Moore, Walter R. and Eliza Smith, House  
Johnston County, North Carolina

NPS Form 10-900  
OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Moore, Walter R. and Eliza Smith, House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 3919 Raleigh Road (East side SR 1330, 2 mile south of junction with SR 1514)
not for publication N/A city or town Clayton vicinity X state North Carolina code NC county Johnston code 041 zip code 27520

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey G Long  
3/15/05
Signature of certifying official  
Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): ____________________

_________________________    ______________________
Signature of Keeper             Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

X private
  public-local
  public-State
  public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)
  district
  site
  structure
  object

Number of Resources within Property

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  N/A
Name of related multiple property listing  N/A
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic Secondary Structure
Commerce/Trade Store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Other: Vernacular Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation BRICK
roof WOOD
walls WOOD/weatherboard
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE
Period of Significance ca. 1835
Significant Dates N/A
Significant Person N/A
Cultural Affiliation N/A
Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
   ___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
   ___ previously listed in the National Register
   ___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
   ___ designated a National Historic Landmark
   ___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # __________
   ___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # __________

Primary Location of Additional Data
X State Historic Preservation Office
   Other State agency
   Federal agency
   Local government
   University
   Other
Name of repository: ________________________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.18 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)
   Zone Easting Northing   Zone Easting Northing
   1  17 724020 3936880  3  ___  _____  _______
   2  ____  _____ 4  ____  _____
   See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Van Dolsen     date 5 October 2004
street & number 1601 Highland Drive
city or town Wilson  state NC zip code 27893
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets
Maps
  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
  Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name  Elaine Malek-Madani and Ralph F. Gabellieri
street & number 3919 Raleigh Road  city or town Clayton  state NC  zip code 27520
Narrative Description

The Walter R. and Eliza Moore House stands on the east side of Raleigh Road, facing south, on an 8.18-acre parcel. Perched on the top of a hill, the two-story, ca. 1835, house has a commanding presence, and is surrounded by gardens and fields. Five outbuildings are located to the north and east of the house: a meat house, commissary/store, barn, garden shed, and well house. A drive that terminates in a teardrop shape with a garden in the center fronts the house, while a service drive to the barn is located behind the house.

House, ca. 1835, contributing

The Walter R. and Eliza Moore House is a two-story, four-bay, single-pile, frame dwelling (sixteen feet by thirty-eight feet) that stands on a brick foundation. A two-story portico (eighteen feet by eleven feet) fronts the house and covers the two central bays on the façade. An original two-story, one-room ell (eighteen feet by fifteen feet) extends from the north wall of the house, and an original, one-story section with shed rooms (eight feet by twenty feet) is located on the north wall of the house, adjoining the ell. A late nineteenth-century, shed-roof porch (seven feet deep) runs across the north wall of the shed rooms. A ca. 1900-1910 kitchen wing was added to the east wall of the ell, and its shed roof porch (located on the north elevation) was enclosed before 1976. A deck, measuring sixteen feet by twenty-six feet, was built on the north side of the kitchen wing in 1993. Three Flemish-bond brick chimneys with concave shoulders are centered on the gable ends of the main block and ell.

The original house is constructed with a heavy timber frame, with guttered corner posts and down braces at the corners. The rafters are sawn timbers, mortised, tenoned, and pinned at the peak and rest on a false plate. The construction of the ell is identical to that of the main block, confirming that the building was constructed as an L-shaped building with a original shed on the rear elevation. As constructed, the first floor of the house contained a hall, parlor, dining room, and shed room with the staircase. The second floor had a central hall, and three chambers. A separate kitchen building stood east of the house, and was replaced by the kitchen wing ca. 1900-1910.

The house is sheathed in weatherboards, except under the front portico, which is sheathed in flush-board siding. The roof was covered in cedar shingles in 1998 after Hurricane Bonnie severely damaged an asphalt shingle roof (which covered a previous asphalt roof; remnants of a metal roof were found under the asphalt shingles). The main block and ell of the house originally had sixteen-over-sixteen sash windows on the first story and twelve-over-twelve sash windows on the second story; by the 1970s, these windows had been replaced with four-over-four sash. The present configuration of a transom and six-over-six sash on the first story and six-over-six sash on the second story was done ca. 1990.

The Walter R. and Eliza Moore House exhibits outstanding exterior woodwork, with an elaborate modillioned cornice featuring punch-and-gouge work above an intricate guilloche,
two-story portico with identical woodwork and solid turned posts, and a pilastered surround with a pediment encompassing the two entrances on the façade. The cornice wraps around the building, creating pediments on both the gable ends of the main block, and at the rear of the ell. The two-story posts of the portico are not classic Doric, Ionic, or Tuscan-style columns, but chunky, turned posts, with squared blocks where the rails meet the posts. The balustrade of the two-story porch has a linear, stylized “sheaf-of-wheat” pattern. The paired doors on the façade share a pediment, which features a punch-and-gouge cornice topping an undulating band of trim work, a large keystone, and two Doric-style pilasters. A half-round post separates the two doors.

The first-floor plan was altered during the 1990s by removing the wall between the hall and parlor, adding a wall with a wider opening approximately five feet west of the original wall, and moving the location of the staircase into the parlor, with no wall adjoining. The staircase, originally located in the shed room and rising from the rear of the house to the front, was enclosed at the top of the fifth step; now the staircase is open to the second floor, and is supported by two turned posts. The stair features new straight balusters, a square newel, and ornate patterned stair ends. The new patterned ends for the additional open treads replicate the original pattern. The second-floor plan remains unaltered, with a chamber located above the hall and the parlor (separated by a central hall) and a chamber above the dining room.

The interior of the original section of the house was replastered when the building was renovated/restored in the early 1990s. All of the original floors, window and door surrounds, six-panel doors, chair rails, paneled wainscoting, and mantels remain intact. The three first-floor main rooms, as well as the rear shed room (made into two rooms ca. 1990) have paneled wainscoting. The three mantels on the first floor have two Doric-style pilasters flanking the frieze which features two panels separated by a truncated pilaster. Undulating trim, matching that found on the pediment surrounding the two entry doors, trims the area below the projecting cornices of the three first-floor mantels. The three mantels on the second floor resemble those on the first, but do not have the pilasters and the band of undulating trim.

The kitchen wing was renovated in the early 1990s, and features new cabinets and appliances. A bay window was added to the east elevation, and false beams (from a demolished cotton mill in Selma, N.C.) added to the ceiling.

Although the house has experienced changes to the first floor plan and has replacement windows, the integrity of the exterior is outstanding, and the interior retains all interior woodwork, mantels, floors, and surrounds.

Meat House, ca. 1835, moved ca. 1995, contributing

One-story, side-gable, heavy timber frame, vertical board-sided building (sheathed in metal) standing on a brick pier foundation and topped by a metal roof. The building was moved approximately one-hundred feet to the east. The orientation remains unchanged.
Commissary/Store, ca. 1900, moved ca. 1990, non-contributing

One story, light frame, gable-front building moved from the west side of Raleigh Road to the northeast of the house. Stands on concrete block piers. The building was resided and the roof replaced in 2000.

Barn, 1997, non-contributing

One-story, light frame, gable-front building with two one-story shed-roof wings built in 1997, northeast of the house. The building serves as a garage and studio and is sheathed in wood siding and capped by a metal roof.

Garden Shed, ca. 1990, non-contributing

One-story, light frame, gable-front building standing on a concrete block foundation. Building has an asphalt shingle roof and is sheathed in wood siding. The gable roof extends over the door to form a sheltered porch. Located north of the house, on the north side of the lane to the barn.

Well House, ca. 1950, non-contributing

One-story, shed-roof building sheathed in wood siding, standing northwest of the house.
Summary

Built ca. 1835, the Walter R. and Eliza Smith Moore House in Johnston County, North Carolina, exhibits outstanding exterior woodwork, with an elaborate modillioned cornice featuring punch-and-gouge work above an intricate guilloche, a two-story portico with identical woodwork and solid turned posts, and a pilastered surround with a pediment encompassing the two entrances on the façade. Although the house features elaborate academic exterior Federal-style woodwork, it was constructed with a vernacular floor plan and simpler interior woodwork. Despite an altered first-floor plan, the outstanding quality and survival of the exterior trim and porch is rare among antebellum dwellings in the coastal plain of North Carolina and no other comparable buildings from the period survive in Johnston County. All of the original mantels, door and window surrounds, and interior doors remain intact. The Walter R. and Eliza Smith Moore House qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for architecture.

Historical Background

Ann Thomson and Lewis Moore of Sampson County, North Carolina had six children who survived into adulthood, including Walter Raleigh Moore (1808-1869) and his twin brother, William. By May 1830, Walter Moore had settled in Johnston County, and was considered reputable enough to serve as inspector and pollkeeper for that year’s election.1 By June 1830, he had married Eliza Smith (1813-1870), daughter of Edwin Smith (1772-1829) of Johnston County. Edwin Smith was the eldest son of Samuel Smith (1744-1809), a prosperous planter with a large landholding on the Neuse River, north of Smithfield.2 In June 1830, Eliza and Walter Moore lived with an older woman (Eliza’s widowed mother?) and owned five slaves, two men between the ages of ten and twenty-four, two women between the ages of ten and thirty-six, and a young girl less than ten years old.3

By 1836, Walter and Eliza Moore purchased the land upon which the house stands from David H. Bryan and James Smith.4 Both were most likely relatives of Eliza’s: James was possibly her brother, and David Bryan, a cousin.5 Walter and Eliza may have completed purchase of the land after they had constructed their house.

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5 Heritage, 358. Eliza and Walter named one of their sons, James, suggesting that this may have been a family name. The other boys were named for Eliza’s father, Walter’s twin brother, and Walter himself. Eliza had an uncle named Bythan Bryan and an aunt Nancy Bryan who married her Uncle Samuel.
In 1840, Walter and Eliza Moore had two children (William and David), and ten slaves worked in their fields and in the house. The Moores had only one male and one female slave between the ages of ten and twenty-four, two women between the age of thirty-six and fifty-five, and five slaves less than ten years old. Half of their slaves were not in their peak work years.6

Ten years later, Walter and Eliza Moore had a family of six children, the eldest, William (age 15) was already considered a farmer. A young mulatto girl (not enslaved), Evaline Carroll (age 10), lived in the house with the family and helped take care of the two youngest children, Anne (age 2) and the baby, Julia, only four months old. Fourteen slaves, nine sixteen years or older, worked in the fields and in the house for the Moores. Now in his mid-forties, Walter was a prosperous farmer, owning over 900 acres, of which 165 were in crops. The majority of farmers in the county owned between 300 and 400 acres, making Walter Moore among the wealthier members of society. There were, however, planters in the county who owned considerably more land than Moore, and two men, Dr. Josiah Watson and Elijah Atkinson owned over 10,000 acres apiece.7

Walter and Eliza Moore’s farm had a value of $3,000 and supported over 100 swine, seventeen sheep, thirty head of cattle, and three teams of oxen. The land yielded over 1,250 bushels of Indian corn and more than 700 bushels of sweet potatoes. Although some of Johnston County’s wealthiest farmers grew cotton in 1850, Moore had not yet succumbed to the promise of cotton’s profitability.8

At the eve of the Civil War, Walter Moore and his family continued to prosper. Two more children (James and Bettie) had arrived to join Eliza’s and Walter’s six other children. The second eldest son, David had married and set up household with his wife Ann, next door to his parents. The farm was now worth $4,675 and included the main house, his son David’s house, and five slave houses. Walter’s personal estate (including fifteen slaves) was valued at $12,227. The Moores continued to grow large quantities of Indian corn (1,500 bushels) and sweet potatoes (450 bushels) but cotton had now become the primary cash crop, with sixteen 400-pound bales produced in 1860.9 Twenty percent of Johnston County’s farmers now grew cotton, but only a third of these produced more than five bales.10

Before his death in 1869, Walter and Eliza Moore transferred the house and land to their third son, Edwin Smith Moore and his wife, Bettie H. Moore. On March 22, 1869 Edwin and Bettie

10 Butchko, 15.
sold the entire property of 925 acres to James T. Leach. Leach kept the farm until 1879 when he sold it to A.R. Weeks, from whom the Yelvington family purchased it five years later.

The Yelvingtons used the house as a tenant property, and by 1900 the building was in poor repair—unpainted with parts of the porch balustrade missing and loose boards in the porch roof. The Yelvingtons retained ownership of the house for seventy years; during their ownership, the house was used to board teachers for the Cleveland Township schools. The Yelvingtons sold the property at auction to Jesse Sherrill in 1954. The Sherrills owned the house for more than thirty years, selling it to Jerry and Gerry Caruso in 1989. The Carusos restored and renovated the house, and sold it to Jeffrey and Lisa Munsey in 1993, from whom the current owners purchased the property the next year.12

Architecture Context

Built ca. 1835, the Walter R. and Eliza Smith Moore House in Johnston County, North Carolina, exhibits outstanding Federal-style exterior woodwork, with an elaborate modillioned cornice featuring punch-and-gouge work above an intricate guilloche, a two-story porch with identical woodwork and solid turned posts, and a pilastered surround with a pediment encompassing the two entrances on the façade.

The identical cornice treatment appears—as part of a ca. 1835 remodelling of an earlier house—on the Roberts-Vaughn House (NR 1971) in Murfreesboro, Hertford County, North Carolina. These heavy cornices harken back to the elaborate cornices of the Georgian era and the early Federal period, not forward to the mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival style. The remodeling of the Roberts-Vaughn House included the addition of a colossal portico to the façade, the adding of the heavy, ornate cornice (which includes, as does the Walter and Eliza Moore House, pedimented end gables), and the construction of a wing to create a five-bay façade. Unlike the Walter and Eliza Moore House, the portico of the Roberts-Vaughn House has two-story fluted columns, and not heavy turned posts.

The existence of two identical cornice treatments on mid-1830s houses in mid-and-eastern North Carolina suggests that one craftsman may have been responsible for the woodwork on both houses. This exact combination of ornament is not found in the work of Asher Benjamin, the most popular author of builder’s guides for the period in North Carolina, but appears to be a

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11 Todd Johnson and Durwood Barbour. *Images of America: Johnston County* (Arcadia Press, 2000) 72. The ca. 1900 photograph shows an unidentified tenant family standing in front of the house.
12 Malek-Madani.
combination of many different sources. Samples of guilloche treatments can be found in Benjamin’s *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter* (1830), but none of these are identical to those found on the Roberts-Vaughn or Walter R. and Eliza Smith Moore houses. The Green-Polk House (ca. 1850), Warrenton, Warren County, features a guilloche pattern on the cornice of the front-door surround, one that is more curvilinear than that found on the Eliza and Walter Moore or Roberts-Vaughn houses and more closely resembles those found in Benjamin. The use of guilloche work to adorn chairrails is found in some of the finest early nineteenth-century Federal style houses in New Bern. Carpenter Asa King is attributed with the execution of this exceptional woodwork in New Bern; King worked in New Bern during the first two decades of the nineteenth century, and is known to have worked in Hillsborough in the 1830s, so it is plausible that he may have been responsible for the exterior woodwork of the Walter R. and Eliza Smith Moore House and the Roberts-Vaughn House, ca. 1835.

The balustrade of the two-story portico is also distinctive, featuring a very linear, stylized “sheaf-of-wheat” pattern. Again, similar, but not identical examples of suggested balustrade motifs can be found in Asher Benjamin’s *The Architect*. The use of a light, stickwork balustrade can be found on the two-story porch of the Sears-Moore House in New Bern. The two-story posts of the portico are not classic Doric, Ionic, or Tuscan-style columns, but chunky, turned posts, with squared blocks where the rails meet the posts. The posts are only slightly tapered, and give the portico a very solid appearance, more Greek Revival in feeling than Federal. Similar, solid columns with interruptions in the shaft adorned the elaborate, ornate mantelpiece of the plantation house, Vernon, in nearby Wayne County (ca. 1835-36). Like the Walter R. and Eliza Moore House, Vernon combined high-style elements from earlier periods (the guilloche, linear stick-built balustrade, heavy modillion cornice) with vernacular elements such as the heavy turned posts. Possibly, Asa King also worked at Vernon. Like Vernon, the Moore House also features a vernacular floor plan, indicated on the exterior by the two doors on the façade.

The two doors on the façade share a pedimented surround, a very unusual feature. This pediment features a large keystone and punch-and-gouge work, and like the heavy cornice treatment, is more Georgian or early Federal in style than Greek Revival. The walls under the porch, as

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17 Sandbeck, 90.
18 Benjamin, Plate XXXIII.
19 See Sandbeck, 381. The porch of the Sears-Moore House is believed to date to ca. 1852.
elsewhere in piedmont and eastern North Carolina during the first half of the nineteenth century, are sheathed with flush boards, rather than weatherboards, creating a more elegant, finished appearance.

The original floor plan of the Walter R. and Eliza Smith Moore House was a hall-parlor plan with a rear ell; a shed room occupied the space between the ell and the main block. The two doors on the facade led into the hall and the parlor. The staircase stood in the rear shed room, and was partially enclosed. This plan was altered during the 1990s by removing the wall between the hall and parlor, adding a wall with a wider opening approximately five feet west of the original wall, and moving the location of the staircase to the parlor, with no wall adjoining.

An elegant, ornate façade fronting a more vernacular hall-parlor plan with two entrances can be found elsewhere in eastern and piedmont North Carolina, but the most comparable example is the Thomas Sheppard House in Pitt County (ca. 1845). The Sheppard House also features an enclosed stair that rises from the rear of the house and a Greek Revival one-story portico that visually unified the two doors in a manner similar to the flat, pedimented surround of the Walter R. and Eliza Smith Moore House.21

Despite an altered first-floor plan, the outstanding quality and survival of the exterior trim and porch is rare among antebellum dwellings in the coastal plain of North Carolina and no other comparable buildings from the period survive in Johnston County.

Bibliography


Verbal Boundary Description

The historic boundary is shown on the accompanying tax parcel map, at the scale 1” = 200’, for Johnston County, Tax Parcel No. 06H07013C.

Boundary Justification

The boundary follows the current legal parcel, which includes the house, its accompanying outbuildings, and the yard immediately surrounding the residence and provides an appropriate setting for the resource.
The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

1) Moore, Walter R. and Eliza Smith, House
2) Johnston County, North Carolina
3) Nancy Van Dolsen
4) June 2004
5) State Historic Preservation Office
6-7)
1: Façade, looking north
2: Detail of façade, portico pediment, looking north
3: Detail of façade cornice, looking north northeast
4: West elevation, looking east
5: Rear and east elevation, looking southwest
6: Barn, built 1997, looking north northeast
7: Parlor, looking east
8: Dining room, looking north
Site Plan
Walter R. and Eliza Smith House
Johnston County, North Carolina
Tax Number 06H07013C

**DISCLAIMER**

Johnston County assumes no legal responsibility for the information represented here.

Scale 1 inch = 200 feet
(The scale is only accurate when printed landscape on a letter size sheet with page scaling set to none.)

Date 23-Nov-04
Walter and Eliza Smith Moore House
Johnston County, North Carolina