United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House

and/or common Yeates-Vaughan Hs.; Uriah Vaughan, Jr. Hs.; Sara Vaughan Hs.

2. Location

street & number 327 West Main Street

city, town Murfreesboro

state North Carolina

code 037 county Hertford

code 091

3. Classification

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4. Owner of Property

name Elwin E. Guild

street & number 327 West Main Street

city, town Murfreesboro

state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hertford County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number King Street

state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Murfreesboro Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1982

state North Carolina

depository for survey records North Carolina Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh

state North Carolina
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House, currently undergoing renovation after years of neglect, is, in its present form, a Greek Revival style dwelling. The house is located in the town of Murfreesboro on the south side of West Main Street and is situated approximately 70 feet from the street. It is partially surrounded, on the front and sides by trees, including crepe myrtles and magnolias, with the area to the rear of the house being cleared. In its present form the house has a T plan, composed of the earlier, rear (south) stem of the T and the later, front (north) top of the T. Both sections of the house are frame and both have low, hipped roofs, presently covered with standing-seam tin. The earlier rear section is one-and-a-half stories over a full basement in height, four bays wide, and two rooms and a hallway deep. The newer, front section is two stories over a full basement high, three bays wide, and one room deep. The rear section of the house contains interior chimneys toward the east and west ends of its south wall and the front section has interior chimneys at its east and west ends. Originally the house consisted of the Federal-style, rear section. When the Greek Revival-style front section was added, the rear section was partially remodeled and added to. The Federal character and scale of the rear section remain, with some Greek Revival additions, but the robust Greek Revival front section of the house nearly steps over into the Italian Villa style on the interior.

The earlier, rear section of the house is a raised cottage surrounded by porches on three sides. The fourth side is the front where the Greek Revival addition was made. On the east and west elevations the porches remain open, but on the east and west ends of the south elevation, the porch was enclosed at the time the Greek Revival addition was made. The east and west porches each have three, square-in-section tapered posts made of four individual boards, rather than being solid. These posts divide each porch into four bays which each have balustrades consisting of a rounded handrail, a five-sided footrail (the top faces of the rail slope downward from a peak in the center), and rectangular-in-section balusters. The porch ceilings are sheathed with flush, non-beaded boards which run with the length of the porch. The posts on the rear, south porch were replaced by paneled, Greek Revival posts, but the balustrade and other features are like those of the east and west porches. Since additions enclose so much of the exterior of the earlier house, the siding of lapped, non-beaded boards is only exposed at the porches. The architraves surrounding the window and door on the south elevation, the three windows on the west elevation, and the two windows and non-remodeled door, at the south end of the east elevation, have mitered fascias and mitered cyma reversa or reverse ogee backband moldings. The doors at the north ends of the east and west elevations date from the Greek Revival remodeling. The sash are six-over-nine at first floor level, beneath the porches, and are all original. The origina exterior door, at the south end of the east elevation, has raised panels. Blinds with moveable louvers in both upper and lower panels survive, with their original hardware, at most of the first floor level windows. A stair leads from near the south end of the east porch, northward along the wall of the house, to the basement level. Its balustrade on the porch is similar to the balustrade of the porch, but without the footrail. The square-in-section newel is topped by a simple, but molded, square newel cap. The balustrade on the stair itself is missing.
The load-bearing brick foundation walls of the rear section of the house are laid in six-to-one course American bond and the porches are supported by brick piers, some of which have been temporarily replaced by concrete blocks. The architraves which surround the windows and doors at basement level are like those at first floor level, however, the basement sash are six-over-six. The basement doors also have raised panels; the original rear, south, door at first floor level was replaced by a Greek Revival door. At basement level, blinds with fixed louvered in both upper and lower panels survive, with their original hardware, at most of the windows. In the attic roof there is one dormer in each of the elevations—east, west, and south. The dormers have unpedimented gables and horizontal flush board sheathing. The architraves are molded and the windows have six-over-six sash. Due to the low slope of the hipped roof, the dormers are quite deep. A single-panel, louvered blind survives on the east dormer.

There is a center hall which runs north and south at both basement and first floor levels of the earlier rear section. At the basement level the hall walls are partition walls and are sheathed with flush, beaded boards. On either side of the hall there are rooms which are separated from one another by load-bearing brick walls. The basement rooms in this section of the house were finished with plaster applied directly to the brick walls and to lath nailed to the ceiling joists. All interior window and door surrounds in this part of the basement are simply molded. A now-closed over stair ran along the east wall of the hall and connected the basement to the first floor. On the first floor, the partitions which separated the spaces on either side of the north-south hall into two rooms were removed at the time of the Greek Revival remodeling, creating one large room on either side of the hall. In these rooms and in the hall, the window architraves and door architraves are original, except for the doorway at the north end of the hall and two doors in the southeast corner of the large east room. These original architraves have mitered fasciae beaded on the inner edge and mitered cyma reverse or reverse ogee backband moldings. The door at the south (rear) end of the hall has a four-panel transom above it. In the east room, a china cupboard was built-in west (right) of the interior chimney, flush with the chimney-breast, at the time of the Greek Revival remodeling. The cupboard has glass-paneled doors above and solid, wood-paneled doors below. The mantel in the east room has non-fluted, engaged columns supporting a recess paneled frieze, above which is a shelf. In the west room, a cupboard was built-in on the east (left) face of the interior chimney and the chimney-breast was extended to the left to accommodate the cupboard. This cupboard also has glass-paneled doors above and solid wood-paneled doors below. A Greek Revival mantel was added at the same time. The mantel has recess-paneled legs (the panels are surrounded by a Greek Revival molding) which support a flat frieze which has a shelf above. To the rear (south) of the east and west ends of the east and west rooms, respectively, there are small, plain, plastered rooms, created by closing in those sections of the porch. This was done at the time of the Greek Revival remodeling. The west room has a Greek Revival mantel with fluted pilasters supporting a flat frieze with a shelf above. There is also a Greek Revival door which has two, flat, vertical panels and connects the small west room to the south (rear) porch. The hall and large east
and west rooms of the rear section have a chair rail which has a projecting molding along its upper edge and a bead along its lower edge. The walls and ceilings in this section of the house are finished with plaster. The small east room was added to around the turn of the twentieth century to be used as a kitchen. It has a brick hearth in its northwest corner on which a wood cook stove sits. The attic of this section of the house is plastered and has unmolded, beaded boards surrounding the three dormers. The woodwork surrounding the sash is unmolded and unbeaded. The north end of the rear section of the house is a cross hall which was completely remodeled in the Greek Revival style so it will be described with the Greek Revival section of the house.

By May 1855, Albert Gamaliel Jones, the Warren County builder who had come to Murfreesboro to build the Chowan College Columns Building, had completed adding the large two-story frame, over full basement, addition to the front of the house. This front addition has a center hall with one room on each side on both the first and second story levels; the basement is one large undivided, unfinished space. Jones' signature building components abound on the exterior and interior of the house. The load-bearing, five-to-one-course American bond foundation is made of large bricks and supports a building which is covered with a rich explosion of decoration. A two-story, pedimented, entrance portico, supported by brick piers, is centered on the north (front) facade of the house and occupies approximately one-third of the facade. At each level there are four fluted columns (at present removed for restoration) across the front of the portico and two fluted pilasters at the rear. Between these, except for the steps, is a sawn, wooden balustrade with a stylized X or diamond pattern. There are a frieze and cornice above the first level of the portico and a complete entablature above the second. The pediment is sheathed with flush boards. The spacing of the two center columns is wide, making a grand entryway. The frontispiece of the house is composed of a double doorway surrounded by sidelights and a full transom; all of which is surrounded by an A. G. Jones architrave of symmetrical molding with a one-quarter-round spool turning on its interior edge and square corner blocks with carved bull's-eyes. The double doors each contain a single panel surrounded by molding. Fluted posts separate the sidelights from the doors. The sidelights have two, long, vertical panes of glass surrounded on all sides by smaller panes, either vertical or horizontal rectangles, or in the corners, square. Below the sidelights are small recessed, horizontal panels surrounded by molding. Above the sidelights and the double doors are fluted moldings above which is a transom. The configuration of the glass panes in the transom is like that of the sidelights except, of course, that it is horizontal rather than vertical. The same frontispiece occurs at second floor level, minus the transom. The side bays of the three-bay facade, at both levels, are also tripartite in design having a six-over-six-sash window flanked by two-over-two-sash sidelights. Surrounding the whole and separating the sidelights from the window is a symmetrically molded architrave with bull's-eye corner blocks at its corners and points of intersection. The side and rear window surrounds are of the same design but without the sidelights. These windows contain six-over-six sash. Most of the original, moveable-louver blinds and their hardware survive for this section of the house.
The cornerboards of this section of the house culminate in three-quarter-round spool turnings flanked by symmetrically molded boards all of which support a capital, which in turn supports the full entablature at the roofline of the house. The entire frame composition is a grand expression of a confident builder.

The first floor interior door and window surrounds in the front, Greek Revival section of the house, including the remodeled cross hall at the rear, are composed of recessed-panel pilasters (the panels surrounded by molding) with capitals which support a plain frieze and a heavy cornice. The first floor west room is the most ornate, having a gray marble, Italianate mantel, molded plaster decoration in the ceiling, and gold-trimmed, wood-grained woodwork. A plaster modillion is located in the center of the ceiling framed at a distance by a square of fluted plaster with rosettes at the corners and a molded plaster cornice. The first floor east room is just slightly less elaborate, lacking the gold-trimmed woodwork, which is still wood-grained. It also has an Italianate marble mantel and decorative plasterwork. An archway separates the first floor center hall from the remodeled cross hall at the rear. The stair to the second floor rises from near the east end of the cross hall and rises to the west along its north wall. The stair is open string with carved brackets above a wide molding. The newel is heavy and round-in-section with a small round newel cap. The handrail is round-in-section and the balusters are turned, tapering toward the top. There are two balusters per stair tread. In the second floor cross hall the balustrade is the same and the two are joined in a scroll configuration. The east and west second floor rooms are plainer having recess-paneled door and window surrounds with a smaller-scale bull's eye corner block. The second floor mantels are both composed of engaged columns which support a frieze and a shelf, but they are not identical. The rooms and halls of the front section are finished with plaster.

Off the southeast corner of the house there is the shell of a one-and-a-half story, three-bay wide, single pile, frame dependency which faces west and has a double-shoulder chimney on its south end. The only other standing dependency is a store (storage) building which was whitewashed on the interior at one time. It is located off the southwest corner of the house and faces north. It was converted into a garage earlier in this century.
The Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House is the finest example of Albert Gamaliel Jones' Greek Revival house to survive in Murfreesboro. What makes it even more important is that it has been relatively unchanged since Jones' remodeling. Almost all of the wood-grain painting has survived without being painted over, especially that that is gold-trimmed. This is the only example of that in Murfreesboro. The occupants of the house were all well-to-do citizens of the town, as would be expected. The first-known occupant was Lewis Meredith Cowper, who lived in the earlier, rear part of the house and sold it in 1851 to Dr. Thomas Newsome Myrick. It was Dr. Myrick who had A. C. Jones build the front section of the house, which was completed by May 1855, for him. By July 1858, Dr. Myrick had left Murfreesboro for Florida and was advertising the house for sale. By the 1870s Jesse J. Yeates, who was a member of the United State House of Representatives, owned the house. In January 1881, Yeates sold the house to Uriah Vaughan, Jr., a prominent Murfreesboro merchant whose family owned the house until the 1970s.

Criteria Assessment:

A. Associated with the important river town of Murfreesboro whose growth and development from the late eighteenth century to the Civil War as a business and cultural center reflected the prosperity of a strong plantation society in this predominantly rural northeastern region of North Carolina.

B. Associated with Lewis Meredith Cowper, long time Hertford County Clerk of Court; Jesse J. Yeates, member of the U.S. House of Representative from 1875-1881.

C. Representative and highly significant example of the work of Albert Gamaliel Jones, an important Warren County master builder, who worked in Murfreesboro during the 1850s involving the remodelling or construction of such other notable Greek Revival buildings as the Columns and the Pipkin-Harrell-Chitty House.
The Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House, located on West Main Street in Murfreesboro, is one of several Murfreesboro houses added to, built by, or remodeled by Warren County builder Albert Gamaliel Jones, in the 1850s. The house has almost always been associated with one of Murfreesboro's more prominent families of their time, the most recent of which was the Vaughan family, who owned the house for nearly a hundred years, from 1881 until the late 1970s.

The earliest known occupant of the house was Lewis Meredith Cowper, son of William Cowper and his wife, who was a daughter of Capt. Lewis Meredith. L. M. Cowper was Bertford County Clerk of Court for about forty years, beginning in the 1820s. In addition to his position as clerk of court, Cowper was a member of the committee appointed to meet General Lafayette at Somerton, Virginia and escort him to Murfreesboro when he visited there on 26 February 1825. Only the Federal style, rear section of the house was standing when Cowper lived there.

In 1851 Joseph G. Rea, who lived across the street, committed suicide by hanging himself in his garden. After Rea's death, Lewis Meredith Cowper sold the house to Dr. Thomas N. Myrick and moved his family across the street to live with the widow Rea, who was the aunt of Mrs. Cowper. By May 1855 the Greek Revival style, front section of the dwelling house for Dr. T. N. Myrick had been completed and received by Myrick. The builder of this imposing addition to the house was Warren County builder Albert Gamaliel Jones, who had a joint contract with Whitmel H. A. Kearney, also of Warren County, for the construction of this section of the house. Dr. Myrick and his wife, the former Julia R. Southall, a daughter of John W. Southall, lived in Murfreesboro until just before the Civil War, when they moved to Florida, where Mrs. Myrick died in 1859.

In July 1858 the house was advertised for sale in a newspaper as the property immediately east of J. H. Lassiter's Hotel recently owned by Dr. T. N. Myrick. The property was described as being two large town lots and was advertised by T. P. Wynn. The 1859 tax list for Murfreesboro lists one lot for Thomas P. Wynn with a valuation of $5500. This listing is apparently for the Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House.

Nothing is known about the ownership of the property again until September 1869, when it was owned and occupied by Hezekiah Reveille and his wife, Lucretia J. Reveille. At that time the dwelling and buildings of Hezekiah Reveille were appraised at $1000 by Bertford County Sheriff Isaac Pipkin. Included in the total $1477 evaluation of homestead and personal property were goods in the store (the standing west dependency) $104 and cotton and peas in the field (the rear portion of the three to four acre tract)$75. The $1477 homestead and personal property were supposedly exempted from sale according to law. Nevertheless, in December 1869,
Isaac Pipkin, as sheriff, sold the property to Jesse J. Yeates at public auction for fifty dollars for debts of Hezekiah Revelle. Nearly a year later, in November 1870, the Revelles were still living in Hertford County, but it is unknown whether they still lived in the Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House. However, by September 1872, they were living in neighboring Northampton County, and at that time William W. Peebles, also of Northampton County, became trustee of the Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House along with 181 acres at Cross Locks, in Northampton County.

Jesse J. Yeates purchased the house and lot from William W. Peebles, trustee, Hezekiah Revelle and Lucretia J. Revelle, his wife, in February 1873, paying $2174 to Peebles, as trustee, and $350 to Lucretia J. Revelle. Lucretia Revelle was a sister of Jesse J. Yeates. Yeates had a hard struggle to obtain his education and prepare himself for his profession as a lawyer, as his father, James Yeates, had died when he was young, leaving several children. Yeates taught at Union Academy, in Harrellsville; was County Attorney of Hertford County from August 1855 until 1860; was a member of the House of Commons, elected in 1860; was Solicitor of First Judicial District for six years, Major in the army, Council of State member during the short time Worth was governor, appointed Judge of the First District by Provisional Governor Holden in 1865, but declined it; and, was elected delegate to the Constitutional Convention of May 1871, which did not convene. Yeates was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1875 and served until March 1881, a period of three terms.

In 1857 Yeates had purchased a half acre lot on the south side of the present 300 block of East Main Street in Murfreesboro, between the lots of Ely Carter on the east and William P. Beaman on the west, from William B. Wise. The 1859 tax list for Murfreesboro lists one lot for Jesse Yeates with a valuation of $1600. Yeates was living on that lot in 1867, at which time he purchased a nine foot wide strip of Ely Carter's lot adjacent to his own.

After purchasing the Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House in February 1873, Jesse J. Yeates and Virginia S. Yeates, his wife, transferred the house and lot to David A. Barnes by deed of trust the next month, March 1873, because of a one thousand dollar bond which Yeates owed to William Y. Brown. The deed of trust stated that Yeates was residing there at that time. Yeates and his wife continued to own the house throughout his three terms as a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, 1875 to March 1881, but in June 1881 they sold the house to Uriah Vaughan for $2700. At that time David A. Barnes held a deed of trust to the property to secure debts due to William Y. Brown and Laure E. Scott, who was probably a relative of Mrs. Yeates, who was a Scott prior to her marriage. According to tradition, the standing east dependency was Jesse J. Yeates law office. This has not been confirmed by documentation. The east dependency dates from the first half of the nineteenth century and, therefore, was standing when Yeates purchased the property. It is a story-and-a-half, frame, one-

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room-per-floor building that stylistically was a kitchen, laundry, or other domestic-use dependency.

Uriah Vaughan was a son of Col. Uriah Vaughan, a successful Murfreesboro merchant who was a partner in the mercantile business of Lawrence & Vaughan. For a number of years Uriah Vaughan Jr. was a prominent Murfreesboro merchant, as his father had been. However, the Great Depression took its toll and Uriah Vaughan was declared bankrupt in August 1933. Three months later, in December 1933, his daughter Sarah Vaughan, trustee of Uriah Vaughan, purchased the house and lot at public auction for $25 from M. E. Worrell, trustee of Uriah Vaughan. Sarah Vaughan made a number of small conveyences, mostly for house lots at the rear (south) of the property, from 1937 until 1967. Upon Sarah's death, a niece inherited the house. She sold it to Andrew V. Brown, who, in turn, sold it to the present owner, Elwin E. Guild, in December 1980.

The story of the Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House parallels that of the South in general. The Federal style, rear section of the house reflects a stable but unpretentious life style, while the Greek Revival style, front section of the house is part of a collection of ambitious houses built in Murfreesboro during the prosperous 1850s that brought Warren County builder Albert Gamaliel Jones to Murfreesboro. After the Civil War, the grandiose house could only be maintained by someone as prominent as a U. S. Congressman, and then only barely and for relatively few years. The house was then owned and maintained by mercantile wealth until the Great Depression. Since that time the fortunes of the house continued to decline until it was acquired by the present owner, who is stabilizing the house and plans to restore it.
FOOTNOTES

1Hertford County Deed Book K, p. 197.

2The Hertford County Courthouse has twice been destroyed by fire—first in 1830, by an arsonist, and again in 1862, when it was burned by the Union navy. Therefore, almost no Hertford County records prior to 1862 are extant. Benjamin B. Winborne, The Colonial and State History of Hertford County, North Carolina (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1976), 146, 224; hereinafter cited as Winborne, History of Hertford County. For Cowper occupancy of Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House, see Winborne, History of Hertford County, 98.

3Winborne, History of Hertford County, 91.

4Winborne, History of Hertford County, 124.

5Winborne, History of Hertford County, 133.

6Joseph G. Rea tombstone inscription, Griffith plantation, Hertford County and Winborne, History of Hertford County, 98.

7Warren County Deed Book 31, p. 359.

8Winborne, History of Hertford County, 158.

9Clipping from unidentified newspaper, in possession of Elwin Guild, present owner of the house, dated 1858.

10Hertford County Deed Book A, p. 407.

11Hertford County Deed Book D, p. 622.

12Hertford County Deed Book A, p. 644 and Hertford County Deed Book A, p. 704.

13Hertford County Deed Book A, p. 258.

14Hertford County Deed Book D, p. 625.

15Winborne, History of Hertford County, 241.

16Winborne, History of Hertford County, 241

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9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

| Acreage of nominated property | 1.07 acres |
| Quadrangle name | Murfreesboro, N.C. |

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</table>

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet p. 4 (Geographical Data)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
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<th>county</th>
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<td>state</td>
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</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Long Stephenson, Architectural Historian
organization Architectural Conservation Associates date 6 October 1982
street & number 301 East Broad Street telephone 919-398-3554
city or town Murfreesboro state North Carolina

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- [ ] national
- [X] state
- [ ] local

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: [Signature]

date February 7, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature]

Chief of Registration
All that certain piece, parcel, or lot of land lying and being in the
town of Murfreesboro, Hertford County, North Carolina, and being located
on the south side of Main Street of said town and beginning at a stake,
a corner for this property, the right of way of said road, and the property
of Bynum Brown; thence along said Bynum Brown line in a generally southerly
direction 260 feet to a stake, a corner for this property and the
property of Sixty-Five Swim Club; thence along said Swim Club line in a
generally easterly direction 175 feet to a stake, a corner for this property
and Grace P. Brown; thence along said Grace P. Brown line in a generally
northerly direction 260 feet to the aforesaid street; thence along the
right-of-way of said street in a general westerly direction 175 feet to
the point of beginning.

This is the boundary description for the entire lot or parcel of land
which now surrounds the house.
Myrick-Yeates-Vaughan House
327 W. Main St., Murfreesboro
Hertford County, North Carolina
Quadrangle: Murfreesboro, N.C.
Scale: 1:24,000
Acreage: 1.07 acres
UTM References: Zone 18
Easting: 311260 Northing: 4034838