



proudly presents...

**2008 Plantation
Homes Tour**
in the
**Inez Community,
Warren County**

Saturday, April 26, 10am to 5pm
Sunday, April 27, 1pm to 5pm

Warrenton, a National Register Historic District, was established in 1779 on 100 acres of land owned by Thomas Christmas. 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, while 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 for his buildings in Murfreesboro, had his start in Warren County.

Inez Community

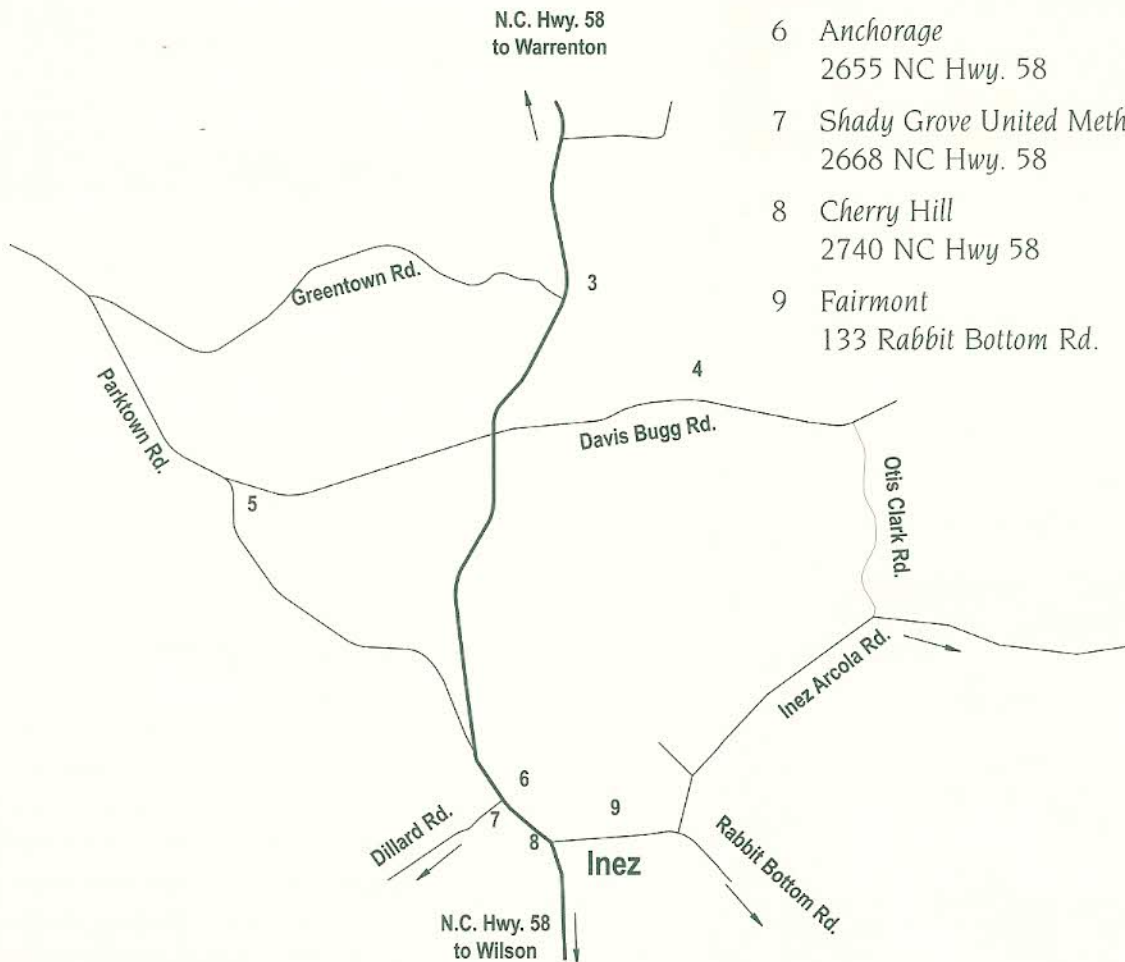
Homes on Tour

Directions

INEZ

From Warrenton follow Hwy 58 approximately 10 miles from Warrenton to Inez. The map below will show locations of houses in the Inez vicinity. All houses with the exception of the Liberia School are within 2 miles of Inez. All houses on the tour will have a sign in front with the map number.

- 1 Jacob Holt House
122 South Bragg St., Warrenton, NC
- 2 Liberia School
Follow US Hwy 58 East out of Warrenton for approximately 4 miles. The school is on the right just before the Forestry Service Building.
- 3 Creek Home Place and Store
2037 NC Hwy 58
- 4 Lake O'the Woods Plantation
1452 Davis-Bugg Rd.
- 5 Shady Grove Plantation
1967 Parktown Rd.
- 6 Anchorage
2655 NC Hwy. 58
- 7 Shady Grove United Methodist Church
2668 NC Hwy. 58
- 8 Cherry Hill
2740 NC Hwy 58
- 9 Fairmont
133 Rabbit Bottom Rd.



"Preserving the past for the future."

9. Fairmont

Fairmont is located in a large grove in the Inez community. It was built for Solomon and Maria Alston Kearney Williams. This spot was probably chosen as the place to build their house because of its close proximity to a number of Williams cousins. It was believed to have been built by Albert Gamaliel Jones and was occupied by 1839. The original house, built in the Greek Revival architectural style, was larger than it is now. The four front rooms are part of the original structure; the larger back portion having deteriorated beyond restoration.

1. 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. It was the second house for Holt and the site contained his workshops, kiln and lumberyard on the back portion of the property. The house is in the design of a Tuscan villa which was most unusual for Holt and was 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 is used as a visitor's center in the summer and a meeting place for the community.



8. Cherry Hill

Cherry Hill was built in 1858 for Marina Williams Alston by John Waddell, who for many years was with the construction firm of Jacob W. Holt. Waddell employed some of the best features of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and the Gothic elements in his design of Cherry Hill. Although Waddell designed several other homes in the Fork area, Cherry Hill is one of his finest. The house illustrates the most popular house plan in the 19th century, the axial plan. A central hall is flanked by equal rooms on either side. The hall, with double doors at either end, permitted any breeze to circulate through the house. The hall is divided by folding louvers that separated the front part of the house, intended for entertaining, from the back or domestic area. A back stair was used by children and servants for access to the upper floor. The curved front stair is wide enough to accommodate hoop skirts

The name, Cherry Hill, came from an older home that stood about 500 yards from the present home. The plantation was famous for its excellent cherry wine, and thus it was named Cherry Hill. Since the home was continuously occupied by the Alston family until 2004, the visitor can see many rooms of the house almost as they were 150 years ago. In the formal parlor, the cornices, draperies, and color lithographs are original. There are beautiful old coverings, woven on the plantation, on original tester beds, and tables, chairs, and other fine pieces of furniture that have been in place since 1858 are throughout the house.

At the rear of the house are the original laundry, smokehouse, and lumber house. A fourth building, the kitchen, was rebuilt following a fire some years ago. A well house and two gazebos once graced the yard. Unlike many plantation homes, Cherry Hill is surrounded by nearly 500 acres of the original property, now carefully managed for its timber resources.

In 1982, Edgar Thorne, great-grandson of Marina Alston, established the Cherry Hill Historical Foundation to maintain the property after his death and to continue support for the series of concerts, lectures, and other programs begun by Mr. Thorne and his sister, Elizabeth Johnson. Chamber music is presented in the house on Sunday afternoons in the spring and fall. Performances are open to the public at a nominal charge and are attended regularly by music lovers within a radius of more than 80 miles.

Cherry Hill is on the National Register of Historic Places.

4. Lake O' the Woods

Lake O' The Woods, an early nineteenth century plantation, is located just 10 miles outside Historic Warrenton, North Carolina. Nestled in 80 acres of land, many of the original outbuildings and dependencies remain including a typical antebellum kitchen with cook's bedroom, smoke house, a slave cabin, and last, but not least, a four-holer privy.

The main home, listed in the National Register of Historical Places, was built in 1852 by local builder/architect Albert Gamaliel Jones. The Greek Revival "Big House" is Federal style "four over four", typical of those built in Warren County in the 1800's. The timber, stone, and hand-made brick to build the house all came from the plantation itself. Inside one can see a fine example of the art of wood marbleizing on the baseboards and fireplace in the parlor and other rooms.

Lake O' the Woods, through the combination of the "Big House", it's dependencies, and the handsome rural setting is considered one of the best preserved plantations in North Carolina.

The house and its' grounds have recently gone through extensive restoration and renovation.



3. Creek Home Place & Store

Originally part of Lake O' the Woods plantation, the Creek Home Place was given to Burwell Davis by his parents when he returned from the Civil War. The oldest part of the house is a two story hand hewn log structure possibly dating to the late 18th century. The stone chimney stacks, floors, ceilings, mantels, and windows are original to the house.

As the house passed through generations of the Davis and Pridgen families, rooms were added and porches enclosed. Today, Creek Home Place is a rambling farmhouse with features characteristic of several architectural styles. Early styles include sheathed walls and ceilings with wooden door and window surrounds while later additions include bead board wainscot and ceilings and built-in cabinets. There are several original outbuildings, a milk house, an ice house, a privy, and a general store. The large store, built about 1880, sits across the road. The store functioned until 1938 as mercantile, telephone exchange, and post office.

The last descendent of the original families to live at Creek was Lucy Pridgen. Since the early 1990s the house has undergone extensive preservation, restoration and is currently under covenants with Preservation North Carolina.



6. Anchorage

This late-nineteenth century three-bay cottage was built by Solomon Williams, Jr. and his wife, Kate White Williams shortly after their marriage in 1880. Solomon Williams, Jr. was a member of the prominent Williams family that built many of the fine antebellum houses in the Fork region of Warren County. This house is typical of the rural vernacular architecture of the period following the Civil War. The house is two rooms deep with a center hall and a chimney between each of the front and back rooms. The house retains some of the Greek Revival elements similar to other houses in the area with its mantels and louvered doors between the front and back hall. Elaborate Federal woodwork from Shady Grove, another Williams house, was installed in the front west room in the twentieth century by the Harris family. Shortly after the death of Solomon Williams, Jr., his widow and her children moved to Warrenton and sold the house to Thomas H. Cheek. Thomas H. Cheek lived here with his wife Nancy Marrow Harris Cheek. In 1920 the property was bought by Tom Harris, step-son of Thomas H. Cheek. The house has remained in the Harris family and is currently the residence of Ted Echols, the grandson of Tom Harris, and his wife Margaret. They have enlarged the house to make a comfortable home for 21st century living.

2. Liberia School

Built in 1921, the Liberia School is one of twenty-five schools that were constructed using Rosenwald Funds in Warren County. Julius Rosenwald was a Chicago Philanthropist who made his fortune with Sears, Roebuck and Company. Influenced by Booker T. Washington, he became interested in the education of blacks in the South. This school is an excellent example of a one-teacher school. The school retains most of its original exterior finish and all of its interior finish. The building features multi-pane sash windows arranged in groups, a large open area to serve as a classroom, auditorium and cafeteria, cloak rooms, and industrial classroom. These were all components dictated by the Rosenwald Fund. The school remained open until the 1950s when the students were bused into Warrenton. It was restored by the Morrison family and entered into the National Register of Historic Places in May 2005.



5. Shady Grove Plantation

Shady Grove Plantation House was built in the 1830's for John Allen Williams and his wife, Charity Alston Williams. It was the home seat of a 3200 acre plantation on Big Shocco Creek. The temple style house is closely tied to the Montmorenci-Prospect Hill school of vernacular architecture through both family and architectural style. Shady Grove is a good example of the transition between Federal and Greek Revival architecture. The probable builder of Shady Grove Plantation was the Bragg-Burgess firm from Warrenton. Shady Grove was restored by and is the home of Noel and Donna Robertson.



2008 Plantation Homes Tour in the Inez Community, Warren County

Saturday, April 26, 10am to 5pm
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Ticket prices:

Luncheon* and Tour (Saturday Only)
\$35.00

Advance Purchase Only

Advance Purchase For Tour Only \$25.00

Same Day Purchase For Tour Only \$30.00

* Luncheon will be offered by Shady Grove United Methodist Church in conjunction with the Saturday tour only.

Tickets available at Scarlet Rooster and Benton Real Estate prior to tour. On tour date, tickets will be available at the Jacob Holt House in Warrenton and the Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Inez only. Sites are numbered for purpose of identification only. You may begin tour at any site.

To learn more about "Partners in Preservation" please contact Preservation Warrenton, PO Box 944, Warrenton, NC 27589.

For ticket information, please contact the Warren County Chamber of Commerce at 252-257-2657 or www.warren-chamber.org

