

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: House in the Horseshoe (Additional Documentation)

Other names/site number: Alston House; Retreat

Name of related multiple property listing:
n/a

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 288 Alston House Road

City or town: Carthage State: NC County: Moore

Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	Date
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In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official: _____	Date

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Brick

Walls: Wood weatherboard

Roof: Wood shingle

Project Summary

When the House in the Horseshoe was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, the nomination provided a brief narrative description of the house and an equally concise historic narrative that was centered on Colonel Philip Alston's brief ownership of the house and the 1781 military skirmish on the site. This nomination addresses the limitations of that nomination by providing additional description, historic context, and areas of significance to present a more complete and inclusive history and description of the site.

First, the name of the site should be addressed. The 1970 nomination listed *Alston House* as the common name and noted *House in the Horseshoe* as the secondary/historic name. While Philip Alston had the house constructed, he occupied it only until 1790, his tenure far shorter than many of its later owners. Governor Benjamin Williams, who lived there from ca. 1798 to 1814, nicknamed the house "Retreat," although that name does not appear to have been utilized by other owners, including his descendants who owned the property until 1853. The use of the name Horseshoe appears to be a largely twentieth-century naming. As early as 1887, the site was referred to in the *Carthage Blade* newspaper as "Horse Shoe Farm"; by 1907 the same newspaper references the site as "Horse Shoe Plantation." Throughout this same period, however, the house was also referred to in local papers alternately as the Old Alston House/Place and occasionally as the Jones Plantation.¹

In 1919, the (Raleigh) News and Observer ran a story with the headline "House in Horseshoe of Deep River was Home of Many Famous Men." By 1926, the name "House in the Horseshoe" was being used consistently and when the State of North Carolina obtained the property in 1955, the property began, and continues, operation as the House in the Horseshoe. While historic

¹ Marisa Balatico (former Historic Interpreter, House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site) email message to Heather Slane, March 19, 2026.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

names are utilized in their associated contexts, the location of the house, within a horseshoe bend of the Deep River, is the source of the building's moniker as House in the Horseshoe, the best and most consistent description and name of the house during the periods of significance.

The 1970 nomination provided a narrative description of the house only, not the site or secondary buildings and structures. This Additional Documentation provides an updated narrative description of the house, considering architectural studies of the house that have been conducted since 1970. It also includes a full inventory of all buildings and structures on the nominated parcel, many of them associated with the use of the site as a museum since the House in the Horseshoe opened to the public in 1957.

The 1970 nomination included an extremely brief narrative history of the site as it related only to Colonel Philip Alston and Governor Benjamin Williams. While the nomination claimed significance in the areas of Architecture, Military History, and Politics, it did not provide sufficient context to support the claims. This Additional Documentation nomination provides expanded context as follows: under Criterion A in the areas of Military History, providing additional context for the 1781 military skirmish, and Social History, highlighting its twentieth-century adaptation as a State Historic Site; under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for the site's association with North Carolina Governor Benjamin Williams; and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. This Additional Documentation nomination also provides two defined periods of significance for the property, ca.1772 to 1814 and 1954 to 1976, and defines a boundary for the property.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located in northeast Moore County, on a rise above the Deep River, the House in the Horseshoe is an eighteenth-century, Georgian-style house with turn-of-the-nineteenth-century, Federal-style alterations. The house stands at the west end of Alston House Road surrounded by grassy lawns and mature trees. Outbuildings to the southwest largely date from the twentieth century. While the State-owned property extends to the east along Alston House Road, the nominated property is limited to the 4.63 acres surrounding the house. Surrounding farm fields contribute to the nineteenth-century rural character of the site. Contributing resources include the ca. 1772 house, ca. 1803 well and well house, and a late nineteenth-century corn crib moved to the site in the 1950s. Additional resources that do not contribute to the significance of the site include a 2022 shed, ca. 1985 storehouse, ca. 1985 shed, ca. 1995 shed, and a ca. 1925 granary.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

Narrative Description

House in the Horseshoe, named for its location inside a bend of the Deep River, is in northeastern Moore County, approximately ten miles north of Carthage, the county seat, and nearly five miles south of the unincorporated community of Carbonton in adjacent Lee County. This part of Moore County, as well as the western part of Lee County to the east and southern Chatham County to the north, remains rural and agricultural with farms and forested areas predominating and late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century development evident in scattered houses and buildings.

Setting

The House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site is located at the southwestern terminus of Alston House Road, one-half mile southwest of South Carbonton Road. Alston House, the historic name of the building at the center of the site, was built as the heart of a plantation totaling more than 3,000 acres. The nominated property encompasses 4.63 acres with existing secondary resources, except for the well, constructed on, or relocated to, the site in the twentieth century.² These resources include a ca. 1985 storehouse and a late-nineteenth-century corn crib southwest of the house, a ca. 1925 granary south of the house, late-twentieth-century storage buildings near the southwestern boundary of the property, and a small shed near the north end of the east porch.

The nominated tract, a slightly skewed, roughly square area, occupies a relatively flat rise above the Deep River. The house and outbuildings are surrounded by grassy lawns shaded by mature oak and cedar trees located to the immediate east, south, and west of the house. Dense trees extend along the west property boundary with additional trees at the northeast screening the view of an adjacent residence. North of the house, where no mature trees are present, views extend north-northeast across the adjacent cultivated fields, toward the Deep River. Cultivated farm fields surrounding the nominated tract, visible at the south property line, are in private ownership.

Alston House Road terminates at a driveway that leads to a small, paved parking lot at the southeast corner of the nominated boundary. A brick walkway leads from the parking lot to the east porch of the house and the adjacent Shed #1. All other paths and walkways on the site are grass or packed earth. Split-rail fencing encircles the house and the immediate outbuildings, extending southwest to include the storehouse and corn crib. A smaller section of split-rail fencing encircles a 1928 D.A.R. monument and surrounding flower bed on the north side of the

² The house itself stands on a 4.37-acre tract with an adjacent 0.26-acre parcel to its east. See NC One Map, accessed August 27, 2024.

<https://nconemap.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c49f804bced8479fb83d0cadf1436b25>; George W. Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe: Her People and Her Deep River Neighbors* (Wilmington, NC: Historical Research Services, 1999), 41.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

driveway. The monument commemorating the 1781 Patriot/Tory skirmish features a bronze plaque affixed to a five-foot-tall slab of granite.³

Adjacent to the east boundary, a grove of mature oak and cedar trees shelters the relocated graves of four members of the Williams family, including North Carolina Governor Benjamin Williams. The graves, encircled by a white picket fence, are slightly raised above ground, with partial white marble slabs denoting the resting places of Benjamin Williams and his wife, Elizabeth Jones Williams. A small space separates the graves of Benjamin and Elizabeth Jones Williams from the graves of their son, Benjamin William Williams, and his wife, Mary Chalmers Williams. All four graves are marked by signs listing the name and birth and death years of the buried. An additional marker, a bronze plaque on a tall granite base, commemorates Benjamin Williams as a “Patriot, Soldier, and Statesman” and summarizes his military, political, and University of North Carolina accomplishments.⁴

Note: The house and most outbuildings are oriented with the north gable facing approximately fifteen degrees west of true north, although for the simplicity of the description, the narratives for all buildings are written as though they feature a true north-south orientation. Unless sources are otherwise cited, building dates are derived from conversations on July 30, 2024, and August 22, 2024, with House in the Horseshoe Site Manager, Amanda Brantley, who provided context and other information. A draft Historic Structure Report prepared by Joseph K. Oppermann – Architect, P.A., in 2025 forms the basis for all narratives related to the physical evolution of the house, unless otherwise cited.

A. House in the Horseshoe (Alston House)

Contributing Building

ca. 1772; ca. 1803; ca. 1911; ca. 1955

Chronological Overview

The ca. 1772 House in the Horseshoe was constructed as a two-story vernacular Georgian-style plantation house.⁵ It followed a hall-and-parlor plan on the first and second floors and appears to have had shed-roofed bays flanking the entrance on the west elevation. Repairs and alterations to the house between 1791 and 1803 include the installation of a new door at the northwest corner

³ “House in the Horseshoe, Sanford,” Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina, Documenting the American South, University Library, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, accessed December 2, 2025, <https://www.docsouth.unca.edu/commland/monument/1019>.

⁴ Conversation between Charles LeCount and Claudia R. Brown, September 12, 2025; Amanda Brantley (site manager), Personal Interview with the author, July 30, 2024; Richard F. Knapp, ed., North Carolina’s State Historic Sites: A Brief History and Status Report ([Raleigh, NC]: Historic Sites Section, Division of Archives and History, NC Department of Cultural Resources, 1995), 44; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 314; The four members of the Williams family were originally buried at the Dunn family cemetery, on the east side of the Deep River on land that was part of Williams’s landholdings at the time of his death in 1814. By 1970, in response to vandalism of the Dunn family cemetery, the graves were relocated to the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site. Other graves, not associated with the Williams family, remain in their original resting place there.

⁵ “Architectural Gem,” History, North Carolina Historic Sites, accessed August 28, 2024, historicsites.nca.gov/all-sites/house-horseshoe/history; E. W. Caruthers, *Revolutionary incidents: and sketches of character, chiefly in the “Old North State”* (Philadelphia, Hays & Zell, 1854), 184, <https://www.loc.gov/item/02004591> quoted in George H. Maurice, “Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe (Philip Alston House, Moore County),” [unpublished manuscript, about 1955], 1-2, typescript.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

of the first-floor south room, new architraves in the center hall, and the addition of a half-round transom to the west entrance.

The house was extensively renovated ca. 1803 by its third owner, North Carolina governor, Benjamin Williams, and the current floor plan and Federal-style finishes can largely be attributed to this remodel. Williams had the hall-and-parlor plan converted to a center-hall plan by adding a wall within the first-floor north room. On the second floor, it appears that he had a dividing wall and doorway on the north side of the stairs switched with the balustrade that was on the south side and had a wall added to the north room to create the center hall. Intricate Federal-style moldings and mantel were added to the first-floor north room at this time. Williams also constructed one-story, side-gabled wings (no longer extant) on the north and south gable ends of the house.

In the late-nineteenth century, Anderson Jones erected a one-story, gabled ell that extended west from the shed room at the south end of the west porch, connected to the house via a breezeway. About 1910, H. L. Farley removed the one-story wings built by Benjamin Williams. In the 1920s, during the tenancy of the Willcox family, from 1914 to 1946, the doors on the north and south elevations that accessed the one-story wings were removed and windows reinstalled in those locations. One-over-one windows were installed throughout the house and oak flooring was installed over some of the original floors.

Between 1955 and 1957, the Moore County Historical Association led efforts to repair and restore the house, beginning with the reconstruction of the top one-third of the north chimney, which had collapsed in 1954, and the removal of the one-story ell constructed by Jones. Porches were repaired or reconstructed, the roof replaced, deteriorated siding on the north and south elevations replaced, and multi-light windows more closely matching the original size and configuration were installed during this period.

Alterations conducted by State Historic Sites in the 1970s, largely after the end of the Period of Significance, included the repair of fireplace boxes, replacement of both chimney stacks, replacement of porch piers, installation of a new roof, and replacement of weatherboards on the east and west elevations of the second story. Work done throughout the late-twentieth and early-twenty-first centuries was largely limited to structural, mechanical, and other work related to the reversal of inappropriate twentieth-century alterations.

Building Exterior

The two-story, side-gabled house is five bays wide and single pile. It features a continuous brick foundation, likely installed in 1976 when porch piers were replaced to match the chimneys; replacement painted weatherboards on the gable ends and above the east and west porches, installed in the 1950s and 1970s; and gable-end brick chimneys. The current scalloped-edge cedar-shingled roof was installed in 2023. It is finished with flush eaves on the gable ends and features narrow rakeboards adorned with a single molded board. The east and west elevations are finished with shallow, boxed eaves with a shallow crown molding applied below the soffit.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Windows include nine-over-nine wood-sash windows throughout the first story and six-over-six wood-sash windows at the second story. While the fenestration is not evenly spaced on the east or west elevation, the overall effect is roughly symmetrical elevations with first- and second-floor windows aligned with one another and windows roughly aligned between the east and west elevations. First-story windows on the west elevation feature mitered, flat-board surrounds and rectangular sills that do not extend the full width of the surround. On the east elevation, first-story windows feature mitered, flat-board surrounds held to the rectangular sills via mortise and tenon. A narrow band of molding was applied to the outer edges of the surrounds on the east elevation, perhaps as part of Williams's renovations. Windows on the north and south gable ends feature post-and-lintel surrounds and rectangular sills; these were likely installed in the 1950s, when siding on the gable ends was replaced.

Photographic and material evidence indicates that the original second-story windows were replaced in the 1930s with slightly wider windows. These windows were, in turn, removed by the Moore County Historical Association in the mid-1950s and the current windows, more in keeping with the original size of the sashes, were installed.⁶ These windows feature mitered, flat-board surrounds and rectangular sills that are thinner than those on the first story. Narrow four-over-four wood-sash windows flank the chimneys at the attic level. The post-and-lintel surrounds of the attic windows display applied molding.

The house is oriented toward Alston House Road to the east, but the east and west facades are equally prominent. Both elevations have full-width, shed-roofed porches. The east porch was rebuilt in the 1950s after deferred maintenance led to substantial deterioration, but the west porch appears to date to the first period.⁷ Here, most of the rafters, joists, and some ceiling boards appear to be original and a large number of wrought nails are in some of the framing where the west porch attaches to the house. Both porches rest on evenly spaced brick piers and chamfered wood posts, six evenly distributed per porch, support the roofs. Each porch is accessed by six wooden steps and enclosed by low wooden railings. Matchstick railings feature square balustrades between a rectangular base plate and a molded handrail. Both porches retain flush wood sheathing at the porch ceiling and original wide flush wall boards under the porch roofs. The sheathing under the more highly finished east porch is six inches wide on average, run in longer lengths, and beaded. First period sheathing on the west porch does not have a beaded bottom edge.

Sheltered by the east porch, a six-panel door near the center of the elevation was installed during the 1950s restoration of the house, built to match the door on the west elevation and replacing a door described as "modern" in 1954.⁸ The door is set within a classical surround featuring fluted pilasters and a shallow pediment. The entablature is ramped and molded and adorned by a Greek key motif beneath a row of dentils, which repeats in the pediment.

⁶ Maurice, "Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe," 4.

⁷ Maurice, "Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe," 2.

⁸ Joseph K. Opperman, "House in the Horseshoe (Philip Alston House) Sanford, North Carolina" Draft Historic Structure Report, (North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites and Properties, 2025), 28.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

On the west porch wall, a rectilinear chair rail extends across the flush sheathing. Here, the centered six-panel door appears to be original and is framed by fluted pilasters with molded plinths and capitals. A half-round fanlight added between 1791 and 1803 tops the door, likely added to allow light into the center hall created during this period. A molded architrave with keystone and paneled reveal tops the fanlight, which features pointed-arch panes. A wide vertical board just south of the entrance marks the location of the north wall of an original room set beneath the porch roof on this elevation. A five-panel wood door, dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, is set within a three-part molded and mitered surround; the door leads from the porch to the first-floor south room. North of the entrance are two windows. Evidence gleaned for the 2025 Historic Structure Report suggests a second shed-roofed room in this location, although how the walls of that room aligned with the current window openings has yet to be determined.⁹

The north and south elevations are symmetrical, each with brick chimneys flanked by windows at the first story and the attic level. Plain weatherboards on these elevations were installed in the 1950s, replacing damaged boards that resulted from the construction and subsequent removal of one-story wings on these elevations. Both chimneys were repaired and the upper one-third of the north chimney reconstructed in the mid-1950s after Hurricane Hazel toppled the stack in 1954. The south elevation features a double-paved-shouldered Flemish bond brick chimney with penciled mortar joints and a freestanding and corbelled T-stack, reconstructed in the late 1970s. It rests on a brick base that projects slightly on the south side and the upper shoulders are parged. The north chimney is similar in detail, although appears to have been substantially rebuilt in the late 1970s. Also Flemish bond with paved shoulders, this chimney has higher shoulders than the south chimney. The largest difference, however, is the replacement of the T-stack with a rectangular three-flue stack. The date and purpose of this alteration is not known but appears to have been completed after 1977 and may have been done to accommodate an additional flue for an HVAC system. The chimneys were repointed in the 1980s and again in 2020.¹⁰

Particularly notable are the large, inch-sized musket ball holes in the building's east and west elevations, attesting to the July 29, 1781, Revolutionary War skirmish that occurred on the property. It is estimated that there are thirty-three musket ball holes evident in the exterior and interior of the house. While the full extent of the damage to the house in 1781 and the ensuing repairs were not documented, it is likely that some repairs, including the patching of holes and replacement of exterior buildings elements, were necessary shortly after the skirmish.

Building Interior

The House in the Horseshoe was constructed as a hall-and-parlor plan but was modified to the current center-hall plan, likely about 1803. As a result, the plan features two rooms on each floor, flanking the center hall. Because room uses shifted over time, the narrative description utilizes room locations rather than uses. Except where noted, the interior retains wood flooring throughout, most boards measuring roughly six inches in width; plaster ceilings installed ca.

⁹ Further architectural research, especially in the porch attic, along with archaeology focused on locating original piers, may provide evidence for the location of the walls.

¹⁰ Maurice, "Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe," 2-3; Brantley, interview, August 22, 2024.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

1803; molded, flat-panel wainscot below a molded chair rail; and molded baseboards at the base of the wainscot. Original six-panel doors feature raised panels on the hall-facing side and flat panels facing the interior of the rooms. The molded, three-part, mitered door and window surrounds are characteristic of the Georgian style.

Entrances from both porches open into the first-floor center hall, which measures 19'5" by 5'10.5". The hall features flush horizontal sheathing above the wainscot and crown molding throughout. The upper half of the south wall of the hall was rebuilt in 1989, but the north wall likely dates from ca. 1803, during the Williams's ownership; however, Finishes Conservator George Fore noted in 2000 that the wall may actually have been constructed c.1781, inserted to create the center-hall plan, then later modified by Williams.¹¹ On the north wall, a centered door opens to the larger, north room. On the south wall there are two doors, one at each end: the east door opens to the smaller, south room and the west door opens to a one-step landing at the foot of the enclosed stairwell. New architraves were installed on all three doors as part of the ca. 1803 renovations.

The first-floor north room, measuring roughly 19'5" by 17'6", is the most decorative room in the house, renovated to its current appearance around 1803. Plastered walls are above the paneled wainscot. Windows flanking the fireplace on the north elevation were converted to doorways about 1803, to provide access to the north wing added by Williams. However, the alteration was reversed, and interior woodwork modified, when windows were reinstalled in the 1920s following removal of the wing. Architectural embellishments added to this room by Williams include the dentilled crown molding, the incised geometric design resembling a Greek key pattern on the chair rail, and the elaborate mantelpiece with overmantel, attributed to Raleigh-based carpenter Elhannon Nutt. Pilasters framing the firebox support a richly molded entablature including a ramped architrave adorned by pierced marrow spoon and floral designs below a narrow cushion frieze. The molded shelf features an incised design like that on the wainscot. Above the shelf, pilasters rest on plinths bearing an incised floral motif and punched holes and rise to the cornice to frame a slightly recessed panel of flush horizontal boards.

The south room of the first floor measures 19'5" by 13'5" and features flush horizontal sheathing above the wainscot. Wood floors were partially replaced early in the house's history and a cyma recta molding was added to the cornice as part of the ca. 1803 renovations. Windows on the south wall have flat-board surrounds, the east window having been installed in the 1920s, after the south wing was removed. The fireplace, on the south wall, contains a three-part molded and mitered surround topped by a flat board to which is affixed a mitered, molded mantelshelf measuring 3-4" in height. Wide, flush vertical boards cover the wall above the mantel. The firebox is similar in detail to that of the north fireplace, though the latter was likely rebuilt in the 1950s or 1970s when the chimney was reconstructed. The firebox in the south room extends up into the wall behind the mantle, lending credence to the thought that Alston's children sheltered in the firebox during the 1781 skirmish.

¹¹ Opperman, "House in the Horseshoe (Philip Alston House) Sanford, North Carolina," 21.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

A door at the northeast corner of the room opens to the center hall and a door at the northwest corner of the room opens to the one-step landing of the enclosed stairwell, which projects into the south room. A closet located under the stair is accessed via a door next to the northeast entrance to the room. These three doors have six raised panels, HL-hinges, and box locks. The door leading to the stairwell is a replacement. A five-raised-panel door on the west wall opens to the west porch. Along the western facing wall is a hole created by a musket ball that passed through the room.

The enclosed stairwell has sixteen steps rising west to east between plastered walls on the north, west, and south, each lined with plain pilasters spaced approximately eighteen inches apart and extending to the level of the second-story floor. The west wall features two horizontal boards further dividing the wall into three vertical sections. A railing with molded handrail and closely spaced turned balusters frames the north side of the stairwell at the second floor. At the top of the stairs, a paneled newel post at the end of the railing supports a turned post that extends to the ceiling. Several holes, created by musket balls fired during the skirmish, remain in the stairwell and at least one musket ball remains within the south wall.¹²

The second-floor hallway and rooms align with those of the first floor. Like the first floor, the second floor appears to have been constructed as a two-room plan and altered ca. 1803, or perhaps as early as 1781, with the insertion of the board-and-molded-batten partition on the north side of the hall to create the present center-hall plan. As on the first floor, flat-panel wainscot with molded chair rail is present throughout and the doors opening to each of the rooms have raised panels facing the hallway. All the windows at the second floor have flat-board surrounds that date to the 1950s, when the current windows were installed.¹³

The east and west walls of the second-floor hall feature flush horizontal boards above the molded wainscot. This sheathing is patched in various areas and the wainscot varies in height, confirming that the stair hall was modified over time. Physical evidence, including boards in the floor and ceiling along the north side of the stair, that run perpendicular to the floor and ceiling sheathing, indicate that a partition wall was originally located on the north side of the staircase. The 2025 draft Historic Structure Report concluded that the partition may be the same partition currently on the south side of the staircase, having been relocated and the balustrade, originally on the south side, installed in its place. This wall is sheathed with very wide, flush sheathing. Molding attached to both sides of the balustrade's bottom rail may have been added to cover mortise holes in the floor from the previous partition.¹⁴ A scuttle in the flush-board ceiling at the northwest corner of the center hall accesses the attic.

The second-floor north room features plaster walls and has had drywall, portions of which exhibit water damage, installed on the ceiling. The south partition wall, as noted earlier, is of board-and-batten construction, and on this side of the partition the wide vertical boards are

¹² The location of the musket ball was verified by site manager Amanda Brantley, utilizing a borescope, and was left in situ for future study.

¹³ Maurice, "Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe," 4.

¹⁴ Reid Thomas, "Alston House (House in the Horseshoe) Field Observations," Moore County, NC, August 2024. Original report in the files of the State Historic Preservation Office.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

beaded and a molded chair rail runs across it, placed higher west of the door than to its east. The rest of the walls in this room are plastered and lack a wainscot. On the north wall, the fireplace has a brick hearth and brick firebox that is plastered on its face. The rectangular opening is framed with a wide architrave of flush boards trimmed with narrow molding and a very shallow shelf.

The south room on the second floor features a wood floor installed in the 1930s, horizontal beaded boards above the wainscot, slender molded crown molding, and an original beaded board ceiling. The wainscot on the east wall is constructed of plywood with applied battens, a replication likely installed in the 1950s when the windows were replaced.¹⁵ A fireplace on the south wall has a segmental-arch firebox lined with brick and a brick hearth. A flat-board surround with molded trim encircles the firebox and is topped by a flat panel below a shallow mantelshelf. Molding just below the mantelshelf was added later. As in the south room on the first floor, vertical wood sheathing covers the wall above the fireplace.

B. Shed #1

Non-contributing Building

2022

The small one-story, gable-roofed shed is located to the immediate north of the northwest corner of the House in the Horseshoe from which it is separated by a brick path. It measures roughly four by six feet and has fiber-cement lapped siding, a composite shingle roof, and a six-panel door that faces south toward the east porch of the Alston House. The shed houses a hand-cranked, portable lift for visitors with mobility challenges to access the house via the east porch.

C. Well and Well House

Contributing Structure

ca. 1803; ca. 1955

Located immediately south of the southeast corner of the House in the Horseshoe, the well is located very close to the west porch and near the foundational remains of an early-twentieth-century rear ell. Formerly, a screened porch extended from the ell and enclosed the well, but the porch was demolished with the ell in 1954. The current enclosure appears to have been constructed in the mid-1950s as part of the work completed by the Moore County Historical Association and appears in photos of the house from 1976. The hipped, wood-shingled roof is supported by square posts. The well itself, no longer functional, is obscured by a framed box with flush wood sheathing, encircled by large stones.

D. Storehouse

Non-contributing Building

ca. 1985

This one-story, front-gabled, frame storehouse is located a short distance southwest of the House in the Horseshoe. The exterior features unpainted weatherboards, single six-over-six wood windows on the north and south elevations, flush eaves, and stones obscuring the modern foundational support system. The six-panel door on the east gable end predates the house, likely

¹⁵ Maurice, "Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe," 4.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

reused from an earlier structure on the site. Its six-panel configuration and box lock are like those found in the House in the Horseshoe. This storehouse was built on the site of a ca. 1803 storehouse.¹⁶ An original root cellar remains below, accessed by a double-batten-door hatch on the north side of the building.¹⁷ The interior of the building features wood floors and flush horizontal wood sheathing on the walls and ceiling. Currently the storehouse is used as an interpretive space focused on the experience of persons who were enslaved at the House in the Horseshoe.

E. Corn Crib Contributing Structure

Late 19th century; ca.1955

A diamond-notch log corn crib, located southeast of the storehouse, was moved to the site in the 1950s from the area of Robbins, North Carolina, approximately twenty miles away in Moore County, as part of the conversion of the property from agricultural use to an interpretive historic site.¹⁸ The corn crib was said to date to the eighteenth century, although the lower half is more consistent with late-nineteenth century construction and features cut nails; the top half likely dates to the early twentieth century.¹⁹ The crib has a batten door in the east gable end, a wood-shingled roof which overhangs the east gable end, sheltering the door, and a loose-stack brick foundation.

F. Shed #2

**Non-Contributing Building
ca. 1985**

Located near the south corner of the nominated property, the front-gabled shed has an unpainted board-and-batten exterior, a wood-shingle roof, and paired batten doors on the east elevation. The interior features a concrete floor and exposed framing on the walls and at the roof. The building houses a wagon and contains a well for the modern use of the property.

G. Shed #3

**Non-Contributing Building
ca. 1995**

The shed-roofed shed used for lawn mower storage is located immediately south of Shed #2 and faces east. It features exterior board-and-batten sheathing and a 5V metal roof with exposed rafter tails. Paired batten doors on the east elevation open to the interior, which has a dirt floor and exposed framing at the walls and roof.

H. Granary

**Non-Contributing Building
ca. 1925, ca. 1995**

¹⁶ The earlier storehouse held enough food to feed approximately one hundred people per day, though food was rationed for the enslaved persons in bondage at Alston House; Brantley, interview, July 30, 2024.

¹⁷ Brantley, interview, July 30, 2024.

¹⁸ Maurice, "Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe," 3.

¹⁹ Maurice, "Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe," 3; Charles LeCount (State Historic Sites), Personal Interview with the author, August 22, 2024.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

The front-gabled, frame granary stands immediately west of a small, paved parking lot south of the House in the Horseshoe. The main portion of the building dates from the 1920s and served as a granary and grist mill in the 1930s and 1940s.²⁰ The 1990s conversion of the building to a museum for the site entailed extensive alterations. The exterior is covered with unpainted board-and-batten sheathing, with the main entrance on the north elevation sheltered by a shed-roofed porch resting on square posts. The 1990s entrance is a one-light-over-two-panel door with three-light-over-one-panel sidelights. The building has a wood-shingled roof. Four-over-four windows on the east and west elevations were likely added in the 1990s. A shed wing on the south elevation was added for bathrooms in the 1990s and an accessible ramp on the east elevation was also likely added at the same time. The interior of the granary features plywood walls, a tile ceiling, and a later wood floor at the first floor. A stair at the southwest corner leads to the second floor with a wood floor and exposed framing at the walls and roof. The most significant interior change is the raising of the first-floor ceiling as indicated by the location of the hewn sills at the perimeter of the building below the first-floor ceiling.

Integrity Statement:

The House in the Horseshoe retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. It stands on its original site, now reduced to two of the state-owned parcels, totaling 4.63 acres of the original 4,000 acres associated with Philip Alston. The reduced acreage retains its original rural character, enhanced by the well, corn crib, and storehouse that stand southwest of the ca. 1772 house. The historic rural setting of mature oak and cedar trees and surrounding cultivated fields (outside of the site boundary) remains intact. In their scale, form, and materials, late-twentieth-century outbuildings associated with the operation of the site as a museum, located south and southwest of the house, recall the myriad outbuildings that would have historically encircled the house and thus do not detract from the overall setting. The House in the Horseshoe also retains integrity of design and workmanship. As it exists today, the house retains its footprint as constructed by Alston ca. 1772 as well as interior alterations made by Williams in the early nineteenth century. Changes to the form, including the removal of the flanking one-story wings constructed by Williams and the removal of the early-twentieth-century rear ell, reflect the preservation ethos of the mid-twentieth century, which prioritized a return to the original form of the building. As a result, the house retains sufficient integrity of design and workmanship to convey the property's historic feeling and association as an eighteenth-century plantation home with resonance into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Integrity of materials has been reduced by restoration efforts that have included replacement siding, windows, roof, and chimneys, but these undertakings have been carefully researched and executed to most accurately represent the materials and details present in the early nineteenth century. Further, interior finishes from the early nineteenth century remain largely intact.

²⁰ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 477.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

When the House in the Horseshoe (Alston House) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, the nomination claimed significance for Architecture, Military History, and Politics but included only a cursory history of the property and its associations and significance. This Additional Documentation serves to provide supplementary context for those areas of significance, to introduce an additional area of significance, and to provide two clear Periods of Significance.

The House in the Horseshoe is significant at the local level under Criterion A for Military History as the site of a 1781 backcountry skirmish between Tory forces led by Colonel David Fanning and Patriot forces led by Colonel Alston, at whose plantation the skirmish occurred.²¹ It is significant at the statewide level under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with North Carolina's eleventh and fourteenth governor, Benjamin Williams, who purchased the property about 1798 and occupied it for more than a decade until his death in 1814.²² The House in the Horseshoe is also significant at the local level under Criterion A for Social History. Its adaptation in the 1950s from a private home to a public site dedicated to history education aligns with a broader trend toward historic preservation and museum visitation in the post-World War II era. In the 1970s, during the American bicentennial, the house and site were the focus of additional interpretation and reenactments of the Revolutionary War era. The building is significant at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture as an eighteenth-century vernacular Georgian-style house. Remodeled in the first years of the nineteenth century with Federal-style elements, it illustrates the prominence and wealth of Philip Alston and Benjamin Williams, both members of an elite planter class that relied on enslaved labor. Finally, the property also meets Criterion D because limited archaeological investigations conducted to date suggest that further investigations are likely to yield important information about the site's architecture, or physical development, and the 1781 military skirmish.²³

There are two distinct periods of significance (inclusive of the additional areas of significance) associated with the House in the Horseshoe: ca.1772 to 1814 and 1954 to 1976. The first period of significance includes the ca. 1772 Colonial-era construction of the house; the 1781 military skirmish between Tories and Patriots near the end of the Revolutionary War; and the occupancy

²¹ Pending additional research, the House in the Horseshoe may also be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B in the areas of military history and politics/government for Philip Alston. Alston was noted in the original nomination as a lieutenant colonel in the North Carolina militia, justice of the peace, and state senator, although the available documentation of his military and political careers was not sufficient to support these claims.

²² William's association with the property may also be significant for Military History; Williams served under George Washington as an officer in the North Carolina Regiment during the Revolution. However, little is known of the specifics of his military service, which preceded his ownership of the property.

²³ Pending additional archaeological investigation, there may be grounds for expanding the period of significance through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the areas of agriculture and social history, or lifeways, of the property's inhabitants.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

of Governor Benjamin Williams and the significant Federal-style renovations undertaken by him ca.1803. The second period of significance encompasses the House in the Horseshoe's conversion from private home to public ownership as a North Carolina State Historic Site, as well as the activities that took place on the site as part of the celebration of the American bicentennial.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Note: Information not otherwise cited was derived from a draft Historic Structure Report prepared by Joseph K. Oppermann – Architect, P.A., in 2025.

Eighteenth-Century Military Significance

Colonel Philip Alston (ca. 1730-1791), the first owner of House in the Horseshoe, was descended from a very wealthy land-owning family.²⁴ His grandfather, John Alston, immigrated from England and settled in Virginia in the late 1600s. John Alston received a land grant comprising substantial acreage in Chowan, Bertie, Edgecombe, Granville, and Orange counties of North Carolina. Thanks to their father's efforts, each of John Alston's children was a major landowner by his death in 1758.²⁵ John Alston's oldest son, Joseph John Alston, settled in northern Edgecombe (later Halifax) County, where he married Elizabeth Chancy Alston. Their second son, Philip Alston, was born sometime between 1727 and 1732. The Alston family was one of the largest landowning families in the state, with Joseph John Alston listed as owning more than 150 enslaved persons and over 100,000 acres of land at his death in 1781.²⁶

Sometime between 1762 and 1765, Philip Alston married Temperance Smith.²⁷ Like Alston, Smith came from a wealthy family, their combined wealth evident from their landholdings and the house they erected ca. 1772.²⁸ On October 15, 1772, Philip Alston purchased a 4,000-acre site in Cumberland County (later Moore County) from George Blair and John Johnston, comprising of "all the land within the confines of the horseshoe" bend on the Deep River.²⁹ Earlier, in February 1772, Alston had purchased an initial 122 acres along the Deep River from a possible relative; given the price Alston paid per acre, it is highly likely this acreage already contained a house and outbuildings for his young family and was supported by enslaved people.³⁰

²⁴ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 35-36; Source vary on the year of Alston's birth though most agree that Alston was born between 1727 and 1732.

²⁵ Opperman, "House in the Horseshoe (Philip Alston House) Sanford, North Carolina," 4.

²⁶ George W. Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 35-36; Opperman, "House in the Horseshoe (Philip Alston House) Sanford, North Carolina," 4-5.

²⁷ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 37.

²⁸ "Philip Alston," North Carolina Historic Sites, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://historicsites.nca.gov/all-sites/house-horseshoe/history/philip-alston>.

²⁹ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 40-41.

³⁰ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 34-35, 40.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Alston's father, Joseph John Alston, witnessed the October deed, leading to speculation that he assisted in its purchase as an early inheritance.³¹ It is believed these 4,000 acres were undeveloped at the time of Alston's purchase and chosen for their fertile land.³² Located on a hilltop overlooking a horseshoe bend of the Deep River, the inspiration for its later name, Alston's new house was likely completed in 1773 or 1774, soon after acquisition of the land.³³ A Scotsman named McFadden has been put forward as the builder (and in one case, first occupant of the house), but no period documentation supports these twentieth-century claims.³⁴ While details of the house's design and construction are not known, Alston owned nine enslaved persons at that time, and it seems likely that enslaved labor—his, another's, or a combination—was involved in the construction of his home.³⁵ Other sources note the possible use of Scottish indentured servitude labor, although neither can be confirmed.³⁶

Within North Carolina as in other American colonies, resistance toward English governance grew in the 1760s and 1770s, largely because of repeated legislated taxation. In May 1771, after several years of grievances over eastern North Carolina taxation practices, governmental corruption, and a complex land granting system, a group of western Piedmont backcountry farmers met royal governor William Tryon's militia at the Battle of Alamance, less than fifty miles north of Alston's future Deep River property.³⁷ Known as the Regulator Rebellion, the armed revolt was short-lived; Tryon's forces won handily, and most Regulators either fled North Carolina or were offered pardons in exchange for a loyalty oath.³⁸ While Alston did not participate, this event would certainly have been known to those in Deep River country as the American colonies moved ever closer to revolution.³⁹

As tensions continued to increase, two distinct factions emerged with the Patriots (or Whigs) fighting for independence against the Tories (or Loyalists). Beginning in 1775, when the last royal governor fled North Carolina, a series of provincial congresses met to take on governance responsibilities including the passage of the state's first constitution in 1776.⁴⁰ In April 1776, North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress met in Halifax. This Congress is especially significant for the unanimous Halifax Resolves; the first call for complete colonial independence

³¹ There is speculation that the land may have represented a sizeable portion of his inheritance as, upon his father's death, Philip received comparatively little in his father's will when compared with his siblings; Amanda Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 9, 2024; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 41.

³² Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 40-41.

³³ "History," House in the Horseshoe, North Carolina Historic Sites, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://historicsites.nca.gov/all-sites/house-horseshoe/history>; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 40.

³⁴ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 47-49.

³⁵ House in the Horseshoe, North Carolina Historic Sites, *Enslavement at House in the Horseshoe*, (Sanford, NC, [2023]).

³⁶ Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 9, 2024.

³⁷ "History," Alamance Battleground, North Carolina Historic Sites, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://historicsites.nca.gov/all-sites/alamance-battleground/history>.

³⁸ "The Battle of Alamance," History, Alamance Battleground, North Carolina Historic Sites, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://historicsites.nca.gov/all-sites/alamance-battleground/history>.

³⁹ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 33-34, 38-40.

⁴⁰ Lindley S. Butler, "Provincial Congresses," NCpedia, Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press, accessed December 4, 2025, <https://www.ncpedia.org/provincial-congresses>.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

from Britain, it was signed several months before the Declaration of Independence.⁴¹ During the same session, Whig Philip Alston was appointed the 2nd Major for Cumberland's militia.⁴² The next month, during the same session, Alston was promoted to 1st Major due to a Tory resignation.⁴³ In that role, he would have been responsible for recruiting and training soldiers, as well as obtaining supplies, including arms, for the companies geographically closest to him.⁴⁴ During the Fifth North Carolina Provincial Congress, held in Halifax in November 1776, Alston was one of four Cumberland County members.⁴⁵ As Patriot control continued to solidify, this 1776 end-of-year congress established the branches of government of the new state of North Carolina, passed a constitution and bill of rights, and appointed North Carolina's first governor.⁴⁶

During the same 1776 Fifth Provincial Congress, Alston was one of three state commissioners charged with purchasing the Willcox Ironworks in Chatham County for the war effort.⁴⁷ Comprising a forge located at Gulf on the Deep River and a furnace built in 1775 on Tick Creek, the ironworks relied primarily on enslaved labor. The state purchased the ironworks on February 18, 1777, and letters from James Milles, the overseer, provide information about the working conditions at the site as well as strong economic ties to Alston's plantation, crops, livestock, and enslaved persons. On March 25, 1777, Milles writes to Archibald McLaine that the vendor for Alston's hogs fell through, but that he "kindly sent 676 pounds of new meat from his own stock" and that "Corn, Major Alston will furnish."⁴⁸ In the same letter, Milles provides an inventoried accounting of the enslaved labor and roles at the ironworks.⁴⁹ He records that "Grace & 3 children [were] gone to Major Phillip Alston," taken by Alston to work on his plantation.⁵⁰ Once again Milles asks for "cloath & shoes & Blankets...for them, and the negros [sic] here" and also notes that "the bed I have Mr. Alston kindly lends, and it wants covering."⁵¹ In another letter to McLaine dated March 31, 1777, Milles again writes that "beding & cloathing much wanted for the negros [sic]."⁵²

⁴¹"Halifax Resolves," Moores Creek National Battlefield North Carolina, National Park Service, updated April 4, 2015, accessed December 4, 2025, <https://www.nps.gov/mocr/halifax-resolves.htm>.

⁴² "Journal of the Provincial Congress at Halifax, North Carolina," April 22, 1776, in Saunders, *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*. Vol. 10 1775-1776, (Raleigh, NC: Josephus Daniels, Printer to the State), 1890, 531. <https://archive.org/details/colonialrecordso10nort/page/n5/mode/2up>.

⁴³ "Journal of the Provincial Congress at Halifax, North Carolina," May 7, 1776, in Saunders, *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vol. 10 1775-1776, 568; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 82.

⁴⁴ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 97.

⁴⁵ "The Journal of the Provincial Congress of North Carolina, Held at Halifax, November the Twelfth Day, Anno. Dom. 1776.," November 19, 1776, in Saunders, *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vol. 10 1775-1776, 925.

⁴⁶ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 88.

⁴⁷ "The Journal of the Provincial Congress of North Carolina, Held at Halifax, November the Twelfth Day, Anno. Dom. 1776.," December 23, 1776, in Saunders, *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vol. 10 1775-1776, 995. See pages 992-996 for full ironworks report.

⁴⁸ "James Milles to Archibald McLaine March 25, 1777," in Willcox, *John Willcox 1728-1793 of Chester County Pennsylvania, Cumberland County, North Carolina, and Chatham County, North Carolina*, (No Location: Historical Research Co.), 1988, 169-170; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 103.

⁴⁹ Willcox, *John Willcox 1728-1793*, 170-71.

⁵⁰ House in the Horseshoe, *Enslavement at House in the Horseshoe*.

⁵¹ Willcox, *John Willcox 1728-1793*, 176.

⁵² "Milles to McLaine, March 31, 1777," in Willcox, *John Willcox 1728-1793*, 179.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Throughout the late 1770s, in the lead-up to the 1781 skirmish, Alston continued to accrue economic prosperity, political power, and military status. On December 23, 1776, Alston received an appointment as Justice of the Peace for Cumberland County, an appointment that may have remained in place through 1784 when Moore County was established.⁵³ By July 1777, Alston appears to have been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the Cumberland County militia and was further promoted to Colonel in the latter half of 1778.⁵⁴ Alston played an active role in the American Revolution, as indicated by pension records noting that he led forces at the Battle of Brier Creek in Georgia on March 3, 1779.⁵⁵

In April 1780, the county court appointed Alston, in his capacity of Justice of the Peace, to appraise and assess the taxable property value within two military districts, which included an assessment of his own holdings.⁵⁶ Through the assessment, Alston emerged as the second-wealthiest man in the Deep River area.⁵⁷ The 1780 tax list outlines his wealth in detail, showing that Alston owned 2,500 acres; nine horses; 30 cattle; 2,200 pounds in cash; and 20 enslaved persons, confirming an enslaved presence at the House in the Horseshoe during the 1781 skirmish.⁵⁸ In fact, when the skirmish occurred, an enslaved boy named Boson was captured to serve as Col. David Fanning's personal manservant. (Boson later escaped and returned to the Alston House.)⁵⁹

The conflict at the House in the Horseshoe occurred in July 1781, just months before the Revolutionary War's final battle in Yorktown in the fall of 1781.⁶⁰ The war was winding down, although fighting continued erratically in the western frontier of North Carolina.⁶¹ It was in this context that the skirmish between Whigs, led by Col. Alston, and Tory forces, led by Col. David Fanning, occurred at Alston's plantation on the morning of July 29, 1781.⁶²

Earlier in July, Fanning had been appointed Colonel of the Loyalist Militia and issued subsequent officer commissions for companies in four counties, including Cumberland.⁶³ During the Loyalist Pyrrhic victory at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Cornwallis lost a quarter of his

⁵³ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 103-104; "American Revolution," County of Moore History, Moore County, North Carolina, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://www.moorecountynca.gov/200/County-of-Moore-History>.

⁵⁴ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 105, 123-24; Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 9, 2024.

⁵⁵ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 127-132.

⁵⁶ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 148.

⁵⁷ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 149. See also Captain Duckworth's District in appendix II of Willcox's *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 565-66.

⁵⁸ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 149.

⁵⁹ House in the Horseshoe, *Enslavement at House in the Horseshoe*.

⁶⁰ History.com editors, "Revolutionary War Draws to a Close (1781-83)," Revolutionary War, updated June 24, 2024, accessed December 4, 2025, <https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/american-revolution-history#revolutionary-war-draws-to-a-close-1781-83>.

⁶¹ For more about how the North Carolina backcountry experienced the American Revolution, see "American Revolution," History, House in the Horseshoe, North Carolina Historic Sites, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://historicsites.nca.gov/all-sites/house-horseshoe/history>.

⁶² North Carolina Historic Sites, "American Revolution."

⁶³ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 160.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

men, hobbling future military effectiveness against Patriot forces.⁶⁴ Following the battle, Fanning and his supervisors devised a plan to break central and eastern North Carolina from Patriot control through wanton attacks, killings, and captures.⁶⁵ In mid-July 1781, Fanning and his men attacked and overtook the Chatham County courthouse, which stands just twenty-one miles northeast of the House in the Horseshoe, taking forty to fifty prisoners.⁶⁶ Of these, most were paroled; only fourteen prisoners were marched east to Wilmington.⁶⁷ Fanning's men and their prisoners seem to have camped near present-day Southern Pines at the home of Kenneth Black, Fanning's pilot, shortly after taking the courthouse.⁶⁸ In response, Revolutionary forces led by Col. Alston pursued Fanning and killed Kenneth Black before giving up the chase.⁶⁹

Alston and a small group of men returned to the House in the Horseshoe where, on July 29, Fanning and his men ambushed the residents.⁷⁰ Two relatively contemporaneous and more detailed accounts of the skirmish itself have survived, one in Col. Fanning's memoir and another, written seventy years after the skirmish, by E.W. Caruthers. Both have their limitations. In his book on the House in the Horseshoe, George Willcox criticizes Fanning's version of events, which sought to prove Fanning's Loyalist *bona fides* to the British government.⁷¹ The American perspective, included in Caruthers's *Revolutionary incidents: and sketches of character, chiefly in the "Old North state,"* relies on unpublished recollections by older local figures including Archibald McBryde and his son-in-law Dr. Chalmers, neither of whom were present for the skirmish but instead had a vested interest in it as later owners of the House in the Horseshoe.⁷² While sources indicate the attack was in retaliation for Black's death, Caruthers lists additional reasons including that a hotheaded Alston threatened a neighbor over harboring one of Alston's enslaved persons at gunpoint, taking the man prisoner until the enslaved person was found and returned; and that he had killed two cows "for his entertainment."⁷³ However, the same account

⁶⁴ "Guilford Courthouse: North Carolina, Mar 15, 1781," American Battlefield Trust, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/guilford-court-house>.

⁶⁵ American Battlefield Trust, "Guilford Courthouse: North Carolina, Mar 15, 1781"; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 164.

⁶⁶ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 165-66.

⁶⁷ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 166.

⁶⁸ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 167.

⁶⁹ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 170-73.

⁷⁰ North Carolina Historic Sites, "American Revolution."

⁷¹ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 154.

⁷² E.W. Caruthers, "Capture of Colonel Philip Alston," in *Revolutionary incidents: and sketches of character, chiefly in the "Old North State"* (Philadelphia: Hays & Zell, 1854), vi-vii, ix, 190, <https://www.loc.gov/item/02004591>.

It is not clear when McBryde, a businessman, politician, and lawyer, would have recorded material pertaining to the skirmish. See Benjamin Ransom McBride, "McBryde, Archibald," NCpedia, Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://ncpedia.org/biography/mcbryde-archibald>; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 321-29.

The House in the Horseshoe property remained aligned with the McBryde family (through Mary's second marriage to Dr. Chalmers) until 1853—just one year before Caruthers' *Revolutionary incidents: and sketches of character, chiefly in the "Old North State"* was published; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 335-36.

⁷³ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 172-77; Caruthers, 181-82.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

gives the date of the House in the Horseshoe skirmish as August 5, 1781, opening the door to questions about the veracity of Caruthers's narrative.⁷⁴

Physical evidence of the skirmish remains in the form of musket ball holes on the east and west elevations of the house, some of which penetrated the walls. Fatalities and injuries resulting from the 1781 skirmish vary by account and are difficult to confirm. Fanning, who misspelled *Alston* as "*Alstine*," wrote that Alston had about twenty-five men, that four were killed, and all but three of the others were injured in the skirmish.⁷⁵ In contrast, Fanning reported that his men, who numbered about thirty, suffered two casualties and four injuries.⁷⁶ Caruthers, however, stated that "only one or two had been killed in the house, and four or five wounded; but Fanning's loss in killed and wounded was more than double."⁷⁷ Caruthers recounted that, on the day following the skirmish, eight men were buried on Alston's property "a few rods" from the House in the Horseshoe; wrote that most of those who died in action were Tories (although Caruthers did not know how many wounded succumbed to their injuries); and estimated that "Alston had a little over twenty, and Fanning somewhere about thirty men."⁷⁸

Caruthers's version outlines additional details in the lead-up to, duration of, and aftermath of the skirmish. He describes Alston's men as sleeping outside on the porch while Col. and Temperance Alston slept in a bedroom enclosed from the west porch.⁷⁹ Once the skirmish commenced Temperance hid in bed with six month-old Winifred, while two of her younger children—likely her six-year old daughter Temperance and three-year-old son Philip—"were put up into the chimney...by putting a small table or bench in the fire-place, for them to stand on, which was about as high as the front part; and thus they were entirely beyond the reach of bullets."⁸⁰ As for the older Alston children, it is believed that Elizabeth (11) hid in the fireplace with her younger siblings and that James (16) and John (14) probably helped to fight.⁸¹

Both accounts mentioned more than three hours of fighting during the morning, with Temperance Alston playing a pivotal role in the surrender. To break a stalemate in the fighting, Caruthers described two attempts by Fanning to burn the house to drive out Alston's men. Fanning first tried to induce a freed Black man to light the house on fire, but the man was shot and severely wounded by Alston before he was successful.⁸² Fanning's next attempt was to roll a cart of hay alongside the house and set it on fire. According to Caruthers, this second attempt prompted Temperance Alston's surrender:

⁷⁴ Caruthers, 184.

⁷⁵ David Fanning, *Narrative of Col'o David Fanning, Written by Himself, Detailing Astonishing Events in No. Ca., From 1775 to 1783.*, in Walter Clark, ed., *The State Records of North Carolina*, vol. 22 Miscellaneous (Goldsboro, NC: Nash Brothers, 1907), 202, https://archive.org/details/state-records-north-carolina_1715_22.

⁷⁶ Fanning, *Narrative of Col'o David Fanning*, 203; Amanda Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, January 8, 2025.

⁷⁷ Caruthers, 186.

⁷⁸ Caruthers, 189.

⁷⁹ Caruthers, 184.

⁸⁰ Caruthers, 185; Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 9, 2024.

⁸¹ Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, January 8, 2025.

⁸² Caruthers, 186.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

[Alston's] men all believed that if any of them ventured to go outside of the house, instant death would be the consequence though the flag of peace were waving over their head; and if Alston himself went out, no matter under what circumstances, or who might be with him, he would be picked out and made the first victim...with perfect composure [Mrs. Alston] requested them to commit this business to her. At first the men all objected, and particularly her husband, who thought it very improbable that Fanning, under all the circumstances, would respect even a lady of her standing, though a wife and mother, and bearing the sacred emblem of peace; but, as she insisted on it, they finally consented.⁸³

She fashioned a white flag and, raising it, stepped outside to initiate the surrender.⁸⁴ Fanning met her halfway and agreed to surrender in exchange for no injuries, as she had requested; "the men all then surrendered and were immediately paroled."⁸⁵ Fanning himself seemingly confirmed Temperance Alston's role in the surrender, recalling that, "they sent out a flag to surrender. Col. Alstine's lady begging their lives. On her solicitation, I concluded to grant her request."⁸⁶

Four Revolutionary War pension records (three of which were marked as rejected) can be reasonably connected to the House in the Horseshoe skirmish, although they offer little documentation of specific injuries incurred on July 29, 1781. Successful pension applicant Stephen Collins was disabled by a musket ball to his right wrist during the skirmish, according to sworn testimony he gave in 1834.⁸⁷ Another wounded veteran of the skirmish, John Spears, is named in Caruthers' account.⁸⁸ His Revolutionary War injuries are not described in detail, simply that he was an invalid by 1808, according to his widow Martha's pension petition.⁸⁹

In the years following the skirmish, Philip Alston experienced a brief period of political success before falling hard from political and social favor. He served as Moore County's first clerk of court before being elected to the North Carolina state senate in 1785.⁹⁰ Around this time, murder charges were brought against Alston for the 1781 death of Loyalist Thomas Taylor.⁹¹ While Alston was pardoned for the death, which occurred during his duty as Colonel of the Cumberland County militia, Alston made clear his belief that his deputy clerk of court in Moore County, George Glascock, was behind the indictment and Alston's ultimate dismissal from public

⁸³ Caruthers, 187-88.

⁸⁴ Caruthers, 188.

⁸⁵ Caruthers, 188-89.

⁸⁶ Fanning, *Narrative of Col'o David Fanning*, 202.

⁸⁷ "State of Kentucky Hickman Count: Sgt.," March 12, 1834, Pension application of Stephen Collins S30335, Revolutionary War, transcribed by Will Graves, November 28, 2010, received October 27, 2015, Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://revwarapps.org/s30335.pdf>. Note: Only digitized records were reviewed; other records may exist.

⁸⁸ Caruthers, 190.

⁸⁹ "State of North Carolina Cumberland County," June 12, 1854, Pension application of John Spears R9966, Revolutionary War, transcribed by Will Graves, March 4, 2011 Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://revwarapps.org/r9966.pdf>.

⁹⁰ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 200, 206, 219.

⁹¹ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 215-18.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

office.⁹² When Glascock was killed in the summer of 1787, it was thought to be at the hand of Alston's enslaved man Dave, and Alston was indicted as an accessory to his murder.⁹³ In the following years, Alston began selling off his land holdings in Moore County. He was jailed for a time but ultimately fled to Georgia where he was killed in 1791, the indictment still in place at the time of his death.⁹⁴

In 1790, Alston, a widower, sold the House in the Horseshoe and left North Carolina, although several of his children appear to have remained in the area.⁹⁵ From 1790 to 1798, the house was owned by Thomas H. Perkins, an Orange County native and former lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. By 1793 was appointed justice of the peace in Moore County, indicating his residency at the House in the Horseshoe. In 1794, Perkins served as a delegate of the House of Commons in Moore County. In ca. 1798, Perkins sold the House in the Horseshoe to Benjamin Williams.

Governor Benjamin Williams's Ownership of House in the Horseshoe

The House in the Horseshoe's third and most prominent owner, Governor Benjamin Williams (1751-1814), purchased the house and 2,500 acres ca. 1798 and owned more than 3,000 acres by July 1803.⁹⁶ Williams was born in Johnston County, North Carolina, in 1751.⁹⁷ One of five children, he was directly descended from a Jamestown, Virginia, settler through his mother's lineage. Later a founding trustee of the University of North Carolina, in his youth he attended rural schools. He married his wife Elizabeth, known as Eliza, on August 10, 1781.⁹⁸ Their only child Benjamin William Williams was born in 1797.⁹⁹

Williams had a distinguished political and military career during the Revolutionary War era. In August 1774, Williams represented Johnston County as one of 71 delegates at the First Provincial Congress in New Bern, the first provincial congress held anywhere in the American colonies.¹⁰⁰ Business at the First Provincial Congress included determining delegates for the

⁹² Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 206, 215-22. See pages 208-215 for greater preliminary context.

⁹³ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 233-34. Pages 260-262 provide a more streamlined narrative of events beginning with Alston's position as Moore County clerk of court.

⁹⁴ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 261-262, 244-245.

⁹⁵ North Carolina Historic Sites, "American Revolution"; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 238-239.

⁹⁶ "Benjamin Williams to John Haywood, July 25, 1803," in *The Papers of John Steele* ed. H.M. Wagstaff, vol. 1 (Raleigh, NC: Edwards & Broughton Printing Company, 1924), 394-97, <https://archive.org/details/papersofjohnstee01stee/page/n5/mode/2up>.

⁹⁷ Gertrude S. Carraway, "Williams, Benjamin," NCPedia, Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://ncpedia.org/biography/williams-benjamin>.

⁹⁸ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 291-292; Carraway, "Williams, Benjamin."

⁹⁹ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 319.

¹⁰⁰ "North Carolina's Milestone Move Toward Self-Government, 1774," North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, August 25, 2016, <https://www.dncr.nca.gov/blog/2016/08/25/north-carolinas-milestone-move-toward-self-government-1774>; "The Journal of the Proceedings of the First Provincial Convention or Congress of North Carolina, Held at Newbern on the Twenty-Fifth Day of August, A.D. 1774," August 25, 1774, in William Saunders, ed., *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vol. 9 1771-1775 (Raleigh, NC: Josephus Daniels, Printer to the State, 1890), 1042, <https://archive.org/details/colonialrecords09nort/page/n5/mode/2up>.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

First Continental Congress in Philadelphia and adopting resolutions boycotting British imports and exports due to high taxation; British retaliation against the “people of Boston” for partaking in the Boston Tea Party was a specific grievance.¹⁰¹

Williams also served as a Johnston County delegate at the Hillsborough Provincial Congress the following year, in 1775, when he was elected to the influential Committee of Safety for the New Bern district, part of a larger pro-Whig network in North Carolina that enforced British trade bans and prepared for the just-begun American Revolution.¹⁰² He received his appointment as a captain of the Second North Carolina Constitutional Regiment in September 1775, after which he fought in campaigns against Lord Dunmore in Virginia, Sir Clinton in South Carolina, and ultimately served under General George Washington.¹⁰³ Williams appears on the muster rolls for the winter encampment at Valley Forge from December 1777 through June 1778.¹⁰⁴

Williams resigned his military position on New Years Day 1779 to pursue his political ambitions. However, when Cornwallis invaded North Carolina in 1780, Williams reenlisted as a volunteer officer and was present at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, where he was recognized for bravery commanding the Warren County militia, which appears to have held the line longer.¹⁰⁵ He was promoted to Colonel of a North Carolina regiment of state troops on July 12, 1781, a personally meaningful designation as he preferred to be known as Colonel Williams even after serving as governor.¹⁰⁶

In the waning years of the Revolutionary War and early years of independence, Williams returned to politics, becoming a significant and prominent political figure during North Carolina’s early statehood.¹⁰⁷ He served as a North Carolina state senator in 1780, 1781, 1784, 1786, and 1807; member of the North Carolina House of Commons in 1785 and 1789; member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1793 to 1795; and North Carolina governor from 1799 until 1802 and again in 1807 to 1808.¹⁰⁸ Additionally, in 1789, he served as a founding

¹⁰¹ “The Journal of the Proceedings of the First Provincial Convention,” August 25-27, 1774, in Saunders, ed., *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* vol. 9 1771-1775, 1043-49.

¹⁰² “The Journal of the Proceedings of the Provincial Congress of North Carolina, Held at Hillsborough 20th August, A.D. 1775,” September 9, 1775, in Saunders, *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vol. 10 1775-1776, 215, <https://archive.org/details/colonialrecordso10nort/page/n5/mode/2up>; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 291; Carmen Miner Smith, “Committees of Safety,” NCPedia, Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press, accessed on January 10th, 2025, <https://ncpedia.org/committees-safety>.

¹⁰³ “The Journal of the Proceedings of the Provincial Congress,” September 1, 1775, in Saunders, *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vol. 10 1775-1776, 187; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 292; “Gov. Benjamin Williams,” House in the Horseshoe, North Carolina Historic Sites, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://historicsites.nca.gov/all-sites/house-horseshoe/history/gov-benjamin-williams>.

¹⁰⁴ “Search the Muster Roll [Benjamin Williams, 2nd North Carolina],” Valley Forge Muster Roll, A Legacy Project of the Valley Forge Alliance, accessed January 21, 2025, <https://valleyforgemusterroll.org/soldier-details/>.

¹⁰⁵ North Carolina Historic Sites, “Gov. Benjamin Williams”; Lawrence Edward Babits and Joshua B. Howard, *Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013), 112-13, accessed January 10, 2025, ProQuest Ebook Central.

¹⁰⁶ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 292-93.

¹⁰⁷ “Gov. Benjamin Williams,” National Governors Association, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://www.nga.org/governor/benjamin-williams/>.

¹⁰⁸ National Governors Association, “Gov. Benjamin Williams.”

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

trustee for the University of North Carolina and played an active role in selecting its Chapel Hill location in 1792.¹⁰⁹

While the provisions of North Carolina's 1776 constitution limited the power of its governors, an intentional reaction to the political overreach of the English governance, Williams made strides in several areas, the most notable of which were related to the University of North Carolina. Williams was nominated for governor no less than six times, and as governor during four one-year terms, he supported public education and infrastructure improvement efforts.¹¹⁰ After assuming the governorship in 1799, Williams became *ex officio* president of the University of North Carolina Board of Trustees in 1805 after the legislature assumed the power of appointments to the Board in 1804.¹¹¹ His third term was notable for the pardon he issued to former U. S. Congressman John Stanly, who had fatally wounded an earlier North Carolina governor, Richard Dobbs Spaight, Sr., in a political duel.¹¹² Throughout his military and political career, Williams corresponded with a number of nationally significant political figures including Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. Williams's letters are held by the Library of Congress.¹¹³

After Williams purchased the House in the Horseshoe, he retained his primary residence in Raleigh and utilized the Moore County property as a country escape, referring to it as "Retreat." More than a simple country home, the site was a working cotton plantation, likely with livestock and enslaved persons purchased from Perkins along with the land.¹¹⁴ Retreat became Williams's primary home by 1803 following his first three consecutive terms as governor, and Williams likely occupied the house during his final term in the North Carolina senate as well as during his final term as governor.¹¹⁵ By 1810, Williams had purchased additional acreage and enslaved persons.¹¹⁶

The most significant alterations to the house and property likely date to the early years of the nineteenth century when Williams occupied the house full-time. In a letter to North Carolina Treasurer John Haywood dated July 25, 1803, Williams outlined additions and renovations planned for the site:

...a tolerable two Story House with the Frame now ready to put up a Wing of 24 by 20 at each end, -- The Frames raised for well constructed Granery & Stable, also a Weaving House of 24 by 16, Smoke House 14 feet cubical & a Carriage House 16 feet square, the whole of the Material on the spot for finishing these Frames, as well as the

¹⁰⁹ Carraway, "Williams, Benjamin."

¹¹⁰ "Benjamin Williams (K-8)," NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://www.dncr.nca.gov/blog/2024/01/10/benjamin-williams-k-8>.

¹¹¹ Ananya Cox, "From 1789 to now: Political Shifts on the Board of Trustees," *The Daily Tar Heel*, accessed January 20, 2026, <https://dailytarheel.com/article/sp-bot-university-history-20250219>.

¹¹² NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, "Benjamin Williams (K-8); Carraway, "Williams, Benjamin."

¹¹³ Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 9, 2024.

¹¹⁴ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 296; North Carolina Historic Sites, "Gov. Benjamin Williams.,"; Opperman, "House in the Horseshoe (Philip Alston House) Sanford, North Carolina," p 9.

¹¹⁵ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 296, 298.

¹¹⁶ Opperman, "House in the Horseshoe (Philip Alston House) Sanford, North Carolina," 10.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

lumber & Material ready for two more Houses of 24 by 16. –Two Gardens 200 feet each square are laid out and the post, Rails & pales ready to put up. – A Cotton house 60 by 20, twenty feet pitch, log body, frame roof, two range of floor divided by partitions proper for reception of & ginning of Cotton...¹¹⁷

While not documented as such, much of this work was undoubtedly conducted using the labor of enslaved persons. In 1783, Williams and his wife inherited approximately 33 enslaved persons from his uncle, Benjamin Williams Sr.¹¹⁸ By 1800, the census listed 48 enslaved persons as Benjamin Williams's property, and a decade later, while Williams was living in the House in the Horseshoe, the census recorded that he owned 103 enslaved persons.¹¹⁹

William's cotton plantation attests to his wealth and stature while the skills of the enslaved persons on his property provide a glimpse of daily life there. Williams reported to Haywood that enslaved blacksmiths produced horseshoes for Williams's horses, tools for cotton production, and nails to supply all of the construction projects.¹²⁰ Enslaved carpenters felled and treated timber for the house and for rail fencing.¹²¹ Further, cooks, domestic workers, and field hands experienced in agriculture and cotton production were necessary to sustain a plantation that eventually encompassed 3,000 acres. Unfortunately, little documentation of the people enslaved on the site exists beyond occasional references in correspondence, newspaper ads seeking the return of self-emancipated enslaved persons, and wills. Only one enslaved person is known by name: Essex, a horse trainer, was named in an 1806 letter to John Eaton.¹²²

Williams purchased and lived in houses in New Bern, Raleigh, Johnston County, and Fayetteville, in addition to the House in the Horseshoe. His former New Bern house and plantation no longer exist.¹²³ He owned two lots in Raleigh, which presumably included a house, on the corner of Hargett and McDowell Streets which is now developed with commercial and institutional buildings. He inherited Woodbury Plantation in Johnston County from his namesake uncle, but it is no longer standing. His Fayetteville property has been redeveloped and now contains a Walgreens.¹²⁴

Despite his relatively brief tenancy in the house, the House in the Horseshoe is significant as the only extant property associated with Williams.¹²⁵ After Williams died in 1814 at the House in the Horseshoe, it remained in the Williams family until approximately 1853.¹²⁶ The link between

¹¹⁷ "Benjamin Williams to John Haywood, July 25, 1803," in Wagstaff, *The Papers of John Steele*, 395.

¹¹⁸ Wall text for "1783," Store House, House in the Horseshoe, Sanford, North Carolina. Williams was presumably his namesake; known as Benjamin Williams Jr., his uncle was known as Benjamin Williams Sr.; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 293.

¹¹⁹ Wall text for "Cotton Production," Store House, House in the Horseshoe, Sanford, North Carolina.

¹²⁰ Wall text for "Carpenters & Blacksmiths," Store House, House in the Horseshoe, Sanford, North Carolina.

¹²¹ Wall text for "Carpenters & Blacksmiths."

¹²² House in the Horseshoe, *Enslavement at House in the Horseshoe*.

¹²³ Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 9, 2024.

¹²⁴ Amanda Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 8, 2024; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 294-96.

¹²⁵ Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 9, 2024.

¹²⁶ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 313, 316-339.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Governor Williams and the House in the Horseshoe is reinforced by the relocation to the site in 1970 of Williams's grave along with those of his wife Elizabeth, son Benjamin William Williams, and his son's first wife, Mary Chalmers Williams.¹²⁷

History of House in the Horseshoe, 1814 to the Mid-Twentieth Century

The House in the Horseshoe changed hands eight times between 1853 and 1954, during which time agricultural acreage associated with the House in the Horseshoe decreased significantly. Between 1853 and 1863, a mining company (and later its shareowners and their heirs) owned the property and associated acreage.¹²⁸ The site reverted back to family ownership in May 1873, when Anderson Jones, who acted as overseer for the mining company in the 1850s, began purchasing shares.¹²⁹ The House in Horseshoe and 1,260 acres remained in the Anderson Jones family until 1911. H.L. Farley, who added a rear ell, briefly owned the property before selling the house and 1,260 acres to George W. Willcox in 1914. Two generations of the Willcox family lived and farmed there until 1946. R.G. Hancock purchased the property in 1946, and on August 10, 1954, sold the house and 4.2 acres to the Moore County Historical Association.¹³⁰

Mid-Twentieth-Century Social History: The State Historic Site

While efforts to preserve the homes of America's Founding Fathers date back to the establishment of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association in 1853, a more widespread interest in the country's colonial heritage and the historic preservation of early buildings and sites dates to the early-twentieth century.¹³¹ In 1932, Colonial Williamsburg opened its first public exhibition building, a reconstructed Revolutionary era tavern.¹³² In the same decade in North Carolina, a movement was underway to reconstruct Tryon Palace, originally built between 1767 and 1770.¹³³ Tryon Palace was rebuilt according to "original plans on its original foundation...[and] as part of its commitment, the state further agreed to maintain and operate the restoration when it opened to the public." When Tryon Palace opened to the public in 1959 it was hailed "as North Carolina's first great public history project."¹³⁴

These sites, and others like them, illustrate the interest in history and heritage that emerged and flourished in the post-World War II era. In her book *Riches, Rivals & Radicals: 100 Years of Museums in America*, museum studies professor Marjorie Schwarzer notes that "renewed prosperity led to unprecedented interest in education and culture," including museums as class

¹²⁷ North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, "Benjamin Williams (K-8)."

¹²⁸ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 438-39.

¹²⁹ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 456; Brantley, interview, July 30, 2024.

¹³⁰ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 465-474.

¹³¹ "The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association," George Washington's Mount Vernon, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://www.mountvernon.org/preservation/mount-vernon-ladies-association>.

¹³² "Bringing History to Life," History of Colonial Williamsburg, Colonial Williamsburg, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/about-colonial-williamsburg/history/#:~:text=In%201932%2C%20Colonial%20Williamsburg%20opened,of%20the%20colony's%20royal%20governors.>

¹³³ "Palace History," Tryon Palace, accessed January 10, 2025, <https://www.tryonpalace.org/the-palace-historic-homes/tryon-palace/palace-history>.

¹³⁴ Tryon Palace, "Palace History."

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

field trip-worthy destinations. As a result, “in the post-war years, museum visits exceeded the nation’s total population for the first time.” Additionally, against a backdrop of 1950s Cold War tensions, the Revolutionary War history of the House in the Horseshoe was an irresistibly American subject.¹³⁵

Unlike Tryon Palace, the House in the Horseshoe retained its Revolutionary era structure and many of its materials and finishes. In the mid-1950s, a house restoration was begun by the Moore County Historical Association with the goal of returning it to the original ca. 1772 footprint, working in consultation with North Carolina Archives and History personnel and others.¹³⁶ Removing the early twentieth-century ell constructed by H. L. Farley reflects preservation philosophy of the time, which prioritized the presentation of a frozen-in-time architectural specimen rather than an evolving building and landscape. Alterations made by the Willcox family to widen upstairs windows and modernize flooring were reversed.¹³⁷ Yet, the interior changes made during Williams’s residency remained. In an attempt to replicate an eighteenth-century yard of a working farm, a well enclosure was constructed and the corn crib, believed to date to the eighteenth century, was relocated to the House in the Horseshoe grounds from an unassociated site.¹³⁸

To support the House in the Horseshoe’s new role interpreting history for the public, a site manager’s residence and a wellhouse servicing it were constructed (outside of the nominated boundary).¹³⁹ In 1957, the House in the Horseshoe was first opened to the public, though as a historic house museum and without a structured educational component.¹⁴⁰ The site did, however, offer a costumed “playlet” about the skirmish featured during the House in the Horseshoe’s 1957 opening.¹⁴¹

Prior to the opening, on July 1, 1955, the Moore County Historical Association entered into an agreement with the State of North Carolina through which the state reimbursed the group for their purchase of the property, while leasing the operations and maintenance of the site back to the Moore County Historical Association to operate as a historic house museum.¹⁴² The agreement came just months before the establishment of North Carolina’s State Historic Sites program in October of 1955.¹⁴³ As historic preservation emerged beyond the scope of local clubs, county historical associations, and community groups, the state began to acquire additional historic properties and assumed responsibility for their management.

¹³⁵ Marjorie Schwarzer, introduction to *Riches, Rivals, and Radicals: 100 Years of Museums in America*. Rev. ed. (New York: American Association of Museums, 2012), 16-17.

¹³⁶ Maurice, “Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe,” 1,4.

¹³⁷ Maurice, “Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe,” 4.

¹³⁸ Maurice, “Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe,” 3.

¹³⁹ Brantley, interview, July 30, 2024.

¹⁴⁰ Knapp, *North Carolina’s State Historic Sites*, 44.

¹⁴¹ Valerie Nicholson, “Moore Plans ‘House in the Horseshoe’ Dedication On Saturday,” *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, NC), April 5, 1957, accessed January 10, 2025, Newspapers.com.

¹⁴² Knapp, *North Carolina’s State Historic Sites*, 44; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 474.

¹⁴³ Knapp, *North Carolina’s State Historic Sites*, i.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

In his book on the history of North Carolina's State Historic Sites, Richard F. Knapp lists Alamance Battleground (NR1970), Bennett Place (NR1970), Bentonville Battleground (NR1970; NHL1996), Brunswick Town (NR1978), and Vance Birthplace as the earliest State Historic Sites, established in 1955, the same year the state purchased the House in the Horseshoe.¹⁴⁴ However, the information presented for each property on the State Historic Sites website indicates that the Bentonville Battleground and Vance Birthplace properties were actually acquired by the State of North Carolina in 1957. The Charles B. Aycock Birthplace (NR1970) was designated a State Historic Site in 1958; Somerset Place (NR1970) in 1969; and Historic Stagville (NR1973) in 1976. The result is that nearly all of the designated State Historic Sites were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 as part of a first wave of nominations representing the most significant sites in the state.

State Historic Sites was reorganized several times under different departmental and divisional umbrellas, particularly in the late 1960s and early 1970s in response to the passage of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. By 1975, there were nineteen state historic sites across North Carolina.¹⁴⁵ On April 1, 1972, due to financial constraints and likely with an eye toward the approaching 1976 bicentennial, the Moore County Historical Association allowed its lease on the House in the Horseshoe to lapse, at which time the State of North Carolina assumed full operating authority of the House in the Horseshoe site.¹⁴⁶ In honor of the bicentennial and to recreate the 1781 skirmish, the site experimented with an outdoor drama on the grounds entitled "The House in the Horseshoe," written by Joseph Cole Simmons and produced by the Moore County Historical Association.¹⁴⁷ The play premiered in 1975 and ran through at least the summer of 1976.¹⁴⁸ A July 23, 1976, newspaper ad for the outdoor drama indicates enough demand that the drama was run for four nights per week through mid-August.¹⁴⁹ Skirmish reenactments featuring costumed Revolutionary War reenactors began in 1979, an annual tradition that continues into the present.¹⁵⁰

In the 1980s, the American museum field began diversifying out of economic necessity by representing a greater variety of stories and voices.¹⁵¹ At the House in the Horseshoe, the historic granary, which had been used as the site office, was converted to a museum in the 1990s. However, interpretation of slavery on the property did not occur until 2017, when it was

¹⁴⁴ Knapp, *North Carolina's State Historic Sites*, 3, 12, 16, 19, and 66. On pages 44 and 46 Knapp gives the year established for the House in the Horseshoe as 1971, as that is the year that the Moore County Historical Association allowed its lease on the property to lapse and the State took over control of the site.

¹⁴⁵ Knapp, *North Carolina's State Historic Sites*, i.

¹⁴⁶ Knapp, *North Carolina's State Historic Sites*, 44; Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 9, 2024.

¹⁴⁷ The Moore County Historical Association, "Joseph Cole Simmons' 'The House in the Horseshoe'" advertisement, *Durham Morning Herald* (NC), July 23, 1976, accessed January 10, 2025, Newspapers.com.

¹⁴⁸ Angelia Herrin, "Patriot's Tale Comes to Life," *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, NC), July 2, 1977, accessed January 10, 2025, Newspapers.com.

¹⁴⁹ *Durham Morning Herald* (NC), advertisement, accessed January 10, 2025, Newspapers.com.

¹⁵⁰ Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, October 9, 2024.

¹⁵¹ Schwarzer, *Riches, Rivals, and Radicals*, 23-24.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

incorporated into tours. It was expanded in 2020 and 2021 with new research, and the storehouse exhibit and printed brochure were produced in 2023.¹⁵²

Beginning in the late 1970s, the State undertook several architectural surveys to more accurately interpret the building and site. Selective paint sample analysis in 1979 revealed a red paint applied to the first floor north room during Alston's ownership and a 2000 study determined the chemical composition and color of paint—mostly red paint—in four other areas on the first and second floors.¹⁵³ Additional paint analyses were conducted in 2024, concurrent with the preparation of this updated nomination, although further samples are still needed to clarify some 2024 results. Architectural analysis that took place in 2024 included the use of photogrammetry to document the building and the removal for study of selective interior and exterior materials and finishes to more thoroughly understand the physical evolution of the building.

Architectural Significance

The House in the Horseshoe was constructed following Philip Alston's deed of Horseshoe land dated October 15, 1772.¹⁵⁴ Philip Alston descended from a wealthy family and would have seen and presumably been influenced by the fine homes of northeastern North Carolina's planter class during his youth.¹⁵⁵ The House in the Horseshoe was constructed in the vernacular Georgian style, popular in the American colonies from 1700 to 1780, and was enlarged and remodeled ca. 1803 with Federal-style elements.¹⁵⁶ In the 1950s, as part of the site's conversion from private residence to historic site, a number of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century alterations were reversed, resulting in a return to most of the ca. 1773 form while retaining many of the ca. 1803 decorative elements.¹⁵⁷ The house stands as an outstanding example of a melding of vernacular late-eighteenth-century Georgian and early-nineteenth-century Federal styles in the North Carolina Piedmont.

The House in the Horseshoe served as a display of great wealth and status in what was a sparsely populated frontier in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries and remains deeply rural today. Hall-parlor houses were common in the eighteenth century, even for small-scale log houses, and two-story, center-hall or side-hall houses were regularly constructed for members of North Carolina's planter class during this period. Yet, a Georgian-style house of this scale is atypical in the interior of the state, where access to markets was limited by poor transportation

¹⁵² Brantley, email message to Sarah Campbell, January 8, 2025.

¹⁵³ George Fore, October 30, 1979, "Room 102 - Conclusions," Paint Research House in the Horseshoe, State of North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh [North Carolina] unpublished manuscript in collection of the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site, Sanford, NC; James Martin, May 5, 2000, "Report of analysis on a painted finishes from Alston House (1772 Plantation House) [sic]," Orion Analytical, LLC, Williamstown, Massachusetts, unpublished manuscript in collection of the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site, Sanford, NC, 2 and chronology worksheets [8-64].

¹⁵⁴ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 40.

¹⁵⁵ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 35, 47-48.

¹⁵⁶ Virginia Savage McAlester, Suzanne Patton Matty, and Steve Clicque, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*, rev. and expanded ed. (New York: Alfred Knopf, 2014), 201.

¹⁵⁷ Maurice, "Restoration of the House in the Horseshoe," 4-5.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

routes and plantations were not common. The House in the Horseshoe was noted by architectural historian Catherine Bishir to have been ambitious and “a sign of considerable wealth and effort.”¹⁵⁸ Far more common in the area were small, subsistence farms held by families who could rarely afford more than two rooms, let alone glass windows, brick chimneys, or plank floors.¹⁵⁹

For the wealthy planter class, the fashionable Georgian style, which featured classical detailing, stood in contrast to the vernacular houses that dotted the countryside. Houses in this style illustrated the wealth and sophistication of the planter class who were able to replicate building patterns and woodwork found in England. Typical features of the style include a centered entrance with paneled door and classical surround and a symmetrical facade with double-hung nine- or twelve-pane sashes. The full-width porch and exterior end chimneys were more common in the southern states where porches served as extensions of the indoor living spaces and captured breezes to help cool the house during warm weather. Likewise, chimneys were relegated to the gable ends, rather than placed at the interior of the building as was common in the northern states, in part to reduce the heat they generated within the dwelling.¹⁶⁰ The House in the Horseshoe’s T-stack chimneys were characteristic of northeastern North Carolina and Virginia.¹⁶¹

The House in the Horseshoe retains its Georgian-style massing, a two-story rectangular form with side-gabled roof and centered entrances on both the east and west elevations. While the five-bay elevations are not strictly symmetrical—windows are neither evenly spaced, nor the same distance from the centered entrance—the overall result is still one of general symmetry. Shed-roofed wings that originally flanked the west entrance further contributed to overall symmetry of the structure. A Georgian-style entrance on the east elevation was likely installed between 1791 and 1803. The six-panel door is topped by a detailed, pedimented entablature with dentil cornice, Greek keys, and is flanked by fluted pilasters. The west entrance retains a classical surround with fluted pilasters, although the multi-light fanlight, likely installed between 1791 and 1803, is more Federal in style. Other extant Georgian-style detailing includes paneled exterior doors and double-hung wood-sash windows, all with molded, three-part surrounds.

Around the turn of the nineteenth century, the house was enlarged and Federal-style detailing added to the building. The Federal style is sometimes viewed as a refinement of the Georgian style with “lighter” features that drew on contemporary European trends, as opposed to classical and Medieval precedents.¹⁶² Like the Georgian style, it is characterized by symmetrical facades, centered entrances, and double-hung windows. The style continued to emulate Greek and Roman

¹⁵⁸ North Carolina Historic Sites, “Architectural Gem.”; Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 41; Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 16.

¹⁵⁹ Willcox, *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 41-42.

¹⁶⁰ McAlester, Matty, and Clicque, 200-201 and 214.

¹⁶¹ Bishir, 172.

¹⁶² McAlester, Matty, and Clicque, 222.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

precedents but in a more delicate way, with detailing often including dentils and fluted pilasters as well as urn, swags, garlands, and stylized geometric designs.¹⁶³

The most significant Federal-era change to the house was the addition of flanking one-story wings to the north and south elevations (subsequently removed about 1911) and the installation of classical woodwork in the north room of the first floor.¹⁶⁴ This room, which appears to have been the most formal room in the house during Williams's tenancy, features molded-panel wainscot with a molded chair rail above a band of Greek-key molding. Crown molding in the room also features a Greek key motif. The mantel is supported by fluted pilasters and adorned with incised lines and dots and features a Greek-key molding below the shallow mantel shelf.

In *Revolutionary incidents; and sketches of character, chiefly in the "Old North state"* published in 1854, E.W. Caruthers further elaborates on the distinctive appearance of the House in the Horseshoe within the area: "The house was a two story framed house; and being weatherboarded, ceiled and painted, was one of the best houses then to be seen in that part of the country."¹⁶⁵ The house remains the most fully expressed example of Georgian and Federal architecture in Moore County and adjoining Lee County to the east. No other properties in either county have been classified as Georgian in style by the State Historic Preservation Office.

Four additional properties in Moore County, identified by the State Historic Preservation Office, have been classified as Federal style, but are not of the scale and finish of the House in the Horseshoe. The oldest of these is the Street Medical Building (101 Street Place Road), a one-room frame building constructed in the late 1700s. The ca. 1830 two-story William D. Harrington House (267 Harrington Road) is similar in scale but appears to have been altered with the installation of a triple window on the south end of the facade. The Malcolm Blue Farm (NR 1982) and the Shaw House (NR 1993) are one story and one-and-a-half stories respectively, each constructed in the early- to mid-nineteenth century with minimal Federal-style exterior decoration. As a result, the House in the Horseshoe is the most impressive and intact example of the Georgian/Federal style in the area.

Archaeological Significance

To date, very limited archaeological investigations have been conducted on the House in the Horseshoe property. The results of this work, however, have provided information related to the plantation and its surroundings; to its historical inhabitants, including those enslaved persons known to have lived here during its earliest period of significance; and to the 1781 military skirmish between small groups of group of British Loyalists and Colonial Patriots, which resulted in a Loyalist victory and the deaths of eight soldiers. Investigations to date suggest that further work is likely to yield additional significant information.

In 1978, an initial archeological survey was conducted to locate cultural material associated with the plantation for interpretative use and as a protective guide for future ground-disturbing

¹⁶³ McAlester, Matty, and Clicque, 232.

¹⁶⁴ Brantley, interview, August 22, 2024.

¹⁶⁵ Caruthers, 184.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

activities. The survey was limited to the state property boundaries and consisted of simple probing, auguring, the excavation of a single test unit at the wall of the old commissary, interviews with local informants, and an unsuccessful attempt at utilizing infrared photography to investigate the site. Results revealed the remains of four structures, a previously unknown walkway on the east side of the house, and several additional archaeological features across the property. While the extant frame structure of the old commissary is known to have undergone a number of repairs and rebuilding episodes in the past, artifacts recovered in association with its original foundation as part of the unit excavation indicate a 1815-1830 date.¹⁶⁶

In 1984, the results of the 1978 survey were used to determine the placement of an electric utility on the property. Ahead of the installation of the electrical lines, an archaeological trench of 122 feet long, approximately 0.8 feet in width, and to a depth of approximately 1 foot was excavated. Within the trench, a lens of discarded chinking and daubing was uncovered. This feature appears to represent the material removed from the foundation of the original loom house and discarded to the south of the structure. More than 70 artifacts were recovered from the fill material within the trench, representative of not only domestic, agricultural, and architectural activities, but also several prehistorical artifacts suggesting prior occupation of the site by native groups.¹⁶⁷

In 2017, a 0.7-acre portion of the property in the northeast and eastern portion of the house yard was investigated using noninvasive geophysical remote sensing techniques in the hope of locating the burials of the men who perished during the 1781 skirmish on the property, as well as the external kitchen and other non-extant outbuildings associated with the house. While the survey failed to locate either the burials or the kitchen, it did reveal an additional four potential structures, including a shed or house foundation built before 1939 and removed in the mid-twentieth century, a possible smokehouse from the eighteenth century, a nineteenth-century root cellar or privy, and a possible workshop or barn area.¹⁶⁸

The House in the Horseshoe is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash middens, remains of gardens, fence lines, walkways, roadbeds, privies, kitchen ruins, debris that accumulated from domestic, agricultural and property maintenance activities, and other structural remains and which may be present can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the property related to each of its periods of

¹⁶⁶ John C. Baroody, "An Archaeological Survey at the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site, Moore County, North Carolina," Bibliography # 1714 (Historic Sites Section, N. C. Division of Archives and History, 1979).

¹⁶⁷ Terry Maureen Harper, July 1984, "Archaeological Clearance for the Electric Lines to the Loom House, House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site, Moore County, North Carolina," Historic Sites Section, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, [Raleigh, North Carolina], unpublished manuscript in Historic Sites Collection, House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site Sanford, NC, 4. Artifacts recovered included a projectile point dating to the Early Archaic Period, indicating that the site was occupied prehistorically in at least that one period. While prehistoric material has been noted, to date no investigation of the site's pre-history has been undertaken.

¹⁶⁸ Jacob R. Turner, "Geophysical Remote Sensing of North Carolina's Historic Cultural Landscapes: Studies at House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site" (PhD diss., University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2017), 14, accessed April 27, 2026, <https://libres.uncg.edu/ir/uncg/listing.aspx?styp=ti&id=22089>.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Name of Property

Moore County, NC

County and State

significance. Therefore, the archaeological remains associated with the House on the Horseshoe are considered an important component of the significance of the property.

Archaeological information associated with this site has the potential to inform broadly on a number of potential research questions, including, but not limited to the lived experiences of both free and enslaved persons at an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century plantation; troop movements, events, and the type of arms described in the historical record during the 1781 skirmish; land use and drainage system changes that occurred as traditional farming transitioned to specialized, intensive land management in the late 18th and 19th centuries; regional shifts in food consumption and crop variety in the 18th and 19th centuries in this region as informed by zooarchaeological and archaeobotanical data (animal bones, pollen, seeds); and land use and property transformations associated with the transition from a working farm to a North Carolina State Historic Site. Additional study may provide a basis for expanding the property's period of significance to encompass the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the areas of agriculture and social history.

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

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Moore County, NC

Name of Property

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Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

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Moore County, NC

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Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MR0001

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 4.63 acres

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.466878

Longitude: -79.383991

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary is shown by a black line on the accompanying map, drawn at a 1"=100' scale and aligning with the boundary of the tax parcels (#868200556086 and #868200554028)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the House in the Horseshoe includes two contiguous tax parcels currently under the ownership of the State of North Carolina. The parcels total 4.63 acres, a small fraction of the thousands of acres historically associated with the house, but they provide sufficient rural context for the historic house, including the immediately surrounding landscape. The parcels also include resources associated with the conversion of the property to a state-owned historic site.

A small parcel to the immediate north contains a manufactured house in private ownership. A seven-acre property that extends along Alston House Road to the east, also owned by the State of North Carolina, contains only mid- to late-twentieth-century resources including a ca. 1957 site manager's residence and ca. 1945 tenant house converted into the site's longtime visitor center, gift shop, and office space. Two parcels totaling 565 acres and in private ownership wrap around the entire nominated boundary. This land includes cultivated, agricultural fields that contribute to the rural context of the property but contains no above-ground resources associated with the site and is thus excluded from the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sarah Campbell and Heather M. Slane

organization: hmwPreservation

street & number: P. O. Box 355

city or town: Durham state: NC zip code: 27702

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date: April 15, 2026

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)
Name of Property

Moore County, NC
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: House in the Horseshoe

City or Vicinity: Sanford

County: Moore

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Sarah Campbell

Date Photographed: July 30, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 13

House, Wellhouse, and Shed #1
facing north

2 of 13

House, Wellhouse, and Shed #1
facing south

3 of 13

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc) _____

Moore County, NC
County and State

Name of Property

House, Storehouse, Corn Crib, and Shed #2
facing southwest

4 of 13

House, Granary, Corn Crib, and Storehouse
facing north

5 of 13

Storehouse, Shed #2, and Shed #3
facing south

6 of 13

West porch
facing north

7 of 13

House, First Floor Hallway
facing east

8 of 13

House, First Floor North Room
facing northwest

9 of 13

House, First Floor South Room
facing southwest

10 of 13

House, Second Floor Hallway
facing northwest

11 of 13

House, Second Floor North Room
facing southeast

12 of 13

House, Second Floor South Room
facing southwest

13 of 13

Landscape, featuring grave of Benjamin Williams
facing north

House in the Horseshoe (Ad Doc)

Moore County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

DRAFT