

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| STATE: North Carolina | |
| COUNTY: Davie | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Evans Place (Hinton Rowan Helper House)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hinton Rowan Helper House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
U.S. Rt. 64 1.5 Mi. east of intersection with Rt. 1-40

CITY OR TOWN:
Mocksville

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| STATE North Carolina | CODE | COUNTY: Davie | CODE |
|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ |
| ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Wade Dyson

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rural Route 1

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Mocksville | STATE: North Carolina | CODE |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Davie County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street (Courthouse Square)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Mocksville | STATE: North Carolina | CODE |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

| | | |
|---------------|--------|------|
| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE |
|---------------|--------|------|

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7 DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hinton Rowan Helper House is a 1 1/2 story building with clap-boarding over the original log house with modern frame additions. The house has a continual shed dormer at the front and a lean-to rear extension. The roof overhangs the front porch and is supported on four posts. The interior chimney was originally outside on the east wall, but now indicates the point from which the east addition was made to the houses enlarging it by one-third. The rear lean-to was further extended recently by the addition of a modern kitchen.

On the first floor the original house unit consists of the two rooms at the front and one room (dining room) to the rear of these. The modern additions are the kitchen at the rear which runs the full 30' width of the house and two rooms at the east end of the structure, one off the dining room, the other off the front parlor. The straight staircase rises along the west wall of the parlor into a central bedroom on the second floor. Two end bedrooms flank the central bedroom.

The contemporary appearance of the building is deceiving. Under the asphalt shingling, the newly painted clapboard, and the shed dormer, is the original Helper House. The old weatherboarding was removed, and additions made. However, the log supports (some hewn square, others natural) are still intact as are the wide floorboards and split log thresholds. The front door enters into the front parlor, the only place where the square-timber walls with plaster chinking are exposed. The fireplace and original mantel is on the east wall. The rafters and sheathing are still intact.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
- 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hinton Rowan Helper is noted for his authorship of the Impending Crisis in the South and How to Meet It which he wrote in 1857. This anti-slavery book angered slaveholders more than did Uncle Tom's Cabin. When seized upon and reprinted by Republican progagandists during the campaign of 1860, it "proved to be the most potent campaign document of 1860 if not of our entire political history." Printed in large quantities and widely distributed, it won many converts to Republican ranks who had been left untouched by abolitionist rhetoric.

The political value of the tract lay in the fact that here was a Southerner condemning an institution of his own society. What's more, it was a reasonably convincing work. Fortified, by a mass of data gleaned from census reports, Helper argued that the direct benefits of slavery accrued not to the great mass of Southern white laborers but only to the planter oligarchy--"lords of the lash," he called them. This group alone, he argued, possessed the resources of the southland, leaving the bulk of the people "in galling poverty and ignorance." He believed that slavery was sapping Southern energy by competing with free labor which, he contended, had allowed the North to attain "almost unexampled power and eminence.

It was here at the house near Mocksville where Helper spent the first 20 years of his life observing the conflict of free labor and the slave system. After a time in the California gold fields, about which he wrote his first tract, Land of Gold, he returned to North Carolina, preparing his fateful work, dividing his time between the Mocksville house and another at nearby Salisbury which no longer exists.

1. William E. Binkley, American Political Parties: Their Natural History (New York 1944), p.222.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Binkley, Wilfred E., American Political Parties: Their Natural History, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1944.
 Channing, Edward, A History of the United States, 6 vols., New York, Macmillan Col, 1937.
 Hockett, Homer Carey, Political and Social Growth of the American People; 1492-1865, 3rd. Ed., New York, Macmillan Co. 1940.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|---|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | | | | LONGITUDE | | | LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " |
| NE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 35 | 54 | 25 | 80 | 36 | 17 |
| SE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | | | | |
| SW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.5 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Benjamin Levy, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE: **2/5/73**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1100 L Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE:

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

(66)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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| | |
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| STATE North Carolina | |
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) Hinto R. Helper House

It was here at the house near Mocksville where Helper spent the first 20 years of his life observing the conflict of free labor and the slave system. After a time in the California gold fields, about which he wrote his first tract, Land of Gold, he returned to North Carolina preparing his fateful work, dividing his time between the Mocksville house and another at nearby Salisbury which no longer exists.

Biography

Helper was born in 1829 in the vicinity of Mocksville, North Carolina and graduated from the Mocksville Academy in 1848. For a short time he worked in a local store but in 1850 he shipped out of New York City around Cape Horn to the gold fields of California. Three years later he returned east and in 1855 wrote The Land of Gold based upon his experiences at the gold mines.

The following year he wrote the Impending Crisis, his influential brief in behalf of the non-slaveholding whites of the south. Contrasting the economic condition of the free and slave states, he attributed the backwardness of the South to the impoverishment of free labor by slavery. The tract contained no sympathy for the Black man but solely for the poor laborer who could not compete with the dominant system. He attacked slaveholders violently, even calling for a slave uprising, if necessary, to overthrow the system. The book caused a sensation far greater than Uncle Tom's Cabin. Reaction to it was so furious that Helper took refuge in New York City while his work was publicly burned, those who trafficked in or possessed it were jailed, and his sympathizers lost their jobs and privileges.

Republicans, jubilant over such damning testimony out of the mouth of a Southern witness, printed 100,000 copies of Helper's work and distributed it widely during the 1860 campaign. It was instrumental in swelling the ranks of the Republican electorate. The heat that it aroused was a powerful contributing cause of the Civil War.

During the Civil War, Lincoln appointed Helper consul at Buenos Aires where he served until 1866. He returned to the United States and wrote three volumes during the years 1867 to 1871. All three were virulent denunciations of congressional reconstruction and its theories of Black equality.

After resigning the consulship he acted as attorney for citizens having claims against South American governments and interested himself in many phases of South American activities--canal construction, steamship communication, the commercial marine, and the involvement of the U.S. Navy in South American affairs.

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8. Significance: (2) Hinton R. Helper House

Gradually, he reduced his activity to a venture which occupied him, some say, to the point of madness--promotion of a railroad from the Hudson Bay to the Strait of Magellan. The project bankrupted him. He became despondent and bitter. Finally, in 1909 in Washington, D.C., he took his own life and was buried by strangers.

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