## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
### INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

**Type all entries - complete applicable sections**

### 1. NAME

- **COMMON:**
  - Harper House

### 2. LOCATION

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - 3 miles off U. S. 701, on S. R. 1008

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - Newton Grove (Fourth Congressional District)

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Preservation work in process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>In Process</td>
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</table>

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

- **OWNER'S NAME:**
  - State Department of Archives and History

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - 109 East Jones Street

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - Raleigh

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:**
  - Johnston County Courthouse

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - Market Street

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - Smithfield

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- **TITLE OF SURVEY:**
  - [Blank]

- **DATE OF SURVEY:**
  - [Blank]

- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
  - [Blank]

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - [Blank]

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - [Blank]
The Harper House is a two-story frame dwelling with a hip roof and a pair of interior chimneys. It rests on brick piers.

The front (east) facade is three bays wide with large windows of nine-over-nine sash on the first level and nine-over-six on the second. The facade is dominated by a two-story pedimented portico, each story of which is supported by two wooden pillars and enclosed with simple balustrades. The central entrance is flanked by unadorned pilasters and framed by large sidelights and a wide eight-light transom. The transom is surmounted by a horizontal band of six octagonal flat panels. A similar doorway lacking the paneled band opens onto the second level of the portico.

The sides of the house are two bays wide. The rear facade is similar to the front but lacks the two-story portico. The mass of the building is emphasized by the heavy overhang of the cornice and the large corner-posts which take the form of paneled pilasters.

The interior has a center-hall plan two rooms deep. The rooms are quite plain with plaster walls above heavy baseboards. All of the mantels are of simple similar designs, featuring heavy shelves above ranges of three horizontal flat panels. The woodwork of the northeast parlor is enriched by a chair rail and small bands of reeding on the mantel. The rooms to the south of the main hall on the first floor have doors in their south walls leading out to the detached kitchen and slave quarters. The second floor, essentially identical to the first in plan, is reached by a narrow stair which rises in two flights from the left side of the main hall.
The house was probably built about 1850 by John Harper, a prosperous farmer and blacksmith. At the outbreak of the Civil War, John Harper had increased his holdings to about one thousand acres and owned three slaves.

In March, 1865, soldiers from Sherman's armies took over the Harper House as a hospital for the XIV Corps. At the beginning of the three day Battle of Bentonville (March 19-21), the property was the scene of intense fighting. Trees in the yard still bear the scars of bullets. After the Union victory the Confederate soldiers used the house for a hospital, as their enemies had previously done. On March 27, 1865, a Confederate scout reported forty-five wounded at the Harper place in the care of Surgeon J. H. Erskine, medical director of Johnston's Army. During the occupation of the home by both armies Harper and his wife, Amy, lived there with six of their children (two others were serving in the Confederate Army).

Harper died in 1897, leaving "my house and other improvements" and 306 acres of land "known as the Harper Homestead" to his wife during her lifetime and after her death to his three sons, John, Martin, and Henry. By 1918, Thomas D. Dunn had bought all the interests in the property from the estates of the Harper brothers and had added several other tracts around the Harper place. Upon Dunn's death the property was transferred to Jake Dunn, who sold the house site to the state of North Carolina in 1957 for incorporation into the Bentonville Battleground State Historic Site.

The house, which has been restored to its antebellum appearance, stands on the grounds of the Bentonville Battleground State Historic Site. The building is the only important landmark remaining on the site of North Carolina's largest Civil War engagement. The battle which took place near the house represented a last attempt by Confederate troops to stem Sherman's sweep northward.
The Harper House exemplifies the widespread vernacular use of the Greek Revival style in North Carolina. The house is typical of those built by prosperous small landholders in the years just before the Civil War. It is distinguished, however, by the successful use of such elements as pilaster corner posts, a heavy unadorned cornice, and the rather elaborate geometric treatment of the main entrances.
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: April 8, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

12. STATE LIASON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 [X] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name: H. G. Jones

TITLE: Director, State Department of Archives and History

DATE: April 8, 1971

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: 
North Carolina State Highway Commission

July 1, 1969

Harper House
Newton Grove, North Carolina

Harper

North Carolina 1008

Ebenezer

Bentonville

Newton Groove

Eboenezer

Harpers

Blackmon Crossroads

Strickland Crossroads

Anioch Ch.

Hamuth

Pothole

Parkers

1 mile

July 1, 1969

Latitude degrees minutes seconds

Longitude degrees minutes seconds

degrees

degrees

minutes

seconds

0° 35' 19" 57"