

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Sally-Billy House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

St. Andrews Street extension, SE of King Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Halifax

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Halifax

083

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<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

State of North Carolina: Administered by Historic Sites Section, Division of Archives and
History, Department of Cultural Resources. Bruce MacDougal,
109 East Jones Street Administrator

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Halifax County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Halifax

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (Recorded as Pope House)

DATE

1940

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sally-Billy House is a three-part house of unusual proportions, for the main facade of the two-story pedimented central block is only one bay wide; it is flanked by two-bay one-story wings whose gable roofs run at right angles to that of the main block. The wings cover only the front bay of the three-bay depth of the central section. Later one-story shed additions fill the space in the angles of the T-shaped original structure. Another small addition and remnants of a shed porch appear at the rear.

The original sections of the frame house are covered with weatherboards molded with an unusually intricate profile. The windows, which contain nine-over-nine sash at the first level and six-over-nine at the second, are set in molded frames above handsome molded sills. Defining the corners of the central block and the wings are delicate pilasters that support an elaborate cornice, consisting from bottom to top of a course of diminutive dentils, a row of undercut modillions, and a band of pierced dentils alternating with scallops. This cornice with variations in spacing is repeated on the wings and around the flush tympanum of the main pediment. It appears as well along the roofline and around the tympanum of the pedimented entrance porch. The richness of the cornice ornament is emphasized by the compactness of the house. The porch features two slender, tapered and fluted posts, square in section, which terminate in simple caps and rest on pedestals also square in section. These recur on the facade at the ends of the porch as well. The central entrance consists of a double door, each leaf with six panels, beneath a ten-light transom.

The house had three chimneys: one at each wing and one at the rear. When the house was moved in 1974, only one chimney remained: that at the end of the southeast wing, which was constructed of brick covered with stucco, featuring a stepped base, smooth steep shoulders, and an elaborate cap with bricks in a mousetooth pattern beneath a brick top rather like a barrel vault, open at front and rear. The outline of a corresponding chimney could be seen on the other wing. Until as late as 1969 a double-shoulder chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond and having a similar cap stood at the rear of the central block. It was determined to be impractical to move the sole surviving chimney. Photographs of the rear chimney and the surviving chimney will be used to reconstruct all three chimneys at the new site.

The interior of the T-shaped house has a front cross hall, a single room to the rear, and a room in each of the wings. Probably the most outstanding feature of the interior is the closed-string stair which rises in two flights in the northwest corner of the cross hall. It has a handsome Chinese Chippendale balustrade with a heavy molded rail and posts square in section. So narrow is the central section of the house that though the stair is quite compact, the initial step interrupts the architrave of the front entrance. Flush wainscots appear throughout the interior, with two different chair rail and baseboard treatments; both chair rails are molded, one seemingly of Federal design, the other of the symmetrical Georgian type. In addition, there are some variations in the molded door and window frames. Doors have six panels and L hinges. The mantels on the first floor are of transitional Georgian-Federal types, featuring pilasters that support a molded shelf above a dentil cornice and two panels in the frieze. The second-floor mantel has a wide molded architrave and backband beneath a paneled frieze and molded shelf.

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

The Sally-Billy House is an apparently unique member of the remarkable group of tripartite houses produced by the Halifax-Warren County planter society of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Though the type--a pedimented two-story central block flanked by one-story wings or porches--existed elsewhere in Virginia and North Carolina, the overwhelming concentration was in this area. The eccentric form of the Sally-Billy House with its one-bay central element, as well as the unusual richness of the cornices and the nearly complete survival of fine original fabric, makes the Sally-Billy House one of the most interesting of the North Carolina tripartite houses.

The Sally-Billy House was built about 1800 by either William Champion or Lewis Bond. Champion acquired the land where the house stands in 1776 where he bought 300 acres on "the Myrtle Pocosin" for forty pounds proclamation money. In 1803 he sold the tract for 210 pounds Virginia money to Lewis Bond. Bond in turn sold the tract for \$2,000 "current money of the United States" in 1816. The latter two selling prices suggest the presence of a house. If Bond were the builder, the date of the house would be about 1803-1804, assuming he built soon after buying. After the house was sold in 1816, it had several owners in relatively quick succession and then was bought in 1826 by Mary Gordon Norfleet Lowrie, widow of Superior Court Judge Samuel Lowrie of Charlotte. According to one writer, Judge Lowrie, before becoming a lawyer, had been a Revolutionary War soldier, present at the Battle of King Mountain and at Yorktown. It was after his death that Mrs. Lowrie moved to the house. She was a native of the area; it is interesting to note that her brother, Thomas F. Norfleet, built Woodbourne in Bertie County and her sister married Thomas Blount Hill of the Hermitage nearby--both fine tripartite Federal houses. In 1834 the house was sold to the family from whose Christian names it derives its unusual name. William R. Smith, Sr., bought it for \$1,500. It is said that Smith and his wife moved to the house on the occasion of the marriage of their youngest son, letting the young couple have their original home. After his death in 1845, William R. Smith left his "affectionate wife Sally during her life the following property: The Lowry tract of land" with more than fourteen slaves and other property. His additional bequests included considerable land and money, and more than 54 negro slaves. His widow, Sally Smith, lived until 1870, for many years in the house. It is said that she was called Mrs. Sally-Billy; the "Billy" being attached to distinguish her from other women named Sarah or Sally who were married to Smiths. The house was thus called after her.

There have been several owners of the house since it was sold by the Smith family. The most recent private owner, Mr. C. H. Hale, has given the Sally-Billy House to the Historic Halifax Restoration Association.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

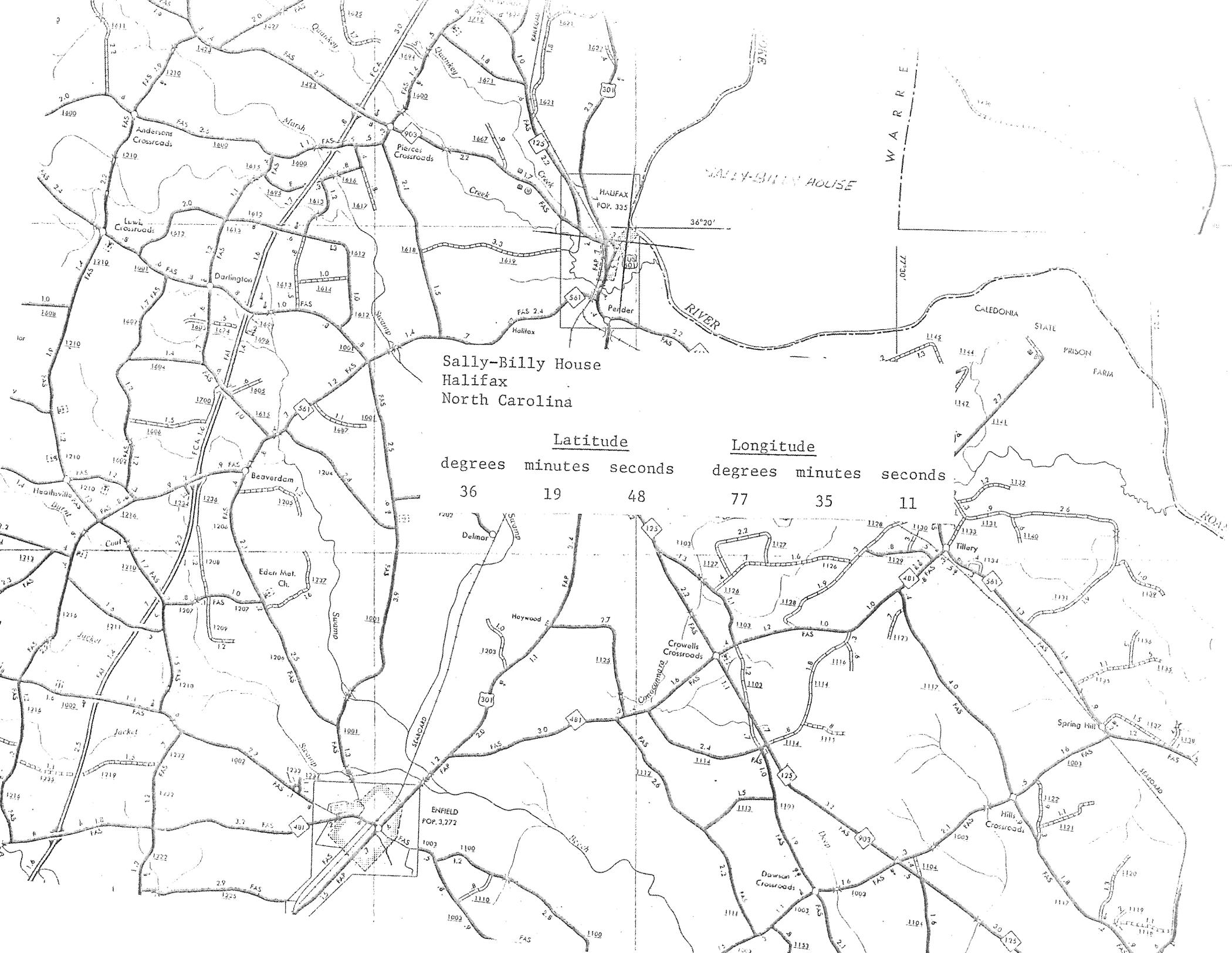
For many years before being given to the Historic Halifax Restoration Association, the Sally-Billy House had suffered from neglect and vandalism, first from tenants and then, after being deserted, from standing unprotected from weather and vandals. A fire had occurred in one wing. It was one of many architecturally significant houses standing vacant and rotting in a section of North Carolina plagued by outmigration and economic problems. The owner gave the house, which stood in the middle of a cultivated field, to the Restoration Association on the condition that it would be moved away; if not moved, it would be razed.

It was determined that the only means of preserving the unusual and unaltered tripartite house was to move it to Historic Halifax and preserve it as part of the state historic site development. The cost of relocating the house to Halifax was underwritten by the Halifax Restoration Association, Inc., at no cost to the National Park Service or the State of North Carolina. (The Restoration Association has also given the house to the State of North Carolina.) Not only was this move--which occurred in December, 1974--necessary to prevent the house from being razed; it was also necessary that the house be on state property before the Department of Administration would allow the Division of Archives and History to use state funds for entering into a design contract.

Given that the house needed to be moved to be saved, it was necessary to make sure that its new situation would be appropriate to its character. This location is at a bend in a narrow road on the northeastern outskirts of the town of Halifax, and within the southeastern boundary of the historic district. It is a flat, rather open space, of a distinctly rural character, and thus appropriate to the house which was a plantation house. It will be not too distant from the more densely filled part of Halifax State Historic Site, but enough buffer space exists, with trees of considerable size, to create a rural atmosphere. The house was nominated originally because of its architectural significance; relocation will have little if any effect upon its architectural significance.

Not only will the new location of the Sally-Billy House be one where the house can be preserved and one appropriate to the house; in addition, the presence of the house on the edge of town will be in keeping with the early nineteenth century history of Halifax. Plantation houses were often located quite close to the small county seat towns. In particular, the Grove, the renowned home of political leader Willie Jones--and, notably, a tripartite house--was located not far from the edge of Halifax in the town's heyday, and has long since fallen into ruins and disappeared. Thus the existence of a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century tripartite plantation house near Halifax will be an appropriate and integral part of the Halifax State Historic Site, which is being restored for the period from its 1757 founding to 1840.

(At present, following dismantling for moving, the house is in sections awaiting final relocation, which is expected to occur by the end of 1975 if no delays occur in approval of the project by the Department of the Interior.)



Sally-Billy House
Halifax
North Carolina

Latitude

Longitude

degrees minutes seconds

degrees minutes seconds

36 19 48

77 35 11

