

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fox Haven Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1.4 miles from intersection with SR 1157 and Highway 108

CITY OR TOWN:
Green Hill township (Eleventh Congressional District, The Hon. Roy Taylor)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Rutherford	CODE 161
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Sumner

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fox Haven Farm, Route 5

CITY OR TOWN: Rutherfordton	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rutherford County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rutherfordton	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Rutherford

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

Fox Haven is a large two-story brick dwelling five bays wide and three bays deep with a low brick foundation delineated by a molded water table. The main (south) facade and the west side are laid in Flemish bond while the east side and the rear are laid in one-to-five common bond. Such a combination of bonds is typical of brick houses built in western North Carolina during the Federal period. The placement of the chimneys, however, is most unusual. There are two interior chimneys on the rear (north) facade, located between the windows on either side of the rear entrance and a similar chimney on the south facade between the two west windows. Originally a molded wooden cornice carried around all four sides, pedimenting the gables. Although this cornice has been removed, the projecting brick course which supported it remains and still creates a pedimented effect. A large segmental-arched lunette which occurs in the tympanum of each end pediment is framed by two courses of rowlocks and a plain sill square in section. The remaining windows contain nine-over-nine sash with stuccoed flat arches above the first floor windows and a single rowlock course over those on the second.

The house apparently was constructed with three entrances: the central doorways on the front and rear, and a side entrance in the south bay on the west gable end. The side entrance, however, was later changed to a window. The central entrance on the south facade is the most outstanding exterior feature of Fox Haven, with a wide flat-paneled door surmounted by a multi-paned transom that extends over the half-sidelights. Both the lights and the door are framed by a delicate symmetrically molded architrave with corner blocks. The north entrance features similar but less elaborate trim.

In plan, Fox Haven has a wide center hall with two rooms to the west and a large parlor to the east. The hall, finished with walls plastered above a flat-paneled wainscot which is a replacement for the original, contains the main stair that rises in a single flight along the east wall. Enclosing the stair and the stair well at the second level is a plain Federal-style balustrade consisting of a rounded handrail and thin balusters square in section.

The east parlor seems small in contrast with the unusually large windows which light it. Set in flat-paneled splayed reveals, the nine-over-nine sash windows are accented by symmetrically molded architraves with rounded corner blocks and delicate molded sills. The mantel on the north wall consists of a plain frieze supported on thin flat-paneled pilasters, and is surmounted by a molded shelf which breaks out over the flat-paneled end blocks. The mantel in the southwest room is more elaborate, featuring a paneled central tablet and end blocks supported on freestanding colonnettes. The wainscot in this room is particularly handsome, consisting of a flat-paneled dado and a narrow molded chair rail adorned with horizontal reeding. The northwest parlor obviously was finished as a secondary room. The windows have simple molded architraves, the walls are plastered, and the mantel is quite plain with unadorned end blocks and frieze, and symmetrically molded pilasters.

The plan of the second floor is similar to the first, and the trim is like that found in the northwest parlor. Each mantel at this level is

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE North Carolina	
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(Number all entries)

7.
different: in the small northwest bedroom the mantel consists of a molded shelf, plain frieze, and a molded architrave around the opening; that in the southwest room is similar to the mantel in the northwest parlor except that the pilasters are fluted.

The only major difference in the plan of this level is the enclosed attic stair which rises west to east between the two west bedrooms and opens into the southwest corner of the northwest bedroom. The attic is unfinished.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian; | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Morris patented 185 acres in what is now Rutherford County in 1769. This was perhaps his first grant in what was then known as Tryon County. To this land he added 250 acres in 1771 and an additional 200 in 1774, his homestead then amounting to 635 acres. The story is told that Morris's home place on this land was called Fox Haven (also the name of the present dwelling) because of a service rendered by an Indian to the early settler. The Indian, who called himself "Fox," gave warning of a planned raid on the area and thereafter had to take refuge on Morris's plantation which then came to be called Fox Haven.

John Morris was active in the early phase of the American Revolution and was elected by the freeholders of the county to the Tryon County Committee of Safety in 1775. In the same year, he was present at the meeting of the committee when it resolved to subscribe to an association against "the tools of ministerial vengeance and despotism for the subjugating of all British America. . . ." John Morris is said to have died in 1783, leaving the plantation to his son, James Morris, also a soldier in the American Revolution.

According to family tradition, James Morris built the present brick house in 1823 and used the plantation as a horse farm. In his will of 1855 he left "the home plantation, with the mansion in which I now live . . . containing six hundred and thirty-six acres more or less" to his son, James B. Morris. The estate also included twenty-eight slaves. Fox Haven remained in the Morris family until it was sold in 1941 to W. S. Green. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin H. Sumner, bought the property, now 432 acres, in 1948.

Because of its unusual plan and chimney placement, Fox Haven is one of the more interesting examples of the two-story brick houses constructed in western North Carolina in the early nineteenth century. The house, which is in excellent condition, is distinguished by the well-executed Federal details of its entrance and lunettes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Griffin, Clarence W. History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties. Asheville, North Carolina: Miller Printing Company, 1937.

Rutherford County Records, Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Rutherford County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (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	°	'	"	°	'	"	35°	20'	53"	82°	03'	13"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 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

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 18 January 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 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 Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 18 January 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

