**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*Type all entries - complete applicable sections*

**1. NAME**
- COMMON: Bernard Franklin House
- AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**
- STREET AND NUMBER: On S.R. 1331, 0.3 mi. west of junction of S.R. 1442 and S.R. 1331
- CITY OR TOWN: Dobson vicinity
- STATE: North Carolina
- CODE: 37
- COUNTY: Surry
- CODE: 171

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Being Considered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainmen
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify) Restoration contemplated

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**
- OWNER'S NAME: Surry County Historical Society
- STREET AND NUMBER: 314 Franklin Street
- CITY OR TOWN: Mt. Airy
- STATE: North Carolina
- CODE: 37

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
- COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Surry County Courthouse
- STREET AND NUMBER: Mt. Airy
- CITY OR TOWN: Mt. Airy
- STATE: North Carolina
- CODE: 37

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
- TITLE OF SURVEY: 
- DATE OF SURVEY: 
- DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: 
- STREET AND NUMBER: 
- CITY OR TOWN: Mt. Airy
- STATE: North Carolina
- CODE: 37
DESCRIBED
as do
serves as the
raised panels
fabric
which
house
front door leads into the great room
west end."

A door is located
with the stone foundation being about four feet high on the rear facade.

The east bay and the two west
bays of the first floor, main facade, contain windows with nine-over-nine
sash; the central two bays contain wood-grained doors set very near each
other. Each door has six raised panels and is surmounted by a four-light
transom. The second floor, has four unevenly spaced windows also with
nine-over-six sash. The sash arrangement of the facade carries around the
house, and all windows have simple architraves. Flush sheathing above a
beaded baseboard is used in the area protected by the porch. The balustrade
of the porch is gone but a beaded board at the end of the facade shows the
outline of the profile of the handrail and of the baluster base support. A
molded box cornice across the main and rear facades has returns at the ends
of the cornice which do not enter the wall of the side elevations.

The east end is dominated by a sturdy, double shoulder chimney of
brick laid in Flemish bond. There is a door to the south which is said to
have been connected by a low bridge to the kitchen which no longer exists.

To the north of this chimney is a window which still has its fixed-louver
blinds. The second floor has only one window to the south of the chimney,
and there are paired attic windows with four-over-four sash. The west end
has a similar chimney with the date, 1799, painted near the top shoulder
(north side) and paired windows at all three levels. The basement entrance
to the north of this chimney, has a door made of vertical boards which has
a wooden box lock and strap hinges.

The knoll on which the house stands drops sharply behind the house
with the stone foundation being about four feet high on the rear facade.

A door is located roughly in the center of this side and resembles the front
doors but lacks the wood graining. There are two windows to the west of the
doors and one to the east. The second story has two windows, one at each
end, but there is evidence that a third existed in the second bay from the
west end. Whatever arrangement was used in getting from the back door to
the ground no longer exists. Evidence indicates that there was probably
only a flight of steps or a very small porch.

Basically a Quaker style plan, the house has its two small rooms to
the east with the east front door leading into the south room. The west
front door leads into the great room which occupies the west half of the
house and contains the stair. Crude partitions have recently been installed
which gives the house a central stair hall and divides the great room into
two smaller ones. Fortunately, little damage was done to the original
fabric.

The first floor has a handsome wainscot consisting of horizontal
raised panels with molded fillets below a molded chair rail which also
serves as the window sills. The wainscot has interesting wood graining,
as do the doors which have six panels raised on molded fillets. Throughout
the house are simple architraves. The large, main room mantel is transitional Georgian-Federal. It has two large horizontal flat panels with Federal moldings above the fire opening, flanked by broad planes with slender, superimposed fluted pilasters which support a heavy molded shelf that breaks out slightly in the center and over each pilaster. The small first-floor rooms have corner fireplaces, with the southeast room (originally the dining room) having a less elaborate version of the main room mantel and the northeast room having a simple mantel which has a square fire opening surmounted by one horizontal flat panel.

The Federal stair, which rises along the east wall of the main room just past the door to the southeast room, has marbleizing along its string, as well as on the risers and baseboard. Slender balusters support the rounded handrail which begins abruptly as it passes over a slender, square newel which tapers upward, and the handrail ramps to its conclusion as the stair reaches its first turn near the rear wall. Simulated panels are painted on the dado below the chair rail as it climbs to the point where the stair winds to reverse its direction and reach the second floor.

The second floor appears to have originally reflected the first-floor plan but was modified at an early date to give a central-hall plan, two rooms deep. The handsome wainscot of the first floor is repeated on the second but the added partitions were made with horizontal sheathing in the dado beneath a distinctly Federal chair rail as opposed to the more transitional one of the original work. A semi-enclosed stair rises in the southeast corner of the hall, but panels in the wainscot behind it indicate that this may not have been its original position and that it may have been moved during the early renovation. There are two fire openings on the second floor: that in the southwest room with a square fire opening surmounted by a horizontal flat panel, and that in the southeast room is a corner fireplace with an arched opening surmounted by a horizontal flat panel. The second floor exhibits several forms of marbleizing and wood graining in every room with the use of various color combinations.
The Bernard Franklin House is a handsome Georgian-Federal dwelling retaining a remarkable amount of its original fabric, including fine paneling throughout the house with interesting marbleizing and wood graining. It is by far the most ambitious early house in Surry County. The significance of the house is further enhanced by its association with Jesse Franklin, son of the builder, who is said to have selected the land for his father's new home. This is the only extant reminder of North Carolina's twentieth governor and noted senator, who was Surry County's most outstanding historical figure.

Bernard Franklin, of Orange County, Virginia, began buying land in Surry County, North Carolina, with the help of his son, Jesse, who scouted the land for him, about the time of the American Revolution. Tradition has it that his family settled in Surry County about this same time, living in log houses which Jesse had built until the "mansion house" could be built in 1799. Since Jesse's own house burned, this house is the only visible reminder of Bernard Franklin's most illustrious son. Jesse entered the Continental army and before the war was over had risen to the rank of major. In 1793 and 1794 he was elected a member of the North Carolina General Assembly and re-elected in 1797 and 1798. In 1805 he was elected a member of the state senate. In the meantime, from 1795 to 1797, he was a member of Congress. In 1799, as the state swung from Federalist domination to the Jeffersonian Republicanism he was elected to the United States Senate and served as president pro tem, paralleling North Carolina arch-Republican Nathaniel Macon's service as speaker of the House. Franklin was re-elected to the Senate in 1807. In 1816 President Monroe appointed Senator Franklin commissioner to make a treaty with the Chickasaw Indians; he capped his political career by being elected the twentieth governor of North Carolina in 1820. He died in Surry County in 1823.

The Bernard Franklin House passed from the Franklin family when Jesse D. Franklin, grandson of Bernard, sold the 1,300-acre plantation to Saint Clair (Sinclare) McFickick on 6 May 1817 "but at the same time excepting the lot called the grave yard ... to remain the property of said Jesse D. Franklin." The McFickick family held the property into the twentieth century when it passed by marriage to James Blevins. The property was purchased by the Surry County Historical Society in 1972 from Sam Blevins, and its restoration is planned.
Research and architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.


Surry County Records, Surry County Courthouse, Mount Airy, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Surry County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<td>NE</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Defining the Center Point of a Property of Less Than Ten Acres**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36° 27' 24&quot;</td>
<td>80° 49' 13&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:** 4 acres

**List All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or County Boundaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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<tbody>
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### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME AND TITLE:**

Survey and Planning Unit

**ORGANIZATION:**

Office of Archives and History

**DATE:**

28 March 1973

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

109 East Jones Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Raleigh

**STATE:**

North Carolina

**CODE:**

37

### 12. STATE LIASON 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:**

State Historian/Administrator

**DATE:**

28 March 1973

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

**Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**DATE:**

**ATTEST:**

Keeper of The National Register

**DATE:**
Bernard Franklin House
S.R. 1331, 0.3 mi. west of junction of S.R. 1442 and S.R. 1331
Dobson vicinity, North Carolina

State Highway Map of Surry County
Scale: 1:2 miles
Date: 1 January 1962

Latitude

36° 27' 24" N

Longitude

80° 49' 13" W