

LXP 12/31/84

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Dempsey - Reynolds - Taylor House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 610 Henry Street not for publication

city, town Eden vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state North Carolina code 037 county Rockingham code 157

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Betsy D. Nelson Mr. & Mrs. Joe Maddox

street & number 610 Henry Street 710 Seymour Court

city, town Eden vicinity of state N. C. 27288

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Wentworth state N. C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dempsey-Reynolds-Taylor house is situated on a side street at the edge of the Leaksville business district in the city of Eden. The original section of the residence is an early nineteenth-century frame block; behind this section is a one-and-a-half story brick structure, probably erected during the early nineteenth century, that may be a rare surviving example of a detached kitchen. A two-and-a-half story, single-pile frame section was added to the original frame residence near the close of the nineteenth century; this section is now the house's main block. The house received a series of rear additions during the first decades of the twentieth century and attained its present size by the early 1920s.

The early nineteenth-century frame portion of the house, which is one of the oldest surviving structures in Eden, retains much of its Federal style interior finish. The two-and-a-half story main block is a fine, well-preserved specimen of Italianate and Queen Anne design.

The exterior of the house's original frame section was substantially remodeled when it was converted to an appendage of the main block at the close of the nineteenth century, and as the house was further expanded during the early 1900s. The exact form of the early nineteenth-century residence is unknown. Surviving architectural evidence suggests, however, that the original house was one-and-a-half stories or two full floors in height and had chimneys at one or both gable ends that provided fireplaces for the two first floor rooms. Family tradition recalls that the original portion of the house was turned ninety degrees when it was made an appendage of the present main block. This tradition is supported by the fact that the door which appears to have been the principal entrance to the original house now faces north rather than west toward Henry Street. The original section of the dwelling is now perpendicular to the present main block and directly adjoins the rear of the main block's northern (left) portion.

The exterior appearance of the original section of the house reflects the changes made during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The slope of the roof was broadened during that period to shelter additional space for a rear second-story bathroom and to provide additional living space sheltered by a six-bay, shed-roofed dormer that carries across the entire north elevation of the section. A porch was erected along the north elevation of the section at the time the present main block was erected; this porch has the same turned posts with decorative brackets seen on the front porch of the main block. Between 1915 and 1921 a latticed shed was built adjoining the porch.¹

In contrast to the remodeled exterior, the first floor interior of the house's original section retains its early nineteenth century plan and most of its Federal style finish. The first floor follows a two-room or hall-and-parlor arrangement; the stair rises four steps along the rear wall of the larger room to a door, and rose along the wall separating the two rooms to the second story before the steps behind the door were removed. A six-panel door provides a passage between the two first floor rooms.

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The larger of the two first floor rooms is finished with plaster over a plain wainscot and a three-part molded chair rail, while the smaller chamber has a chair rail but omits the wainscot. Surviving original door and window surrounds are thinly molded Federal ones; doors have six flat panels trimmed with thin applied moldings. The smaller of the two rooms has a handsome Federal mantel with series of thin moldings applied to the pilasters and frieze and around the fire opening. The mantel in the larger of the two rooms is a typical late nineteenth century facing with paired sawn brackets above the pilasters supporting a plain shelf.

The open portion of the stair rises four steps to a six-panel door. This section of the stair has open stringers and a molded handrail, plain square-in-section balusters, and a thin newel topped with a simple molding. A plain wainscot and simply molded chair rail run along the wall parallel to the stair and terminate in a thin pilaster opposite the newel.

The upper story rooms of the house's original section were completely remodeled during the early twentieth century and have plain interior trim.

The history of the brick structure at the rear of the house that serves as the kitchen is not known for certain. Strong family tradition recalls that the structure provided separate kitchen facilities for the early nineteenth century frame portion of the house, and the building has served as a kitchen throughout the twentieth century. Whether the structure was originally erected for kitchen purposes is not known; it may have served the Dempsey family or earlier owners of the land as a residence.

The rectangular brick structure is laid up in common bond and has a steeply pitched gable roof. A broad chimney with a single pair of stepped shoulders, also laid up in common bond, occupies the south gable end and furnishes a large hearth. The structure has three small windows: one alongside the chimney on the south gable end; one in the center of the structure's east side; and a centrally placed attic window in the north gable end. The interior of the brick structure, which has a single room, has been remodeled for use as a modern kitchen, but a broad hearth still occupies most of the room's southern wall. The attic is no longer accessible.

The late nineteenth century main block of the house is three bays wide and one bay deep beneath a gable roof. A decorative gable is set over the center bay of the facade. All three gables of the main block are decorated with alternating bands of diamond and octagonal shingles. Four gable-roofed dormers, two on the front of the house and two on the rear, were installed about 1940. The roof is trimmed with a molded cornice and pendant drop brackets. Two interior chimneys at the rear of the block provide four fireplaces for the main section and two for adjoining rear portions of the house.

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Description

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Two projecting, three-sided bays with two-over-two sash windows flank the centrally placed entrance. The bays are embellished with molded and turned ornament. A porch carries between the two projecting bays; it has a three-sided shape similar to that of the bays, and like the bays it is well embellished with molded and turned ornament. The porch shelters the principal entrance to the house, a two-leaf, four-panel door set in a plain, symmetrical surround.

The interior of the main block follows a center hall plan one room deep. The stair rises in a single flight from the front of the hall to the rear. It boasts a molded, square-in-section newel, topped with a finial, whose chamfered corners are adorned with turned ornament. The elaborate balustrade consists of a molded handrail and cut-out boards separated by thin vertical and horizontal members.

All four rooms of the main block are finished in plaster above a deep, plain base-board, and doors and windows are set in relatively simple three-part molded surrounds. Remaining original doors have four panels. The two first floor mantels, and the one in the northern second-story room, are typical Queen Anne facings, with characteristic, turned, beaded, and chamfered ornament. The mantel in the southern second-story room is an early twentieth century neo-Federal facing with a typical three-part arrangement.

The projecting first floor facade bays provide additional space for the two parlors, and these spaces are framed by three-part surrounds and curved brackets adorned with spindles. The south parlor boasts an eight-pointed plaster ceiling medallion with heavy molded ornament.

The major post-1900 addition to the house is a large, one-story shed wing directly behind the main block on the house's south (left) side, erected between 1908 and 1915.² This wing contains a single room, the largest in the house, which has a row of three one-over-one sash windows. The most notable feature of the room is a handsome brick fireplace adorned with molded brick trim in both egg-and-dart and Greek fret patterns.

Other rear additions to the house, all of which had been made by the 1920s,³ include a butler's pantry in the space between the shed room and the brick kitchen, a second-story sleeping porch just above the shed room, and a porch sheltering the north gable end of the brick kitchen.

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Footnotes

¹Sanborn Map Company, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Leaksville-Spray, North Carolina" (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1915 and 1921). Hereinafter referred as Sanborn maps by date.

²Sanborn maps, 1908 and 1915.

³Sanborn maps, 1921 and 1930, and interview with Mrs. Betsy D. Nelson, present owner, January 21, 1982.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

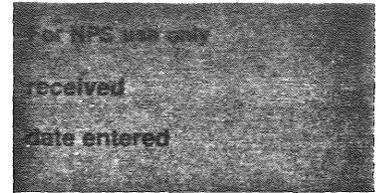
The Dempsey-Reynolds-Taylor house is an architecturally notable residence whose early nineteenth, late nineteenth, and early twentieth century components reflect its long and locally significant history. The original section of the house is an early-nineteenth-century frame block which retains much of its original Federal style interior finish. Behind this section is a one-and-a-half story brick structure, probably erected during the early nineteenth century, that may be a rare surviving example of a detached kitchen. A two-and-a-half story, single-pile frame section was added to the original frame section near the close of the nineteenth century. The two-and-a-half story section, which is now the house's main block, is a fine and well-preserved specimen of vernacular Italianate and Queen Anne design. The house received a series of rear additions during the first decades of the twentieth century and attained its present size by the early 1920s. The older portion of the house was built in the 1820s by Dubartes Dempsey. He sold this house to Dr. Anthony B. Johns in 1835. Johns was the first of three Leaksville physicians to occupy the residence. In 1850 he sold it to Dr. Thomas Reynolds. The house remains in the hands of Reynolds' descendants. Dr. Reynolds and his wife Sarah Fewel Reynolds had five children. Two of these, Charles A. Reynolds and John Fewel Reynolds, were prominent figures in the Republican party in North Carolina in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Charles Reynolds served as the state's lieutenant governor from 1897 until 1901, while his brother served three terms in the legislature. Their sister Elizabeth Dearing Reynolds married Dr. Thomas Graves Taylor in 1880. The Taylor family obtained possession of the house from her brothers. Dr. and Mrs. Taylor had six children. Among these were Thomas Reynolds Taylor who became vice-president of the American Tobacco Company, and Martha Reynolds Davison, a prominent musician.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the nineteenth century development of Leaksville (now a part of Eden).
- B. Associated with three Leaksville physicians, Dr. Anthony Johns, Dr. Thomas E. Reynolds, and Dr. Thomas Graves Taylor. Associated with Charles A. Reynolds and John Fewel Reynolds, prominent figures in the North Carolina Republican Party during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- C. Embodies distinctive characteristics of the early nineteenth century Federal style and the late nineteenth century Queen Anne and Italianate styles.

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The Dempsey-Reynolds-Taylor House is located in the Rockingham County town of Eden (formerly Leaksville), a few miles south of the Virginia-North Carolina border.¹ The older portion of the house was built in the early 1820s by Dubartes Dempsey, while the main portion was built in the latter part of the nineteenth century by Dr. Thomas Taylor. For over a century the house has been associated with the prominent Reynolds-Taylor families.

Dubartes Dempsey was a native of Virginia. He moved to Rockingham County in the 1820s and purchased a lot in Leaksville from James Barnett in 1821 for \$80.² His house was built probably a short time later. Little is known about Dempsey, who sold his house and lot to Dr. Anthony B. Johns in 1835.³ Dr. Johns paid \$550 for the property. He became the first of three physicians to live in the house. He and his wife, the former Elizabeth Reeves of Leaksville, had at least three children, including Anthony B. Johns, Jr., who also became a physician.⁴

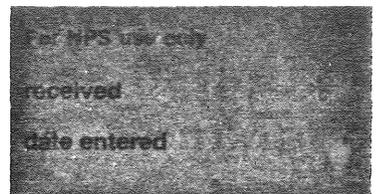
In 1850 Johns sold his house and lot to another physician, Dr. Thomas E. Reynolds, for \$550.⁵ Reynolds (1819-1872) was the sixth of eleven children born to Pryor Reynolds and Prudence Morehead Reynolds. Pryor Reynolds was a native of Henry County, Virginia. In 1809 he married Rockingham County native Prudence Morehead. She was the sister of John Motley Morehead, the noted progressive politician who served as North Carolina's governor from 1841 until 1845. The Reynolds family was living in Lawrence County, Virginia when Thomas was born. However, the family moved to North Carolina and Thomas studied medicine in Greensboro, before attending Philadelphia's prestigious Jefferson Medical College, from where he graduated. Reynolds established a medical practice in the western Rockingham County town of Madison before moving himself and his family to Leaksville. In 1847 he married Rockingham County native Sarah Jane Fewel (1831-1870). They had five children. Charles Albert was born in 1848, Lelia Blance in 1851, Elizabeth Dearing in 1853, Thomas Edwin in 1856, and John Fewel in 1858. Lelia died in infancy. Of the four children who grew to maturity, three were born in the Leaksville house and all four were raised there.⁶

Sarah Reynolds died in 1870 at the age of 39. Thomas Reynolds was forced to give up his medical practice about this time because of ill health. He then went into the mercantile business. The 1870 census lists Reynolds as the owner of real estate valued at \$2,000 and a personal estate also valued at \$2,000. He died in 1872 at the age of 53. The house remained in the hands of the children, however. The three sons moved to Winston in the 1880s, while Elizabeth married and became the owner of the house.⁷

Charles Reynolds, the first of the Reynolds children, graduated from Princeton University. He moved to Winston around 1882 and became one of North Carolina's leading Republican politicians. Reynolds served as postmaster of Winston for twelve years. In 1896 he was elected lieutenant governor of the state. That election also saw the election of Daniel L. Russell as governor. Russell and Reynolds were the only Republicans to hold these offices in North Carolina between the end of political Reconstruction and the 1970s. In 1904 Reynolds ran for the United States Congress in the fifth district but was defeated by W. W. Kitchin. Reynolds served as state chairman of the Republican party on several occasions and also represented North Carolina as a member of the National Committee of that party. Charles Reynolds was also a construction engineer in Winston and in that capacity helped build a hydro-electric plant on the Yadkin River that was the first such plant in the state and helped construct the

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first macadamized road in Forsyth County. He continued to be a firm advocate of good roads for the rest of his career. During the First World War he served on Forsyth County's draft board. He and his wife, the former Carrie Fretwell had no children.⁸

Charles Reynolds's brother John F. Reynolds was also a prominent Republican figure in the state. He was educated at Mount Airy Academy before studying for the law at the Greensboro legal school run by Judges Robert Paine Dick and John H. Dillard, both of whom had been members of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Reynolds obtained a law degree in 1883 and set up a practice in Leaksville. He moved to Winston in the 1880s and became involved in the tobacco business. He was elected to the General Assembly from Forsyth County in 1889, and to the State Senate in 1891. From 1897 to 1913 he was deputy internal revenue collector in Winston. He moved back to Rockingham County after World War One and was elected to the North Carolina Senate from that county in 1929. In 1930 he ran for United States Congress on the Republican ticket but was defeated. He married Maude Wall in 1890. They had one child, Maude Reynolds, who taught art and music in Rockingham schools for many years.⁹

Thomas Edwin Reynolds lived in Leaksville until around 1882 when he moved to Winston. Later he purchased a large farm on the Deep River, south of Colfax. He became a substantial land owner in Forsyth, Stokes, and Guilford counties. He spent his last years in Leaksville, where he died in 1933.¹⁰

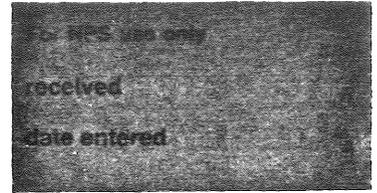
Elizabeth Dearing Reynolds married Dr. Thomas Graves Taylor in 1880. They gradually gained legal title to the property and built the Italianate-Queen Anne addition. Dr. Taylor was a native of Mayo, Virginia, the son of Reverend Daniel G. Taylor and Martha King Taylor. In 1877 he graduated with a medical degree from the University of Kentucky. He came to Leaksville that same year and established a medical practice which he maintained most of his life. He was also a mayor of Leaksville, a member of the school board and a deacon in the Baptist church. They had six children: Thomas was born in 1881, Sarah in 1883, Martha in 1885, Charles in 1887, Ann in 1889, and Daniel in 1891. Mrs. Reynolds died in 1937 and Dr. Reynolds died in 1945.¹¹ The three Taylor sons deeded their interests in the house to the three daughters.¹² Charles and Daniel Taylor were both pharmacists, the former in Goldsboro and Jacksonville and the latter in Rockingham County.¹³ Thomas Taylor was a banker before becoming vice-president and director of the American Tobacco Company. He lived in New York much of this time and died in Florida in 1945.¹⁴

All three Taylor daughters lived in the house at various times. Anne Taylor, the only one of the three not to marry, made the house her residence until her death in 1980. She was a school teacher. Elizabeth married Bethel Withers, a Wentworth salesman. She was a school teacher. She lived at the Leaksville home after the death of her husband. Mrs. Withers was also a schoolteacher. Martha married Hugh Elias Davison of Goldsboro. She lived in Leaksville from around 1925 to her death in 1971. Mrs. Davison was educated at Stephens College in Columbia and at Raleigh's Meredith College. She was an accomplished musician and a well known songwriter. Her daughter Mrs. Betsy Nelson has lived in the Dempsey-Taylor-Reynolds House since 1974. Mrs. Nelson is the house's sole occupant.¹⁵

The Dempsey-Reynolds-Taylor House has been associated with figures of significance in a number of areas. Three of its owners have been physicians, while other members of the various households have distinguished themselves in politics, education, business, and engineering. The house is one of Rockingham County's most historically important structures.

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NOTES

¹In 1967 the three Rockingham County towns of Leaksville, Spray, and Draper merged to form Eden. William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 157.

²Rockingham County Deed Book W, p. 198.

³Rockingham County Deed Book 2G, p. 1.

⁴Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Rockingham County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Rockingham County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.

⁵Rockingham County Deed Book 2Q, p. 293.

⁶John Fewel Reynolds, Genealogical Sketches of Reynolds, Fewels, Walls, and Kindred Families (Winston-Salem: Commercial Printers, 1923), 5, 8, 11, 15, hereinafter cited as Reynolds, Genealogical Sketches; North Carolina Biography, Volumes IV, V, and VI of History of North Carolina by R. D. W. Connor, William Boyd, J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, and others (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 6 volumes, 1919), IV, 49, hereinafter cited as North Carolina Biography.

⁷Reynolds, Genealogical Sketches, 11, 15; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Rockingham County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Rockingham County Will Book E, p. 42.

⁸Reynolds, Genealogical Sketches, 15-16; Winston-Salem Journal, July 3, 1936; Adelaide L. Fries and others, Forsyth County: A County on the March (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1949), 154-157. The election of a Republican governor and lieutenant governor in 1896 was due largely to the defection of large numbers of disaffected Democrats into a third party, the Populists. By 1900 most of the Populists were back into the Democratic Party, which regained its customary dominance in the state.

⁹North Carolina Biography, IV, 49-50; John L. Cheney, Jr. (ed.), North Carolina Government, 1585-1974 (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 468, 469, 505; Greensboro Daily News, April 11, 1936.

¹⁰Reynolds, Genealogical Sketches, 16; Greensboro Daily News, November 29, 1933.

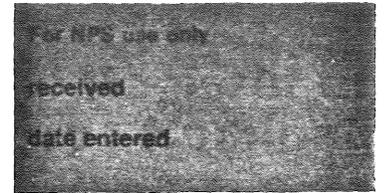
¹¹Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Rockingham County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Reynolds, Genealogical Sketches, 11; Greensboro Daily News, October 18, 1937, April 18, 1945; Rockingham County Deed Book 4B, p. 361. Rockingham County Will Book H, p. 212.

¹²Rockingham County Deed Book 334, p. 316; Book 364, p. 89; Book 364, p. 630; and Book 366, p. 278.

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OK
EXP.



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NOTES (continued)

¹³ Telephone interview with Mrs. Betsy Nelson, March 12, 1982, notes in file, hereinafter cited as Nelson interview.

¹⁴ Nelson interview; Winston Salem Journal, April 1, 1945.

¹⁵ Nelson interview; The Eden News, August 25, 1971.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Southwest Eden

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A

1	7	6	1	0	5	5	0	4	0	3	8	9	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The area being nominated includes the city lot occupied by the house.
See attached plat map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Description prepared by Peter R. Kaplan, Preservation Planner, Survey and Planning Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, N.C. Division of Archives and
Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Researcher date History
organization

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 William J. King, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 28, 1982

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

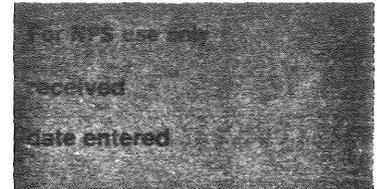
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Nelson, Mrs. Betsy. Telephone interview with. March 12, 1982. Notes in file.

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Winston-Salem Journal, July 3, 1936; April 1, 1954.

SOUTHWEST EDEN QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA—ROCKINGHAM CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

8057 11 SW
(NORTHEAST EDEN)

608 47°30"

609 1 770 000 FEET

RIDGEWAY, VA. 7 MI.

611

79°45'
36°30'

Dempsey-Reynolds-Taylor House
Eden, N. C.
Southwest Eden Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000

17 610550/4038950

