Form 10-300
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
COMMON:
Reedy Rill
AND OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
0.8 mi. on dirt road west of S.R. 1600 between Richneck and Bridle creeks
CITY OR TOWN:
Warrenton vicinity
STATE:
North Carolina
CODE:
37
COUNTY:
The Hon. L. H. Fountain
CODE:
185

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 [x] Building</td>
<td>[ ] Public</td>
<td>[x] Occupied</td>
<td>[x] Yes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Site [ ] Structure</td>
<td>[ ] Private</td>
<td>[ ] Unoccupied</td>
<td>[ ] Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Object</td>
<td>[ ] Both</td>
<td>[ ] Being Considered</td>
<td>[ ] Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

[ ] Agricultural [ ] Government [ ] Park [ ] Transportation [ ] Comments
[ ] Commercial [ ] Industrial [ ] Private Residence [ ] Other (Specify)
[ ] Educational [ ] Military [ ] Religious
[ ] Entertainment [ ] Museum [ ] Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Twitty
STREET AND NUMBER:
Reedy Rill
CITY OR TOWN:
Warrenton
STATE:
North Carolina
CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Warrenton 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:
Reedy Rill is an Italianate plantation house set amid great trees at the end of an impressive boxwood midnineteenth century walk, approached by a long winding wooded lane. It is similar in form and detail to a number of Warren and Franklin county houses credited to Warrenton contractor Jacob Holt. The square frame building is two stories high above a raised basement. It is three bays wide and two widely spaced bays deep, with each bay of the front and side elevations containing paired arched windows in a single rectangular frame. The tall, narrow windows have four-over-two sash with a tracery V in the arch. The central entrance is a wide double door, flanked by arched sidelights and an elongated oval transom; the corner lights are circular. Simple pilasters terminating in heavy brackets separate the elements. The exterior woodwork is quite simple, with cornerposts treated as pilasters supporting a plain frieze and rather wide overhang. The one-story porch has simple paired replacement posts. The foundation is stuccoed and rusticated, and the two interior chimneys are somewhat elaborate, each with a molded cap adorned with brackets. The rear facade has a shed addition with irregular fenestration across the first story and has at the second level three windows with six-over-six sash and simple molded frames.

The interior follows a center-hall plan two rooms deep and has bold trim using Greek Revival and Italianate motifs. Particularly remarkable is the survival of marbleizing and woodgraining of fine quality. The walls of the hall feature, painted directly on the plaster, realistically rendered marbleizing, giving the impression that the walls are of blocks of pinkish marble. The baseboards resemble black marble, and doors here and in the front parlors as well as some other woodwork have skillful woodgraining. Used consistently are symmetrically molded architraves with corner blocks; paneled aprons occur beneath the long windows. Walls are plastered above heavy molded baseboards. Doors have several paneling schemes, and some of the panels are round-headed. In the northeast and southwest rooms are similar mantels with pilasters having two long narrow arched panels topped by a short row of four deeply recessed strips suggesting a cap; reeding extends across the frieze, and there is a molded shelf.

The mantel in the southwest parlor is a robust Greek Revival one, reflecting the patterns of Asher Benjamin, and typical of Jacob Holt's work. A symmetrically molded architrave with corner blocks frames the fire opening. Forward of this stand paired, tapered, fluted Doric colonnettes which carry a frieze featuring a fluted horizontal roll. The heavy cornice breaks out at the ends, but the thick shelf continues uninterrupted. Other mantels are of heavy Greek Revival design. The stair rises in two flights with a transverse landing at the rear of the hall, the first flight rising along the south wall. An urn-like turned newel and posts of similar design, and balusters square in section carry a heavy rounded, ramped handrail. The ends of the treads are molded but there are no brackets along the open string. The risers are skillfully marbleized. The second floor plan and finish are much like the first, but somewhat less elaborate. The basement of the house is finished and retains a stair like the main stair and a mantel with frieze brackets recalling the entrance treatment.
Reedy Rill is a handsome Italianate plantation house, one of a group of distinctive, closely related houses of the type built or remodeled by Warrenton contractor Jacob Holt and characteristic of Warrenton's ante-bellum boom era. Of special significance is the rare survival of marbleized walls and woodwork and woodgrained woodwork, all in unusually good condition.

The house called "Reedy Rill" is the product, according to family tradition, of two periods of construction. The first section, apparently two rooms deep, was built for Daniel Turner on land he had inherited from his father, James Turner, and it is believed to have been built between 1830 and 1846. Turner was born near Warrenton in 1796, graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1814 and served in the War of 1812. After resigning his commission in 1815, Turner was a student at William and Mary College for two years. He was a member of the North Carolina House of Commons 1819-1823 and a member of the United States Congress 1827-1829. In 1829 he married Ann Arnold Key, a daughter of Francis Scott Key, and for some years lived at "Woodley," four miles from Warrenton between Bridle and Fishing Creeks, about 3/4 mile from his mill. At Woodley, Turner established a small school for girls. Between 1830 and 1846 Turner had built a new house, the present Reedy Rill, about one-and-one-half mile from his mill and roughly the same distance from Woodley.

In 1847 Turner was elected principal of the Warrenton Female College, a position he held until moving to California in 1854 with several of the elder of his family of eleven children. Mrs. Turner later joined her husband there, where he served as superintending engineer of the construction of public works until his death in 1860.

In 1846, Turner had named Alfred Alston and William Plummer trustees for 2,623 one-half-acres between Fishing and Richneck creeks. This was sold in January 2, 1847, to Thomas Gayle, who in 1853 deeded to his daughter Elizabeth and her husband G. W. Burwell 1,461 acres of this property. In the following year, the Burwells sold the land to Richard B. Robinson. It was, according to family tradition, for Richard Robinson that the house was enlarged and remodeled to its present form; the work is credited to Warrenton builder Jacob Holt, and stylistically the building is markedly similar to others in and near Warrenton attributed to Holt, whose forte seems to have been a rather individualized version of the Italianate style—with heavy bracketed overhang, paired arched windows, and an elaborate bracketed,
transomed, sidelit doorway on the exterior, and mantels within like those at Reedy Rill. A recently found contract for a similar Franklin County house documents the traditional attribution of these houses to Holt, who both built and remodeled houses—all of which are very much alike.

In 1868 Robinson lost the plantation, and it was purchased by his brother James Clack Richardson. He in turn sold it to John Searls in 1876. The Searls family lived on the place for thirty years before selling it in 1906 to W. W. Robertson, a timber dealer of Norfolk. Robertson deeded the land to William E. Twitty, Jefferson D. Palmer, and Nathan M. Palmer, reserving timber rights for some years. In 1906 W. E. Twitty married Rebecca Robinson, the granddaughter of James C. Robinson, who had lived at Reedy Rill 1868-1876; Twitty and his bride went to live there, and an "at-home" card preserved together with a wedding invitation refers to the place as Reedy Rill. It is not certain how much earlier the name had been used. In 1923, W. E. Twitty and his brother Frank purchased the Palmers' interests. Through purchase and inheritance, Henry F. Twitty, the son of William and Rebecca, acquired Reedy Rill and much of the surrounding land. Mr. and Mrs. Twitty, the present owners, maintain the house in good condition.
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE DEGREES MINUTES SECONDS</th>
<th>LONGITUDE DEGREES MINUTES SECONDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>0 ° 20' 48&quot;</td>
<td>78 ° 08' 29&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>0 ° 20' 48&quot;</td>
<td>78 ° 08' 29&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0 ° 20' 48&quot;</td>
<td>78 ° 08' 29&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit
ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History
STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street
CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh
STATE: CODE North Carolina 17

STATE LIAISON 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 [X]

Name: Thornton W. Mitchell
Title: Acting Director, Division of Archives and History
Date: 30 July 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 30 July 1974
Reedy Rill
Warrenton vicinity
North Carolina

USGS Map, Afton Quadrangle
Scale: 1: 24,000
Date: 1971

Latitude
degrees minutes seconds

Longitude
degrees minutes seconds