



**Preservation Warrenton  
proudly presents...**

# **1999 Spring Tour of Historic Homes**

**Saturday, April 17 10am to 5pm**

**Sunday, April 18 1pm to 5pm**

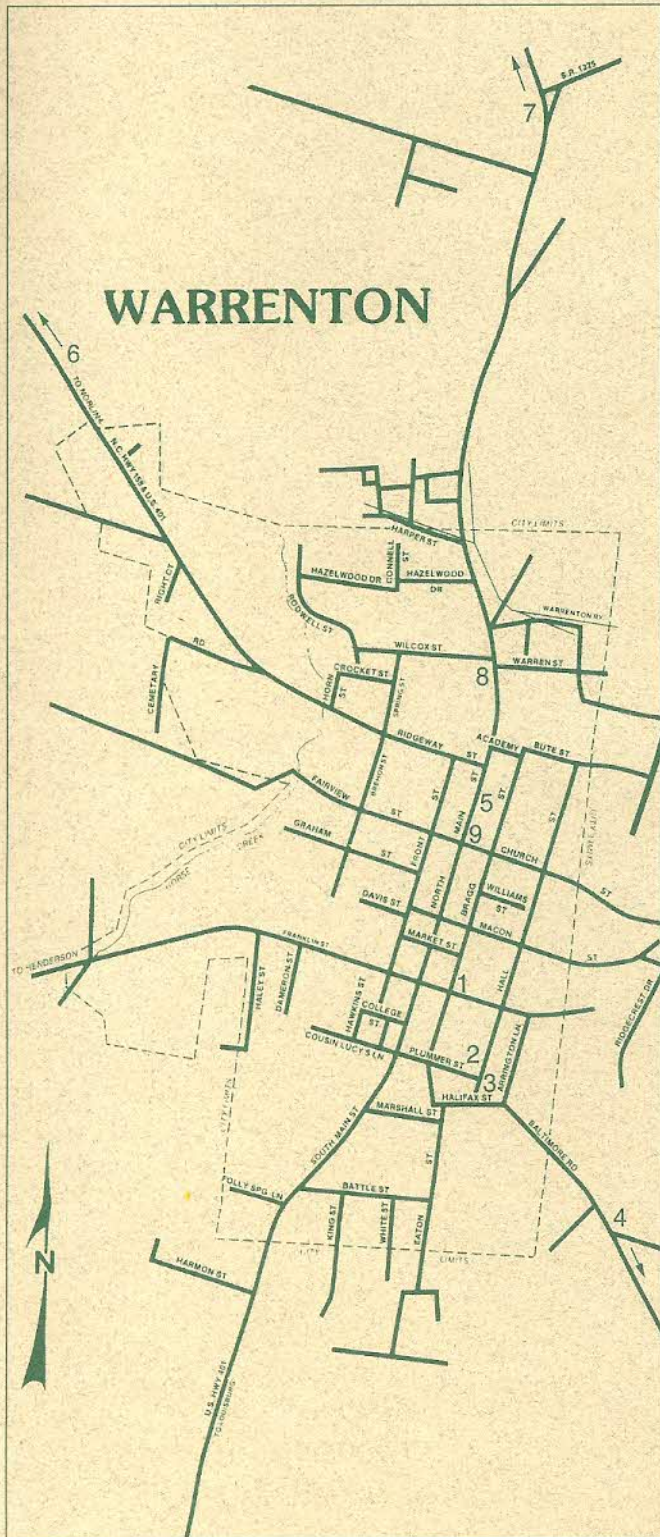
**W**arrenton, a National Register Historic District, was established on 100 acres of land owed by Thomas Christmas in 1779. The town grew slowly at first, but by the 1820s had become the center of a prosperous plantation region. Tradesmen, professional men and the wealthy planters gave the county seat sophistication, and the county's politically prominent lawyers lent it power. By the 1840s, and especially in the 1850s, it was a bustling trade center, thriving on the burgeoning wealth of the tobacco and cotton plantations of the Roanoke Valley. Builders and craftsmen from Prince Edward County, Virginia (including Jacob Holt, carpenter, and Edward Rice and Francis Woodson, masons), came in the 1840s and produced a distinctive group of fine buildings. At first, they worked in the Greek Revival style - boxy, dignified with fluted Doric columns on porches and at entrances, and with intricate carved classical ornamentation. In the 1850s, this basic form was enriched with the bracketed roofline, arched tracery windows and more ornate trim of the fashionable Italiante style. Gamaliel Jones, later to gain fame in Murfreesboro for its buildings, had his start in Warren County.

## Historic Homes

- 1 Jacob Holt House
- 2 Fitts-Mordecai-Plummer House
- 3 Dun Mor
- 4 Shady Oaks
- 5 Eaton House
- 6 Oakley Hall
- 7 Greystone House
- 8 Tarwater House
- 9 Wesley Memorial Methodist Church

## Directions

- 4 Shady Oaks - Directions. Follow Halifax Street east one mile. The house is located on the left side of the road. Parking is available in the grove on the right side of the road.
- 6 Oakley Hall - Directions. Follow Ridgeway Street west which becomes US 158 West. Follow US 158 West to Norlina. In Norlina, turn left on US 1 South and go approximately three miles through the village of Ridgeway. The house is located on the left side of the road (Joe Jones Road).
- 7 Greystone House - Directions. From downtown Warrenton, follow Main Street north approximately 1 1/2 miles. The house is located on the left side of the road.





### **Jacob Holt House**

Built in 1855 by noted builder Jacob Holt as his residence, the house was owned by businessman Jacob Parker and leased to Holt. The site was the second house for Holt and contained his workshops, kiln and lumber yard on the back portion of the property. The house is designed after a Tuscan villa. The style was most unusual for Holt and a vast departure from his square "boxy houses". The house was given to the Town of Warrenton in 1976, and subsequently in 1992, it was given to the Jacob Holt House Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit group formed for its renovation and preservation. The house will be used as a visitor center and a meeting place for the community.

## **Fitts-Mordecai-Plummer House**

This home was built c.1805 by Oliver Fitts, an early attorney in Warrenton and later an Attorney General for the State of North Carolina. The house is of the Georgian architectural style and is the only one of that style in Warrenton. In 1811, Fitts received a commission to be a Federal Judge in Mississippi and sold the house to Jacob Mordecai. Mordecai had come to Warrenton from Petersburg, Virginia and operated a boarding school for young ladies. The Mordecai family occupied the house until the 1830s when the house was sold to the William Plummer family. The Plummer family remodeled the house to the Greek Revival style, adding a larger front porch and back porch with a one story wing to the southeast. In the late 1800s, the house was sold to the Shiloh Missionary Association which operated a school for blacks. The house and property were bought in 1912, and the house was sold to the Palmer family. The one-story addition was raised to two stories. The house was later sold to John Graham for use as a boys' dorm. The present owners bought the house in 1976 and took the size of the house back to its original size.



## **Dun Mor**

Attributed to builder Jacob Holt, this house was completed in 1851. It exemplifies the three-bay, double-pile dwelling form that was so central to the county's upper-scale domestic construction during the years just prior to the Civil War. The Greek Revival house was built for Richard T. Arrington, a local cotton factor, and his wife Bettie Plummer. This house contains all of its original mantels and woodwork, and was inhabited most of this century by the Alston family, the property changed hands in 1996, and the house and grounds underwent a complete restoration. A two-story addition was added on the north side of the house, complete with an original Holt mantel and reproduction woodwork. The mantel in the front parlor exhibits a fine specimen of the two-column "Warrenton" mantel seen so often in Holt's houses.



## Shady Oaks

*Shady Oaks* was built in 1812 by Robert Tines Cheek and his wife Mary Hinton Alston. This federal style tripartite house configuration is found in northeastern North Carolina. It consists of a narrow, two-story central block, with the gable end to the front, flanked by perpendicular two-bay wings. The first floor features a front stair hall with a large half-sunburst located over the door into one of the wings. This feature is illustrated in T.T. Waterman's *Early Architecture of North Carolina*. The parlor contains the house's most ornate woodwork featuring a three-part vernacular Adamesque mantle. Occupied by Cheek descendants until the 1960s, the house was one of the first houses offered for sale through the revolving fund of Preservation North Carolina. The central block of the house and the grounds were restored in the 1980s. An addition was added to the west side of the house in the 1990s by the present owners.



## Eaton House

Called the "Show-place of Warrenton" by Lizzie Wilson Montgomery in her book *Sketches of Old Warrenton*, this handsome three-bay wide, one-bay deep, three story home was built in 1843 by Jacob Holt for William Eaton Sr. Eaton was perhaps the wealthiest planter on the Roanoke River. This house was built for his daughter, Ella, as a summer home to entertain her friends. Ella married Peter Hansborough Bell, a former Governor of Texas, and the Bells resided in the house until the 1890s when the house was sold. The first half of this century the house was owned and occupied by the Jackson family. In 1954, the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George G. Allen and given to Wesley Memorial Methodist Church for use as a parsonage. Of special note are the grounds of the Eaton house, planted by Mrs. Eaton with boxwood hedges in the shape of a heart. An office sits on the northwest corner of the front yard, and a former kitchen sits in the north-east corner of the back yard.



## Oakley Hall

The William J. Hawkins House at Ridgeway was the home of the physician who prospered as businessman and planter, banker, and for nearly twenty years president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad that ran in front of the house. Hawkins was the son of Col. John Davis Hawkins and nephew of Governor William Hawkins. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1842. In association with J. M. Heck and others, he organized the Ridgeway Company which sought after the Civil War to develop the village into a city with settlers from the North and Europe. This house was probably built in the 1850s, and is among the most ornately treated of the many impressive Greco-Italianate houses in the mode built in the late 1850s by Warrenton builder Jacob Holt. Of particular interest is its large scale and the use of ogee-arched motifs including the doorway. The house and several outbuildings remain minimally altered.



## Greystone House

One of the few stone houses in the county, this house was built circa 1895 by Warren County merchant and farmer Jack Davis. The house being built of brick originally, was covered with granite by Italian artisans from a granite mine quarry on the property. Two of the mantels in the house came from Montmorenci. The house originally featured more of a Victorian style with porches that wrapped around the house and a turret. In 1936, the Victorian elements were removed, and the house was remodeled to its current exterior appearance. Ownership changed from the Davis family in the 1990s. The current owners have maintained the exterior of the house and have completed decorative changes inside that reflect their British heritage.



## Tarwater House

Built in the 1850s as the guest house to accommodate the company of Nathaniel Turner Green who occupied the large brick house diagonally across Main Street, the house was built on a raised basement being only one room deep with interior end chimneys. The simple Doric porch, second level door, typical entrance, standard stair with slim turned newell, and simple Greek mantels define the house's place in the range of Warrenton architecture. The home was owned during much of the nineteenth century by the Jacob Parker family. Purchased and enlarged in the early part of this century by the Tarwater family, the house was sold in 1996 by the Tarwater family through Preservation North Carolina. The house is now being renovated to its 1850s size.

Visitors will take special interest in the renovation of the basement kitchen and planned garden area on the northwest side of the house.



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**Saturday, April 17 10am to 5pm**  
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*Ticket prices:*

<i>Luncheon* and Tour</i>	<i>(Saturday Only)</i>	<i>\$28.00</i>
<i>Advance Purchase Only</i>		
<i>Advance Purchase For Tour Only</i>		<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Same Day Purchase For Tour Only</i>		<i>\$25.00</i>

*\* Luncheon will be offered in conjunction with the Saturday tour only by Wesley Memorial Methodist Church*

*Tickets available at Oakley Hall Antiques and the Book Nook prior to tour. On tour date, tickets will be available at the Jacob Holt House only. Sites are numbered for purpose of identification only. You may begin tour at any site.*

