

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Burt-Arrington House

Hilliardston vicinity, Nash County, NS0894, Listed 8/22/2016

Nomination by Jason L. Harpe

Photographs by Jason L. Harpe, April 2015



Overall view



Rear view

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Burt-Arrington House

other names/site number Burt-Woodruff-Cooper House

2. Location

street & number 784 West Hilliardston Road N/A not for publication

city or town Hilliardston (Nashville, Nash County - mailing address) vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Nash code 127 zip code 27856

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	4	Buildings
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
2	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick

walls: Wood

roof: metal

other: Brick (chimneys)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Burt-Arrington House, built ca. 1824, is located at 784 West Hilliardston Road on Swift Creek in the Griffins Township of Nash County, North Carolina. The property has a Nashville mailing address. Hilliardston, settled in the 1780s and named for early settler John Hilliard, is an unincorporated rural community in northern Nash County, nine miles north of the town of Nashville (pop. 5,464) and four miles north of the town of Red Oak (pop. 3,430). Hilliardston is south of Hillardston Road. Hilliardston Road extends east across Highway 43 for a very short distance and ends at Swift Creek School Road. Hilliardston was a community that during the two decades after it was settled had large farms, a post office, mercantile stores, a grist mill, churches, and a private academy. It was very similar to surrounding communities such as Castalia, Stanhope, and Dortches.¹ Today, Hilliardston is largely a farming community that has a few small country stores and churches, and is not denoted on most maps. Hillardston is located at 200 feet above sea level.

The Burt-Arrington House stands on the north side of West Hilliardston Road, the former Halifax-to-Raleigh stagecoach route, on a tract of land, rectangular in shape, that has pecan trees, crepe myrtles, hollies, pines, oaks and magnolias at its east and north boundaries and a spacious open front yard. The property is bordered on the north by heavily wooded areas and a large pond, on the west by a wheat field, and on the south by Hilliardston Road. Heavily wooded areas are located at the property's eastern boundary, and large fields at the property's western boundary are planted in an annual rotation of wheat, cotton, and tobacco crops. Some modern residential structures are visible on the north and south sides of West Hilliardston Road, but most of the land is heavily wooded or open farmland.

The Burt-Arrington House is situated near the center of the 2.8 acre level tract in a rural setting and the house is setback 150 feet from Hilliardston Road's two paved lanes. An unpaved, one-lane gravel driveway leads from Hilliardston Road near the property's southwest corner to the west side of the house, where a second dirt driveway splits to the northwest and leads past three outbuildings dating to ca. 1920 and 1940. The second driveway continues past one of the outbuildings, a front-gabled, ca. 1920 barn, near the property's northwest corner, towards a large farm pond at the property's northern boundary. Fields of wheat, cotton, and tobacco, and heavily wooded areas are north of the National Register boundary. A small ca. 1840 outbuilding is located near the house's northeast corner, and a ca. 1960 pool house stands to the north of this outbuilding.

¹ L. Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* (Raleigh [N.C.]: Branson & Jones, 1868).

<http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/Sabin?af=RN&ae=CY105090651&srchtp=a&ste=14&locID=byuprovo>>. Accessed 1 December 2015. .

The Burt-Arrington House was built ca. 1824 as a double-pile, two-and-a-half-story side-gabled Federal-style frame building with a steeply-pitched roof and two Flemish-Bond exterior brick chimneys at the east gable end. It was built on a side-hall plan with a four-bay asymmetrical facade, and the fenestration pattern was one window to the west of the front door and two windows to the east.

The exact construction date of the house is not known as there is no historic documentation directly related to the house's construction. The ca. 1824 date is an approximate date based several factors. First, Dr. Burt purchased land in Nash County in 1811 and 1817, including the property where the house currently stands. Dr. Burt's association with the Hilliardston Academy began in the early 1820s when he served as secretary for the school. The academy advertised regularly in both *The Star*, the local newspaper, and the *Raleigh Register*. On December 2, 1825, the *Raleigh Register* ran an advertisement stating that "board may be had with James Hilliard and Wm. Burt, at thirty-three dollars per session."² The Burt-Arrington House was located a short distance from the academy and given Dr. Burt's direct association with the school, it is reasonable to conclude that the Burt-Arrington House is referred to in the 1825 advertisement. Therefore, it is highly likely that the house would have been built by 1824.

An additional bay was added at the house's west elevation during the 1830s, based on its architectural finishes. It created a symmetrical facade of two windows on both sides of front door, and the house plan changed to a hall-and-parlor plan. An early twentieth century photograph of the house shows flanking side dependencies at the east and west elevations that appear to be contemporary with the original ca. 1824 house. The west dependency abutted the house, and the east dependency stood separate from the house. The dependencies were one-story, side-gabled frame buildings with exterior gable-end chimneys. The dependencies may have been removed when an early twentieth century porch and side porte-cochere were added. The dependencies were used for unknown purposes.

Based on physical evidence on the facade, the house's first porch was likely a two-story, three-bay-wide gable front portico that was constructed after the west bay addition. A second-story center door accessed the upper level. The portico was replaced by a post-Civil War full-width, low hipped-roof one-story porch that dated from the 1870s or 1880s. The third porch was built during the early twentieth century as a taller full-width hipped-roof porch, and a porte-cochere added at the west end of the porch during the 1930s may have replaced the west-side dependency. An historic photograph of the house, taken during the 1920s or 1930s, and the structural framing and architectural details uncovered after the removal of an early twentieth-century, one-story porch, porte cochere, and synthetic siding shows evidence of the two-story portico. No documentation exists of the portico's detailing.

By the late 2000s, the porch was very badly deteriorated and the current owners replaced it with the current porch. This porch is a one-story, three-bay hipped-roof portico supported by four square posts on brick piers, between which is wooden latticework. The porch is decked with pine flooring, and the balustrades and front steps have thin rectangular banisters.

Narrative Description

Burt-Arrington House, ca. 1824, 1830s

Contributing building

Built for Nash County physician and planter Dr. William Burt ca. 1824, this 3,265-square-foot double-pile Federal-style house with Greek Revival-influenced interior finishes in the first floor hall has an east-west orientation and is five bays wide by three bays deep with single-shouldered Flemish-bond brick chimneys with Queen closers at its gable ends. The house has a one-story, hipped-roof early-twentieth-century rear addition

² Charles L. Coon, *North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840: A Documentary History* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Print. Co., state printers, 1915), 264-266.

with an asphalt-shingled roof, bank of eight-over-eight, four-over-four, and six-over-three double hung wooden sash windows and a French door.

The Burt-Arrington House stands on a brick foundation of both running bond and common bond coursing, over an earthen cellar, and the east foundation wall has concrete stucco. Rectangular, louvered wooden foundation vents are set in the foundation on both sides of the central entry stair. The exterior is covered with wood weatherboards currently painted yellow and wooden corner boards. The windows at each elevation are typically six-over-six, nine-over-nine, and four-over-four double hung wooden sash, exceptions being a four-over-one sash at the second floor of the east elevation and a four-over-one sash at the second floor of the north elevation. Double-hung wooden windows with plain architraves painted white are found throughout the house. Shallow eave overhangs and plain fascia painted white are under a steeply-pitched metal-clad roof.

The Burt-Arrington House's common features are pine flooring, molded window and door surrounds, flush sheathed wainscoting, six-panel doors, Federal-style mantels, plaster walls, and 15-foot-high ceilings, with exceptions noted below. A second floor bedroom and bathroom, and two rooms in the upper half-story have grained painted doors.

Exterior

South Elevation

The Burt-Arrington House has a symmetrical five-bay-wide facade with a six-panel wooden front door, nine-over-nine double-hung windows at the first story, and six-over-six double hung windows at the second story. A one-story, three-bay wide hipped-roof porch covers three bays.

East Elevation

The east elevation has two large brick, single-shouldered chimneys laid in a Flemish-bond brick pattern. The chimneys were rebuilt above the shoulders in a running-bond brick pattern, likely in the mid-1950s after damage from Hurricane Hazel. The base of the chimney near the house's northeast corner has been covered with concrete, and access to the crawlspace and cellar is through a rectangular opening covered by plywood in the foundation. A four-over-four double hung sash window provides light to the crawlspace near the house's northeast corner, and a piece of plywood covers a rectangular opening along the east wall in the foundation of the rear, north addition.

Two, nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows and one, six-over-six double hung sash windows are located at the first floor at this elevation, and the second floor has two four-over-four double-hung sash windows and one four-over-one double hung wooden sash window. Two four-over-four double hung sash windows are located at the upper half story near the apex of the gable.

West Elevation

The west elevation is three bays wide and it has an exterior stepped, single-shouldered brick chimney laid in a Flemish-bond brick bond. An additional first floor entrance is on this elevation at the southwest corner. A simple wooden stair leads to this entrance which has an early twentieth-century door with four upper lights. The door has a plain architrave that is painted white.

Nine-over-nine double hung sash windows occupy the first floor's center and north bays. Three four-over-four double-hung sash are on the second floor's three bays, and two four-over-four double-hung sash windows are at the upper half story north of the chimney.

A band of three six-over-three double hung sash windows span the rear addition west well. These windows have plain surrounds painted white. The foundation was infilled with brick between the original piers sometime during the twentieth century. Rectangular metal vents are set into the foundation at this elevation, and a square plywood door is hinged to the foundation to provide access. Concrete stucco was applied to the base of the chimney and most of the foundation wall to reinforce original brick piers.

North Elevation

The north, rear elevation has a plain boxed-in cornice and frieze below. A nine-over-nine double-hung sash window with plain surrounds is located at the first floor near the house's northeast corner. On the second floor, two original six-over-six double-hung sash windows flank a ca. 1920s wooden window with upper sash of four vertical lights over a single-light lower sash. The first floor has a nearly full-width, one-story hip-roofed addition built on a brick foundation during the early twentieth century. To the east, a wooden bulkhead opens to a set of stairs leading to a root cellar. Concrete steps lead to a French door with divided lights that opens to the house's kitchen.

A four-over-four double-hung sash window is located at the addition's northeast corner, to the east of a pair of four-over-four double-hung sash windows and the rear French door. To the east are four eight-over-eight double-hung sash windows.

Interior

The Burt-Arrington House was originally a two-room-deep, four-bay-wide side-hall plan with a narrow west passage that lead to a stairhall. The plan was changed to hall-and-parlor when a two-story one-bay-wide addition was built to the west side of the house. This addition enlarged the west room creating the hall of the hall and parlor plan. The hall and parlor are both approximately 17 feet deep. The parlor is 16 feet wide, and the hall is approximately 21 feet wide.

The stairhall is to the north of the hall. The triple-run staircase is on the room's north wall and it has darkly-stained pine newel posts with newel caps, and darkly-stained handrails atop thin square balusters painted white. These balusters terminate in unfinished pine treads, and the open stringers and risers are painted white. Tall baseboards with molded caps and quarter round molding, all painted white, extend the full length of the staircase's run, and the two landings are decked with three-inch-wide pine boards. A five-panel door opens to a small closet under the staircase.

First Floor

The interior retains its original five-inch wide pine flooring, plaster walls and six-panel doors from the 1820s, Federal and Greek Revival-style door and window surrounds, wainscoting, mantels, crown molding and baseboards. The hall is the only room that has reeded door and window architraves with corner blocks, and deep accentuated crown molding. Other first floor rooms and the second floor rooms have three-part Federal-style mantels, no crown molding, and simple door and window architraves with plain molding.

Located at the house's southwest corner, the hall has wainscoting with hand-planed, flush panels framed by simple molding, and surmounted by a chair rail. This room's windows rest on the chair-rail cap of the wainscoting, with the chair-cap serving as the window sill. The room has tall baseboard molding with molded caps and quarter-round molding. A wide opening on the east wall opens to the parlor and an opening opposite the front door provides access to the stairhall, and a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen in the rear.

A three-part Federal style mantel is centrally located on the hall's west wall. The mantel cornice has three-part crown molding, a plain frieze, reeded pilasters, and a center panel. The fireplace has a brick firebox and hearth rebuilt in 2007.

The parlor is east of the hall and all of its window and door surrounds have simple trim. This room's wainscoting matches the hall wainscoting, and a three-part Federal style mantel is centrally located on the east wall. This mantel's cornice has rope and dentil moldings, a center panel, and plain three-part frieze. The fireplace has a brick firebox and hearth, rebuilt in 2007, and a stuccoed surround. A six-panel door is located at the room's northeast corner, and opens to the rear bedroom.

The bedroom has its original wainscoting and mantel. It has wainscoting with flush, hand-planed panels, surmounted by top rail, apron, and chair rail cap, above a base rail and tall baseboard with molded cap and quarter-round molding. A fireplace and mantel are on the east wall. The mantel has a top shelf, a wide frieze, and plain pilasters on tall molded plinths. The fireplace's firebox and hearth are bricks stuccoed with concrete. The bedroom's walls and ceiling are plastered.

A five-paneled door opens to the bathroom from the adjacent bedroom, and a pocket door on the bathroom's west wall leads to the kitchen and breakfast room at this elevation. The bathroom's north and west walls and ceiling are sheathed with beadboard, and the east wall is drywall. A four-over-four double-hung sash window occupies the bathroom's north wall, and the floor is covered with diamond-shaped ceramic tiles with brick bordering.

To the west of the stairhall is a narrow hall leading to the kitchen. The hall and kitchen are part the 1830s one-bay addition. The hall's wainscoting matches the wainscoting in the front hall, and the floors in the hall and kitchen are original. Wooden beams from the 1830s addition are exposed at the opening between the kitchen and breakfast room. The breakfast room is located in the rear addition, north of the stairhall. The room has modern brick flooring laid in a basket weave pattern, and original bead board-covered walls and ceiling with modern crown molding.

Second Floor

The second floor opens to a transverse hallway with one bedroom at the east end of the hallway, two bedrooms on the south side, a bathroom at the west end, and a laundry room on the north side. South of the hall is a large bedroom. A six-panel grain-painted door of mahogany design with plain surround opens to the room. This room has wainscoting of a single flush, hand-planed panel board framed by simple molding and chair molding. The room has tall base molding with molded caps and quarter round molding, all painted white. The room retains its original pine flooring, plaster walls, and ceiling. A Federal-style mantel with plain frieze and molded pilasters accentuates a brick firebox and hearth on the room's west wall. A modern closet projects from the room's northeast corner.

To the east is another large bedroom. A simple Federal-style mantel with molded shelf is on the east wall. This bedroom has wainscoting with a single hand-planed panel board framed by simple molding, and surmounted by chair rail. The room has tall baseboards with molded caps and quarter round molding. A new closet with storage space above projects from the room's northeast corner.

At the east end of the hall is a third bedroom. The room has a six-panel door and three-part Federal-style mantel with a molded shelf and reeded center block flanked by recessed panels.. This bedroom has wainscoting with a single hand-planed panel board framed by simple molding, and surmounted by chair molding. The room has tall base boards with molded caps and quarter round molding. The dado has been stripped to expose its original pine grain, and the remaining portion of the wainscoting is painted gray.

The bathroom has six-panel, grain-painted door with a plain surround matching the bedroom door at the southwest corner. The bathroom has wainscoting with a flush hand-planed panel board framed by simple

molding and surmounted by chair molding. The room has tall base molding with molded caps and quarter round molding. A shower with ceramic tile floor, walls, and ceiling is located at the room's northwest corner. A cast iron tub stands under the window on the room's west wall, and other modern fixtures complete the room.

A small room west of the third bedroom currently serves as a laundry room. The room has a five-panel door with a two-light transom that opens from the hall. A ca. 1920s double-hung wooden sash window with four vertical lights over a single-paned sash in the north wall indicates that this space was likely enclosed in the early twentieth century. A small paneled door on the west wall accesses an enclosed staircase to the house's attic. The laundry room has a new ceramic tile floor, plaster walls and ceiling, and modern moldings.

The staircase and entire attic is decked with pine boards, and walls enclosing the staircase are covered with drywall. The staircase opens onto a pine-decked landing and hallway that runs east-to-west with two six-panel grain-painted doors with grain-painted surrounds that open to the two rooms at each end of the hall. Grain painting on the attic doors is a different color from the second floor doors. A bedroom is at the east end of the hall, a living room is at the west end, and a bathroom is opposite the staircase. The bedroom and living room walls have been covered with pine boards, and the ceilings have drywall. The bathroom has a ceramic tile floor, drywall-covered walls and ceiling, modern fixtures, and a small shower.

Outbuildings

Outbuilding, ca. 1840

Contributing Building

This one-story square, side-gabled building measures approximately eight by ten feet with a metal roof. It has projecting eaves, weatherboards, and corner boards. Rectangular, louvered wooden openings are located at each gable end, and a board-and-batten door with plain surround is located at the building's south elevation. The building rests on small stones at each of its corners, and retains its original pine flooring. Interior walls are covered with modern drywall.

Smokehouse, ca. 1940

Non-Contributing Building

This one-story rectangular, side-gabled frame outbuilding was built on a concrete slab. It has a truncated hip roof covered with a standing seam metal roof with exposed rafters under deep eave overhangs. The building has an east-west orientation with wooden German siding and corner boards. The building measures 26 by 14 feet and has three five-panel wooden doors at its south elevation. The middle door opens to a small room with no windows in which meat was smoked, and the two flanking doors open to rooms that were used to store agricultural equipment and supplies. Darkened walls from smoldering fires and metal hooks provide evidence that the middle room was used to smoke meat. The two storage rooms both have pine flooring and storage shelving and bins added in recent times. The flooring is a combination of original boards and new treated lumber.

A four-over-four double-hung sash window is on the west wall, and a matching window is located near the building's northwest corner. A second window covered by a wooden shutter is located near the building's northeast corner, and a shed-roofed porch supported rectangular rafters and square posts projects eight feet from the building's main body at its north elevation.

Outbuilding, ca. 1920

Non-contributing Building

This front-gabled outbuilding has a metal roof, wooden weatherboard siding, and rests on a concrete block foundation. Measuring 30 feet by 16 feet, the building has a paneled wooden door at the building's southeast corner, and a one-over-one double hung vinyl window at the east elevation. A fifteen-light French door is centrally located at the north elevation, to the west of a shed-roofed extension that shades half of poured concrete slab. The patio is enclosed by chicken wire.

Barn, ca. 1920**Non-contributing Building**

This rectangular, front-gabled barn has a modern metal roof, wooden cornerboards, and weatherboard siding at the building's north, south and west elevations. Vertical wooden board siding sheathes the east gable elevation. A pair of doors open to the first floor interior, and a large rectangular door opens to the second floor. The building is thirty-two feet by twenty-five feet, is painted red, and has historically functioned as a storage building for agricultural equipment and as a hayloft.

Pool House, ca. 1960**Non-contributing Building**

This front-gabled building has a metal roof and exposed rafters that cover a square, enclosed center space for people changing clothes before and after using the pool. The pool house is 13 feet long by 14 feet wide. Vertical boards approximately four feet tall attached to square posts at the building's periphery partially sheath the building.

Integrity Assessment

The Burt-Arrington House maintains a very good level of historic integrity. The house retains all of its original Federal-style and Greek Revival-style interior details. The current property owners, after acquiring the house from the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. (Preservation North Carolina) in 2007, have made a conscientious effort to adhere to the deed covenants outlined by Preservation North Carolina, as well as the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines and standards for the rehabilitation of historic buildings. Additionally, staff from the Eastern Office of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office made multiple site visits before rehabilitation, and corresponded with the owners on a regular basis. SHPO staff provided photographs and design drawings to build the front porch.

The owners removed aluminum siding from the house's exterior to expose and paint the original wooden weatherboard siding; removed a one-story, early twentieth-century porch; conserved the original nine-over-nine and six-over-six double-hung wooden sash windows; and have retained the period- and character-defining interior features that contribute to the house's significance.

In his book on Nash County's architectural heritage, Richard Mattson stated that "original porches rarely survive" from the Federal period in Nash County. The Burt-Arrington House no longer has its original porch, but the current owners have removed a later porch and conscientiously built a porch of a Federal-era design.

The property also retains a side-gabled frame outbuilding, located to the northeast of the house, that was built in ca. 1840. A ca. 1920 outbuilding and a ca. 1940 smokehouse, located near the house's northwest corner, and a ca. 1920 front-gabled barn near the property's northern boundary are all non-contributing because their construction dates are much later than the period of significance. The current owners have re-roofed and painted the exteriors of each building, and have retained many of the original windows and doors.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

The structures are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains such as trash pits, privies, and other structural remains which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the contributing structures. Information concerning land-use patterns, milling practices, as well as structural details, is often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structures. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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.
- 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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1824, 1830s

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The Burt-Arrington House's period of significance is ca. 1824, the approximate date the house was built, and the 1830s, the period within which the west addition and Greek Revival interior details were likely added. The west-side addition has Greek Revival-influenced finishes such as reeded surrounds with corner blocks at the windows and doorways, deep and accentuated crown molding, and a mantel with a reeded frieze and pilasters.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Burt-Arrington House, built ca. 1824, meets Criterion C for architecture on the local level of significance as a representative example of Federal-style architecture with Greek Revival-style interior finishes in the 1830s west bay addition. It has the distinctive characteristics of a Federal-style house and it ranks well in terms of its design, finishes, and integrity in comparison to other Federal-style houses in the county. It has Greek Revival-style interior features such as reeded door and window surrounds with corner blocks and deep and accentuated crown molding in the hall of the hall-and-parlor plan. The 1830s west-bay addition changed the house from a side-hall plan with a four bay asymmetrical façade to a hall-and-parlor planwide a five-bay-wide symmetrical façade more typical of Greek Revival style houses.

The house's character-defining features include a steeply-pitched roof, two-story side-gabled, five-bay-wide symmetrical facade and double pile massing; gable-end Flemish-bond chimneys; flush-sheathed wainscoting; three-part Federal-style fireplace mantels.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

Historic Background and Burt-Arrington House Associative History

Nash County, formed from Edgecombe County in 1777, was named for General Francis Nash of Hillsborough, North Carolina, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Germantown in Pennsylvania, while fighting under the command of General George Washington. Nash County developed during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries around stage coach routes that served as major highways, such as the one between Halifax and Louisburg, for the movement of agricultural products. The major highways intersected to form small communities such as Hilliardston (named after a local family) that had post offices, doctors, male and female academies, taverns, and sporting activities such as horse racing. The Hilliard family settled in northern Nash County around 1780, along Swift Creek, as the county established its early form of county government on the property of Micajah Thomas.³

The early settlers were of English and African ancestry from coastal North Carolina and Virginia, as well as Scotch-Irish and German who migrated to North Carolina from Pennsylvania. These settlers took advantage of the county's soils that supported the cultivation of tobacco, corn, small grains, hay, and cotton, and the growth of broadleaf deciduous and evergreen trees, needle-leaf deciduous trees, and shrubs.⁴ In 1790, Nash County had 7,393 inhabitants, with 2,009 of these being enslaved people. By 1820, Nash County's population increased to 8,187, with free blacks contributing 218 to this total, and the number of enslaved people was 3,447. While some of Nash County's residents engaged in iron manufacturing and gold mining, the majority of the free population made their living in agriculture. It was in this agriculture-based economy between 1800 and 1835 that some of Nash County's planter class presented their prosperity and status by building two-story, one-room deep hall-and-parlor Federal style houses.⁵

It was during this period that local physician and planter Dr. William Burt built his home on the Halifax-to-Raleigh stage coach route in Hilliardston. Dr. Burt purchased land in 1811 and 1817. He bought 153 acres

³ Mattson and Poff, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina*, 46.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

from Temperance Jones on May 21, 1811, and nearly 606 acres from John H. Drake on March 18, 1817.⁶ This 758 acres is the total acreage that Dr. John Arrington purchased from Dr. William Burt in 1838 for \$6,000.

Dr. William Burt was born on November 11, 1782, in Warren County, North Carolina, the son of William Burt (b. 1754/1755) and Salumuth (Sallie) Ballard Burt (born ca. 1758).⁷ The elder William Burt was born in the Isle of Wight County, Virginia, and Sallie Burt was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. Dr. William Burt married Susanna Sims, the youngest daughter of Leonard Hensley Sims and Sarah Swepson Sims, in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, on November 3, 1812.⁸ Twelve of the children were born in either Nash County or Warren County, but their daughters Lucy and Salumith were born in Franklin County, Tennessee. The Burt family relocated to Tennessee from Nash County in 1840. The most notable marriage among the Burt children was Harriet Burt to Dr. James Phillips (1798-1874), a physician and planter of "Mount Moriah" in Edgecombe County. The marriage most important to the associative history of the Burt-Arrington House is that of Sally Ann Burt, William Burt's daughter, to Peter Arrington Jr. of Nash County on June 23, 1831.⁹ Peter Arrington Jr. was a brother of Dr. John Arrington who purchased Dr. William Burt's property in 1838, and a cousin to Archibald Hunter Arrington who purchased the property in 1847.

Dr. William Burt began practicing medicine in Nash County in 1815, but very little about his medical career is documented. Although most sources reference him with the appellation "Dr.", he is not included in the extensive list of "Physicians of Nash County: 1800 - 1900" in T. E. Rick's book *Nash County Historical Notes: A Bicentennial Tribute*, or other primary or secondary sources. He owned a large tract of land along with his home, but an analysis of his farm production is problematic because there are no extant agricultural schedules for the time that Dr. Burt owned the Burt-Arrington House.

Dr. Burt was the postmaster of Hilliardston in Nash County from 1821 to 1838, was licensed to run an ordinary in 1823 and 1828, and received a license to sell liquor in Nash County in 1823, 1826, 1828.¹⁰ His license was renewed from 1831 to 1835. He was a member of the Nash County Committee of Finance in 1832, was the overseer of roads, appointed to settle estates, and was a commissioner for the town of Nashville during the 1820s.¹¹

Dr. Burt served as secretary of the Hilliardston Academy, a private school, during the early 1820s, and advertised the school's examinations, exhibitions, and minutes of the board in *The Star*, the local Nash County newspaper, and the *Raleigh Register*. Hilliardston Academy was one of the earliest academies in Nash County, and was publicized regularly in newspapers from 1820 to 1825. (An earlier Nash County academy was advertised in the *Raleigh Star* on November 23, 1809, in Westrayville, but it is not included in Charles C. Coon's book *North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840: A Documentary History*.) The Hilliardston Academy operated for two terms annually - - the first from January to the second week in June, and the second from the last week of June to the middle of December. It was touted as having "several advantages of public and private education while it secures youth from the evils of both."¹² Sources contain conflicting

⁶ Nash County Deed Book 9, Page 28, and Book 7, Page 338-339. Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

⁷ <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dwarnerla&id=I1646&style=TEXT>. Accessed 1 May 2014. This webpage contains genealogical information on the Burt family, specifically information from court records, deeds, obituries, and family bible records. .

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Hugh Buckner Johnston, *Deaths and Marriages from Tarboro, North Carolina Newspapers: 1824-1865* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1985), 67.

¹⁰ T. E. Ricks, The Nash County Historical Association, *Nash County Historical Notes: A Bicentennial Tribute; Compiled and published by: The Nash County Bicentennial Commission* (Rocky Mount, N.C.: Dixie Printing and Publishing Company, 1976), 249, 256.

¹¹ Ibid. <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dwarnerla&id=I1646&style=TEXT>. Accessed 1 May 2014. This webpage contains genealogical information on the Burt family, specifically information from court records, deeds, obituries, and family bible records. .

¹² Ricks, *Nash County Historical Notes*, 183

information about whether the academy was started for male or females, but by 1825, the academy had both male and female departments and provided instruction to teachers.

An advertisement in the *Raleigh Register* from December 2, 1825, listed the various subjects offered in both the male and female departments, dates that the school's exercises would commence, and that "board may be had with James Hilliard and Wm. Burt, at thirty-three dollars per session."¹³ This advertisement leads to the conclusion that the house was very likely standing by 1825. Dr. Burt's house was located three hundred yards from the academy, and it appears that the male students boarded at his house. Knowing that Dr. Burt had earlier purchased land in Nash County in 1811 and 1817, including the land where the house stands and his associations with the academy strengthens this ca. 1824 construction date.

After 1825, the Hilliardston Academy is no longer advertised in area newspapers, and, by January 1827, the organizers of the Nashville Male Academy began announcing its availability. The announcements stressed that "the principal was a preacher and that the course of study would follow the system of studies taught at the University of North Carolina and would be precisely such as to prepare students for this school to enter with ease the freshman, sophomore, junior or even senior class of our University."¹⁴ In addition to Nashville Academy, Nash County boasted other schools during the 1830s and 1840s such as the Peachtree Academy (1837), Stoney Hill Academy (1837), a boarding school for girls at the home of Dr. Gray Sills (1840), and the Stanhope Academy (1840). Although advertisements for enrollment at Hilliardston Academy do not appear in area newspapers during the 1830s and 1840s, Dr. Burt mentions a private female school being three hundred yards from his house in a newspaper advertisement for the sale of his property between 1837 and 1839.

Beginning in 1837, and continuing through 1839, Dr. Burt bought land in Franklin County, Tennessee, from and with his brothers-in-law, some of which had already relocated to Tennessee. These land transactions took place with John, Richard, and Joseph Sims. This land would become the site of the Winchester Springs Hotel - hot springs and spa. Burt advertised the sale of his Hilliardston property in the *Tarboro Free Press* from September through November of 1838, stating: "Having an interest in settling in the west I have determined on removing with my family which is a large one, in the state of Tennessee on or before the first day of November next, I offer for sale my plantation on seven hundred and fifty acres on which is a large dwelling house, outhouses of the best kind, including "a storehouse, cotton gin, and bacon house and a first rate well of excellent water."

He promoted his property as being in an area that boasts a school and societal advantages of the most desirable sort. According to the advertisement, "Hilliardston forms almost a village with as good society as is to be found in the state. There is also a private female school within three hundred yards of the said residence which affords every advantage desirable by the wealthy and most scrupulous." Burt sold his house and property to Dr. John Arrington on October 11, 1838, for \$6,000.¹⁵ Dr. Burt died on December 31, 1848, in Winchester Springs, Franklin County, Tennessee, and is buried there. His wife Susan died on November 20, 1876, in Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tennessee, and is buried at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Dr. John Arrington was born in Nash County on January 5, 1800, the eldest son of Peter and Ann Jones Arrington, and grandson of Sheriff Arthur Arrington.¹⁶ He married Martha Smith Westray (1805-1848), daughter of Samuel Westray and Sarah Bradford Turner, on September 13, 1825, in either the Isle of Wight County, Virginia, or Nash County. In 1827, Dr. Arrington received from his father-in-law the following slaves: "Pris & her two Children Jack and Allen, Rose, Aaron & Jim & their increase."¹⁷ He increased his number of slaves in 1837, when his father Peter willed Dr. Arrington and his siblings Arthur, Lewelin, John, Peter, Mary,

¹³ Charles L. Coon, *North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840: A Documentary History* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Print. Co., state printers, 1915), 264-266.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Nash County Deed Book 14, Page 372. Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

¹⁶ John Bennett Bodie, *Southside Virginia Families* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co, 1966), 13.

¹⁷ Stephen E. Bradley, *The Wills of Nash County, North Carolina* (Keysville, Va: S.E. Bradley, 1992), 90.

and Barbara the following: nego woman Tilly, boy Jack, woman Chany, boy Willis, woman Polly, boy George, girl Malvina, man blacksmith Leary, blacksmith Isham, and blacksmith Arther.¹⁸

Various secondary sources mistake Dr. John Arrington for John S. Arrington who owned a race course in Nash County during the 1820s. Outlining the associative history of the Burt-Arrington House, authors of these sources claim that the second owner of the house was Dr. John S. Arrington, a Nash County physician who also operated a race course in the county during the 1820s and 1830s, which is partially inaccurate. Although early records are littered with Arrington family members with the first name John, Dr. John Arrington is not John S. Arrington. John Arrington, owner of the Burt-Arrington House, is listed in primary sources such as deeds, wills, and estate files, as either Dr. John Arrington or John Arrington (Doctor).

Dr. Arrington sold to his first cousin, Archibald Hunter "A. H." Arrington (1809-1872), on September 25, 1847, "that part of the land the said John bought of William Burt which lies on the south side of the Halifax and Raleigh Road, containing by estimate, one hundred and nineteen acres."¹⁹ After Mary Arrington's death in 1848, Dr. Arrington is living in Warrenton at the home of his daughter Sallie Watson, and her husband, John T. Watson. He is listed in the 1850 Warren County Census as a physician with the value of his real estate at \$1,000. Dr. Arrington married Mary Ann Kearney Boyd in Warren County on April 2, 1850.²⁰ He was a physician and practiced medicine in Hilliardston, Nash County, before relocating to Petersburg, Virginia, on an unknown date. Dr. Arrington died on April 23, 1878 in Petersburg, Virginia, where he is also buried.²¹

A. H. Arrington, known locally as "Baldy", was born in Hilliardson, the son of John Arrington and Eliza Nicholson Arrington, and studied at Louisburg Academy.²² He was a Democratic member of the 27th and 28th Congresses from 1841 to 1845, and a member of the Secession Convention in North Carolina in 1861. He was elected to the first Confederate Congress in 1861, and in 1866 served as a delegate to the Union National Convention in Philadelphia. According to Powell's *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, his family was one of the wealthiest planter families in antebellum North Carolina, and, in addition to his interests in North Carolina, his family also owned plantations and a large number of slaves in Alabama. In Nash County he served as chairman of the Nash County Court of Common Pleas in 1866 and 1867, and was a Nash County Commissioner in 1868.²³

Upon the death of his father in 1830, A. H. Arrington inherited, along with his siblings, over sixty slaves, property, and money. While heavily involved with politics, Arrington's primary responsibility was to manage his estates and commercial ventures in North Carolina and Montgomery County, Alabama. A. H.'s older brother, Samuel L. Arrington, lived in Alabama and oversaw their interests there, while A. H. traveled between North Carolina and Alabama. It is not known how many plantations the brothers owned in Alabama, but A. H. built a two-story frame I-house in Nash County between 1840 and 1850.²⁴ The two corresponded regularly with each other and family members over the 1840s, 1850s, and 1860s, and they occasionally mentioned their plantations. Because of Arrington's land holdings and plantations in North Carolina and Alabama, it is unknown if he ever lived at the Burt-Arrington House and how he used the property.

¹⁸ Ibid., 4

¹⁹ Nash County Deed Book 21, Page 352. . Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

²⁰ Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, Marriage Index, 1741-2004* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. North Carolina State Archives. *North Carolina County Marriage Indexes*. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

²¹ Bodie, *Southside Virginia Families*, 13.

²² William S. Powell, *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Volume VI* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1979). <<http://books.google.com/books?id=VqFmAAAAMAAJ>>.

²³ Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=A000302>. . Accessed 1 May 2015. . <http://ncpedia.org/biography/arrington-archibald>. . Accessed 1 May 2015. Powell, *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. Walter E. Phillips, *Memoirs of Walter E. Phillips* (Place of publication not identified: publisher not identified, 1900.) A copy of the memoirs is available at the Kornegay Room at the Braswell Memorial Library in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. "Death of Hon. A. H. Arrington" *The Weekly Star*, 1 August 1872.

²⁴ Phillips, *Memoirs of Walter E. Phillips*

In 1850, agricultural schedules for Nash County show that A. H. Arrington owned 868 acres of improved land, and 1,136 acres of unimproved land, both valued at \$12,000. By 1860, his improved land was 800 acres, and unimproved land totaled 1,379 acres, at a total land value of \$16,000. During these decades, his livestock included horses, mules, working oxen, swine, and sheep, and he held the following produce: wheat, rye, oats, peas and beans, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes. His largest holding was Indian corn, which in 1860 equaled 4,000 bushels. By 1860, A. H. Arrington's holdings were valued at over \$300,000, and he was one of a few men in North Carolina to own over one hundred slaves.²⁵

John Peter Arrington (1851-1904), son of A. H. Arrington and sheriff of Nash County, inherited from his father on October 22, 1874, the "Mearns tract" and the property that A. H. Arrington had purchased from Dr. John Arrington in 1848.²⁶ John was elected sheriff of Nash County in 1888, and was re-elected in 1894. In 1899, he moved to Raleigh to assume a position in the State's Agricultural Department, and in 1901 he was hired by N.C. State Treasurer B. R. Lacy in the Treasury Department. He was serving in this position when he died in 1904.²⁷

John P. Arrington and his wife, Laura Maud Philips Arrington, sold the property to John's brother-in-law, Judge William Lewis (W. L.) Thorp on November 6, 1876.²⁸ W. L. Thorp was born on October 26, 1848, the son of John Houston Thorpe (1814-1883) and Virginia Proudfit Wood (1817-1892), in Nash County, North Carolina.²⁹ Thorp married John P. Arrington's sister, Mary E. Nicholson Arrington, on March 20, 1873.³⁰ Mary Thorp died on April 11, 1883, and Thorp remarried Mildred Brown Holmes (1862-1915) on April 29, 1885.³¹ Thorp read law under Judge Battle at what became the Carolina law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.³² The Honorable W. L. Thorp served as the mayor of Rocky Mount from 1894-1898, and 1901-1909.³³ He worked as an attorney in Nashville in 1889 and is listed in the 1908 Rocky Mount business directory as the Mayor of Rocky Mount and attorney-at-law with his office at 153 North Main Street in Rocky Mount.³⁴

W. L. Thorp and his wife sold the property to George W. Abrams on December 19, 1902, and Abrams and his wife Lula M. Abrams sold the property to Alfred Plummer Williams and L. F. Williams on December 17, 1906.³⁵ Alfred Williams (1877-1944) was born in Warren County, North Carolina, the son of John Thomas Williams (1834-1907) and Mary Frances Tucker Williams, both of North Carolina.³⁶ He was a "tobaccoist (retired)"

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Deed Book 22, Page 244. . Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

²⁷ "J.P. Arrington Dead: Remains to be Taken to Old Arrington Burying Ground in Nash County", *The Farmer and Mechanic* (Raleigh, N.C.) 16 August 1904; "'Sheriff' Arrington Paralyzed." *The Graphic* (Nashville, N.C.), 11 August 1904.

²⁸ Deed Book 30, Page 709. . Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

²⁹ Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. *North Carolina Death Certificates*. Microfilm S.123. Rolls 19-242, 280, 313-682, 1040-1297. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina, and <http://oldrockymount.pbworks.com/w/page/44429145/Antebellum%20Nash%20County>, Accessed May 1, 2014.

³⁰ *North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015. . The original records are North Carolina County Registers of Deeds. Microfilm. Record Group 048. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

³¹ Mary E. Nicholson Thorp is buried at Pineview Cemetery in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. . Information on her death if from Pineview Cemetery's listing on www.findagrave.com. .

³² http://www.unc.edu/chan/chancellors/thorp_holden/speeches/081012-installation.php. Accessed 1 May 2014.

³³ <http://www.rockymountnc.gov/mayorsalbum.html>. Accessed 1 May 2014.

³⁴ <http://www.ncgenweb.us/nash/history/nash-county-in-bransons-1889-directory/>. Accessed May 1, 2014.

Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

³⁵ Deed Book 154, Page 389 and Deed Book 154, Page 394. Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

³⁶ Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. *North Carolina Death*

when he died, and Mrs. W. F. Woodruff was the informant on his death certificate.³⁷ He was single when he died, and is buried at York Chapel Cemetery in Nash County.

William Frederick Woodruff and his wife Nannie Bette Williams Woodruff purchased the property from A. P. Williams on January 30, 1924.³⁸ William Woodruff was born on February 10, 1895, in New Egypt, New Jersey, the son of Charles B. and Olive Brown Woodruff, both of New Jersey.³⁹ He married Nannie Bette Williams (1899-1957), daughter of James A. and Lula Hicks Williams.⁴⁰ William was a farmer and merchant in Nashville, and he farmed the property associated with the Burt-Arrington House during the time that his family occupied the house. In 1957, William was the president of the Rocky Mount Production Credit Association in Rocky Mount.⁴¹ He died on March 9, 1958, and is buried at Pineview Cemetery in Rocky Mount, Nash County, North Carolina.⁴²

Nancy Woodruff Broadwell, daughter of William F. and Nannie Bette Woodruff, and her husband Waverly C. Broadwell, of Cumberland County, North Carolina, sold the property to Thomas Arrington Cooper, Jr. (1909-1990) and his wife Christine Richardson Cooper (1912-2006) on December 13, 1961.⁴³ Thomas made his wife his Power of Attorney on August 28, 1987, and his daughter, Alie Cooper, was appointed to serve in place of her mother if she was unable. Both Thomas and Christine are both buried at Rocky Mount Memorial Park in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Alie Cooper Pearcey inherited the property from her parents, Thomas A. and Christine Cooper, and she conveyed the property (2.86 acres) in fee simple to the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. (Preservation North Carolina) on July 2, 2007.⁴⁴ Thomas and Susan Moore purchased the property from Preservation North Carolina on July 2, 2007.⁴⁵

Since acquiring the property in 2007, Thomas and Susan Moore have removed a one-story, full facade porch that was added to the house during the twentieth century, removed aluminum siding and exposed original wooden weatherboard siding, painted the exterior siding, conserved original windows, installed new HVAC, electrical, and plumbing systems, updated first and second floor bathrooms, and restored the property's outbuildings. The Moores removed the porch during the summer of 2008 because of advanced deterioration and the associated safety hazards it posed. Removal of the porch exposed evidence of the size and location of the original two-story porch and exterior door in the second floor's center bay, and the heavy timber framing for the west bay addition.

Certificates. Microfilm S.123. Rolls 19-242, 280, 313-682, 1040-1297. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina. Accessed May 10, 2014.

³⁷ *Ibid*.

³⁸ Deed Book 287, Page 604. . Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

³⁹ Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. *North Carolina Death Certificates*. Microfilm S.123. Rolls 19-242, 280, 313-682, 1040-1297. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina. . Accessed May 3, 2014.

⁴⁰ Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. *North Carolina Death Certificates*. Microfilm S.123. Rolls 19-242, 280, 313-682, 1040-1297. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina. Accessed May 3, 2014.

⁴¹ Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Accessed May 5, 2014.

⁴² Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. *North Carolina Death Certificates*. Microfilm S.123. Rolls 19-242, 280, 313-682, 1040-1297. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina. . Accessed May 3, 2014.

⁴³ Deed Book 739, Page 82. . Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

⁴⁴ Deed Book 2328, Page 423. . Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina. .

⁴⁵ Deed Book 2328, Page 426. . Nash County Register of Deeds, Rocky Mount, North Carolina. .

Architectural Context: The Burt-Arrington House and early nineteenth Federal style houses, Nash County

The Burt-Arrington House was built in the Federal style, a style that was popular in the United States from the 1780s to the late 1820s, when the Greek Revival style became the predominant style. The Neoclassical movement, which includes the Federal and Greek Revival styles, developed in Europe during the mid-eighteenth century, and gained popularity in the United States after the American Revolution. The Federal style was championed by Scottish architects, brothers Robert and James Adam, and North Carolinians began to build homes in this style around 1800. Characteristics of this style were "light, delicate neoclassical Roman-inspired motifs, which were popularized by English and then American builders' guides" by Asher Benjamin, William Pain, and Owen Biddle.⁴⁶

From the 1830s through the 1850s, the Greek Revival style and its associations to ancient Greece appealed to the tastes of the new American democracy in the Southern states. Inspiration for this style came from James Stuart and Nicholas Revett's study *The Antiquities of Athens*, which provided the source "for the details and proportions of Greek orders and for the terms of classical "correctness.""⁴⁷ Authors of builders' guides embraced the Greek Revival style and updated their old guides with new plates depicting Greek and Roman orders with instructions written so that local artisans to understand and incorporate this style into their traditional building forms. The Greek Revival style emphasized the broadening of proportions from asymmetrical facades to symmetrical facades, and interior designs included simple, wide flat moldings, cornerblock door and window surrounds, and post and lintel form mantels.⁴⁸

It appears that the Burt-Arrington House was built by 1824 because Dr. Burt purchased land in Nash County where the house now stands in 1811 and 1817, he was associated with the Hilliardston Academy as secretary in 1820, and an advertisement regarding the academy published in the *Raleigh Register* from December 2, 1825 publicized that "board may be had with James Hilliard and Wm. Burt, at thirty-three dollars per session."⁴⁹ This advertisement leads to the conclusion that the house was standing by 1825. Dr. Burt's house was located three hundred yards from the academy, and it is possible that the male students boarded at his house.

The house was constructed as a Federal-style double-pile, two-and-a-half story side-gabled dwelling with tall Flemish bond exterior chimneys and a four-bay asymmetrical facade. The house's side-hall plan featured a narrow hall or passage leading from the entry to a rear stairhall; a first floor parlor; two second-floor rooms; a room in the upper half-story; and interior Federal-style three-part mantels with a center panel, flush paneled wainscoting, and simple window and door surrounds.

In the 1830s, an addition was built with an exterior Flemish-bond chimney at the west side of the Burt-Arrington house, creating a symmetrical five-bay facade, and enlarging the size of the hall to become a hall-and-parlor plan. The hall is the only room in the west-bay addition that has Greek Revival-style features, while the features of the addition's second floor room are in the Federal style. The door and window surrounds of the first floor hall have Greek Revival-style reeded pilasters with plain corners blocks, while the door and window surrounds of the addition's second floor bedroom have door and window surrounds with plain trim like the other two second floor bedrooms. The hall has deep and accentuated crown molding that is not found in any other room in the house. The hall, parlor, and first and second floor bedrooms have flush paneled Federal-style wainscoting.

⁴⁶ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill: Published for the Historic Preservation of North Carolina by the University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 69.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 196.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 245.

⁴⁹ Charles L. Coon, *North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840: A Documentary History* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Print. Co., state printers, 1915), 264-266.

In Nash County during the early nineteenth century, the planter class, of which Dr. William Burt was a member, embraced delicately ornamented Federal-style motifs in their home designs. Their use of the Federal style reflected their higher economic and professional status by commonly building two-story frame, single-pile I-houses or hall-and-parlor houses, three bays wide or five bays wide with exterior brick-end chimneys. Black Jack (ca. 1800), Bellemonte (ca. 1817), the Dortch House (early nineteenth century) and the Drake-Pullen House (ca. 1835) are examples of both three-bay and five-bay wide single-pile Federal style houses still standing in the county. While single-pile was the most common house plan there are three double-pile Federal style houses in Nash County, including the Burt-Arrington House. The other two houses are The Meadows (early nineteenth century) and Stonewall (ca. 1830). Both the Burt-Arrington House and Stonewall rank among the largest Federal style houses in the county.

The Burt-Arrington House design also relates to other Federal style houses in the county in terms of its original side-hall plan. Only the General Joseph Arrington House (first decade of the nineteenth century) was also constructed with a side-hall plan. When enlarged in the 1830s and changed to a hall-and-parlor plan, the Burt-Arrington House joined Black Jack as the only houses in this group of Federal style houses with this interior plan. Black Jack, Bellemonte, The Meadows, Dortch House, and Stonewall have cornices with modillions similar to earlier Georgian style houses, while the General Arrington, Drake-Pullen, and Burt-Arrington houses have little exterior architectural detailing.

All but the Drake-Pullen House are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

When evaluated for its integrity within the context of the other Federal-style houses in Nash County, the Burt-Arrington House fares well. Stonewall retains much of its original architectural characteristics, but a monumental two-story Ionic portico was added in 1916. Dortch House is similar to others in that it retains much of its period-defining details, but it has a large one-story, full facade Victorian era porch. The General Joseph Arrington House, located a few miles from the Burt-Arrington House, has remained largely unaltered, but it is badly deteriorated. Bellemonte was moved a short distance in 1988, prior to its designation. The Drake-Pullen House, also located near the Burt-Arrington House, has been modified with both lateral and rear additions.

The Burt-Arrington House's initial side-hall plan and double-pile massing is rare among Federal-style houses in Nash County, and the house stands among some of the best preserved and intact early nineteenth century houses in the county, both in terms of its exterior form and materials and its interior floor plan and finishes. Although the Burt-Arrington House has an early twentieth century, one-story rear addition, the alteration does not significantly detract from the house's historic architectural form and style. The current modern one-story center porch is compatible with the Federal style house.

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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:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NS 894

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.86 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>235480</u>	<u>3999000</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The National Register boundaries of the Burt-Arrington House are shown as the heavy black line on the attached Nash County GIS map, Parcel 381500376786, at a scale of one inch = 200 feet.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes a 2.86-acre area, which was historically associated with the property and provides an appropriate setting for the house and historic outbuilding.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jason L. Harpe
organization Harpe Consulting date May 2016
street & number 126 Savannah Drive telephone (704) 477-0987
city or town Matthews state NC zip code 28105

e-mail jason@harpeconsulting.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Burt-Arrington House

City or Vicinity: Nashville

County: Nash

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Jason L. Harpe

Date Photographed: 04/15

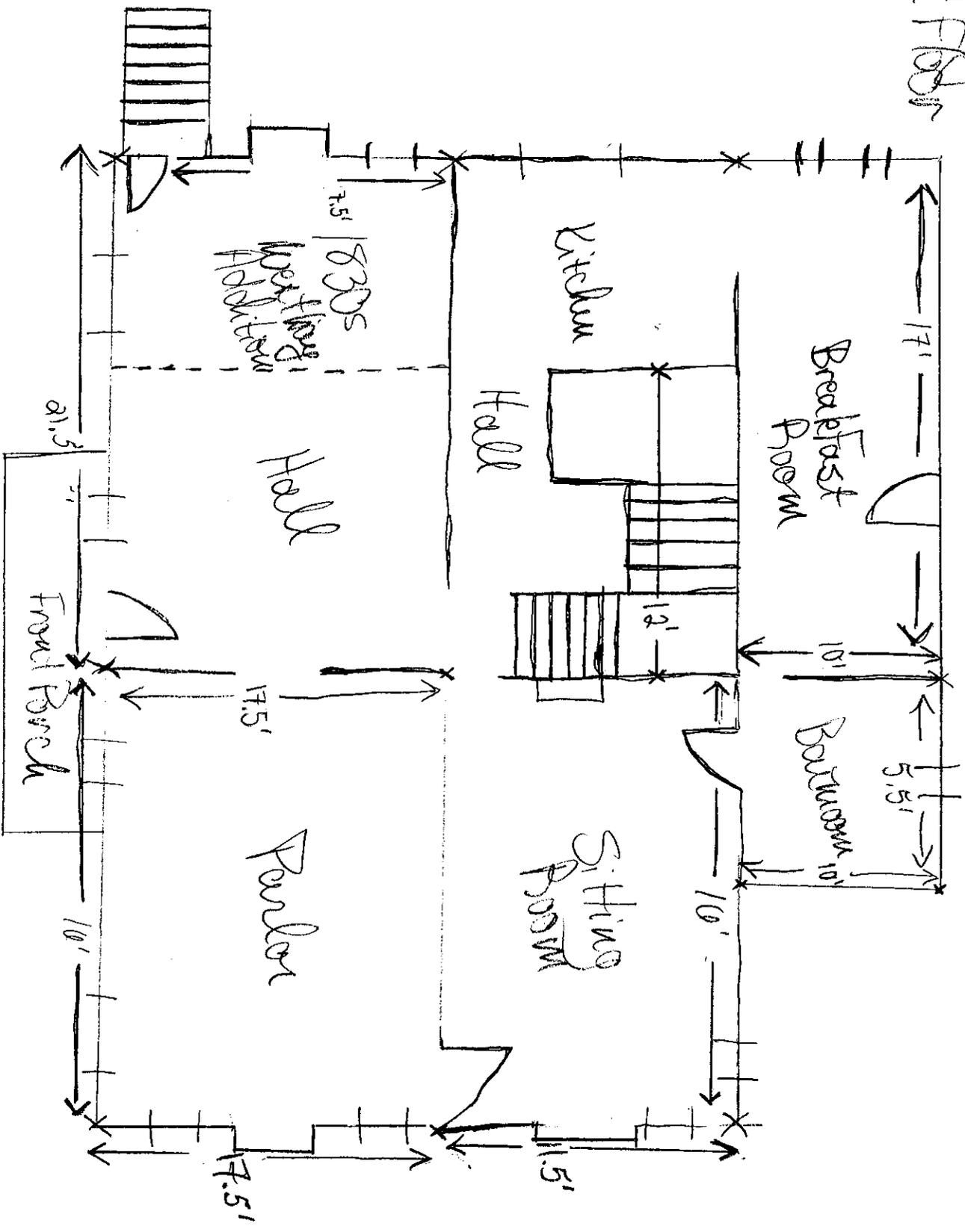
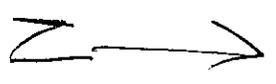
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Southeast corner of house, camera facing north.
2. Facade of house and outbuildings to the rear, camera facing north.
3. West elevation, camera facing east.
4. East elevation, camera facing west.
5. North elevation, camera facing south.
6. Interior (first floor), hall, camera facing west.
7. Interior (first floor), parlor, camera facing east.
8. Interior (first floor), stairhall, camera facing north.
9. Interior (second floor), bedroom, camera facing east.
10. Outbuilding, ca. 1840, camera facing north.

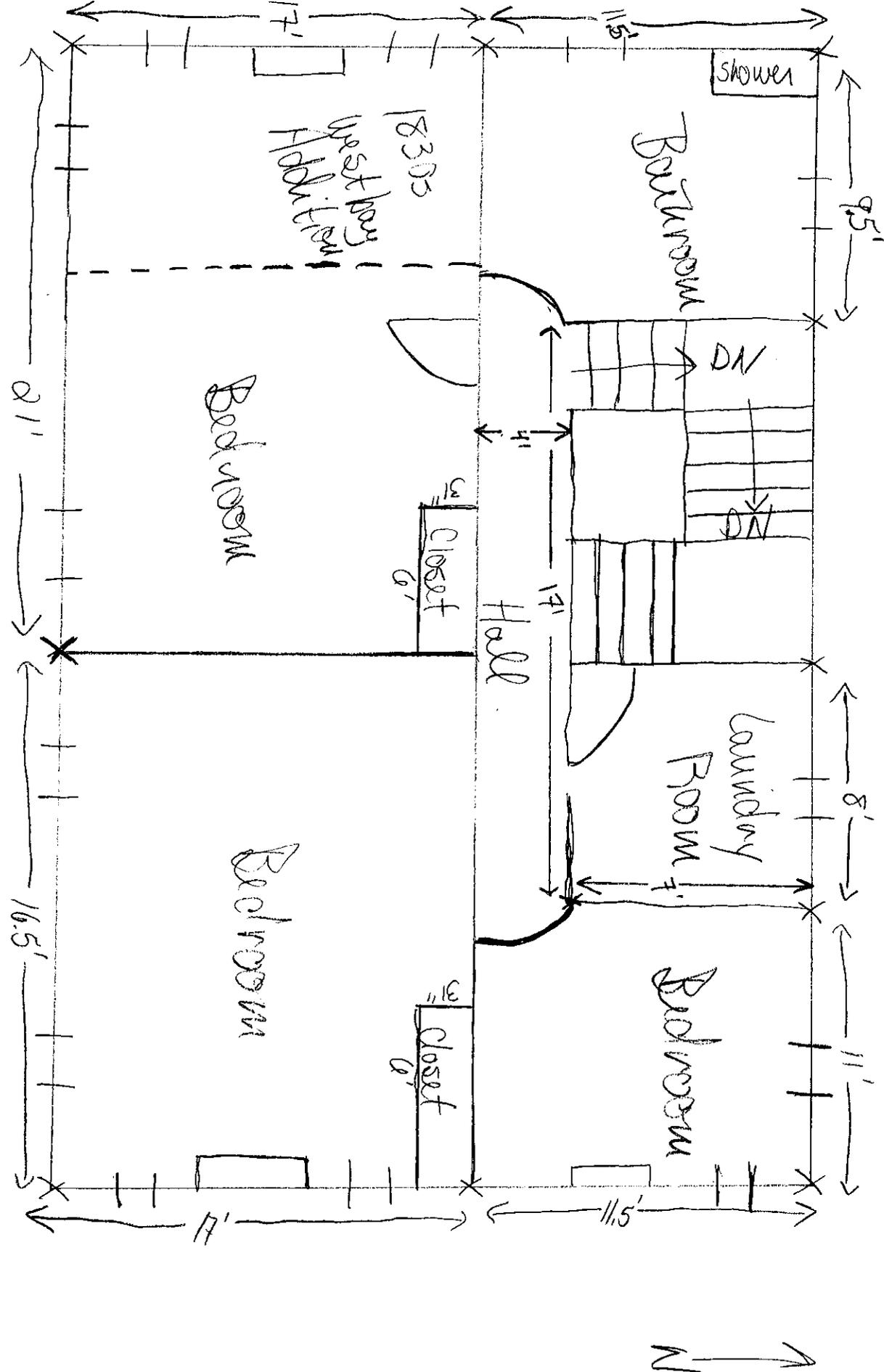
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

But-Animation House
First Floor



Burt-Arrington House
Second Floor



shower

Bathroom

DN

DN

Laundry Room

Bedroom

Hall

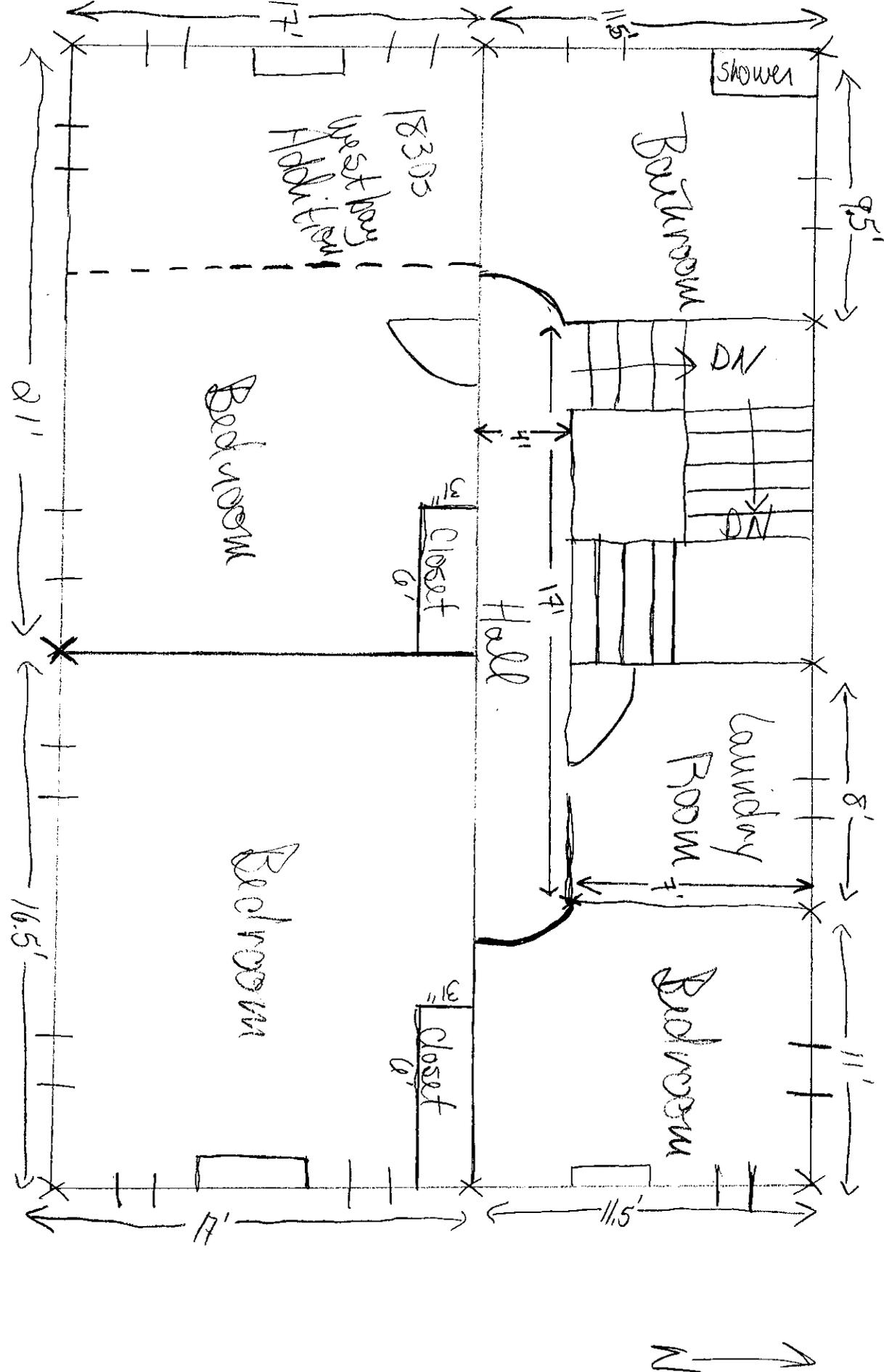
closet

closet

Bedroom

Bedroom

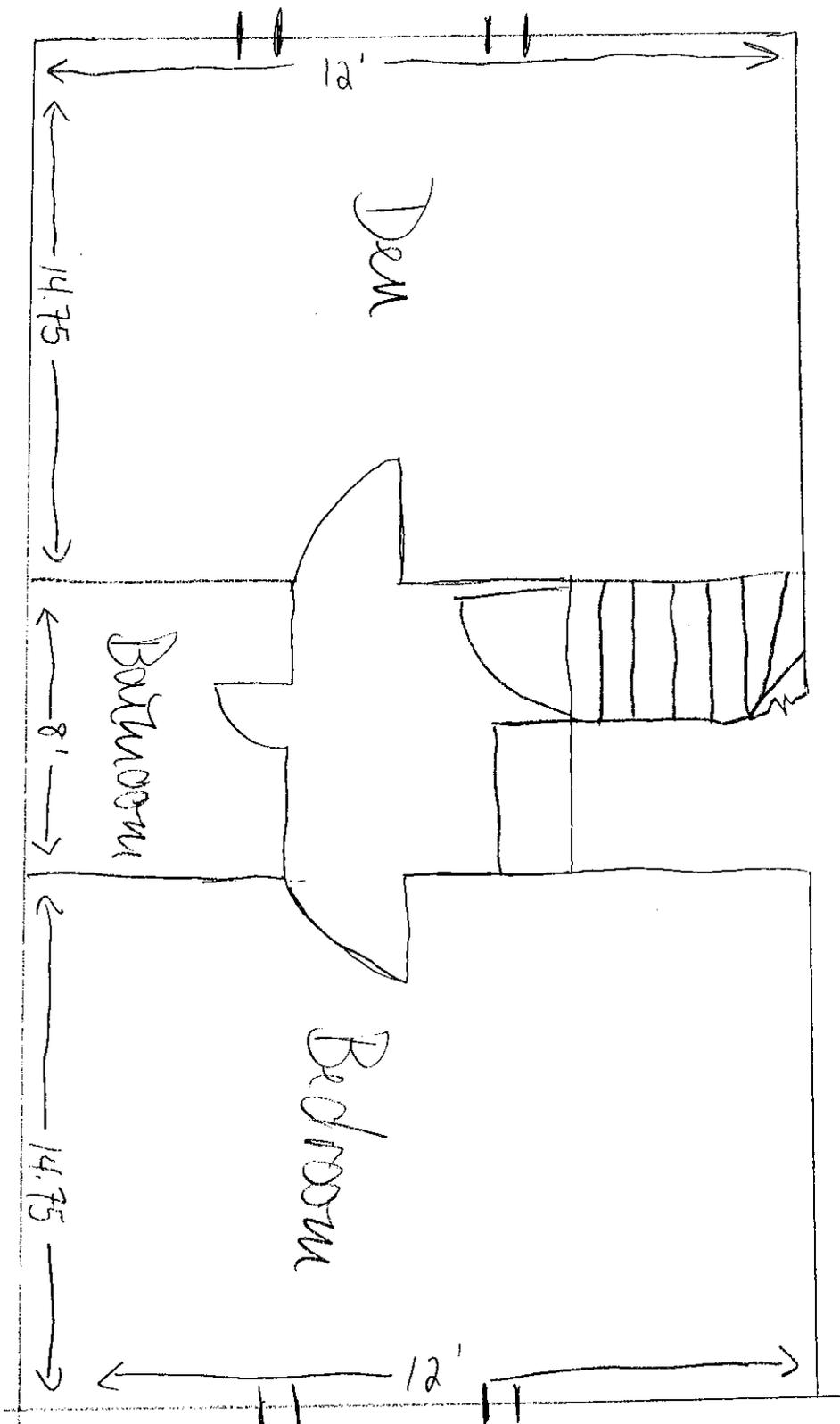
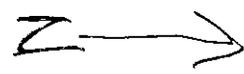
18300
West Wing
Hidden Room



But-Framing on floor

AHic

1/2 story



Burt-Arrington House
784 W. Hilliardston Road
Hilliardston Vicinity
Nash County
North Carolina

Site Plan
Not to scale

— National Register Boundary

□ Contributing Building

■ Non-Contributing Building

