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  Sledge-Hayley House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number  SW Corner Franklin and Hayley streets  
_ not for publication

city, town  Warrenton  

vicinity of  

congressional district  Second

state  North Carolina  code 037  county  Warren  code 185

3. Classification

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4. Owner of Property

name  Thomas W. Haywood, M.D.  
c/o  Jauncey H. McDougle

street & number  100 Warren Avenue

city, town  Oxford  

vicinity of  

state  North Carolina  27565

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  Warren County Courthouse

street & number

city, town  Warrenton  

state  North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title

has this property been determined eligible?  yes _no

date

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state
7. Description

The Sledge-Hayley House is a substantial frame dwelling of regional Greek Revival character, standing on an elevated lot overlooking the street. It is located on the edge of the town of Warrenton, outside the historic district. The house has the standard Greek Revival proportions and details characteristic of the town's antebellum boom period, but other elements, particularly the plan, are highly atypical. The house is little altered, though in some disrepair.

The two-story dwelling stands high upon a raised basement of brick and is covered with a shallow hip roof with deep overhang. The roof is interrupted by a single large central interior chimney—in contrast to the paired interior or interior end chimneys characteristic of contemporary houses in the region. The main (north) facade is three bays wide, with double doors in the central bay at both levels and large windows in the flanking bays. Diminution of fenestration is marked, and most windows are fitted with louvered blinds. The boxy quality of the house is emphasized by the broad exterior skirt, wide cornerposts treated as fluted pilasters, and wide plain frieze. Door and window frames are simply molded, and above the second-story openings the lower molding of the frieze breaks to outline the upper edge of the openings—a feature recurring in other Warren County houses of the era.

Sheltering the central entrance is a classical porch, with two unfluted Doric columns repeated as pilasters at the facade. A simple balustrade protects the sides of the porch. The shallow hip or flat roof of the porch overhangs deeply above the entablature which is highly simplified with plain moldings. The entrance protected by the porch consists of a double door framed by sidelights, transom, and cornerlights. Lozenge tracery fills the glazed areas. The second-level door to the upper porch has sidelights. The use of the second level of the porch as a gallery is highly characteristic of the area; many had balustrades (most now lost) but practically none in this period had roofs at the second level.

The rear elevation and sides contrast with the strict symmetry of the front facade. The west side has a single upper story window and a door below, leading to a shed porch. At the rear there are only two bays at each level, with varied sash, and a side entrance in the east bay, sheltered by a plain shed porch. The fabric of some of these elements may date from the later nineteenth or early twentieth century. There is also a rear entrance to the basement. Weatherboards in the rear have been altered, and other changes may have taken place as well.

The plan of the house is unusual in the region, and relates more to the earlier cross-hall plan of the area's fine tripartite and temple-form houses than it does to the standard central hall plan of the Greek Revival and later Italianate houses of Warren and nearby counties. The Patterson-Palmer House in Hillsborough, probably late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, remote in distance and time, has a remotely similar plan, but this is probably only coincidental. The source of the plan, in vernacular tradition or the imagination of the family or builder, is uncertain. The basement follows a similar plan, though the entrance is into a small angular room behind the chimney.

The front entrance gives into a small entry hall, flanked on the left by a stair to the second floor and a door to the basement stair, and on the right by a blank wall which partitions off a room with no access to the hall. From the hall doorways give access to two rear rooms of considerable size. These are heated by a single central chimney. The only
access to the front right room is from the rear right room. There is no access between the two large rear rooms. This limited circulation arrangement is as unlike the character of regional houses as is the arrangement of rooms. The second floor plan reflects that of the first.

The finish throughout is of simple, consistent vernacular Greek Revival character. Doors have two long flat panels with broad, flat moldings around the panels. Door and window frames have the typical symmetrical moldings with roundel cornerblocks, and at the windows extend to the floor to frame a panel of plain sheathing. Walls are plastered above broad molded baseboards, and many of the baseboards retain notable marbleizing. A narrow cornice is present in some rooms. Mantels are of simple, typical Greek Revival pilaster-and-lintel design, with that in the left rear room being handsomely marbleized; it is somewhat wider than the chimney breast. To the rear of the chimney in the right rear room is a double door closet with fine woodgrained doors. In the closet on a wall is the inscription "I have no power to fight the Lords Battle but his arm is mighty" dated March 14, 1871 or 1872. Second-floor finish is plainer than the first, with plain board baseboards, grooved architraves with plain cornerblocks, and simple mantels. Original fabric survives remarkably complete throughout the house, reflecting the adaptations of local craftsmen in finish and plan.

The structure of course is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.
The Sledge-Hayley House stands near the edge of Warrenton, a community that flourished in the antebellum period. Little altered in the last century, the town retains an important collection of buildings from its mid-nineteenth century heyday. Located beyond the boundaries of the Warrenton Historic District (NR), the Sledge-Hayley House shares the form and detail of the town's many Greek Revival houses and is a significant part of Warrenton's heritage from this period. The two-story frame house though in disrepair is intact, and exhibits characteristic Warrenton features including the columned entrance porch, second-level entrance serving a porch gallery, raised basement, and strong and simple Greek Revival woodwork. Atypical and interesting is the plan arranged around a central chimney—a treatment highly unusual in the region. The house was built between 1852 and 1855 for George R. Sledge and his wife Nancy Fleming Sledge; he was a prominent merchant in Warrenton. In 1901 the house was bought by Nancy S. Hayley, wife of Paul F. Hayley. Hayley, born a slave, became a schoolteacher and civil servant after the Civil War, and a prominent member of Warrenton's black community. The Hayleys raised a large family, many of whom achieved prominence in various professions.

Criteria Assessment:

A. Associated with the antebellum prominence of Warrenton as a commercial and political center for Warren County, the wealthiest county in the poorest state in the antebellum South; and associated with the prominence of former slaves who gained education and respected positions in teaching and civil service after Emancipation.

B. Associated with George R. Sledge, merchant, and Paul Hayley, teacher and civil servant, both prominent citizens of Warrenton.

C. Embodies distinctive regional characteristics interpreting the nationally popular Greek Revival style, here in a two-story frame Greek Revival house related to the concentration of contemporary houses so crucial to the Warrenton Historic District.

D. Is likely to yield information about nineteenth and twentieth century lifestyles.
In 1852 Daniel Turner sold to George R. Sledge a 2 1/4 acre parcel of land on Louisburg Road near the town of Warrenton. On this tract sometime between 1852 and 1855 Sledge built the dwelling now known as the Sledge-Hayley-Haywood House.

Daniel Turner (1796-1860) was the son of James Turner (1766-1824) who had been governor of North Carolina, 1802-1805 and United States Congressman 1805-1816. He served in the State House of Commons, 1819-1821, and in the United States House of Representatives, 1827-1829. A teacher and principal of Warrenton Female College, Turner was married to Anna Key, daughter of Francis Scott Key, author of the Star Spangled Banner. In her Sketches of Old Warrenton Mrs. Lizzie Wilson Montgomery claims that Turner was financially "embarrassed" which may have led him to sell part of his land to George R. Sledge. Turner left Warren County in 1856 to accept a government appointment in the Navy Department at Mare Island, San Francisco. He died there in 1860.

George R. Sledge was born in Greenville County, Virginia, in 1819. He came to Warrenton sometime prior to 1844 when the Warren County deed books indicate that he was operating a store in that town. He married Nancy D. Fleming in 1845, and their first home was located on the corner of Main and Franklin streets. In 1851, according to Mrs. Montgomery, Sledge also had a store on a corner of Franklin and Main which he operated in partnership with a Mr. Perkinson who died after a few years. B. R. Browning then became Sledge's partner until he left for Littleton to start his own business.

According to Warren County deed books Sledge must have built his new house sometime between 1852 and 1855. It is not certain who the contractor was, but the builders and carpenter, Jacob Holt and John M. Wilson lived in Warrenton at the time. Either--or another--builder may have done the work.

As a prosperous merchant and landowner Sledge enjoyed a tremendous surge in wealth in the decade 1850-1860. At the beginning of that period he was a merchant who provided farmers with supplies and money in return for liens and mortgages on their crops, land, and slaves. He owned real estate valued at $3,700 and five slaves. By the end of the decade Sledge had acquired, in addition to his mercantile business, 1,525 acres of unimproved land and 100 acres of improved land worth $18,000 and a personal estate valued at $21,000. In 1860 he listed himself in the census as a farmer, and he owned eleven slaves and produced 9,000 lbs. of tobacco. In that same year he advertised in the Warrenton News that he was also a "General Collector" who "will attend promptly to the collection of all claims entrusted to him either in Warren, Granville, Franklin, or Halifax counties. Five years experience in the business," the advertisement read, "gives him some advantages in the management of claims." Sledge was one of many who thrived in Warrenton's antebellum heyday.

Sledge continued to operate his business and farm during the Civil War, but the
war seriously depleted his financial holdings. After the conflict the value of his real estate fell to $8,000 and his personal estate to $5,000. The 1870 and 1880 censuses list him as a merchant, and he does not appear in the agricultural schedule for those years. In 1879 Sledge transferred his house and eight acres of land along with his business to his wife under the guidance of a trustee. Sledge died in 1883.

In 1886 Mrs. Sledge sold .8 acre of the house tract to her daughter Ava J. Barham and .8 acre to her daughter Georgie S. Williams. Nancy D. Sledge died in 1894.

In 1896 John W. Kerr, a commissioner appointed by the county court, sold 6.4 acres of the Sledge tract including the house to A. D. Harris who had bid for the property at public auction in 1894. Harris ran a general store in Warrenton. In 1901 he sold the Sledge House to Nancy S. Hayley who was the wife of Paul F. Hayley one of Warren County's leading black citizens.

Hayley was born a slave in Northampton County in 1851. Following the Civil War he attended Shaw University and came to Warren County as a school teacher for black children. He served in the General Assembly from Northampton County in 1881 and while he was serving, married Nancy Christmas. He entered the United States Railway Mail Service in 1882 and was eventually promoted to chief clerk. He rendered 38 years service and was one of the first civil service employees to be retired under the Federal Retirement Act in 1920.

During his 28 years of retirement Hayley lived in Warrenton where he was a deacon of the Warrenton Baptist Church, a trustee of the Warren County Community Center Association, and a Mason. Haley Street in Warrenton is named for him.

At his death in 1948 the Sledge-Hayley House (which apparently became his at his wife's death in 1940) was transferred to Hayley's daughter Mamie Hayley Mason and her husband Charles Mason, and another daughter Louise Hayley Haywood and her husband Dr. Thomas W. Haywood. According to members of the Haywood family Dr. Haywood, his wife, and six children lived in the house while he practiced medicine in Warrenton.

Dr. Haywood is remembered as one of Warren's most prominent and respected black citizens. He was born in 1891 in Wake County. He attended Saint Augustine's College for four years, Leonard School of Medicine for one year, and Meharry Medical College for three years, and he completed his education in 1916. In 1918 he married Louise Hayley and began his medical practice which he continued in Warrenton for fifty-six years. He was a member of the Warren County Medical Society and was the county's only black doctor for over half a century. In 1973 Charles Mason, widower, sold his interest in the Sledge-Hayley-Haywood House to Dr. Haywood who retired from his medical practice the following year. Since his retirement Dr. Haywood has been in a rest home in Oxford, North Carolina. The Haywood family seek to rehabilitate the house and have made efforts at stabilization.
Aside from its local prominence and association with notable Warrenton citizens Sledge and Hayley, the house has local architectural significance. Warrenton (see NRHD nomination) possesses an unusually complete and intact collection of high quality Greek Revival architecture. The district contains brick and frame Greek Revival houses from the 1840s and 1850s, which share common characteristics of finish, proportion, and, usually plain. The central hall plan one or two rooms deep and in one case the side hall plan are most commonly used. The Sledge-Hayley House is outside the district but is a significant member of Warrenton's group of Greek Revival dwellings. Its finish—Greek Revival moldings, pilaster-and-frieze mantels, columned porch, lozenge entrance glazing, specific design of the frieze molding above the windows, etc.—is characteristic of the town and county. However, the plan with the front hall, two rear rooms, and stair and separated front room is entirely distinctive and an interesting variation in the town's architectural composition. Warrenton and Warren County, as the richest antebellum county in North Carolina, which supported a number of known builders, possess important and unified Greek Revival architecture; the Sledge House is a notable component of that heritage.
1. Warren County Deed Books (microfilm), Archives, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, Deed Book 31, pp. 48, 526, hereinafter cited as Warren Deed Books.


8. Warren County Marriage Bonds, Archives, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


12. Author's interview with Catherine W. Bishir, architectural historian, May 9, 1979.


34 See "Historic Sites Survey Form" in Sledge House file, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: less than one acre
Quadrangle name: Warrenton
UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The Sledge-Hayley House is bounded on the North by Franklin Street, on the East by Hayley Street, and on the South and West by other residential properties. The house lot only is nominated.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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11. Form Prepared By

Architectural description by Catherine W. Bishir, Head--Survey and Planning Branch
Historical statement by Joe Mobley, Researcher, and Mary Hinton Kerr, Warren County Historian

Survey and Planning Branch
Archeology and Historic Preservation
N.C. Division of Archives and History

street & number: 109 E. Jones Street
telephone: (919)-733-6545

city or town: Raleigh
state: 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

title: State Historic Preservation Officer
date: January 10, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:
date

Chief of Registration


Hayley, Paul F. "The Hayley Family." An unpublished manuscript. Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


Warren County Records, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh (subgroups: Census, Deeds, Estates, Marriage Bonds, Wills).


Sledge-Hayley House
SW Corner Franklin and Hayley St.
Warrenton, NC
Less than one acre
Warrenton Quadrangle Zone 17
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000
UTM
754680/4031600