Form 10-300
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(TYPE ALL ENTRIES – COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS)

1. NAME
COMMON:
Morgan House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
4.1 mile north of junction with SR 1333 on US 17
CITY OR TOWN:
South Mills (First Congressional District, the Hon. Walter B. Jones)
STATE:
North Carolina
CODE:
37
COUNTY:
Pasquotank
CODE:
139

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
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<td>Occupied</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site</td>
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<td>In Process</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Site</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
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<td>Site</td>
<td>Site</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<td>Site</td>
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<td>Other (Specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Frederick D. Hyatt
STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 3, Box 383
CITY OR TOWN:
South Mills
STATE:
North Carolina
CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Pasquotank County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Elizabeth City
STATE:
North Carolina
CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
### DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
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<td>Deteriorated</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruins</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Original Site</td>
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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.**

The Morgan House, one of the finest examples of the small group of temple-form houses in North Carolina, is a two-story dwelling covered with beaded weatherboards and resting on a brick pier foundation.

The pedimented main (west) facade is three bays wide with windows containing nine-over-nine sash in the first story and nine-over-six in the second. All the windows have molded sills. The tympanum, covered with beaded weatherboards, is dominated by an unusually large central lunette with triangular panes radiating from a demi-sunburst. Carrying around the tympanum and the entire building is a well-executed cornice of corbel modillions terminated with guttae. Below is a band of pierced dentils alternating with small pierced sawwork circles. The main entrance, located in the central bay, contains a raised-paneled double door surmounted by a transom with radiating panes similar to the lunette in the tympanum. The entrance is protected by a well-proportioned three-bay "dwarf portico" supported by two pairs of vernacular Doric columns which carry an arched central bay. This creates the familiar Palladian motif covered by a broad pediment. The porch balustrade features balusters square in section and a rounded handrail. The cornice is similar to the main one but lacks guttae.

Both the north and south sides are three bays long with secondary entrances in the west bays that are identical to the main doorway. These entrances are protected by small pedimented porches with chamfered posts and balustrades enclosed by beaded weatherboards. A two-bay rear L on the south side of the rear facade has a slightly lower gable roof but continues the cornice of the main block and appears to be original. The L encloses one of the two large chimneys on the rear facade. The other chimney, located between the north two bays, is a double-shoulder one laid in common bond. Bricks in the top shoulder are inscribed with the initials "SH" and the date "July 15, 1826."

The interior has a transverse hall across the front with two parlors beyond. The rooms are finished with walls plastered above and below a molded chair rail. The windows are framed by symmetrically molded architraves and corner blocks adorned with incised circular sunbursts. The chair rail, which forms the window sills, breaks out to create molded caps above reeded pilaster strips that form pedestals under each window. The most impressive feature of the hall is the graceful stair which rises in two flights connected by a transverse landing. The stair has a ramped balustrade with slender turned balusters and a molded handrail that ends in a scroll newel with a rosette crowning the turned newel post. Each tread is adorned with a curvilinear bracket. The fascia of the landing is elaborately treated with a central oval sunburst and sawn decoration which repeats the curves of the brackets.

The large northeast parlor is finished like the hall but contains a replacement mantel with a crossetted architrave and a molded shelf. The south side is divided into two rooms. The smaller west one has been remodeled as a bathroom and closet, while the east room is the dining area.
Originally there was a mantel on the east wall flanked by entrances. The mantel has been removed, but the doorways remain, the right leading to the kitchen in the L and the left to an enclosed stair to the second floor of the L addition. The kitchen has been remodeled completely but retains the large chimney breast and fireplace. The plan of the second floor is similar to the first. The hall, like all the second floor rooms, is finished with walls plastered above and below a molded chair rail, and the windows are treated simply with molded architraves. The north section of the hall is partitioned into a small unheated bedroom. A most unusual feature is the circular attic opening in the center of the hall ceiling. Framed by a molded architrave, it is sealed by a flat-paneled wooden cover.

The northeast (master) bedroom is quite large, containing a simple secondary mantel consisting of a molded shelf with dipped corners, a plain frieze bordered by unadorned corner posts, and plain pilasters.

The southeast bedroom was made smaller by the recent addition of a bathroom in the southwest corner. The mantel in this room is the finest in the house. It is of typical three-part Federal design with a molded cornice that breaks over the corner blocks, which are supported by reeded pilasters. Just below this cornice is a narrow horizontally reeded band that breaks over the corner blocks and the center tablet, which is ornamented by an incised fan design. To the right of the mantel is a doorway leading to the second floor L room, which contains a simple mantel adorned with three flat panels below a molded shelf.
Bricks in one of the chimneys of the Morgan House furnish the building date of July 15, 1826, and the initials "SH." Although it cannot be documented, local tradition has it that the house was built by a Mr. Hinton, who, judging from tax records of the period, may well have been William S. Hinton, a wealthy planter. A map dated 1868 identifies the property on which the house stands as belonging to the Hintons, and another map, dated 1878, refers to the area (now called Morgan's Corners) as "Hinton's Corners." Within a few years, however, Robert and Sabra J. Morgan were in possession of the house, for in 1882 they deeded the 400-acre tract to Todie S. Morgan for $1,750. Todie, who was married to George W. Morgan, lived until 1928, surviving her husband by nine years. The property was inherited by their four children and lost through foreclosure in 1932. From 1939 until 1971 the Morgan House passed through seven owners; the present owner is Dr. Frederick W. Hyatt.

Thomas T. Waterman noted the significance of the Morgan House in the development of the architecture of the state as one of a group of buildings that represent the change from the side-hall plan to the emphasis on a pedimented front with central entrance leading to a "cross entrance-hall with a pair of rooms beyond [which] became popular through the area of Virginia influence." Its three-part design with pedimented main block flanked by small pedimented porches indicates the influence of the three-part Morris plan. The building is, as Waterman pointed out, an especially fine example of its style, having "good detail, the cornice and pediment rake being treated with full classic moldings and brackets in the style of Asher Benjamin, . . . [and] a fine stair." The well-executed simplicity and elegance evident in the overall design of the house, its exterior trim, and interior finish place it among the very best of its type in North Carolina.
Coun-

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<th>CORNER</th>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One Acre

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, Supervisor
State Department of Archives and History 5 October 1971
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh

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 ☒ Local ☐

Name

H. G. Jones
Title
State Liaison Officer
Director, State Department of Archives and History
Date 5 October 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date ________________

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date ________________
Morgan House
BS 17
South Mills, North Carolina

Map of Pasquotank County, State Highway Commission
Scale: 1"/1 mile
July 1, 1966

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36° 24' 47&quot;</td>
<td>76° 20' 02&quot;</td>
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36°20'      SWAMP
78°25'  E