

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Pasquotank	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Old Brick House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
182 Brick House Lane

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elizabeth City (First Congressional District, The Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37      COUNTY: Pasquotank      CODE: 139

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Eleanor F. Stuart

STREET AND NUMBER:  
182 Brick House Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Elizabeth City      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:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Brick House, set in a clearing among gigantic cypress trees on the banks of the Pasquotank River, is a one-and-one-half-story dwelling on a raised brick basement. Despite its name, the five-bay front and rear facades are covered with beaded weatherboards, and the two-bay gable ends are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The two interior end chimneys terminate in molded caps. The corbel-like extension of the brick end wall at each corner of the molded cornice is exposed rather than being concealed, as it usually is, beneath a wooden pattern board.

The focus of the main (south) facade (formerly the rear facade) is the central entrance, consisting of an eight-panel door crowned by a transom of ten lights. The windows of the entire house have been restored to their original nine-over-nine configuration. The exception to this pattern, the four-over-four sash of the gable windows, is probably original. Three roof dormers originally pierced both the front and rear but were removed many years ago. The roof now contains five modern dormers on the front and three on the rear.

The top half of the basement, delineated by a low water table, is above ground. On the east end, steps lead down into a sunken approach to an off-center double door at the basement level. This entrance is protected by the floor of a porch that extends nearly the width of the side of the house and rests on brick pillars. This simple frame porch with a flat roof and plain balustrade is a reconstruction.

As originally finished the interior of this house was one of the most distinguished of its period in North Carolina. Its most striking feature was the fireplace wall of the parlor which contained a richly carved mantel with an elaborate broken ogee pediment enframing a molded panel. Charles Montgomery, director of the Henry Francis Du Pont Winterthur Museum (1954-1961), noted the remarkable similarity of the "curious and individual overmantel," to Plate 74 of Batty Langley's The Builders Jewel: Or, The Youth's Instructor, and Workman's Remembrancer (London, 1746). Flanking arched cupboards were set off by fluted Ionic pilasters. The low ceiling resulted in an awkward vernacular adaptation of the British pattern from which the mantelpiece was copied, thereby intensifying its Baroque exuberance. This wall, the remainder of the parlor, and the walls of the left front room, all fully paneled, were removed to a private home in Wilmington, Delaware. The original interiors of the other rooms were also sold. The house now contains paneling and mantels gathered from nearby eighteenth-century houses and is a veritable museum of regional interior design. The full basement, part of which served as the kitchen, contains a massive fireplace with a Dutch oven.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Brick House is thought to have been built about the middle of the eighteenth century by Robert Murden (the spelling "Munden" also occurs), an early settler in the Albemarle section. It appears likely that he built the house on property he had acquired from Isaac Stokely in 1750. Mrs. W. P. Jackson, who bought the house in 1936, found a map dating from the Revolutionary period, part of the collection of Sir Henry Clinton (commander of British naval forces in American waters during the American Revolution), which showed the names of many of the earlier settlers and the locations of their homes. The "Murden place" is marked as being located where the Old Brick House stands in a bend of the Pasquotank River, north of the present town of Elizabeth City. Another map, however, dated 1727, shows nothing where the Old Brick House now stands.

Robert Murden served in the Pasquotank militia (Pasquotank at that time included the present Camden County) and was one of "His Majesty's Justices" as well as a member of the North Carolina House of Commons from 1754 until his death in 1759. Although the chain of title is difficult to trace, the Old Brick House appears to have remained in the Murden family until August 16, 1841, when Benjamin Murden sold the house and sixteen acres to Jonathan Sawyer.

Sawyer and his wife gave the house and sixty acres to their daughter, Keziah Sawyer, on July 1, 1869, with the agreement that she "support them during their natural life" in return for the property. On June 25, 1900, the sixty acres, by that time referred to as the "Old Brickhouse Place," was sold "for division among the tenants in common," to T. L. Spence, the petition for sale having been filed by G. A. Jennings and others. On October 6, 1902, E. F. Aydlett, "special commissioner, by deed dated July 16, 1900," conveyed the property to Cader Jennings, who sold it to W. H. Jennings in 1905. Jennings sold the house to Charles A. MacLellan of Wilmington, Delaware, who sold the original interiors. Since that time the house has had three owners, including the present one, Eleanor Foreman Stuart, who has lived there since 1943.

Though tradition has it that the house was built by Edward Teach (the pirate "Blackbeard"), it appears that the house was built quite some time after his death. The significance of the house derives not from the legendary connection with that early buccaneer, but rather from its own architectural characteristics. The Old Brick House, like the Cupola House in

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8.

Edenton, is characterized by retardataire seventeenth century forms which link these structures to early English house types found in Virginia. The extent and quality of the interior architectural elaboration of both suggests that they were likely considered mansions in comparison to standard residences of the region. The Old Brick House is not only apparently the oldest existing structure in Pasquotank County, but also one of the few brick-end buildings in the state.

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9.

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

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Collector's Notes," Antiques, LXXII, No. 1. (January, 1958), p. 68.

Henderson, Archibald, and Wootten, Bayard. Old Homes and Gardens of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press (Published under the auspices of the Garden Club of North Carolina.), 1939.

(Raleigh) News and Observer, August 28, 1949 and December 14, 1952.

Pasquotank County Records, Pasquotank County Courthouse, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	36°	20'	00"	76°	13'	16"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/2 Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

4 November 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name

H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 4 November 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

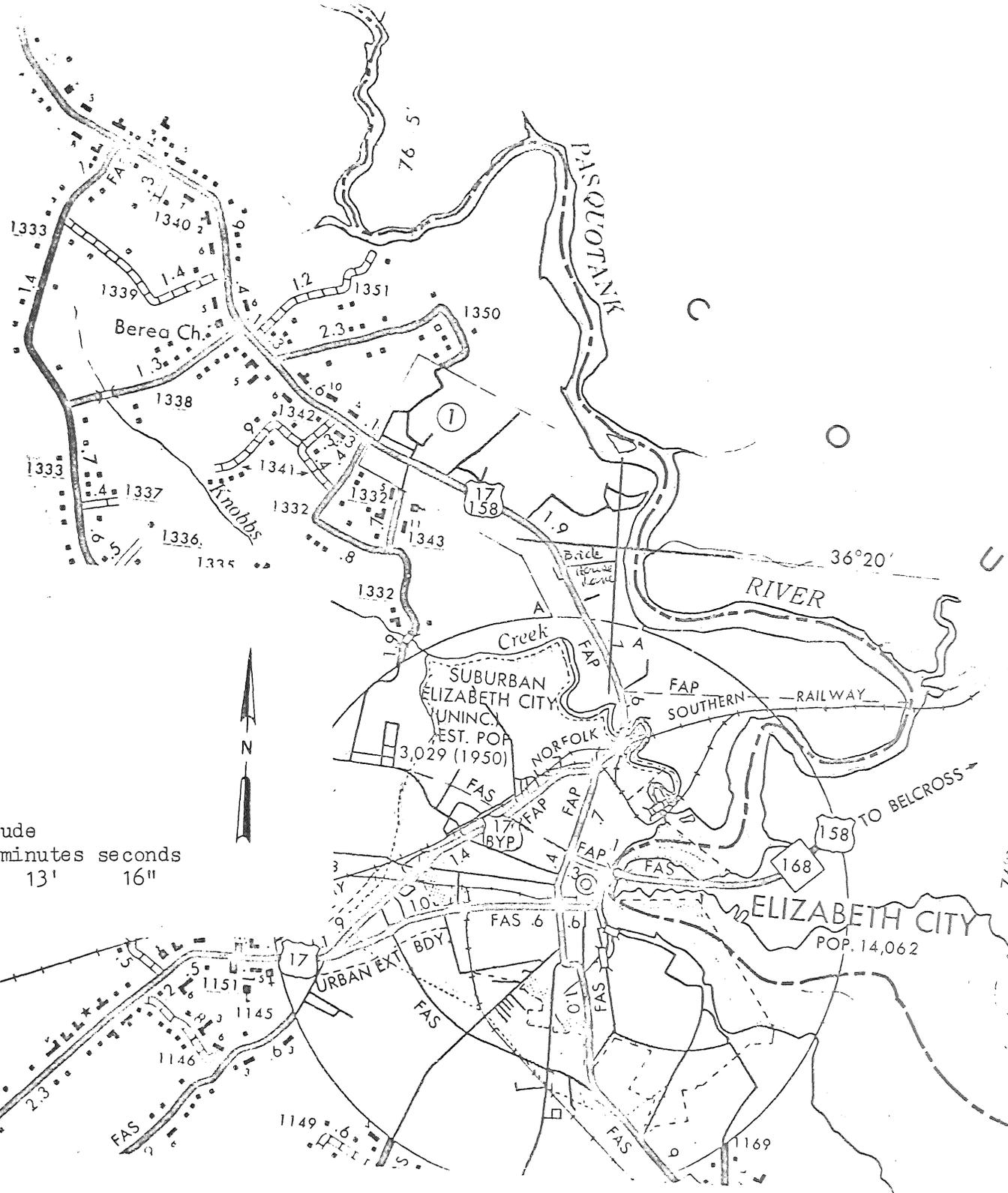
Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M A L

W A M P



Old Brick House  
 152 Brick House Lane  
 Elizabeth City, North Carolina

State Highway Commission  
 Scale: 1"/1 mile  
 July 1, 1966

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36°	20'	00"	76°	13'	16"

