



*Preservation Warrenton
proudly presents...*

2003 Holiday Homes Tour

Saturday, December 6 10am to 5pm

Sunday, December 7 1pm to 5pm

Warrenton, a National Register Historic District, was established on 100 acres of land owned 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, mason), 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 Dun Mor
- 3 Scarlet Inn
- 4 Eaton House
- 5 Falkener Britt House
- 6 Magnolia Manor Plantation Bed & Breakfast
- 7 Tarwater House
- 8 White Banzet House
- 9 Greystone House

Churches

Although not listed, area churches will be open for visitors.

Directions

- 6 Magnolia Manor Plantation Bed & Breakfast - Directions. Follow South Main street (Hwy 401 South) 2 miles. Turn right on Pet Burwell Road. The house is located on the right.
- 9 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.

Preservation Warrenton
P.O. Box 944
Warrenton, NC 27589



Preserving the past for the future.

Jacob Holt House

Built in 1855 by noted builder Jacob Holt as his residence, the house was owned by business man 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.



Dun Mor

Attributed to builder Jacob Holt, this house was complete 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 so often seen in Holt's houses.



Scarlet Inn

Built in the early part of the 1900s by Charlie Haithcock on the site of his parent's home, this two-story house faces Main Street and is situated beside the location of the first depot for the Warrenton Railroad. The house was converted into apartments in the 1960s and has been recently returned to its single home configuration to become a bed and breakfast inn. The present owners Mr. and Mrs. James West have renovated the house and garden area.



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 1860s 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 C. 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 northeast corner of the backyard.



Magnolia Manor Plantation Bed and Breakfast

Listed on the national Register of Historic Places as the John Watson House after its antebellum owner. It was John Watson who commissioned Jacob Holt to add the Italianate facade to a pre-existing house. The pre-existing house contains Federal period details similar to other houses in Warren County built between 1820 and 1830. The house underwent a six year respectful rehabilitation by its current owners who have recently opened it as Magnolia Manor Plantation Bed and Breakfast.



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 newel, and simple Greek mantels define the house's place in the range of Warrenton architecture. The Jacob Parker family owned the home during much of the nineteenth century. 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 still being renovated and is currently being returned back to its 1850s size.



