

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: Warren House and Warren's Store
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Southeast corner and northeast corner of intersection of N.C. 49, 86 & S.R.			
CITY OR TOWN: Prospect Hill		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second 1771	
STATE: North Carolina		The Hon. L. H. Fountain	
CODE: 37	COUNTY: Caswell	CODE: 033	

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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. Geneva Williams Warren	STATE: North Carolina
STREET AND NUMBER:	COUNTY: Caswell
CITY OR TOWN: Prospect Hill	CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Caswell County Courthouse	STATE: North Carolina
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse Square	COUNTY: Caswell
CITY OR TOWN: Yanceyville	CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The Warren House and Warren's Store, built on the eve of the Civil War, face one another at Prospect Hill, a crossroads in the northern Piedmont. The two-story rectangular Greek Revival House, three bays wide and three deep, is set a short distance from the crossroads in a ring of huge oak trees. At the rear is a freestanding frame kitchen. The house, set on a brick foundation over a partial basement, is covered with plain siding, with flush sheathing beneath the porches. Each corner is accentuated by a corner post with a round-headed flat panel on each face and a simple Doric cap. The low hip roof, covered with standing seam tin, has wide overhanging eaves. A bracketed cornice, each bracket in a wave design, continues around the house.

The entrance in the center bay of the main (north) facade consists of a double door, each leaf containing two raised panels, flanked by twelve-pane sidelights set within a paneled architrave with plain corner blocks. An identical entrance directly above this one opens to the upper porch. The west elevation, which also faces one of the main roads, is treated similarly to the main facade. The west side center entrance has a double door with a four-pane transom and a wooden crosstetted architrave with a pointed-arched lintel. Directly above at the upper porch level is an identical door without a transom. Large floor-length six-over-six sash windows, each set within an architrave identical to that of the west side entrances and flanked by louvered shutters, illuminate the house. Most of the second-story windows retain the original wooden interior guard rails.

The house originally had porches on all four sides, but the east side and rear porches, both one-story, have been enclosed. A two-story, three-bay pedimented porch projects from the main facade, and an identical one-bay porch projects from the west elevation. The slender, airy latticework posts, railings, and brackets of the porches contrast strongly with the heavy simple mass of the house. The posts are composed of diagonal latticework, and a sheaf of wheat pattern balustrade forms the second floor wooden porch railings. Curvilinear sawnwork brackets ornament the posts beneath the friezes. The main cornice carries around the pedimented porches. The cornice is repeated between the first and second levels of each porch.

The one-story frame kitchen has a low gable roof, an exterior end single-shoulder stone and brick chimney on the east side, and contains two rooms.

The interior of the Warren House, having on both floors a wide center hall with two rooms opening off each side, is plastered throughout and finished with heavy Greek Revival trim. Each door has four flat panels. Each first-floor room is finished with a high molded baseboard and wide fluted architraves with roundel corner blocks. Beneath each first-floor window are three flat panels. The mantel in each room is a variation of heavy pilasters on high bases which support an undulating decorated frieze and curved shelf with a low arched backboard. West of each chimney is a closet, accessible to both rooms by double doors, each leaf with two flat panels, within an architrave like that around the other openings. In the northwest room, the original wooden curtain valances, painted red and gold,

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survive.

The two wooden Doric columns which originally divided the hall into a front and rear hall have been replaced by a partition wall with French doors. On axis with the front entrance is the rear double door, with its original sidelights now infilled. At the rear of the hall against the east wall the stair rises in two flights to the second floor. An adaptation of the Federal tulip bracket motif adorns the open string. A polygonal newel, plain narrow balusters, and a shaped, ramped handrail form the stair balustrade. The second-floor finish is a simpler version of that of the first. The mantel shelves in the two east side rooms on both the first and second floors continue around the chimney breasts extending on each side to the partition walls.

Warren's Store and Post Office, a two-story rectangular brick building of vernacular Greek Revival temple-form design, is located opposite the Warren House, close to the crossroads, in a grove of large oak trees. The structure, three bays wide and three deep, is set over a full brick basement supported by center brick piers circular in section. The brick of the (south) gable end facade is laid in Flemish bond, and the sides and rear elevations are laid in a Flemish bond variation. A low gable roof of standing-seam tin covers the structure, extending over the facade to form the porch roof and terminating in a flush wood sheathed pediment. The eaves are boxed, and a molded cornice continues around the structure. Openings are concentrated in the front and rear.

The facade features a center door flanked by windows at each level. Each opening has a plain wooden surround, sill, and lintel surmounted by a brick header row. Solid wooden shutters, each leaf containing a single raised panel, flank the windows. The porch foundation consists of crude brick and stone piers. Plain wooden posts support the porch, with a wooden balustrade enclosing the upper level.

The side elevations are pierced by a single-door basement entrance in the center bay of the west side, basement casement windows, and a first floor single-door entrance in the rear bay of the east side. Small frame sheds have been added on the sides. The rear elevation is pedimented like the facade porch, but most of the wood sheathing of the rear pediment is gone, revealing the brick beneath. In the center is a single-shoulder brick exterior end chimney which rises through the boxed pediment eaves. A pair of windows identical to those of the facade but lacking shutters flank the chimney at each level.

The interior plan of both floors has undergone little alteration. The walls and ceilings of both levels are plastered. The first floor, the general store, is one large room. Supporting the second floor partition wall is an exposed wooden transverse ceiling joist on chamfered wood posts with heavy curved wood caps. A simple wooden cornice is the only other ornamentation. Built-in wooden shelves, original to the building, line the side walls. At

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the center west side a single-flight open-string stair ascends to the second floor. Beneath this stair a flight of wooden steps descends to the basement. A kerosene stove at the rear of the room heats this level. The post office, located in the southeast corner of the room, consists of a latticework enclosure with a small service window.

The second story is partitioned into three rooms. The south half of this story is one large room, with an oval opening in the floor, now boarded up, but originally protected by a wooden balustrade. This balcony allowed merchandise to be hoisted to the second floor and enabled the store clerk to survey the upstairs sales area while tending the store below. This room and the clerk's office in the northeast corner and the bedroom (clerk's quarters) to the rear of the stair in the northwest corner have plain wood surrounds. In the bedroom is a simple mantel with pilasters supporting a plain frieze and shelf.

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)

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"/> 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 checked="" 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

The Warren House and Warren's Store are among the best preserved and most representative examples in the northern Piedmont of North Carolina of the vernacular Greek Revival mode which prevailed here from about 1840 to about 1870. The house has particularly fine examples of the most distinctive characteristic of this mode: the sprightly latticework and bracketed forms that lighten the plain regularity of this utilitarian Greek Revival farmhouse type. The temple-form store, one of the few surviving rural antebellum commercial buildings in this area of the state, demonstrates the extent to which the Greek Revival aesthetic permeated all building types during the mid-nineteenth century. The residential-commercial complex retains its original rural setting and its function as an outpost serving a region of large tobacco plantations.

In 1858, Franklin Link Warren, a tobacco and corn farmer, bought a tract of land in the southeast corner of Caswell County adjacent to the Orange County line. Warren probably began the construction of his house and store soon afterward, and the two buildings were erected several years apart. According to family tradition Warren did not plant his usual crops the year he built the store so that he and his slaves could concentrate on the task of its construction. The crossroads where Warren built his house and store, known as Prospect Hill, was a stop on the Hillsborough-Milton stage road, and a post office had been established here in 1823. The post office moved into Warren's Store at its completion. The store formerly qualified as an emporium: in addition to the groceries, dry goods, and supplies sold on the first floor, dresses, hats, and various notions were sold in the upstairs front room. The upstairs bedroom reflects the era when clerks lived in their stores. In pre-refrigeration days ice was brought from Mebane, in nearby Alamance County, and stored in sawdust in the store cellar.

Prospect Hill is now the crossroads of busy N.C. 86, N.C. 49, and S.R. 1771, but the settlement has not grown, and the house and store have remained in the Warren family. Warren's Store is still the center of activity in the community, providing the sole local source of supplies, mail, and news.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Ruth Little Stokes, survey specialist.  
 Caswell County Records, Caswell County Courthouse, Yanceyville, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Caswell County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Goerch, Carl. "Around Prospect Hill," The State, Vol. XIV, No. 4., June 22, 1946.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		36° 14' 57"	79° 11' 25"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6 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: Office of Archives and History      DATE: 3 April 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

12. 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

Name: H. G. Jones  
 Title: State Historian/Administrator

Date: 3 April 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER CERTIFICATION

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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