettes and geometric fretwork. The south room is flanked by parlors to the east and west. These rooms have mantels and doors typical of the Greek Revival period. The windows are framed by reeded trim with heavy corner blocks decorated with roundels.
Melrose was begun probably in the first decade of the nineteenth century by William Hardy Murfree. Murfree was a prominent businessman and member of the State Legislature. His father, Hardy Murfree, founded the town of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. About 1813 Murfree sold the property to Brigadier General Joseph F. Dickinson, who commanded the American Forces at Norfolk in the War of 1812. Dickinson built several additions to the house and resided there until his death in 1822. His will left the land "on which I now reside" to his wife Peggy. Several years later Peggy married Dr. Isaac Pipkin, a wealthy local physician, who sold the property to John W. Southall on August 20, 1842. In 1874, after Southall's death, his widow sold the house to James M. Wynn. The house was bought by its present owner, Richard Vann, from a descendant of Wynn, in 1964.

The house is of historical interest as the home of several prominent state and national political and military figures. The Murfree family in particular, was one of the South's most important early pioneer families. Melrose is also one of the most architectonic buildings in Hertford County and is an important visual aspect of the Murfreesboro Historic District.
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: H. G. Jones
Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History
Date: December 18, 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