

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Warren	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Cherry Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
At head of drive on west side N.C. 58, opposite S.R. 1640

CITY OR TOWN:  
Inez

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

COUNTY: Warren

CODE: 185

Second Congressional District  
The Hon. L. H. Fountain

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments = _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Miss Jennie C. Alston and Mr. Edgar Thorne

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 98, Route 3

CITY OR TOWN:  
Warrenton

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Warren County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Warrenton

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cherry Hill stands atop a hill at the head of a drive at the small crossroads community of Inez. It is a handsome, very well-preserved two-story frame plantation house in the distinctive Italianate idiom characteristic of Warrenton builder Jacob Holt. The house lot is surrounded by a picket fence, and there are large boxwoods in front and well-kept shrubbery around the house. To the rear are a number of outbuildings--almost identical square frame buildings with pyramidal roofs, arranged in a line along the back boundary of the house lot.

The simple boxlike form of the house is emphasized by heavy cornerposts, wide exterior baseboards, and wide bracketed frieze beneath a hip roof. In contrast to this strongly rectilinear form is the highly ornamental use of arches, mostly ogee-shaped but some roundheaded, in windows, doors, panels, and on the porch. This play between straight, heavy rectilinear elements of the Greek Revival and rather fanciful arched ones of the Italianate and Gothic, is used consistently inside and out and is characteristic of the houses attributed to Jacob Holt.

The house, which stands on a raised brick basement, is three bays wide and two deep, with two interior chimneys, each with arched panels and bracketed caps. The house is of square proportions, with heavy fluted cornerposts on very large square bases, carrying a wide bracketed frieze beneath the deep overhang of the hip roof. Across the front (east) facade runs a full-width three-bay porch, with paired square posts having--like the cornerposts of the house--bracketed caps. The porch repeats the bracket cornice of the house, but the brackets are widely spaced--paired above the posts, and occurring singly over the apex of the shallow openwork ogee arches that occur in each of the three bays of the porch. On either side of the house, in the first bay, is an original bay window, with windows separated by bracket-capped pilasters carrying a repeat of the main frieze. Across the rear of the house runs an original one-story hip-roof extension--with the central bay still open as an enclosed porch with plastered ceiling. A simpler bracketed frieze ornaments this section.

The bays of the front elevation (except for the central bay at both levels) and of the sides contain paired arched windows, set in trabeated openings. Here--unlike some of Holt's buildings--the glass is arched, but there is no tracery within the arch, simply four-over-four sash. Original blinds with movable louvers survive. The central front entrance contains a double door with four ogee-arched panels per leaf. This is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom, in turn flanked by small square lights over the sidelights. The lights are all ogee-arched, as are the panels beneath the sidelights. The elements are separated by molded elements, carrying heavy brackets that separate the transom elements. These brackets are ornamented by spear-head designs--seen repeated inside. The soffit and reveals of the entrance are paneled, and the whole is framed by a massive, molded architrave, terminating in a heavy well-molded foot. At this level, the flanking windows on the front facade contain double window-doors, their upper portion glazed, the lower portion paneled with ogee-arched panel. The head of each opening is a transom, containing two ogee arches. The window-doors slide into the wall, and are protected by full-height three-

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panel blinds with movable louvers. The doorway at the central bay, second level, is similar, but has three ogee-arched window-doors, which open normally; these are protected by movable-louver blinds as well.

The interior of Cherry Hill is characteristic of Holt's work, following a center-hall plan two rooms deep, with the center hall divided midway by louvered doors and having both front and rear stairs. The finish throughout is also typical of Holt--extremely heavy molded baseboards and architraves with distinctive heavy molded feet; simple, heavy mantels employing Greek Revival and rather Gothic elements; and large doors with four ogee-arched panels and corresponding reveals on the first floor. Throughout the house, the use of so many large openings with louvered blinds, plus the plan, provides excellent cross ventilation. The interior finish, like the outside, is essentially unaltered and in good condition, including much well-executed marbleizing and woodgraining on the woodwork. Doors retain porcelain knobs and keyhole covers.

Especially striking is the graceful double stair, one flight rising front-to-back along the north wall of the front hall, the other rising back-to-front to meet it in the rear hall. Each has a turned newel on a heavy base and simple moldings defining the open string. The front stair has slender turned balusters; the rear ones are also slender and square in section; each stair has a rounded, ramped handrail. The front stair rises in one flight without turning, then curves gracefully as it approaches the second floor. The rear stair has an initial turn, then rises straight until a tight curve occurs at the second floor level. The stairwells of both are protected by a simple railing.

Between front and rear halls is a double louvered door set in a heavy molded architrave. Each leaf is made up of two hinged sections. Each door is made up of two hinged leaves--making four in all. Each leaf has movable louvers in its upper portion and has ogee-arched panels below. The four-part hinged construction allows three different arrangements: all closed; all open; or side leaves closed but central leaves open, creating a narrow single-door opening. A similar door was described in a contract for another Holt house as "Blind door across passage (four fold) pivot, or stationary slats."

The two front first-floor rooms are of particular interest. That on the south, the parlor, contains much original furniture, as well as original draperies with ornate gilded valances, at both the front window-door and across the bay window. Panels outlined with heavy molding occur beneath each window in the bay, and some gilding survives. The north room has the valances but the curtains are replaced. The mantels in these two rooms are quite similar, with pilasters with deeply inset panels adorned with spear-head designs, capped by heavy brackets that carry a heavy shelf. Across the frieze runs a rounded, fluted roll--a feature of the more strictly Greek mantels attributed also to Jacob Holt. In the rear rooms there are simple Greek Revival mantels.

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That in the south room is flanked by original closets; in the north room, the dining room, there is a glazed built-in cupboard to the south of the mantel. Originally, louvered doors from this room led to the pantry in the rear extension.

The second floor is more simply finished. Architraves are symmetrically molded with roundel corner blocks, and closets flank the simple Greek Revival mantels.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1850s

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art		<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cherry Hill is among the best-preserved of the significant group of handsome plantation houses in the distinctive Italianate mode characteristic of Warrenton builder Jacob Holt, who constructed a large number of such dwellings in Warren and Franklin counties in the 1850s. The house, essentially unaltered, has been owned continuously by descendants of the Alston family for whom it was built; the place has been known as Cherry Hill plantation since before 1838.

Among the most prominent and numerous of the planter families in prosperous antebellum Warren County were the Alstons, who intermarried among themselves and several other planter families. A great proportion of the many notable plantation houses in the now-depressed county were built for members of this large family. In his will of 1820, Philip G. Alston left to his son George his land on Great Fishing Creek. George retained this land and only purchased one other tract: in 1838 he bought from James and Charles Urquhart of Southampton County, Virginia, a 300-acre tract for \$1,500, adjoining the lands of Solomon Williams, John B. Williams, and "known as the cherry hill place." At his death in 1849, George W. Alston still held both plantations, and specified in his will that "my wife holding on to the place called Cherry Hill so long as she remains my widow."

Family tradition states that at the time of George's death, work had just been begun on the construction of the present house, but that it was not completed until well into the 1850s--which is compatible with stylistic evidence. Alston left a widow, Marina, with three minor sons, Philip G., William H., and George W., the latter of whom was to receive his father's real estate. George, Jr., is said to have recalled that when he was a small child, the house was under construction, and that a builder called Waddell "made over him." Another recollection was that of Betsy (Bettie) Faulcon Alston, a young relative (born in 1849) from Tusculum, a nearby plantation, who recalled visiting at Cherry Hill as a child in the 1850s and playing on the sleepers of the unfinished house.

Assigned as executor and guardian for Alston's children was John Buxton Williams, a neighbor, who kept the plantation operating. The agricultural census of 1850 shows the continuation of the plantation's operation, which produced fifteen 500-pound bales of ginned cotton, 9,000 pounds of tobacco, and 2,000 bushels of corn--a moderate crop. According

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to his estate papers, Alston had 78 slaves, valued at \$68,550; from an uncle, also named Philip G., the orphan children inherited 51 more slaves, valued at \$38,750. The annual guardian accounts of Williams show that the children attended school at the local Fork Institute that Marina contributed to the minister on the "Roanok" Circuit at Shady Grove, and that Philip, the eldest son, attended the University at Chapel Hill. There are, however, no references to expenditures for completion of the dwelling, nor any to Jacob Holt. (It is interesting to note that John Buxton Williams, the guardian, was also the owner of a similar, nearby house also evidently built about the same time by Jacob Holt.)

The eldest son, Philip G., served in the Confederate army; the social fabric of the county is exemplified in the makeup of Company K, 12th North Carolina Regiment, which had at one time a captain, a 1st lieutenant, a 2nd lieutenant, and a private, all from Warren County, all named Philip G. Alston. Philip married during the war, and his young brother George W., married in 1867 Bettie Faulcon Alston, the little girl who had played on the sleepers of the unfinished house. The latter couple lived at Cherry Hill and had eleven children, the tenth of whom, Jennie C. Alston, still lives in the house.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor.  
 Interview by Catherine W. Cockshutt and Greer Suttlemyre, July, 1974, with Miss Jennie C. Alston and Edgar Thorne, at Cherry Hill.  
 United States Census Records, 1850 and 1860, Warren County.  
 Warren County Records, Warren County Courthouse, Warrenton, North Carolina Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Warren County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	36°	16'	16"	78°	05'	54"
NE	36°	16'	16"	78°	05'	30"
SE	36°	16'	01"	78°	05'	30"
SW	36°	16'	01"	78°	05'	54"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Survey and Planning Unit  
 ORGANIZATION

DATE  
16 September 1974

Division of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE North Carolina CODE 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Robert E. Stipe  
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 16 September 1974

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

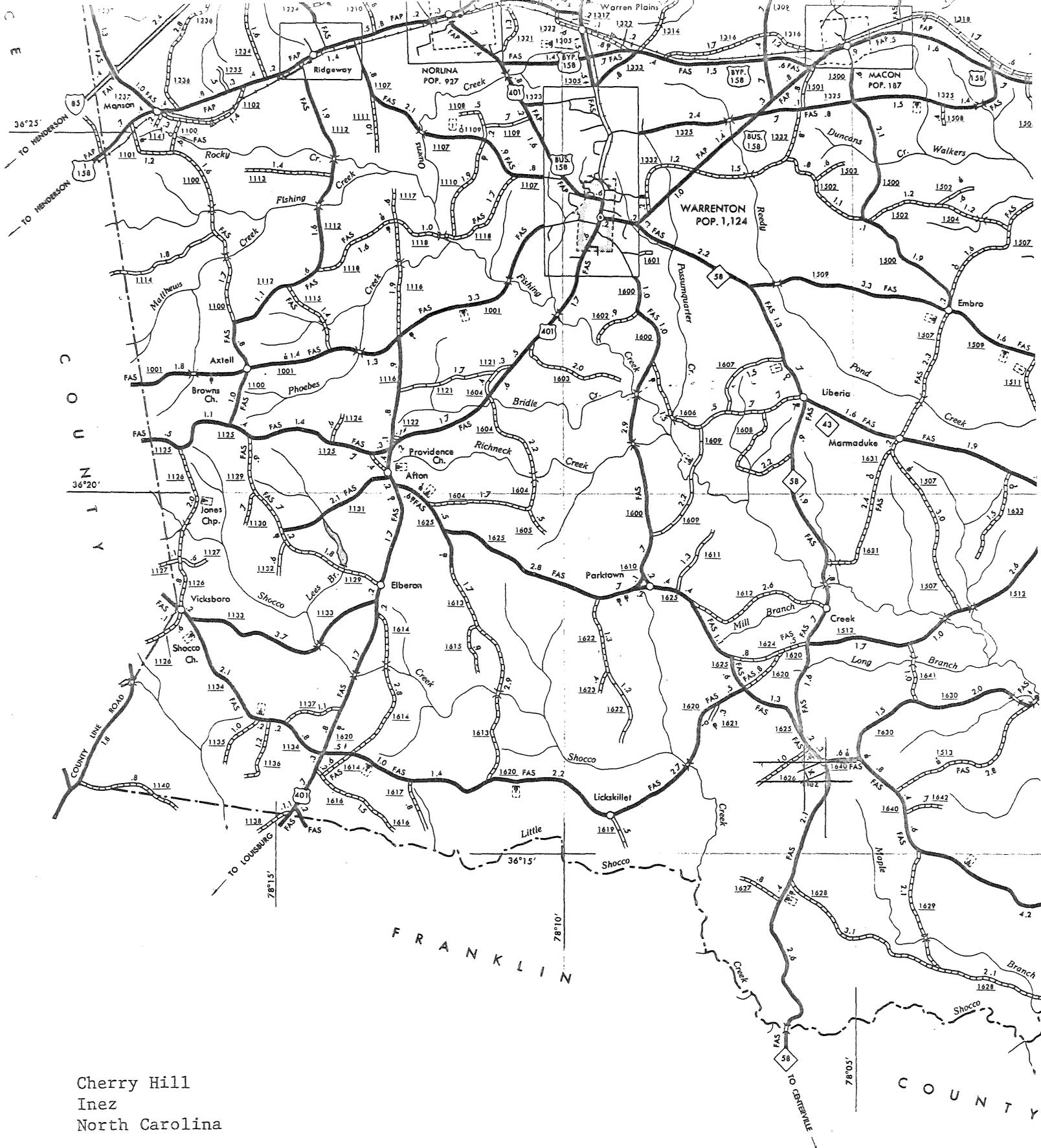
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Cherry Hill  
 Inez  
 North Carolina

N.C. Highway Commission Map (USGS map not available)

Scale: 1/2" = 1 mi.

Date: 1966

	Latitude			Longitude		
	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
NW	36	16	16	78	05	54
NE	36	16	16	78	05	30
SE	36	16	01	78	05	30
SW	36	16	01	78	05	54



NOTE: FOR REVISION DATE S

