**Form 10-200**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Type all entries complete applicable sections)*

1. **NAME OF PROPERTY**
   - **COMMON:**
     - Eagle Tavern
   - **AND/OR HISTORIC:**
     - Eagle Hotel

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
     - Main Street
   - **CITY OR TOWN:**
     - Halifax
   - **STATE:**
     - North Carolina

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - **CATEGORY**
     - [ ] District
     - [ ] Building
     - [ ] Site
     - [ ] Structure
     - [ ] Object
   - **OWNERSHIP**
     - [ ] Public
     - [ ] Private
     - [ ] Both
   - **PUBLIC ACQUISITION:**
     - [ ] In Process
     - [ ] Being Considered
   - **STATUS**
     - [ ] Occupied
     - [ ] Unoccupied
   - **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**
     - [ ] Yes
     - [ ] No

   **PRESENT USE**
   - [ ] Agricultural
   - [ ] Commercial
   - [ ] Educational
   - [ ] Entertainment
   - [ ] Government
   - [ ] Industrial
   - [ ] Military
   - [ ] Museum
   - [ ] Private Residence
   - [ ] Religious
   - [ ] Transportation
   - [ ] Other (Specify)

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - **OWNER'S NAME:**
     - Ray Wilkinson, President, Halifax Restoration Association
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
     - WRAL-TV, Western Boulevard
   - **CITY OR TOWN:**
     - Raleigh, North Carolina
   - **STATE:**
     - North Carolina
   - **CODE:**
     - 37

5. **LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
   - **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:**
     - Halifax County Courthouse
   - **CITY OR TOWN:**
     - Halifax
   - **STATE:**
     - North Carolina
   - **CODE:**
     - 37

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - **TITLE OF SURVEY:**
   - **DATE OF SURVEY:**
   - **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
     - [ ] Federal
     - [ ] State
     - [ ] County
     - [ ] Local
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
   - **CITY OR TOWN:**
   - **STATE:**
   - **CODE:**

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**STATE:**

**COUNTY:**

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

**ENTRY DATE:**
The Eagle Tavern is a tripartite pedimented two-story frame structure covered with beaded siding. The two-story pedimented section contains a central entrance with sidelights and transom at the first level and a gallery door at the second. To each side is a wing two bays wide; originally one-story, they were most likely raised to two stories shortly after the structure was moved to the present site in the 1840s. The ends of the wings are windowless as is the rear facade of the main block, and each elevation has an exterior end chimney. Symmetrically molded cornerboards adorned with applied rosettes at the top occur on the ends of the wings but not on the main block. The low pitched gable roof has boxed eaves with a molded cornice.

The interior of the T-shaped structure features a front cross hall with a room to the rear and one to either side. A closed string stair rises along the north wall of the hall to the east partition wall where it turns and becomes enclosed. The trim of the interior varies as a result of alterations. Molded architraves and chair rails occur in all major rooms except the second-floor wing rooms, where there are plain door and window casings with cornerblocks and flat panels beneath the windows. Each room has a fireplace with a mantel. In three of the rooms the mantels have paneled friezes and molded shelves. In addition there is one heavily reeded three-part mantle with applied rosettes. Apparently later are the two plain Greek Revival mantels. Additions containing service rooms have been made to the rear of the structure, seemingly dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
Eagle Tavern is a significant part of the history of Halifax, a town where taverns and other entertainments were combined with lively and important political activity. Local tradition records that it was here that the Marquis de Lafayette stayed during his 1825 visit to Halifax. The tripartite form of the structure relates it to others of that house-type in the area, and the unusual vernacular architectural detail is of particular interest.

From its beginnings, the town of Halifax was characterized by a social life that was, as described in 1778, "among the most polished and cultivated in the state." The town was "the mecca of the neighboring counties in Virginia and North Carolina for the more masculine frivolties—horse races and cockfights," as well as being one of the chief political centers of the state. Contributing to the character of Halifax was the presence of many taverns: "even before 1772 Halifax could boast of tavern facilities far above the average in the colony." As with the eighteenth century coffee-houses of London, the popular taverns not only provided "a good supply of the best liquors," but also served as the meeting place and probably discussion hall for the many political leaders of the state who lived or visited in Halifax.

One of the most popular of the taverns was that later named the Eagle Tavern or Eagle Hotel. Because of the rapid turnover in ownership and the many remodelings a tavern naturally underwent, the date of construction of the present building is uncertain at this time. A T-shaped structure was recorded on the lot where it stood in C. J. Sauthier's 1769 map. William Martin is believed to have converted the dwelling into a tavern between 1770 and 1774, when a British visitor described Martin's Tavern as the best in town. Among the most significant events believed to have taken place in the Eagle Hotel (a name acquired in 1829) was the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette, who was royally entertained there and spent the night of February 27, 1825.

Michael Ferrall, an Irish businessman, purchased the hotel lots in 1838 and in 1845 moved all or part of the structure on the property to another lot several blocks southwest, its present location. Miss Nannie Gary, granddaughter of Ferrall, later purchased the house. In accordance with wishes expressed in her will, the house has been donated to the Halifax Restoration Association.
[State: North Carolina]

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 [x]  
- Local [ ]

Name: H. C. Jones

Title: State Historian/Administrator

Date: March 29, 1973

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

[Signature]

Date:

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date:
Eagle Tavern (Eagle Hotel)
Main Street
Halifax

State Highway Commission Map of Halifax County:
Enlarged Municipal Areas
1" = 1 mile
1967
Eagle Tavern (Eagle Hotel)
Main Street
Halifax

State Highway Commission Map of Halifax County
1/4" : 1 mile
1961

Latitude 36° 19' 34"
Longitude 77° 35' 19"