

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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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 Deane House

and/or common Pritchard Farm

2. Location

street & number S side SR 1446 .8 mile W of jct. with NC 45 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Cofield  vicinity of congressional district 1

state North Carolina code 37 county Hertford code 091

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Ralph Basnight

street & number 905 South Street

city, town Ahoskie \_\_\_ vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hertford County Courthouse

street & number King Street

city, town Winton state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one		Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Deane House stands well back from the south side of North Carolina secondary road 1449 at the end of an unpaved farm lane. A small tree-shaded yard surrounds the house, while cultivated farmland borders the yard on three sides with a wood to the rear of the house. The house is located in an agricultural community near the village of Cofield.

A small board-and-batten outbuilding stands to the rear of the house as does a large gable-roof outbuilding which probably dates from the mid-nineteenth century; this structure has received several shed additions. To the west of the house stand three gable-roof barns dating from the first decade of the present century. Between the house and the barn complex is a rectangular well-house of lattice-work construction, with a curved roof and an arched opening on every side. According to the present tenants of the house, this structure originally covered a grave in the small graveyard to the rear of the house, and in recent years was moved up to shelter the well.

The Deane House is a Georgian period two-story, five-bay structure with a shed porch across the front, and a rear ell. At first glance, the fenestration appears to be symmetrical, but the doorway is slightly offset to the east to allow for the placement of the interior staircase. A simple box cornice trimmed with scrolled pattern boards runs across the front of the house. Nine-over-nine sash appears on the first floor and nine-over-six on the second; all openings are trimmed with a two-part architrave molding. Beaded siding survives at several places on the exterior. The roofline of the shed porch appears to be original, but the square post supports are replacements; two tapered sawn posts on a rear porch may be the survivors of the originals. A stepped double-shoulder chimney of common bond construction appears at each end of the house and looks to be a nineteenth-century replacement. Originally, the east room of the house rested on a basement or root cellar of English bond brickwork with large vents with wooden slate, while the rest of the house was supported by brick piers; the house has received a common bond brick foundation but the English bond foundation survives behind the newer work.

The rear of the house has received numerous changes. Originally, it appears that a shed porch ran across the rear of the house with a small one-bay shed room at the east end. Early in the nineteenth century, a large gable-roof room was added to the west end of the porch. In the latter part of the century a room was added above this addition, with access from the stair landing in the main part of the house. Even later, a small kitchen with a porch was added behind this west room. In the late 1950s the present owner of the house removed the second-floor addition and the original shed room, which featured raised-panel wainscoting. A bathroom was installed in place of the shed room, and the porch between the bath and west room was enclosed with windows.

Entrance to the house is through a pair of narrow raised six-panel doors into a wide hall trimmed with raised-panel wainscoting and flanked on either side by a large room. The chief glory of the house is the Georgian dog-leg staircase which rises to the rear of the hall against the west wall before returning. The side of the first run of steps and the undersides of the two ramps are finished with handsome raised paneling. The underside of the second landing, immediately above the rear door, features a treatment of four triangular panels, while the paneling of the large ramp centers on a large diamond-shaped panel surrounded by smaller triangular and rectangular panels. The stair is further trimmed with square newel posts with molded caps, a wide molded handrail,

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and brackets designed with a large scroll flanked on each side by a smaller scroll. Three elaborately turned balusters rise from each tread, with the shafts of the balusters becoming progressively taller as they ascend. An unusual feature of the stair is the appearance of a sawn-out figure of a seahorse beneath the middle ramp of the stairway. The elongated body of the seahorse is decorated with a vine-like device. The seahorse, a traditional symbol of Bermuda, serves as a visible reminder of the Deane and Wynns families' connection to Bermuda.

The two rooms flanking the hall do not retain any original woodwork of the Georgian period, but probably received their present Federal-period trim at the time the rear west room was added. These three rooms feature molded baseboards and chair rails, architrave trim around all openings, a beaded picture rail set into the plaster, and scrolled-pediment window valances, also set into the plaster. The mantels of these rooms are similar, being variations of pilasters supporting a wide frieze with projecting end-and-center blocks beneath an elaborately molded shelf. The center blocks of the mantels in the west and rear rooms are unusual in that they curve inward before meeting the fireplace surround; mantels in several other nearby Hertford County houses feature this treatment.

By ascending the stairway, a large second-floor cross hall is reached. The hall, two bays wide, runs across the front of the house connecting a room at each end of the house. On the east side of the stair is a small room with a doorway which has never received a door. The woodwork and doors of the hall, of the Georgian period, retain good quality nineteenth-century woodgraining. The trim of the second floor rooms is intact, consisting of beaded baseboards, molded chair rails, and architrave trim around the openings. The mantels of the two end rooms are identical, each with a simple beaded surround beneath a molded frieze supporting a heavily molded shelf. On the front and rear exterior walls of the two end rooms, between the baseboard and chair rail, is a small raised-panel door opening into the roof of the front porch and rear shed.

The house retains its original plaster, pine flooring, and raised six-panel doors, most of which retain their HL hinges.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_ **Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Although the destruction of the Hertford County courthouse in 1830 and in 1862 prohibits the positive identification of the original owner, the presence of a tombstone near the house for James Deane, Jr. (1777-1798) would indicate the house was built by the wealthy and politically prominent Deane family. The earliest documented owner of the house was William J. Perry (d. 1862), a prosperous planter who served as public register of Hertford County from 1846 until 1857. The handsome Georgian dog-leg stairway with raised paneling, the notable Federal-period trim of the first floor, and the unusual floor plan all contribute to the significance of the Deane House to the region's domestic architectural heritage.

**Criteria:**

- A. Associated with the large agricultural plantation unit found in antebellum eastern North Carolina.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a prosperous plantation dwelling, as well as represents high quality workmanship and domestic architectural design of the Georgian and Federal periods in eastern North Carolina.
- D. May be likely to yield information important to the understanding of eighteenth- and-nineteenth century plantation household activities in eastern North Carolina.

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The destruction of the Hertford County courthouse by fire in 1830 and again in 1862 makes it difficult to obtain a clear chain-of-title for the property connected with the Deane House. The name Deane has been associated with the house on the basis of the following inscription from a tombstone in a small cemetery near the house:

In Memory of  
JAMES DEANE, Jun.  
Son of  
JAMES DEANE & MARY  
his wife, of Bermudas.  
He departed this Life,  
Sept. 16, 1798  
Aged twenty-one Years.<sup>1</sup>

Local tradition maintains that the Deane family regularly visited with relatives in Bermuda well into the nineteenth century. The house could perhaps have been built by the James Deane, Sr., mentioned on the tombstone; the 1790 census records a James Deane, of Hertford County as the head of a five-member household and the owner of seven slaves.<sup>2</sup> Local historians have also suggested the house could have been the home of the Wynns family, which was connected to the Deane family by marriage. It is known that George Wynns, Sr., lived on the property adjoining the Deane House, and that the orphaned children of Benjamin Wynns, III, were raised by Deane relatives in Bermuda.<sup>3</sup> The applied seahorse ornament beneath the staircase could be the result of the family connection with Bermuda because the seahorse is a traditional symbol of that Atlantic island. The Deane and Wynns families were both wealthy and politically prominent in antebellum Hertford County; representatives from both families held the office of county sheriff and served in the state legislature.<sup>4</sup>

The first documented owner of the house was William J. Perry, who served as public register of Hertford County from 1846 until 1857.<sup>5</sup> Perry seems to have been a prosperous planter; the 1860 census records him as owning 2,300 acres of land valued at \$7,000 on which his 17 slaves raised 3,000 bushels of corn and 13 bales of ginned cotton.<sup>6</sup> The date when Perry acquired the property is unknown, but he was in possession of the property at his death in 1862.<sup>7</sup>

The property and house was purchased from Perry's estate by Griffin Pritchard sometime before 1871.<sup>8</sup> Although he mortgaged it several times, Pritchard owned the property until at least 1889.<sup>9</sup> Sometime after that date it was acquired by W. P. Britton whose heirs sold the property in 1917 to H. S. Basnight, the grandfather of the present owner.<sup>10</sup> The house is presently the home of the family which farms the land for the Basnight family.

Although remodeled in the Federal period, the Deane House remains as a significant example of Georgian architecture in northeastern North Carolina. The large size of the house, the paneled staircase, and the unusual plan of the second floor distinguish the house from the region's more modest domestic architecture of the same period. The Federal-period trim is of high quality, with the robust vernacular design of the mantels being found in several nearby Federal houses in Hertford County.

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The structure is, of course, closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing, and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remain may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

## Notes:

<sup>1</sup>The tombstone, of slate and handsomely carved, has been removed from the cemetery near the house and is in the possession of Mr. Ralph Basnight, Ahoskie, North Carolina, the present owner of the house.

<sup>2</sup>Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: North Carolina (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 26.

<sup>3</sup>Benjamin B. Winborne, The Colonial and State History of Hertford County, North Carolina (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1906), 28; 125.

<sup>4</sup>Winborne, Hertford County, 28.

<sup>5</sup>Winborne, Hertford County, 331.

<sup>6</sup>Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Hertford County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 34; Agricultural Schedule, 23; Slave Schedule, 5, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

<sup>7</sup>Winborne, Hertford County, 234.

<sup>8</sup>In 1871 Pritchard mortgaged the property; the land was described as "adjoining the lands of George Britton et al, and containing 1,640 acres--formerly belonging to Wm. J. Perry," Griffin Pritchard to John L. Hinton, 19 May 1871, Hertford County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Hertford County Courthouse, Winton, Book B, 4, hereinafter cited as Hertford County Deeds. In 1876 Pritchard mortgaged the property a second time and the deed noted that the land was "known as Simons-Perry Land. Bought by Griffin Pritchard from John O. Askew, Executor of W. J. Perry," Griffin Pritchard to Thomas Pritchard, 2 February 1876, Hertford County Deeds, Book E, 198; a recorded deed between Askew and Pritchard could not be found.

<sup>9</sup>The last record of Pritchard's ownership of the property occurs in 1889 with a deed of trust between him and Dr. C. F. Baxter of Pasquotank County, Griffin Pritchard to J. Haywood Sayer, Trustee, 20 February 1889, Hertford County Deeds, Book R, 229; there is no deed recorded for the sale of the property by Pritchard or Dr. Baxter.

<sup>10</sup>There is no record of Britton's purchase of the property but the Britton family owned

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extensive holdings adjoining the property; it is possible Britton inherited the land. J. H. Matthews, Commissioner, to H. S. Basnight, 27 November 1917, Hertford County Deeds, Book 59, 578; in this deed the property is referred to as "the W. P. Britton "Pritchard Tract" containing 1,200 acres."

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Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790:  
North Carolina, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908.

Hertford County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Hertford County Courthouse,  
Winton,

Winborne, Benjamin B. The Colonial and State History of Hertford County, North Carolina.  
Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1906,



Deane House  
S side SR 1446 HF2  
Cofield Vic.  
Hertford County  
Winton NC Quad  
Zone 18 Scale 1:62500  
Lat. A 36° 20' 02"  
B 36° 20' 09"  
C 36° 19' 43"  
Long. A 76° 52' 27"  
B 76° 51' 37"  
C 76° 52' 22"



