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 Mount Vernon

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER At junction of SR 1003 & SR 1986 (Mt. Vernon Rd.) North of the junction
CITY, TOWN Woodleaf
STATE North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY

X BUILDING(S)

STRICTURE

X OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

PRIVATE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

X AGRICULTURAL

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Heirs of R. C. Current

c/o Miss Jeanette Current

STREET & NUMBER
Route 1

CITY, TOWN Cleveland

STATE North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Rowan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Salisbury

STATE North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

#5P1
DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>EXCELLENT</em></td>
<td><em>UNALTERED</em></td>
<td>$X_{ORIGINAL\ SITE}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X_{GOOD}$</td>
<td><em>RUINS</em></td>
<td>$X_{ALTERED_}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$FAIR$</td>
<td><em>UNEXPOSED</em></td>
<td><em>MOVED</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mount Vernon, pleasantly sited in a rich farming area of northwest Rowan County, is amply shaded by large old trees. This Federal style house was once an early post office and Mount Vernon was the name of the post office. Standing tall and solid-looking, the two-story, three-bay weatherboarded frame house has a full length, one-story shed porch. Although the porch posts are replacements, the porch has several features which appear original: flush siding beneath the porch and on each end of the porch roof, and the molded rakeboard of the shed roof. The molded cornice and baseboard on the porch give an elegant touch. The central entrance door has six flat panels with applied moldings surmounted by a three-light transom. The doors and windows have simple two part molded frames; the windows at the first level contain nine-over-six sash and those at the second level, six over nine. Fixed louvered blinds occur at both levels. A molded box cornice carries across the front and rear of the house, underlining a rather steeply pitched gable roof covered with standing seam metal. Finely molded rake boards embellish the two-bay gable ends.

The northwest gable end features the most interesting of the exterior features: a pair of single shoulder chimneys joined above the level of the first floor fire opening by a brick pent. The brick is laid in one-to-seven common bond. Windows flank the double chimney at both levels, and one window occurs between the chimney stacks to light the northwest end of the attic. The other gable end has only a single shoulder chimney in the same bond as the double one. This chimney is flanked by windows at each level, including the attic. Most of the rear of the house is covered by a much later, story-and-a-half addition which leaves only the second-story outer windows of the main block exposed; they have been shortened by almost half to accommodate the roofline of the addition.

The interior plan has a center hall with one large room to the left and two rooms of equal size to the right. The stair rises in two runs, beginning along the right side of the hall, just beyond the door to the right front room. The entrance to the rear right room is under the stair landing. At the rear of the hall is a door, similar to the front door, also with a three-light transom. Both are supported by strap hinges and have large, metal box locks. All doors in the house have six flat panels with three-part molded frames unless otherwise mentioned. Most of the walls and ceilings of the house are of flush sheathing.

The hall has a heavy, molded wooden cornice and a molded chairrail. The stair balustrade consists of a rounded handrail which rests on a tapered square newel and balusters square-in-section. The handrail neither ramps nor eases. Graceful curvilinear brackets ornament the ends of the open string stair.

The left or major room on the first floor has molded baseboard, chairrail and cornice similar to the hall. The molded window frames rise from bases which rest on the floor; framing a flat panel below each window. There is a rear door in this room similar to the front and rear doors of the hall. The Federal style mantel is large and commanding but maintains delicate elegance at the same time. Slender pilaster strips with molded bases, rise with a slight flare terminating above the fire opening with a symmetrically molded band. Unadorned end blocks and a center tablet support a
very heavy molded shelf which breaks out over the end blocks and center tablet. The rest of the mantels are smaller versions of this one.

The rooms to the right are of equal size and divided by a wooden partition wall. The woodwork and trim in these two rooms are similar to that previously mentioned except that between the fireplace and partition wall in each room is a tall narrow closet contained within the pent. The front room closet door has three flat panels and the rear has four. The rear room also has a back door. The door between the two right rooms has an interesting "wish bone" door catch. At the second level, the plan repeats that of the first, except that the front part of the hall was partitioned into a small room about the 1830s or 1840s, judging from the Greek Revival door frame. This room, now a bath, is said to have been the office of Jacob Krider and in fact its dado features contain vernacular wood grained creating trompe l'oeil panels, with concave corners, and the initials "JK." The door to the large bed room has wood graining and trompe l'oeil raised panels also with concave corners. The smaller, front room to the right has extensive wood graining on the mantel, wainscot, and door. There are square hearth brick at all the upstairs fireplaces and some of the ones down stairs. The stair continues to the attic in straight runs.

Most of the remaining farm outbuildings which complement the residence were constructed during the farm's ownership by the Current family. The log outbuildings known to have been constructed for Jacob Krider had long before fallen into disrepair. The smokehouse, the oldest of the present group of outbuildings and located some yards northwest of the house, is a rectangular one story log construction building covered with weatherboards and a gable roof. A door is set near the center of its southeast elevation. Frame shed additions, also sheathed with weatherboards were constructed on the southwest and northeast gable ends in this century.

By 1898, when Richard Current acquired Mt. Vernon, Jacob Krider's great log barn had become unusable. Shortly thereafter he replaced it with the present barn, a large frame structure covered with a gable roof, located south of the residence. A central passage carries through the building providing access to the stables and other spaces on either side. It is covered with weatherboards as are the later frame outbuildings which are said to have been constructed about 1917. Four of these are arranged in an L-shaped formation northeast of the barn and southeast of the house. The lighthouse, located in the corner of the "L", is a small frame gable roof building erected to house the Delco electrical apparatus; a door is set on its southwest gable end. The crib, located some yards due south, is comprised of two pens flanking a central passage with entrances on the southwest ends of the pens; it is also covered with a gable roof. The gear house, set a few feet due southeast of the crib and slightly smaller than the crib, is also covered with a gable roof and has a door on its southwest elevation. A frame shed addition has been made to its southeast gable end. The woodhouse, located northeast of the lighthouse and the fourth building in this group of 1917 structures, is a rectangular one story frame building covered with a shed roof. It has a large lattice covered opening on its northwest elevation and a shed on its southwest end.
The springhouse, situated east of the house, is a small gable roof frame building with overlapping weatherboards around the lower half of the building and spaced slats around the upper portion of the elevations. An opening on the southeast elevation provides access to the spring.

Across Needmore Road, and close on the mill site, is the shop—a large weatherboarded shed roofed frame building—whose original block together with a nearby small gable roofed frame office was built in the 1920s by Reid Koon. The shop was twice expanded by shed additions on its northwest end.

Archeology Comment

The area identified as Parcel 9, Map 731, contains the remains of a mill, mill dam, and race system. While these remains are archeological, they are quite evident, having much of the foundation structure visible above grade. The structure of the dam appears to have been a basic wooden weir filled with native field stone. Much repair of the mill structure is evident the most recent modifications being a change in location and placement on a concrete foundation. While the earlier foundation was not visible at the time of inspection, local informants have pointed out the probable original site. Evidence noted from the on site inspection suggests that most of the machinery was present in the mill when it collapsed.
**SIGNIFICANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Archaeology-PeRiOdiC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>ArchaeOLOgy-historiC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-1599</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700-1799</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Communications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPECIFIC DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</th>
<th>BUILDER/ARCHITECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Vernon, a handsome Federal plantation house set in the rolling landscape of Scotch-Irish Township in Rowan County, was built about 1822 for Jacob Krider. A prominent planter and leader in western Rowan County, Krider was active in the political and social community of Salisbury and a founder of the Western Carolinian. He removed to Mt. Vernon in the early 1820s. Designated a post office in 1822, Mt. Vernon quickly emerged as a social center for the Third Creek Church community as well as a local trading and commercial center. Krider continued the operation of the mill established there by his father-in-law Daniel Wood and opened a general merchandise store. The house he built is a well-detailed and handsomely built structure distinguished by its striking double chimney with a linking pent. It remained the Krider family seat until the death of the builder's son Charles C. Krider in 1891 after which it was sold to Emory N. Teague in 1892. Teague and his brothers operated the milling operations at Mt. Vernon in association with their brother-in-law, Richard C. Current. The Teagues' interests in the Mt. Vernon estate, together with the milling operations were eventually acquired by Current whose heirs continue to own and occupy Mt. Vernon, the best preserved of Rowan County's Federal plantation seats.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Criteria Assessment:**

A. Mt. Vernon is associated with, and typical of, the medium scale plantation economy of the western Piedmont of North Carolina. As the seat of Krider's plantation it was also the site of a post office, flouring and corn milling operations, and a general store thus serving as a social center for the strongly Presbyterian Scotch-Irish Township.

B. Built by Jacob Krider, Mt. Vernon is associated with the locally prominent social and political leader who was a founder of the Western Carolinian, one of the state's most influential newspapers. The house served as his residence for just over half a centur

C. As the best preserved and most intact of Rowan County's Federal plantation seats it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Federal style in western North Carolin Distinguished by its well executed brickwork on the double pent chimney and exterior woodwork, the house retains its handsome interiors and well-executed woodgraining.

D. As the site of various milling operations in Rowan County from the early nineteenth century to the 1950s the ruins and remains of the mill complex are likely to yield important information about the lay-out and operation of corn, flour and saw milling in Piedmont North Carolina during that period.
Mount Vernon, called "Rowan's Showpiece" by one historian, was built near present day Woodleaf by Jacob Krider around 1822. The handsome two story with attic Federal plantation house, one of a group erected in Rowan County in the early 1820s, is the most architecturally significant and best preserved of these seats. Krider was a native of Pennsylvania, the son of Barnabas Krider. Born August 17, 1788, he was in his teens when his family moved to Salisbury sometime shortly after 1800. Rowan County, formed in 1753 was a busy, important county in antebellum North Carolina. It was the most populous county in the state in 1800. Salisbury was the leading city in the western part of the state and the focal point for western political interests.

Krider first made his mark on Rowan County during the War of 1812 when he captained a militia unit sent west to fight the Creek Indians. Although the unit arrived too late to take part in hostilities, the leadership shown by Krider made him something of a local hero. He returned to Salisbury and founded a periodical, the North Carolina Magazine, Political, Historical, and Miscellaneous, in the summer of 1813. Although the publication failed within a year, it was important as one of the first periodicals in the state, and certainly the first in the western part of the state. More successful was the Western Carolinian, a newspaper founded by Krider and Lemuel Bingham in Salisbury in 1820. Until it was discontinued in 1844, the Western Carolinian was "a militant voice of the 'new' lands" of the west, and was one of the state's most influential newspapers. It was a staunchly Democratic newspaper, which lent its support to western interests, both political and economic, supported John Calhoun in his bids for the presidency, and supported South Carolina in its nullification controversy with Andrew Jackson. Krider joined a Presbyterian church in Salisbury in 1816 and was instrumental in founding Salisbury's first fire company in 1817.

Krider gave up his interest in the Western Carolinian to Philo White in 1821, but continued to contribute to the paper. He moved to the country on land purchased from Robert Bunton in 1821, and built Mt. Vernon in the fertile western portion of Rowan County. By this time he had a family, having married Sarah Wood in 1815 and becoming part of a well-established western Rowan family. When her father Daniel Wood died in 1829 he left her "my grist mills and saw mills" and 45 acres "on which the mills now stand." This property was adjacent to the land on which the Kriders lived and Jacob Krider continued the milling operation begun by his father-in-law.

Jacob Krider thus spent the middle part of the nineteenth century as a prosperous farmer, miller, and also merchant, as a general store was established on the property. Mt. Vernon also served as a post office for much of the century. Census records for 1850 reveal that Krider grew 1500 bushels of corn, 500 bushels of oats, and owned a substantial amount of livestock. He owned 24 slaves in that year. In 1860 he owned 640 acres, 300 of which were under cultivation. His farm was valued at $13,000 and grew large amounts of corn, oats, wheat, and tobacco. He also owned 24 slaves in that year. Census records also reveal the magnitude of his mill operations. In 1850 he had $1,000 in capital invested in his mills, and produced 600 pounds of flour valued at $600. By 1860 he had $2,000 invested in the mills, which produced almost $8,000 worth of produce. Krider's mill was typical of many Rowan mills in that it served as a neighborhood mill, rather than as a county wide mill.
Krider was a highly respected member of his community. After moving from Salisbury he became an active member of the Third Creek Presbyterian Church, one of Rowan County’s oldest and most distinguished churches. In 1833 he contributed the large sum of $100.00 to the fund to build a new brick church for the congregation. He was also chairman of the building committee for the structure which was completed in 1835 and continues to serve as the meeting house of the congregation. Krider became an elder in the church in 1842 and remained one until his death on 17 October 1874 at the age of 86. The Carolina Watchman eulogized him as a man "highly respected by all who knew him and dearly loved by his intimate friends and neighbors." 18

Krider’s will left his property to his wife, with it reverting to his son Charles C. Krider upon her death. 19 Sarah Wood Krider died in 1880. When Charles C. Krider, sheriff of Rowan County from 1880–1890, died intestate in 1891 the property was divided. A Superior Court administrator sold a lot of 49 acres containing the house and mill property of the Mt. Vernon plantation to Emory N. Teague (1867–1904) in 1892. 20 A bachelor, Teague resided at Mt. Vernon and was appointed post master for the Mt. Vernon Post Office in 1898. He served as postmaster until 29 February 1904 when the post office was discontinued and Rural Free Delivery was initiated. After 1892, certain interests in the milling operations were acquired by Teague’s brothers Dr. Rufus J. Teague (1864–1920) and William C. Teague (–1896). In 1898 the house and mill property was sold by the Teagues to Richard Carmi Current, the Teagues’ brother-in-law. 21 While the Teagues retained an interest in the milling operations Current continued to operate the mill as the Mt. Vernon Roller Flouring Mill, a part of the family’s concern, Teague Brothers and Current. Current eventually acquired the undivided interest in the concern from Dr. Teague, the last surviving of the brothers, in an unrecorded transaction. Current continued to operate the mill profitable until 1919 when it was sold to J. W. Coon for $6,000.00. 22

Richard Carmi Current was born 22 August 1859 in Iredell County, the son of Andrew Jackson and Jane Renshaw Current. He was educated at Rock Hill Academy in Rowan County and at Trap Hill Academy in Wilkes County. 23 In 1896 while in Statesville, employed at J. C. Steele and Sons, he married Flora Teague of Forsyth County. Current also served Rowan County politically, serving as a magistrate, a County Commissioner, and a Justice of the Peace. He died in 1938. 24 Coon operated the mill until the late 1950s under the name of the Mt. Vernon Flour Mill. In the early 1960s the mill property was purchased by Ruth C. Current, a daughter of Richard Current then living at Mt. Vernon with her sister, Jeanette Current. She died in 1967. On 27 January 1967 the long abandoned mill building fell down. 25 The house, Mt. Vernon, continues to be the residence of Miss Jeanette Current, the last surviving of Richard Current's children.

While the vast majority of the economic support for the Piedmont North Carolina plantation system came from cash crops such as tobacco and cotton, secondary industries played a significant role in the stability of the system and plantation life. Small industries, including grist and saw mills, were sources of secondary income and provided useful employment for the labor force during periods when agricultural work was unnessary. The majority of these secondary industries appear to have been of the type which could be operated on an irregular schedule without significantly affecting their efficiency. While the remains of these industries are generally not as dramatic or as well preserved as those of the plantation seats, their protection and interpretation are vital to the understanding of the plantation system as it operated in North Carolina.
A courthouse fire, combined with the rather casual method used in recording the early industrial indexes of the census, makes the exact documentation of construction and destruction dates for the mill difficult if not impossible. However, the fact that a grist-sawmill combination was in operation when Daniel Wood died in 1829 traces the mill to at least that period. In the early twentieth century the mill structure was moved to its present location. Although the mill collapsed in the early 1960s, there are still substantial remains visible on the site.

The second site for the mill structure consists of a rather substantial poured concrete foundation. Form marks on the foundation indicate that the forms were constructed of a series of planks. The entire area is littered with portions of siding, roofing, major structural members, and a considerable amount of milling machinery. The preliminary field investigation would seem to indicate that the structure had all its machinery intact when it collapsed.

The race system, including several changes, is still quite evident, although all water flow has been cut off. The system of ditches and embankments is five feet deep in places and appears to have been approximately three feet wide. There is little doubt that a volume of water sufficient to operate both a grist mill and a sawmill could have been carried by the head race. The mill dam is still visible, although it also has fallen into disrepair and ruin. The base is constructed of river cobbles which hold unhewn wooden wier members. The dam is still visible across the entire width of the stream.

The first mill site was not readily identifiable. However, there are several stone piers and an area of race that had been cut off to supply water to the new mill location which would seem to indicate that there are substantial archeological remains present.
FOOTNOTES


4 Jethro Rumple, A History of Rowan County (Salisbury, J. J. Bruner, 1881), 249; Fleming, Third Creek Church, 50.


6 Brawley, The Rowan Story, 110-112; Western Carolinian, June 13, 1820.


8 Fleming, Third Creek Church, 96; Brawley, The Rowan Story, 310.

9 Rowan County Deed Book 27, p. 529. This transaction encompassed 170 acres and cost Krider $340.

10 Fleming, Third Creek Church, 96. Krider and his wife had children. Three of these children, Alberta, Daniel W. (1825-1882), and William H. became physicians, while Barnabas Scott Krider (1829-1865) became a Presbyterian minister.

11 Rowan County Will Book H, p. 464. Krider also inherited land from his father, including several valuable lots in the town of Salisbury. Rowan County Deed Book H, p. 192.


13 Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; Rowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.

14 Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Rowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.
15Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Rowan County, North Carolina, Industrial Schedule.

16Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Rowan County, North Carolina, Industrial Schedule.

17Fleming, Third Creek Church, 51, 95-96. Krider is buried in the Third Creek Church Cemetery.

18Salisbury Carolina Watchman, October 22, 1874.

19Rowan County Will Book 1, p. 265.

20Rowan County Deed Book 75, p. 569. Teague purchased two tracts. The first one contained 49 acres and cost Teague $1,655. In this plot was the "part of the old Krider homestead containing the mill and dwelling." The second lot adjoined the first and cost $727.

21Rowan County Deed Book 83, p. 120; The Salisbury Post, Bicentennial Edition, 1976.

22Rowan County Deed Book 150, p. 119.


**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 29.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

| A | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 |
| B | 1 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| C | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| D | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property included in the Mount Vernon nomination contains 29.5 acres and is comprised of parcels 9 and 10 on Map 731 filed at the office of the Register of Deeds for Rowan County. This includes the house, outbuildings, and mill site as described in the nomination.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- NATIONAL
- STATE
- LOCAL X

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

**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Description prepared by C. Greer Suttlemyre and Davyd Foaard Hood, Survey Specialists; Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Researcher; Archaeology by John W. Clauser, Archeologist

ORGANIZATION Division of Archives and History

DATE February, 1980

STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE 733-6545

CITY / TOWN Raleigh

STATE North Carolina

CODE 27611

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

DATE March 28, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form


Carolina Watchman (Salisbury). October 22, 1874.


Western Carolinian (Salisbury). June 13, 1820.