UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Paisley-Rice Log House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
See continuation sheet

CITY, TOWN
Mebane
STATE
North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

CODE
37
COUNTY
Orange
CODE
135

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
_DISTRICT
_BUILDING(S)
_STRUCTURE
_SITE
_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
_PUBLIC
_PRIVATE
_BOTH
_PUBLIC ACQUISITION
_IN PROCESS
_BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
_OCCUPIED
_UNOCCUPIED
_WORK IN PROGRESS
_ACCESSIBLE
_YES: RESTRICTED
_YES: UNRESTRICTED
_NO

PRESENT USE
_AGRICULTURE
_COMMERCIAL
_PARK
_EDUCATIONAL
_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_ENTERTAINMENT
_REligious
_GOVERNMENT
_Scientific
_INDUSTRIAL
_TRANSPORTATION
_Military
_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Joseph A. Rice

STREET & NUMBER
Route 5, Box 137

CITY, TOWN
Mebane
STATE
North Carolina 27302

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Orange County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Hillsborough
STATE
North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
Location:

West side of SR 1346 near Alamance County boarder, 1.3 mi. North of SR 1306
The Paisley-Pettigrew-Rice Log House near Mebane, sited in an idyllic, isolated rural setting in the rolling fields and woodlands of the eastern Piedmont, demonstrates the substantial construction and fine craftsmanship employed in the best log houses. While some built crude log houses for temporary shelter amid the well-forested land, very often the log house was constructed as a permanent home, using as much care as a framed structure, with finish of high quality. This is certainly the case in this house, believed to date from the late eighteenth century.

The log house is composed of two sections, the right (east) one the larger, better constructed and probably the older of the two. Located between the two is a chimney. The older section is one-story with attic, constructed of hewn logs almost plank-like if form. They are joined at the corners in a full dovetail, the finest and most permanent of log joints. The house has a gable roof covered with tin and it rests on a stone rubble foundation. The ends of the second-level floor joists are visible as they join into the logs. The front (south) elevation has a batten door and a single six-over-six sash window to the west, each with plain board frames constructed in post-and-lintel fashion.

Two windows occur at the first level on the gable end, and a single one in the gable; the gables are weatherboarded. At the rear, there is again a door and a window.

The interior, unlike many log houses which have only a single room at each level, follows the three-room Quaker plan often found in eighteenth century Piedmont frame and brick houses but seldom in log houses. The interior finish is well detailed. Wide horizontal boards compose the flush sheathing that covers the walls and the board partition between the large left (west) room and the two smaller ones. A plain board baseboard and a narrow molded chair rail finish the wall. The partition between the two smaller rooms is gone, but evidence of it survives. The enclosed stair rises just inside the front door, behind the partition, and features a short initial run, winders, and a narrow straight flight to the attic. The front door and all other doors are batten ones, hung with strap and HL hinges. Floors are of wide boards. The mantel in the large room is quite impressive, and of typical vernacular Georgian design. An arched fire opening occurs in the stone chimney, and is outlined by the fire opening of the mantel, which follows the segmental arch and has horizontal shoulders. This is framed by a simple, heavy mitered molding from which is attached the robustly molded cornice shelf. The whole composition is vigorous and straightforward, both suitable to the simplicity of the house and emphatically Georgian in its stylistic origins. The smaller rooms are unheated.

The second floor is an unfinished and unheated loft area, with exposed logs and rafters.

The smaller pen of the house is later and the logs are somewhat narrower. The interior consists of a single room with simple mid-nineteenth century mantel and corner stair.
### PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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### SPECIFIC DATES

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The Paisley-Rice Log House, located in an unspoiled rural setting, is a skillfully built, little-altered dwelling built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, probably for William D. Paisley on property he bought in 1801. Paisley was a prominent Presbyterian minister who served at Union, Buffalo, Hawfields, Crossroads, and other churches and founded the First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. He also established an academy at Hawfields and was active in the Great Revival movement in the early nineteenth century.

### Criteria Assessment:

A. Associated with the agricultural development and thickening population of the central Piedmont in the early nineteenth century.

B. Associated with the life of William D. Paisley, a prominent Presbyterian minister and educator. When Paisley sold the property when he left for Greensboro, and since 1835 the house has been continuously owned by a single family.

C. Embodies unusually fine and well-preserved log construction, combined with handsome interior finish of vernacular late Georgian character and use of three-room "Quaker" or "continental" plan, characteristic of Piedmont traditional houses.
The Paisley-Rice Log House was built in rural Orange County by William D. Paisley dates in the early part of the nineteenth century, according to strong local tradition. Paisley, a prominent Presbyterian minister and educator in the region, probably built the house on property he purchased from James Davis on February 7, 1801. The tract comprised 200 acres and cost Paisley $600.

Paisley was born October 26, 1770, in Guilford County and was educated at the celebrated academy run by David Caldwell. He served as minister of the Union and Buffalo churches until 1801 when he became minister of the Hawfields and Crossroads churches near Mebane. He remained pastor of these two churches until 1818. During this period he gained a reputation as one of the area's finest preachers. He was particularly prominent in the evangelical movement known as the Great Revival which swept the state and the country in the early part of the nineteenth century. Herbert Snipes Turner, historian of the Hawfields church credits Paisley with the organization at Hawfields, of the first camp meeting held in North Carolina.

Paisley founded, in 1808, an academy. The Hawfields Academy taught Latin, Greek, Geography, and Philosophy to young men of the community for a tuition fee of sixteen dollars per annum. An advertisement in the Raleigh Register of November 24, 1808, stated that the school would be successful in part because of "the tried and approved abilities of the Teacher." Unfortunately, the advertisement did not state where the school was located. Many such schools were located at the home of the teacher.

Guion Griffis Johnson, in Ante-Bellum North Carolina, uses Paisley as her typical rural minister. Describing the hard life of Paisley she states:

His life was one of constant hardship. Six days a week he toiled on his little farm; on the seventh he was up before daybreak, traveling by horseback to his appointment twenty miles away. Here he would preach two sermons, sometimes three. Bedtime found him home again, ready for another six days on the farm, interrupted by frequent calls to 'marryings' and 'buryings.' But his was a happy life. He was the sage and counselor of the neighborhood. No man who feared the Lord would think of making an important decision without first consulting Father Paisley.

Paisley left the region in 1818 for Greensboro, where he became headmaster of the Greensburgh Academy, and founded, in 1824, the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro. Paisley sold his farm to Elijah Pickard on September 12, 1819. At this point the chain of title for the property becomes cloudy, but the property was transferred to John A. Pettigrew before 1835. In that year he sold the place to Lemuel Pettigrew, and Lemuel in turn sold it to (John) Elkins Pettigrew. The latter Pettigrew was a modest Orange County farmer, as demonstrated by the 1860 census that valued his
Pettigrew sold the property to Robert K. Rice in 1869 for $375. Rice, husband of Pettigrew's daughter Martha, continued to farm the property, evidently making improvements, until by 1880 the property was valued at $1500. The property has remained in the Rice family to the present. The current owner is Joseph A. Rice, grandson of Robert Rice. Since 1969 he has owned 65 acres with the house, half the 130-acre traditional farm, which was divided in the settlement of Robert Rice's estate.

FOOTNOTES

1 Orange County Deed Books, 9-284.
2 Herbert Snipes Turner, Church in the Old Fields (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1962), 103-104, hereinafter cited as Turner, Church in the Old Fields.
3 Turner, Church in the Old Fields, 106, 112-114.
6 Turner, Church in the Old Fields, 113-114.
7 Orange County Deed Books, 32-248.
8 Sixth Census of the United States, 1860, Agricultural Schedule, Orange County, North Carolina.
9 Orange County Deed Books
10 Eighth Census of the United States, 1880, Agricultural Schedule, Orange County, North Carolina.
Areas of significance are checked now.

Addenda at end of prose in item number 8.

Log construction is an important component in eighteenth and nineteenth century North Carolina vernacular architecture. The Paisley-Rice Log House is a well-preserved, representative, and unusually well-executed example. Several notching types were used—saddle, square, house top, V, half-dovetail, and dovetail. The most permanent, and considered the most sophisticated and refined, is the full dovetail notch, which is also the most difficult. Surviving examples exist, but not in abundance. The Paisley-Rice Log House shows the dovetail notch combined (as it often is) with logs that are hewn to the form nearly of thick planks, again a refined and sophisticated aspect of log construction technique. The most characteristic plan of the log house is the one room plan with attic above, the single-pen form (such as the later section of this house). This module is often expanded by adding more of the same and linking them, as in the saddlebag and dog-trot plans. Less frequently the single pen large enough to be divided by partitions into various standard vernacular floor plans. Here the house follows the three-room Quaker or Continental floor plan, of European origins, with one large room on one side and two smaller ones on the other, with the stair usually rising along the partition wall. This floor plan is most common in the Piedmont areas of the state settled via Pennsylvania, and some connect the plan with William Penn's directions to his followers—hence the term Quaker plan. The combination of full dovetail notch and Quaker plan is thus notable.

The vernacular Georgian woodwork is typical of the substantial houses of the eighteenth century in Piedmont North Carolina—relatively few of which survive. The use of flush sheathing, chair rails, a handsome mantel, etc., in the log house combines with the plan and notching of the house to establish that this was intended as a substantial and permanent dwelling coequal with frame or brick contemporaries, and confirms log as a construction method coexistent with others, not merely as a pioneer or makeshift technique.
**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


Orange County Dead Books. Microfilm Copy. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME/TITLE** Description prepared by Catherine W. Bishir, Head, Survey and Planning Branch. Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Research Branch.

**ORGANIZATION** Division of Archives and History

**STREET & NUMBER** 109 East Jones Street

**TELEPHONE** (919) 733-4763

**CITY OR TOWN** Raleigh

**STATE** North Carolina. 27611

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

- NATIONAL _
- STATE _
- LOCAL x

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE**

**DATE** September 14, 1978

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ATTEST**

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**
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Paisley-Rice Log House, Orange County, North Carolina

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET Addenda ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE


The 65 acres are included in the nomination because this is the remaining amount of land associated with the farmhouse. In 1927--51 years ago--the farm, which had been in the Pettigrew/Rice family since the 1830s, was divided in the settlement of the estate. The portion allotted with the house at that time was 65 acres. This was half the 130 acres long associated with the farm. The 65 acres has remained with the house for over fifty years as the house tract. This is the property owned by the present owner, Joseph A. Rice. The land, as for nearly two centuries, is in active farm use, reflecting the early development in this Piedmont area of small self-sufficient farms with relatively modest houses. The rural setting is unspoiled, though within a few miles is increasing urbanizing and suburbanizing growth.

**UTM References**

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SUBDIVISION OF R. R. RICE LAND IN ORANGE COUNTY (CHEEKSTP) N.C.
LOTS N.O. & 2 WERE ALLOTTED TO J.R. & L.R. RICE AND J.R. DEEDS HIS ENTIRE
INTEREST IN SAID LOTS TO L.R. FOR HIS INTEREST IN A TRACT OF LAND
AS SHOWN BY DEED FROM L.R. RICE & WIFE LYDIA RICE
Surveyed May 5, 1927, By Lewis H. Heigh Cedar Alamarre Co. N.C. Leth.