Form No. 10-300

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
Fewell-Reynolds House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
North side SR 1144, .4 miles from junction with SR 1145
CITY, TOWN Madison
STATE North Carolina
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth

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
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Mr. Banner Hopper
STREET & NUMBER c/o Mr. Leigh Rodenbaugh
129 East Murphy Street
CITY, TOWN Madison
STATE North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Rockingham County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Wentworth
STATE North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
Located on a rural site above the Dan River in Rockingham County, the Fewell-Reynolds House is an outstanding example of traditional form and Federal detail. The house and its accompanying outbuildings are virtually unaltered but have suffered from deterioration. Even so, the quality and richness of both the interior and exterior design of the house mark the Fewell-Reynolds House as the most outstanding frame house in Rockingham County, and notable in the north Piedmont for its period.

The main block of the Fewell-Reynolds House is a six-bay, two-story structure constructed on a center hall plan, carrying a steeply pitched gable roof with returns. To the west of the main block is a one-story wing of one-bay configuration with a gable roof. The fenestration of the house consists of nine-over-nine sash set within reeded surrounds. The house is now sheathed in weatherboards covered with asbestos shingle siding and rests on a varied foundation of stone and brick laid in 3:1 and 4:1 common bond. A box cornice is displayed on both the facade and north elevations of the main block and the wing with pegged modillions distinguishing the facade cornice. The east elevation displays an exterior brick chimney laid in 3:1 common bond with a stack laid in running bond. The west elevation of the main block displays a gable end chimney stack laid in running bond rising above the ridgeline of the wing.

The facade features three entrances, one through the wing and two into the main block. The entrance to the wing is a plain vertical board door surmounted by a transom and sheltered by a shed-roofed porch carried on rough log posts which serve as piers. A second shed-roofed porch carried on a stone foundation extends across the eastern four bays of the main block and retains the original flush mounted overhead sheathing of wide boards. To the right of the main entrance are three bays consisting of a door of six raised panels flanked by nine-over-nine sash windows. The main entrance is a two-leaf door, with three raised panels in each leaf, flanked by reeded pilasters. Over the door is a delicately executed fanlight recessed within a reeded surround ornamented by reeding on the inside circumference.

The north (rear) elevation also features three entrances, but only one of the two porches remains. A shed-roofed porch, carried on a foundation of log posts, shelters two entrances, one leading into the wing and the other to the dining room in the main block. The door into the wing is of four raised panels and the door into the dining room is of six raised panels; a nine-over-nine sash window is set between the two doors. The main entrance to the rear facade, leading into the hall, consists of a two-leaf door with three raised panels in each leaf set within a reeded surround. The porch which once sheltered this entrance has been removed. Immediately to the west of this door is a gable-roofed cellar entrance. The fenestration of the north elevation is also nine-over-nine sash, but the main block is five bays wide on the first story and four bays wide on the second. The east elevation is dominated by the massive brick chimney described previously which is flanked on the first and second stories by nine-over-nine sash windows. The west elevation of the wing features a nine-over-nine sash window on the first story and a six-over-six sash window over it lighting the attic of the wing. Flanking the chimney stacks on both
the east and west elevations are small six-over-six sash windows which light the attic of the main block.

The interior of the Fewell-Reynolds House retains almost all of its woodwork and original fabric, with the exception of one mantel in the east bedroom. In addition, some of the graining treatment, particularly in the downstairs rooms, has been painted. Nevertheless, the Fewell-Reynolds House is an accurate reflection of late-Federal decorative techniques and design motifs. The interior walls and ceilings are sheathed in plaster accented with crown moldings. The molded chairrails and flat-paneled wainscots display their original embellishment, consisting of graining treatment on the wainscot panels and a green and Indian red combination of the chairrails and panel surrounds. The most prominent exception to the plaster sheathing is found in the former dining room which displays flush-mounted wide boards on the walls and ceiling and a molded chairrail. The four remaining mantels are all of late-Federal design displaying reeded pilasters and simple reeded swags. With the exception of the front and rear entrances to the stair hall, which are two leaves with three raised panels, the doors are a variety of four raised panels, six raised panels, and six flat panels. A similar variation occurs in the design of the door and window surrounds. The kitchen features delicate, asymetrically molded Federal surrounds, while the other rooms in the house display either fluted or reeded symmetrically molded surrounds with corner blocks varying between sunburst and circular molded motifs. Two of the doors in the first floor stair hall and all of the doors on the second floor retain their original graining treatment and green and red painting on the surrounds.

Of particular note is the gracefully executed stair which rises to the rear along the west wall of the stair hall. Beginning at a thin, delicately turned newel, the molded rail is carried on light square balusters over an unornamented open string and a flat paneled spandrel. The stair rises through a half-turn with a wide landing, above which is a single window. The stair hall is sheathed in plaster on both the walls and ceiling with a molded chairrail and flat paneled wainscot carrying around all sides and continuing up the stair. The points where the angles of the stair change are delineated by reeded pilasters of the same height as the chairrail. The door at the rear of the hall retains its original graining treatment and is set within a fluted surround, but due to its placement under the stair landing, there is no upper surround member. Above the first floor stair hall, the wainscot, baseboards, stair risers, doors, and surrounds retain their original decorative embellishment of graining and painting, and
marbleizing on the baseboards and risers. The stair continues to the attic of the house and displays flush mounted board sheathing above the second floor. A grained and painted apron carries around the stairwell at the level of the attic floor to the point where the wainscot ends at the top of the stair.

Associated with the Fewell-Reynolds House is a group of three outbuildings, none of which is likely to be contemporary with the house, but certainly of nineteenth century origin. The first of these is a tall gable-roofed log barn of v-notch construction said to be 100 years old, with open sheds on the east and west elevations. Immediately to the west stands a half-dovetail gable-roofed log barn with a shed extension on its west elevation. The third outbuilding is a board-and-batten shed-roof barn.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by William Fewell, a prosperous young Rockingham County planter, around 1820, the Fewell-Reynolds House is a notable example of regional Federal domestic architecture of considerable virtuosity. Fewell was born in 1792 and married Elizabeth Dearing Wall in 1820, three years after he had purchased a tract of 270 acres from his father on the Dan River near Madison. Fewell's prosperity did not draw him into any significant public office except for the minor position of county entry-taker; his anonymity is thus typical of most North Carolina landholders of his day—men of adequate means who lived comfortable but quiet lives. Fewell raised a large family, but transferred the entire property to one of his daughters, Susanna M. F. Reynolds, in 1839 when he left North Carolina for Tennessee. After Susanna's death in 1853, her husband, James T. Reynolds, continued to live there and bought the plantation from William Fewell in 1856. The property remained in the Reynolds family until the mid-twentieth century.

The Fewell-Reynolds House is a survivor of a collection of outstanding homes built in Rockingham County during the first half of the nineteenth century. Related to domestic architecture in neighboring Virginia, the Fewell-Reynolds House combines traditional regional form with high quality Federal detail including finely crafted, grained woodwork, preserved in remarkably intact condition. A collection of notable outbuildings survives as well.

Criteria Assessment:

A. The Fewell-Reynolds House is associated with the pattern of agricultural development in North Carolina as an example of the small to medium-size plantations established in the northern Piedmont area of the state. In addition, as part of a group of exceptional frame and brick homes built in Rockingham County during the first half of the nineteenth century, the Fewell-Reynolds House represents the spread of Virginia plantation culture and architecture into the northern counties of North Carolina by way of trade and population migration.

C. As an outstanding example of late-Federal architecture exhibiting finely crafted, grained woodwork, full wainscoting, and an exceptionally graceful stair, the Fewell-Reynolds House is evidently the finest frame house in Rockingham County and among the most notable in the northern Piedmont. The interior finish is of statewide significance for its quality, extent, and intact condition.
In 1799 and 1800 William White purchased in two separate deeds 400 acres of land on the south side of the Dan River in Rockingham County.\(^1\) Apparently William White was the "Dr. White" who local tradition claims built the structure now known as the White-Fewell-Reynolds House. One tradition speculates that the house may have been built by Isaac L. White (William White's son) and his wife, Nancy Fewell.\(^2\) This is unlikely, however, since they were not married until 1835 and the house dates stylistically from the Federal period, roughly 1800-1830.\(^3\)

There is a strong possibility that William White built the house. In addition to a local tradition to that effect, architectural historians testify that the structure displays a Virginia influence—a significant fact since William White lived in that state prior to coming to North Carolina.\(^4\) If he built the house, however, reference to it does not appear in the deeds through which his heirs transferred the property to William Fewell (1792-..) in 1821.\(^5\)

There is also good reason to believe that the house may have been constructed by William Fewell on the land that the White heirs deeded to him. Fewell and his father, Benjamin, who lived just across the Dan River from his son, were also from Virginia. Benjamin Fewell (1769-1820) may have been familiar with the Virginia style and included it in his own home and which influenced his son. (The foundations of what county residents regard as the house of Benjamin Fewell still remain on the north side of the Dan River a short distance from the home of William Fewell.)\(^6\) Fewell married Elizabeth Dearing Wall in 1820.\(^7\) It is therefore possible that William Fewell constructed the house after 1821 when the land was transferred to him. In any event, the residence was evidently built during the White/Fewell ownership of the land on which it sits.

Both William White and William Fewell were large landowners. Why White had the title of "doctor" is not apparent from the few surviving county records regarding him. The 1800 census indicates that he owned five slaves, and judging from the size of his land holdings, he was probably engaged in some type of agriculture.\(^8\) White died around 1805 which is the date of his one surviving estate paper.\(^9\)

According to the 1820 census William Fewell was engaged in "agriculture and commerce," and the county court minutes show that he held the local office of county entry taker, 1819-1821. He owned eight slaves in 1820.\(^10\) Dr. Lindley A. Butler's history of Rockingham County states that Fewell left the county for Tennessee.\(^11\) Evidently he departed sometime before 1830 because his name does not appear in the 1830 or 1840 census in Rockingham County.\(^12\) The 1820s and 1830s was a period of great out-migration from North Carolina to Tennessee and farther.

In 1839, according to local tradition, Fewell (evidently residing in Tennessee) relinquished the house and property to his daughter, Susanna M. Fewell Reynolds and her husband, James T. Reynolds.\(^13\) Reynolds was originally from Tennessee where
he may have met the Fewells. In 1856, Fewell officially transferred the property to Reynolds whose wife, Susanna, had died in 1853.\textsuperscript{14} In the same year he received ownership of the Fewell property, Reynolds married Elizabeth Smith.\textsuperscript{15}

James T. Reynolds (1817-1904) was a prosperous farmer whose holdings in Rockingham County consisted of 100 acres of improved land and 900 acres of unimproved land in 1860. His chief crop was tobacco and he produced 8,700 pounds with the labor of sixteen slaves in 1860. His farm in that year was valued at $8,000.\textsuperscript{16} His second wife, Elizabeth, died sometime between 1856 and 1860, and he married Eluera (sometimes called Eleonora) Gosnell in 1860.\textsuperscript{17} Reynolds served in the General Assembly in 1862.\textsuperscript{18}

In 1899 Reynolds deeded his remaining estate of 300 acres to four of his children: Elizabeth (Lizzie) S. Reynolds, Mollie G. Wall (wife of John D. Wall), Thomas G. Reynolds, and John M. Reynolds. In the deed he declared that he was "intending to convey my entire home tract on which I now live. Reserving the possession and enjoyment of said tract of land so long as I live."\textsuperscript{19} In 1904 Reynolds died, and his will of that year read:

\begin{quote}
I will, bequeath and devise that, at the death of my wife Eluera Reynolds, all my real estate shall be equally divided between my four children, to wit: Elizabeth S. Reynolds, Mollie G. Wall, Thomas G. Reynolds and John M. Reynolds, giving to my daughter Elizabeth S. Reynolds that share upon which my dwelling now stands.

Whereas I have already done a fair part by my three older children, it is my will that my executors pay to each of them to-wit: William P. Reynolds, Richard S. Reynolds, & James T. Reynolds, Jr., the sum of one dollar each.\textsuperscript{20}
\end{quote}

Eluera Reynolds must have died soon after her husband, for the estate was divided among the four heirs in 1906 with Elizabeth (Lizzie) S. Gentry (formerly Reynolds) receiving 91.75 acres containing the Fewell-Reynolds House.\textsuperscript{21}

In 1930 Lizzie S. Gentry sold the house and 91.75 acres to her sister, Mollie G. Wall, who already owned a 96-acre tract of the Reynolds land.\textsuperscript{22} In 1945 Mollie G. Wall (widow) conveyed part ownership in the property to her daughter, Hilda Wall Penn (widow).\textsuperscript{23} In 1946 Mrs. Wall and Mrs. Penn sold the 96-acre tract to R. W. Hopper and his wife, Harriet. They sold the 91.75 acre tract containing the house to John B. Hopper and his wife, Grace.\textsuperscript{24} Since that time the house and land have remained in the Hopper family. They are currently owned by Banner Hopper, who lives on the premises.\textsuperscript{25}
FOOTNOTES

1 Rockingham County Deed Books (microfile), Archives, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, Deed Book G, p. 21, p. 32, hereinafter cited as Rockingham Deed Books.


3 Rockingham County Marriage Bonds, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Rockingham Marriage Bonds.

4 Author's interview with Davyd Hood and David Parham, architectural historians, April 21, 1979.

5 Rockingham Deed Book V, p. 34, p. 35, p. 116.


7 Ibid., p. 18.


9 Rockingham County Estates Records, Archives, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

10 Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: Rockingham County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 584; Rockingham County Court Minutes, August 30, 1820, Archives N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


12 Fifth and Sixth Census of the United States, 1830 and 1840: Rockingham County, Population Schedules.
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<tr>
<td>13 Charles Rodenbough, Notes on White-Fewell-Reynolds House, at Historic Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Rodenbough Notes.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Rockingham Deed Book 2T, p. 472.</td>
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<td>15 Rockingham Marriage Bonds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Rockingham Deed Book 122, p. 509.</td>
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<td>21 Rockingham Deed Book 151, pp. 245, 247.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Rockingham Deed Book 563, p. 397.</td>
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<td>23 Rockingham Deed Book 362, p. 314.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Rockingham Deed Book 374, pp. 348, 581.</td>
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<td>25 Rodenbough Notes.</td>
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ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 43 acres more or less

UTM REFERENCES  
Ellisboro Quadrangle  Scale 1:24000

ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
A  [1,7]  [4,1]  [6,4] [0]  [4,0]  [3,0]  
B  [1,7]  [5,9]  [6,4] [0]  [4,4]  [9,6]  
C  [1,7]  [5,3]  [7,2] [0]  [4,2]  [4,9]  
D  [1,7]  [5,9]  [7,4] [0]  [4,1]  [4,1]  

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The acreage included in this nomination is a 43 acre (more or less) tract which includes the house and associated outbuildings and river frontage. The tract is a portion of the 235.16 acres owned by John Banner Hopper, present owner of the house. See attached aerial map.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Description by David W. Parham, survey specialist  
Significance by Joe Mobley, researcher

ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch  
North Carolina Division of Archives & History  
DATE April 23, 1979

STREET & NUMBER  
109 East Jones Street  
TELEPHONE 919-733-6545

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 XXX LOCAL

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

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer  
DATE May 10, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DATE

ATTEST:  
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
### Bibliographical References

**Continuation Sheet**

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<td>Madison Messenger. July 22, 1950.</td>
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<td>Rockingham County Records, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. (Subgroups: Deeds, Census, Wills, Estates, Marriage Bonds).</td>
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Fewell-Reynolds House
N side SR 1144, 0.4 miles from junction with SR 1145
Madison, Rockingham County, N.C.

Ellisboro Quadrangle Scale 1:24000
43 acres more or less

UTM REFERENCES
(A) 17/591640/4025030
(B) 17/591640/4024960
(C) 17/591720/4024960
(D) 17/591710/4024680
(E) 17/591670/4024800
(F) 17/591150/4024790
(G) 17/591140/4025180
(H) 17/591380/4025320