

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Caswell
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Rose Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Bedford Brown House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South side of U.S. 158 at intersection with N.C. 150

CITY OR TOWN:  
Locust Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second  
The Hon. L. H. Fountain

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37      COUNTY: Caswell      CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. J. Williamson Brown

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rose Hill Farm, Route 1, Box 369

CITY OR TOWN:  
Locust Hill Yanceyville

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Caswell County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Yanceyville

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

Rose Hill, set at the end of a drive lined with boxwood and cedars, is a Federal period house composed of two sections joined by a breezeway which is now enclosed. The main block, which faces north, is a two-story frame structure covered with beaded weatherboards, three bays wide and two deep, carrying a gable roof with boxed eaves and a dentil cornice. A double-shoulder exterior end chimney occurs at either end. Adjoining the main block to the west is a secondary structure. This section is one bay wide and one bay deep and carries a gable roof with boxed eaves. A single-shoulder exterior end chimney occurs on the west end. It contains a single room, and access is gained from the breezeway. On the east side of the main block is a one-story frame addition, two bays wide and one deep, with a gable roof, and to the rear is a shed roof porch covering two of the three bays. Both of these additions are comparatively recent.

The front entrance, in the center bay of the main block, has a molded architrave. Covering the entrance is an open-pediment hood, which appears to be a twentieth century addition. The entrance to the smaller section has flanking, molded panel pilasters supporting a fanlight with an elegant, radiating geometric design. The door itself has six raised panels. Fenestration is generally consistent, exhibiting diminution from nine-over-nine sash to nine-over-six sash. The window surrounds are molded and the second-story windows have thick molded sills.

The interior of the main block follows a hall-and-parlor plan, with the entrance opening into the main room. Both the main room and parlor have been reworked; they have molded architraves and a flat board baseboard. The mantel in the main room is a curious three-part one with swelling pilasters and frieze. In the parlor is a simple pilastered mantel of mid-nineteenth century type.

An enclosed stair ascends from the right front corner of the main room, to what is now a small hall on the second floor. The stairwell and the second floor have been reworked. The upper floor has had a number of partitions relocated, creating three rooms and a bath out of what appears initially to have been two rooms. Early, hand-hewn flat-paneled wainscot occurs in various places, and the large west room contains a simple mantel with a beaded architrave, a single flat panel over the opening; these are framed by a molded backband beneath a molded shelf. Door types on both floors vary, but a number of early flat-paneled doors remain.

The single-room smaller addition is elaborately finished in a late Federal style with much fine detail, strikingly similar to the interior work at nearby Dongola (circa 1835-1838). The window and door surrounds have a wide, symmetrically molded architrave bearing corner blocks with a stylized flower motif. The wainscot consists of a single row of flat panels topped by a wide, molded chair rail with alternating gouged fluting and sunburst motifs. The room features a fine three-part marbleized mantel of Adamesque design. Flanking, freestanding fluted colonnettes with anthemion motif capitals support an elaborately worked entablature. The architrave has gougework and sunburst patterns identical to that on the chair rail. The wide frieze has a central flat panel with a classical urn motif, flanked by

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(Number all entries)

7.

festoons on the frieze; the paneled end blocks have anthemion motifs. The molded cornice shelf is embellished with a row of heavy dentil molding. Particularly interesting is the wallpaper, believed to be original, containing a brightly colored bouquet of fruit pattern with floral bands at the top and bottom of the paper. The woven carpet, bearing a large-scale floral design, is thought to be contemporary with the wallpaper.

At the rear of the house is a steep hip-roof smokehouse, recently covered with German siding, and an adjacent garage of the same material.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. 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) 1802, ca. 1835

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" 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"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rose Hill was the home of Bedford Brown during his career as one of Caswell County's best known statesmen. It is a handsome early Federal house to which was added an elaborate late Federal parlor; of particular significance is the remarkably complete survival of marbleized woodwork, wallpaper, and carpet, all believed to be original.

Rose Hill stands prominently on the Yanceyville-Greensboro Road at Brown's Store, or Locust Hill as the community became known in the 1840s. Locust Hill has "safeguarded a small amount of North Carolina history" since the late eighteenth century when John Brown settled here on the headwaters of Country Line Creek in western Caswell County.

Rose Hill was probably built in 1802 (as said to be recorded on a chimney brick) by Jethro Brown (1776-1829). Jethro was a prosperous planter and tavern keeper whose tavern was the meeting place in the early nineteenth century of a society "constituted for intellectual improvement," one of the two such organizations in the county. His son, Bedford, who was educated at the University of North Carolina, entered politics at the age of twenty in 1815 when he was elected to the House of Commons from Caswell County. In 1817, following the Bedford's marriage, Jethro deeded to him the "seat lately occupied by the said Jethro Brown." The plantation, located on Moon's Creek, contained 502 acres and the handsome Federal house. Bedford Brown occupied it upon returning from a wedding trip to England and Scotland, financed by his father, with his bride Mary Lumpkin Glenn.

During his political career, which spanned fifty-five years, Bedford Brown became one of the best known leaders of the Democratic Party in the South. He served in the North Carolina legislature and distinguished himself in the United States Senate from 1829 to 1840. Following a political defeat in 1842, Brown and his family sold Rose Hill in 1844 and left North Carolina, living for short periods in Missouri, Virginia, and Maryland. In 1855 he returned to North Carolina, re-entered political life, and repurchased Rose Hill, where he remained until his death in 1870. Brown's political leadership was founded on his lifelong devotion to two conflicting principles: those of state rights and allegiance to the Union. The greatest battle of his political career was fought in 1860 and 1861, when he attempted to reconcile the differences between North and South while serving in the North Carolina Senate. His moderate, conciliatory approach, however, was unable to prevent the disruption of the Union.

The house is now owned by members of the Brown family.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Research by Ruth Little Stokes, survey specialist; architectural description by Neil Pearson, consultant.  
 Caswell County Records, Caswell County Courthouse, Yanceyville, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Caswell County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Jones, Houston G. Bedford Brown: State Rights Unionist. Carrolton, Georgia: 1955.

**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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		36°	22'	25"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		79°	25'	49"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History

DATE: 19 September 1973

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 H. G. Jones

Title Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 19 September 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 \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

