

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| STATE: North Carolina | |
| COUNTY: Lenoir | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Kennedy Memorial Home

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Cedar Dell

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On SR 1338, .4 miles from the junction of SR 1324 and SR 1338

CITY OR TOWN:
Falling Creek (First Congressional District: Hon. Walter B. Jones)

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| STATE North Carolina | CODE 37 | COUNTY: Lenoir | CODE 107 |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Orphanage |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Kennedy Memorial Home

STREET AND NUMBER:
SR 1338

CITY OR TOWN:
Kinston

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| STATE: North Carolina | CODE 37 |
|--------------------------|------------|

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lenoir County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Queen Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Kinston

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| STATE: North Carolina | CODE 37 |
|--------------------------|------------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------|
| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE |
|-------------------|------------|----------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| |
|--------------------------|
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| COUNTY: Lenoir |
| ENTRY NUMBER |
| DATE |

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7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cedar Dell was originally constructed about 1820 as a two-story brick dwelling with a side-hall plan much like the typical New Bern town house. Late in the nineteenth century the dwelling was enlarged and converted to a Victorian mansion.

The Federal portion of Cedar Dell includes the three south bays of the five-bay main (west) facade. These three bays are protected by a well-executed one-story Eastlake-style porch with a low roof topped by a wrought iron balustrade. Supporting the porch are chamfered wooden pillars on flat-paneled pedestals set in a turned balustrade. At the top of each post are curved brackets supporting pairs of rectangular panels pierced with geometric patterns and ornamented with horizontal and vertical turned pendants at the lower outer corners. Between the panels runs an intricate fascia composed of a pierced band above a row of two-dimensional pendants. The recessed central entrance is a Victorian replacement. It is framed by tapered pilasters which support a heavy cornice adorned with brackets and pendants. Below a plain plate glass transom each leaf of the double door contains a tall round-headed opening filled with etched glass. The deep reveals of the doors and transom are paneled.

North of the front porch is a large bay window with a roof identical to that on the porch and a cornice enriched with horizontal panels separated by ornamental pendant brackets. All the fenestration on the front, including that in the bay window, contains large four-over-four sash. The original cornice, copied in the Victorian addition, contains undercut modillions above dentils and carries around the entire building, continuing up the eaves and returning on the gables.

The roof, covered with patterned shingles, features on the front two large false louvered dormers flanking a smaller central one and on the rear one small central dormer. The gable roof of each dormer projects, has exposed framing filled with perforated panels, and is accented by a central pendant and turned pinnacle.

Each gable end is four bays wide and features two interior end chimneys with elaborate paneled stacks. The north side contains a Palladian window in the gable, while the south has two small windows with original six-over-six sash. The first level of the south gable is enclosed by a rectangular sun porch containing fourteen windows and a cornice identical to that on the front bay window. The rear facade is dominated by a two-tier porch featuring superimposed paneled pillars, a heavy turned balustrade, and a crude reproduction of the main cornice on each level. The south side of the second story and the north side of the first have been enclosed. The central entrance is similar to that on the front but lacks ornamental brackets and pendants.

The interior of Cedar Dell presents a center-hall plan two rooms deep. The south rooms have some surviving Federal features, while those on the north contain excellent Victorian interiors. The main hall, a pleasing combination of both styles, is divided by a transverse arch of ornamental lattice work, which springs from slender reeded engaged colonettes. The

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
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| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

(Number all entries)

7. Continued (A)

stair rises from the north side of the hall in two flights to the second floor and then continues in two additional flights to the attic. All risers end in Federal-style wave brackets. The balustrade of the first flight, which has a heavy Victorian molded rail supported by turned balusters, ends in a massive square newel post with applied moldings, an incised rosette on each side, and a large turned knob on top. The original ramped balustrade with rounded hand-rail, balusters square in section, and tapered posts continues from the first landing to the attic.

Although all the Federal door surrounds in the two south rooms have been replaced with heavy casings with cornerblocks and roundels, the original mantels and sections of the molded chair rail remain. The mantels, intact except for the addition of small square shelves supported by delicate spindles above the main shelf at either end, are typically Adamesque with a delicate sunburst in the central tablet and in each of the end blocks. The northwest parlor contains a robust Victorian mantel with incised scroll and floral designs. The overmantel includes a large mirror framed by paneled pilasters and a cornice topped by a band of scallops. The entrance to the bay window has a molded architrave with cornerblocks and a richly carved console at either side of the opening's flat-paneled soffit.

The dining room in the northeast corner is the most elaborately finished room in Cedar Dell. The plaster walls are covered with the original nineteenth century wallpaper above a wainscot which features a row of square flat panels containing roundels above a row of vertical rectangular flat panels. The room is dominated by an elaborately worked mantel featuring a rectangular opening faced with brightly colored tiles. The opening is flanked by vertical flat panels above heavy molded bases ornamented with roundels. The panels support a three-part frieze adorned with incised rosettes and a central tablet consisting of a large rosette flanked by small carved brackets. Similar brackets border the end blocks, which contain incised paterae. The overmantel includes a mirror flanked by small quadrant shelves supported by spindles which in turn support a full-length shelf across the top of the mirror. Above the upper shelf is a wooden fascia topped by an egg-and-dart molding. This room contains all its original appointments including bric-a-brac, draperies and furniture.

The rooms in the earlier section of the second floor have plaster walls and little ornament other than the mantels, which have molded shelves adorned with dentils and flat-paneled pilasters.

The mantels in the Victorian rooms on the second floor appear to be attempts at providing some sort of unity of style, for they copy the overall lines of the secondary Federal mantels. They do employ incised rosettes and foliate designs that give them a definite Victorian appearance.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE | |
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| COUNTY | |
| Lenoir | |
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| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

(Number all entries)

7. Continued (B)

The finished attic has the only untouched Federal interiors in the house. The hall has the original balustrade and plasterwalls, and the entrance to the south room contains a raised-paneled door on rising hinges framed by a Federal architrave.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest known resident of Cedar Dell was Henry Herring, who deeded the house to his son, George W. Herring, in 1845. It is not certain how long before 1845 Henry Herring had owned the house, but the Herring family had lived in Lenoir County since the late eighteenth century. Since Cedar Dell appears to have been built about 1820, it is likely that Henry Herring either built the house or was among its first owners.

Thomas Jefferson Kennedy purchased Cedar Dell from George W. Herring on April 28, 1855, and moved his family from a nearby farm, one mile north-east of the Falling Creek railroad station, into the house in 1856. His son, William La Fayette Kennedy, bought Cedar Dell from his father on October 20, 1876.

W. L. F. Kennedy, who had enlisted in the Confederate army in the spring of 1862 at the age of sixteen, later became one of the largest landowners in Lenoir County. He was director of two banks and the owner of Cahoma Mill. During his ownership the house was remodeled into a Victorian mansion. In 1912, Kennedy and his wife, Emily Hardee Kennedy, who had no children, deeded their house and approximately 1,200 acres of rich farm land to the trustees of Thomasville Baptist Orphanage. The deed provided Kennedy and his wife with a life estate to the house and property and prohibited the use of the property for any purpose other than for an orphanage, to be called the Kennedy Memorial Home. Dormitories and other buildings were constructed on the property, and the first children were admitted on June 5, 1914.

Architecturally, Cedar Dell is an interesting example of Federal and Victorian motifs harmoniously combined. The late nineteenth century portion of the house contains some of the finest Victorian interiors in eastern North Carolina, especially in the dining room, which has not been altered since its completion in the late 1880s.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holloman, Charles R., and Johnson, Talmage C. The Story of Kinston and Lenoir County. Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1954.

Lenoir County Records, Lenoir County Courthouse, Kinston, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Lenoir County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 35° 15' 17" | 77° 41' 20" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Seven Acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: May 25, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date May 25, 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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE | |
| North Carolina | |
| COUNTY | |
| Lenoir | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

(Number all entries)

9. Continued

Spilman, Bernard Washington. The Mills Homes: A History of the Baptist Orphanage Movement in North Carolina. Thomasville, North Carolina: The Mills Home, 1932.

