**1. NAME**

**COMMON:** Ayr Mount

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** St. Mary's Road

**CITY OR TOWN:** Hillsborough

**STATE:** North Carolina

**CODE:** 37

**COUNTY:** Orange

**CODE:** 135

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ District</td>
<td>□ Public</td>
<td>□ Occupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Site</td>
<td>□ Private</td>
<td>□ Unoccupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Object</td>
<td>□ Both</td>
<td>□ Restricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

- □ Agricultural
- □ Commercial
- □ Educational
- □ Government
- □ Industrial
- □ Military
- □ Religious
- □ Entertainment
- □ Museum
- □ Scientific

**ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**

- □ Yes:
  - □ Restricted
  - □ Unrestricted

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**OWNER'S NAME:** Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kirkland

**STREET AND NUMBER:** Ayr Mount

**CITY OR TOWN:** Hillsborough

**STATE:** North Carolina

**CODE:** 37

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:** Orange County Courthouse

**STREET AND NUMBER:** East Margaret Lane

**CITY OR TOWN:** Hillsborough

**STATE:** North Carolina

**CODE:** 37

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY**

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

- □ Federal
- □ State
- □ County
- □ Local

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:** Library of Congress

**STREET AND NUMBER:** East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S.E.

**CITY OR TOWN:** Washington

**STATE:** D.C.

**CODE:** 11
Ayr Mount, an early nineteenth century house built of brick laid in Flemish bond, consists of a two-story main block flanked by single-story wings. Both the three-bay main block and the two-bay wings have steep gable roofs and high molded water tables beneath which are small eight-paneled basement windows.

The central entrance of the north (front) facade is protected by a single-story porch with a hip roof supported by chamfered posts. This porch, which extends across the three bays of the main block, was built about 1894, replacing a smaller wooden portico which covered only the central entrance bay. The windows on the front of the main block and the wings are all alike, having nine-over-nine sash and stone lintels surmounted by flat arches. The windows on the sides and rear of the house are also topped by flat arches but lack the stone lintels. A fine modillion cornice extends across the facade of the central block and the wings.

The rear of the main block has five windows on the first level and three on the second with a projecting brick entrance to the cellar in the left bay under the water table. Each gable end contains two small windows with six-over-six sash. An off-center interior end chimney rises from the rear slope of each gable. The gable of each wing is similarly treated, having two small windows and a chimney rising behind the ridge of the roof.

The interior of the main block features a transverse hall with two unequal rooms beyond. The wings are entered through doorways at either end of the hall. The interior of Ayr Mount exhibits consistent handling of decorative elements throughout the house. All rooms have plaster walls above a paneled wainscot. This paneling usually consists of a range of small horizontal raised panels above a range of larger vertical ones. The windows and doors have paneled reveals and soffits. The mantels on projecting chimney breasts are more or less elaborate variations on a basic design which combines panels with variously fashioned pilasters and moldings. The fine detail of the woodwork, together with the subtle relationship of the repetition and variety, is largely responsible for the beauty of the interior.

The largest room is the southwest parlor, which contains the most elaborate mantel in the house. This mantel features a reeded cushion frieze and bands of incised geometric designs supported by reeded pilasters. The paneled overmantel reaches to the ceiling and is topped by a corbel cornice consisting of pointed pendants, which carries around the entire room. The room in the west wing contains a mantel which has a paneled overmantel similar to that in the large parlor but not as ornate. A molded shelf is supported by a pair of small consoles above reeded pilasters. The cornice is similar to that in the southwest parlor.

The southeast parlor features a less elaborate mantel without an overmantel. It has two cornice shelves, the lower resting on reeded pilasters; the second, which provides the mantel shelf, is supported by shorter reeded pilasters. To the right of the fireplace is a ceiling-high cupboard with solid paneled doors. At the top of the cupboard is a row of pierced dentils
surmounted by a molded cornice which carries around the room. The room in the east wing has the same arrangement with a similar mantel and a cupboard which lacks the row of dentils.

The second floor is approached by an open-string stair rising in three flights from the left side of the hall. The stair has wave design brackets, balusters square in section, and an unmolded rail which terminates in a scrolled newel. The paneled wainscot continues up the stair but is flat-paneled rather than raised as in the hall.

The plan of the second level is the same as the first. The interiors, although not as elaborate, are quite similar to those on the first floor. Each mantel has panels and reeded pilasters. Doors at each end of the hall open into the finished attics of the wings, neither of which contains a fireplace. An open string stair rises in two flights from the right side of the second floor hall to a finished attic. The treatment of this stair is in the same manner as the main stair with flat paneled wainscot, square balusters, and scrolled newel. It is unusual to find such an elaborate secondary stair. The upper flight has been enclosed recently to conserve heat. There are two simple mantels on the third floor, each having a molded shelf above vertical flat panels. The wainscot is of plain horizontal flush sheathing.
William Kirkland is thought to have arrived in Hillsborough between 1780 and 1790. By 1810 he had built a brick house on a large tract of land formerly owned by William Courtney. The house, called "Ayr Mount," apparently derived its name from the town of Ayr, Scotland, the Kirkland family home.

Kirkland died in 1836, leaving his estate to his wife, Margaret Scott Kirkland. Subsequently their son, John Umstead Kirkland, acquired Ayr Mount from the settlement of his mother's estate. John lived in the house until his death in 1879, whereupon the property descended to his wife, Elizabeth A. Simpson Kirkland. On July 16, 1883, Samuel S. Kirkland, son of John and Elizabeth Kirkland, acting as trustee for Mrs. Hattie McLaren Kirkland (widow of John Kirkland, Jr.) and her children, purchased from Elizabeth's estate 360 acres near Hillsborough "known as Kirkland Home Tract and including Ayr Mount." In 1895 Hattie Kirkland made improvements to the house which included the present porch on the main facade. In 1908 Mrs. Kirkland died intestate, and Ayr Mount passed to her six children. Samuel Simpson Kirkland, her only surviving child, now owns and lives in Ayr Mount.

Ayr Mount, one of the finest early houses in the Hillsborough area, is especially notable for its superlative woodwork and unusual floor plan. It is rare today to find a house which retains so much of its original fabric, has been so sympathetically adapted to modern life, and has been lived in throughout its history by the descendants of its builder.
HoeoI'ds, Orange
of Lbo
Orange County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 Acres

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES:

LATITUDE: 36° 04' 30" LONGITUDE: 79° 06' 28"

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John B. Wells, III, Survey Supervisor
ORGANIZATION:
State Department of Archives and History
STREET AND NUMBER:
102 East Jones Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Raleigh
STATE:
North Carolina
CODE:
37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [X] Local [ ]

Name:
Dr. H. G. Jones
Title:
Director, State Department of Archives and History
Date:
March 11, 1971
Ayr Mount
St. Mary's Road
Hillsborough, North Carolina

Champion Map Corporation
P. O. Box 17435
Charlotte, North Carolina
Scale: 3/8"/1000 feet
no date

Latitude          Longitude
degrees minutes seconds  degrees minutes seconds
36° 04' 30"
79° 06' 28"

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C.