United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 Major James Scarborough House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Northeast side NC 222,
0.1 mile south of jct. with SR 1004

not for publication

city, town Saratoga

vicinity of

congressional district Second

state North Carolina
code 037

county Wilson
code 195

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>accessible</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>yes: restricted</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Donohue White Bryant

street & number P. O. Box 192

city, town Saratoga

vicinity of

state North Carolina
code 27873

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wilson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Wilson

state North Carolina

city, town Raleigh

state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic and Architectural Resources

title of the Tar-Neuse River Basin

has this property been determined eligible? yes

date 1977

federal state county local

XX

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History

state North Carolina 27611
The Major James Scarborough House is situated in the southeastern section of Wilson County on the east side of NC 222 in the Saratoga community. Set on a knoll, the house is surrounded by mature magnolia, pine, crepe myrtle, pear, oak, and pecan trees, with cultivated fields beyond.

Built for Major James Scarborough ca. 1821, the house is an excellent example of late Federal style construction in Wilson County. The plan of the house is a modified T, with the main block of the house forming the horizontal bar of the T and the early twentieth century kitchen wing at the rear with its flanking porches forming the vertical bar. The main block of the house, which dates from the early nineteenth century, rises two stories in height and boasts a simple, but elegant, five-bay front facade and original shed across the rear. The kitchen wing, consisting originally of a dining room and kitchen, is a one-story structure joined directly to the main block of the house by a breezeway. Both sections of the house are frame construction, sheathed in weatherboards and capped with gable roofs. Double-shoulder, exterior end chimneys, laid in Flemish bond with tumbling at the concaved paved shoulders, grace the north and south elevations of the main block.

On the interior, the house has changed little from its original appearance. The basic central hall plan is followed on the first floor with a room opening off each side of the hall. The Federal style staircase with shaped rail and square balusters and newel, rises from the front of the house and turns at a landing midway up the stairs. The original layout of the second floor featured a central hall running the length of the house with seven small rooms opening off the hall. On the ends of the house, the partition between two rooms has been removed to make one large room. An enclosed staircase leads from the second floor to the attic. The attic is divided into two large rooms, one each on the north and south ends of the house.

Throughout the house, great effort has been made by the owners to preserve the original finish. A chair rail runs throughout the house, and wainscoting ornaments the main rooms and hall on the first floor. The original six-panel doors and mantels are still in place—the delicate Federal mantel with a sunburst motif in the north front room being particularly notable. The original flooring has also been carefully preserved, as have the stair rail and balusters. Of special interest are the painted grain attic doors, chair rail, and door frames on the second floor.

The grounds of the house reflect the site's traditional use as a farm residence. A latticed well-house, complete with pump, survives on the south side of the house.

The house in all its aspects has been carefully preserved over the years, and it is probably the most architecturally intact dwelling from the early nineteenth century in Wilson County.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>community planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400–1499</td>
<td>archaeology-prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500–1599</td>
<td>archaeology-historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1699</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–1799</td>
<td>architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800–1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900–</td>
<td>communications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific dates: Unknown
Builder/Architect: Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Major James Scarborough House is probably the best preserved example of early nineteenth century architecture in Wilson County. This fine Federal plantation house reflects the taste and requirements of one of the county's leading planters, Major James Scarborough (1748–1836). The Scarborough House has been owned and occupied by members of the Scarborough family since its construction.

Criteria Assessment:

B. The Major James Scarborough House is associated with one of Wilson County's leading planters of the nineteenth century, and with his son, Isaac Scarborough, another important figure in the eastern part of the county. Scarborough was a Revolutionary War veteran and his son Isaac served in the War of 1812.

C. The house embodies the characteristics of popular early nineteenth century Federal houses in the central coastal plain, but at the same time it boasts special details, such as the elaborate sunburst mantel, which make it one of the most outstanding Federal houses extant in Wilson County.
According to a strong family tradition, Major James Scarborough was the original owner of the Scarborough House. Scarborough was born in Southampton County, Virginia in 1748, the eldest child of David and Sarah Scarborough. The family moved to Edgecombe County, North Carolina, ca. 1758.

Little is known of Scarborough's early life, but he is said to have married for the first time ca. 1766. His wife's name is unknown; however, the union is thought to have produced three children, none of whom remained in Edgecombe County after reaching their majority.

Scarborough's second marriage was the most significant in terms of the ownership of the Scarborough House property. The date of this marriage is uncertain, but Scarborough is thought to have married a certain Grace King prior to 1776. This marriage produced two children, of which the youngest, a son named Isaac, became the clear owner of the house property in 1856.

About the time Scarborough was beginning his second family the Revolutionary War began. Scarborough was among the first to offer his services to the partisans and on February 17, 1776, he enlisted for a thirty-day period in the company of Captain Jonas Johnston under the regimental command of Colonel Henry Irwin. Scarborough earned respect as a sergeant and when he volunteered three more times for service, he was appointed captain of a company of Edgecombe County militia each time. After the war, on December 20, 1787, Scarborough was honored for his service by appointment as second major of the Edgecombe County Militia Regiment by the General Assembly of North Carolina. Eight years later he was promoted by the same body to first major. Because of his distinguished service, he collected a Federal pension from July, 1833, until his death in 1836.

Scarborough's service in the Revolutionary War distracted him briefly from farming, his main occupation. By the end of the war he was, however, well established as a planter. Scarborough began to acquire land in the late 1760s. His father deeded him fifty acres on Dunnagin's Spring Branch upon which he later constructed a mill. When David Scarborough died in 1774 James was appointed his executor as well as inheriting one-seventh of the residue of his father's estate. David Scarborough's plantation was devised to his wife, Sarah, for her life, reverting to his sons Joel and Labe upon her death.

On December 10, 1778 James Scarborough was granted three hundred and sixty-five and one-quarter acres of land adjoining his own line by the state of North Carolina. This tract became the core of Scarborough's holdings, and later the site of the present Scarborough House. It seems likely that during this period Scarborough occupied a house on land he purchased in 1769 from Robert Wright. In 1777 Scarborough became one of the trustees of Town Creek Church, and on October 9, 1780 James Scarborough, planter, deeded forty acres of the land on Dunnagin's Spring Branch to Samuel Scarborough. By 1787 Scarborough had constructed a mill on his remaining acreage on the branch.

Between 1780 and 1784 Grace King died and ca. 1784 Scarborough married his third wife, Penelope Eason. Penelope Eason was the widow of Obed Eason. She was born on March 26, 1749 and she died on October 16, 1822. This union produced two children: John R. Scarborough, born in 1785, and Polly Palmer Scarborough, born in 1794, who later
married Joshua Barnes Eason. After nearly forty years of marriage, Penelope Eason Scarborough died in 1822. 17

Scarborough married for the fourth and final time Martha Tartt Eason on November 18, 1823. 18 No children resulted from this marriage and Martha Scarborough survived her husband, who died on March 1, 1836, at age 88. 19

A strong oral tradition in the Scarborough family maintains that James Scarborough constructed the present house ca. 1821, shortly before Penelope Eason's death and two years before he married Martha Eason. 20 The style and construction of the house bears out an early nineteenth century date. According to a tradition maintained by Scarborough's descendants, a local builder by the name of Jack Windham helped Major Scarborough in the construction of the house. 21 An interview with Windham's descendant, Mrs. Willard Eason, discovered a parallel oral tradition. 22

In 1826 James Scarborough conveyed to his son John "all the lands which I now own on the southside of Johnston's Mill Swamp including the plantations on which both he and myself now lives also my Kerney plantation including all the lands I now own on the Northside of said swamp . . . reserving to myself my life estate in the whole of the above named property." 23 John Rasberry Scarborough, the son of Scarborough's third wife, Penelope Eason Scarborough, was born in 1785. 24 The 1820 census shows John Scarborough living next to his father. 25 However, in 1832 Scarborough sold his interest in his father's plantation to his half brother Isaac 26 and by 1839 he had moved to Greene County, Alabama. 27

Although Isaac Scarborough actually owned his father's plantation as early as 1832, it seems unlikely that he occupied it until 1856. Under the terms of his father's will dated May 12, 1835, and proved in May Court, 1836, Isaac's stepmother Martha and sister Zilly were to have life rights to Major Scarborough's plantation. 28 The date of Martha Scarborough's death is unknown, but Zilly died on February 20, 1856, only a short time before Isaac's death in 1857. 29

The house which Isaac came to own in 1856 was not only his father's homeplace, it was a large plantation located near the bustling community of Oak Grove. Little is known of the origins of Oak Grove. The community was never incorporated, and little remains now except a few of the oaks. The origins of the community may go back as far as the eighteenth century when stage lines ran through this area carrying passengers to Tarboro, Waynesborough (and later Goldsboro), and Martinsboro (later Greenville). Ammons Tavern (possibly a corruption of Amerson's Tavern, Amerson being a local landowner), about one-half a mile north of the Scarborough House furnished amenities and lodging to travelers on the stagecoach route. The location of Oak Grove is said to have been equidistant from the three county seats, and therefore was an ideal stopping place on all the stage lines. A number of dwellings and a post office were also said to have been a part of the small community. 30

In 1830 the shift of the community southwards became evident with the establishment of White Oak Baptist Church just south of the Scarborough House. 31 When the plank road from Wilson to Greenville was completed in 1835, the focus of the community became the road, and by 1864 the name "Saratoga" was in use although it was not until the 1870s that the town was incorporated. 32
Isaac Scarborough, although he purchased his father's plantation in 1832, probably only occupied the property a very short time before his death. He was born in 1780 and is first listed as a head of household in the 1810 census when he lived adjacent to his father.33 Isaac served as a private in the First Edgecombe County Militia Regiment during the War of 1812.34 No marriages are documented for Isaac before September 13, 1848, when he married Nancy Tyson,35 but the 1820 census shows that a white female between the ages of 26 and 45 was a part of Isaac's household in that year.36 No offspring are recorded for Isaac until his marriage with Nancy Tyson. This union produced three children: Queen Victoria (born in February, 1850, and married Thomas Felton); Isaac Susan (born on July 12, 1853, died January 14, 1930); and Lawrence (born in 1857 after his father's death).37 Isaac Scarborough, at the time he made his will on October 1, 1855, did not live on his father's plantation, but on the tract of land which he purchased from Joab Horne.38 Scarborough's estate was settled in accordance with his will, by which his wife Nancy Tyson Scarborough had life right to his plantation, household furniture, stock, crops and slaves, but the settlement also of the estate took into account the birth of his posthumous son, Lawrence.39 His father's plantation reverted to his daughter, Isaac Susan, upon the death of his widow.40 Nancy Tyson Scarborough's death date is not documented, but she was listed in the 1860 census as a farmer born in 1813 who owned $11,070 of personal property.41 Nancy Scarborough made her will on July 30, 186342 and she was not listed in the 1870 census of Wilson County.43

Susan Scarborough became the heir to her father's lands upon the death of her mother. Susan married James H. Bryant ca. 1874 and the couple lived in the house during most of, if not all, their married lives. Nine children were born to the Bryants between 1876 and 1894 and they were raised in the Scarborough House.44

Family tradition maintains that the Bryants were pioneers in education in Saratoga township.45 Before 1885 few schools were established in rural Wilson County. A school is said to have been held in the Scarborough House, possibly to help educate the large Bryant family.46 Room and board were furnished free by the Bryants for the first teachers, but as the County School Board took control of providing schools in the rural areas, the school at the Scarborough House was dissolved.47 The Bryants still continued to board local teachers for a charge.48 The family in this way continued to provide support for the local school system.

The first major structural change to the house was carried out by the Bryants in 1904. The original kitchen which was located on the south side of the house, but separated by a few feet, was moved away from the house and converted into a packhouse. The present kitchen was then constructed at the rear of the house and joined to the dwelling by an open breezeway. Side porches flanked the kitchen wing. The original kitchen was destroyed by a hurricane in 1955. The front porch was also enlarged in 1904, and it housed typical turn-of-the-century rocking chairs, swings, gliders, and hammocks.49

James Bryant died in 1918, and his wife, Susan, continued to occupy the house until her death in 1930.50 Susan died intestate and Branch Banking and Trust Company of Wilson was chosen by her heirs to settle the estate. Albert S. Bryant, the fifth child and fourth son, fell heir to the house property, consisting of 103 acres out of the 815 1/2
acres devised to Susan Scarborough Bryant by her father. Albert S. Bryant was born in 1884 and on November 17, 1908, he married Addie Owens. Their third child, Donohue White Bryant, is the present owner of the house. Albert S. Bryant died intestate in 1944 and subsequently his widow, Addie Bryant, made her will leaving the house and property to Donohue White Bryant, the present owner.

Donohue Bryant was born in 1914 and received his schooling locally. He graduated from Atlantic Christian College in 1935 and taught in the public schools until he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1941. He was discharged in 1946 with the rank of major. He married Lois Johnson in 1943 and he and his wife have occupied the house since 1946.

As noted above, the Scarborough House is both historic and architecturally significant. It was the home of influential landowners who contributed much to the quality of life in the Saratoga area. The house has an unusually strong importance to the Scarborough family in that it has never been owned by anyone other than James Scarborough or his descendants.
FOOTNOTES


2. Scarborough, Kith and Kin, 45.

3. Scarborough, Kith and Kin, 52.

4. Scarborough, Kith and Kin, 52.

5. Scarborough, Kith and Kin, 55.

6. Will of James Scarborough, Edgecombe County wills, Book F, 189, hereinafter cited as James Scarborough Will. See also discussion below on the ownership of the house property.


9. David Scarber to James Scarber, no date (however this deed book covers the period 1772-1788 and David Scarborough died in 1774, so the deed probably dates between 1772 and 1774), Edgecombe County Deeds.

10. Will of David Scarborough, Edgecombe County Wills, hereinafter cited as David Scarborough Will.

11. David Scarborough Will.


13. Robert Wright to James Scarborough, May 13, 1769, Book D, 169, mentioned 100 acres of land "together with all buildings and orchards."

14. Meady Bozeman to Moses Maker, Miles Scarbory, John Stokes, William Scarbory and James Scarbory, trustees, November 14, 1777, Book III, 285. Lower Town Creek Baptist Church was one of the earliest established congregations in Edgecombe County.


17. Scarborough, Kith and Kin, 61.

19. Author's interview with Wilson County Historian Hugh Buckner Johnston.

20. Author's interview with Donohue W. Bryant, a descendant of Major James Scarborough and the present owner of the Scarborough House, hereinafter cited as Bryant interview.


25. Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: Edgecombe County.


28. James Scarborough Will.


30. Bryant interview.

31. Asa Amerson to the Commissioners of White Oak Church, October 9, 1830, Book XX, 257, Edgecombe County Deeds.

32. Confederate Map by J. F. Gilmer, 1864.

33. Third Census of the United States, 1810: Edgecombe County.


36. Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: Edgecombe County.

38 Will of Isaac Scarborough, Wilson County Wills, Book I, 37, hereinafter cited as Isaac Scarborough Will.

39 Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Wilson County, shows that each of the children of Nancy Scarborough of Saratoga District owned an equal amount of real and personal property.

40 Isaac Scarborough Will.

41 Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Wilson County.

42 Will of Nancy Tyson Scarborough, Wilson County Wills, Book I, 110.

43 Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Wilson County.

44 Bryant interview.

45 Bryant interview.

46 Bryant interview.

47 Bryant interview.

48 Bryant interview.

49 Bryant interview.


51 Susan I. Bryant land partition.

52 Bryant interview. See also Wilson County Marriage Records, 1908.

53 Bryant interview.

54 Bryant interview.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 1/2 acres

Quadrangle name Saratoga

UMT References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>249,500</td>
<td>39,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>249,570</td>
<td>39,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>249,600</td>
<td>39,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>249,450</td>
<td>39,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>249,330</td>
<td>39,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Arbitrary polygon of 10 1/2 acres to encompass the house and surrounding yard. See USGS map outlined in red, and plat map, also outlined in red.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

Kate Ohno, Architectural Historian
Donohue White Bryant, Owner

Survey and Planning Branch
Archeology and Historic Preservation
North Carolina Division of Archives and History
H
telephone 919/733-6545

109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

GPO 938 835
Books


Legal Records

Edgecombe County Registry, Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

Edgecombe County Wills, Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

National Archives and Records Service, Revolutionary War Record of James Scarborough.

Wilson County Estate County, Wilson County, North Carolina.

Wilson County Marriage Records, Wilson County, North Carolina.

Wilson County Wills, Wilson County, North Carolina.

Census Records

Third Census of the United States, 1810: Edgecombe County.

Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: Edgecombe and Johnston Counties.

Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Edgecombe County.

Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Johnston County.

Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Wilson County.

Map

Confederate Map by J. F. Gilmer, 1864.

Interviews

Author's interview with Donohue W. Bryant, great-great-grandson of Major James Scarborough, and present owner of the Scarborough House.

Donohue Bryant interview with Mrs. Willard Eason, September 9, 1980. Mrs. Eason is a direct descendant of Jack Windham, the builder of the house.
Major James Scarborough House
SW corner Jct. SR 222 and SR 1004
Saratoga vicinity
Saratoga Quadrangle
Zone 18   Scale 1:24 000

A 18  249500/3950040
B 18  249570/3949980
C 18  249600/3949840
D 18  249450/3949700
E 18  249330/3949840

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road

5000'000
1000'000
7'30'
35°37'30"N
7°45'W

Primary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road