



**Preservation Warrenton  
proudly presents...**

# **1999 Spring Tour of Historic Homes**

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

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

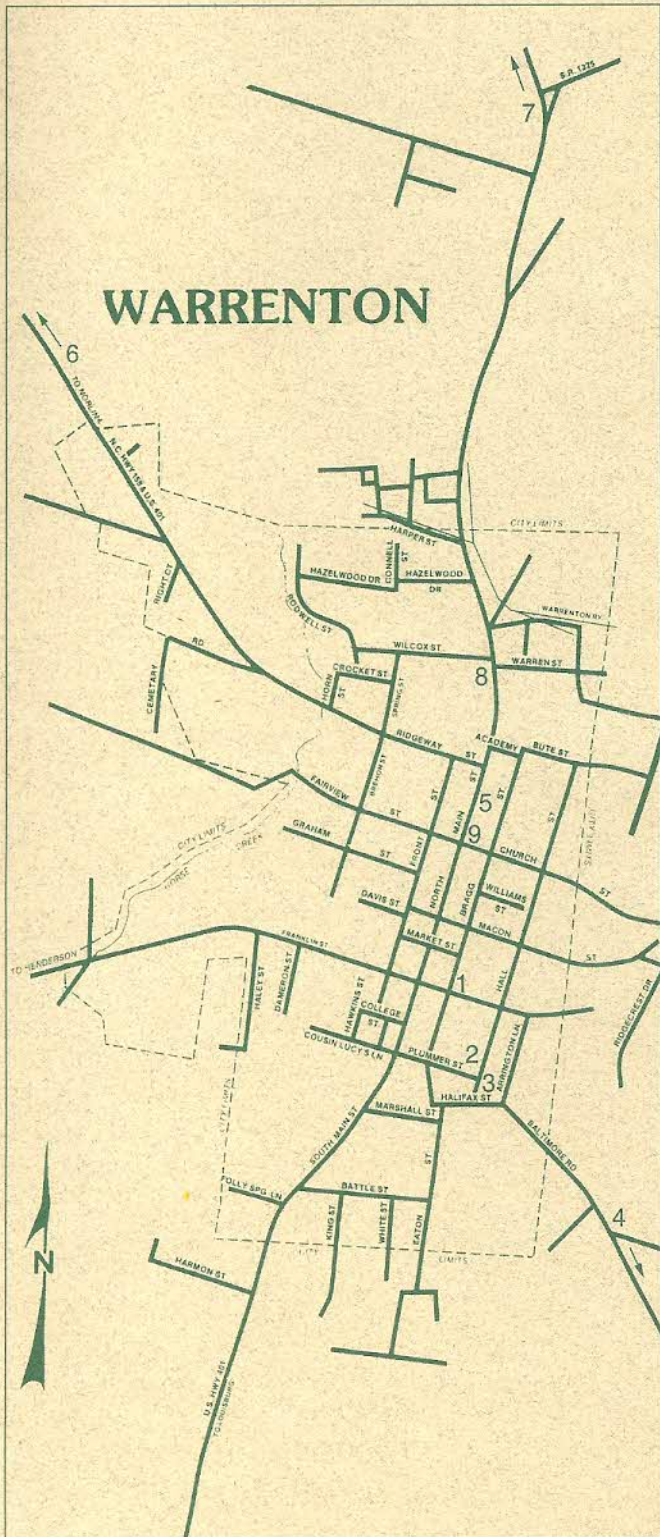
**W**arrenton, a National Register Historic District, was established on 100 acres of land owed by Thomas Christmas in 1779. The town grew slowly at first, but by the 1820s had become the center of a prosperous plantation region. Tradesmen, professional men and the wealthy planters gave the county seat 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.



