

APPENDIX E: HOREGOTT REPORT

VANDERVIER HOUSE
BATH, NORTH CAROLINA

By A. L. Monopette, Jr.,
Restoration Supervisor

June 30, 1969

At the request of Mr. Edmund Harding, Chairman of the Historic Bath Commission, the Vandervier House in Bath was investigated on May 29, to determine the construction date and the original portions of the house still in existence. Primarily, the investigation was to determine the feasibility of moving the structure to the Historic Area of Bath where it would be restored either as a historic house museum or as a restored structure for adaptive-use purposes.

Mr. Edmund Harding, Mrs. John A. Tarkard, Mr. Richard W. Sawyer, Mr. William Toler, and Mr. William Moore helped with the investigation. Mr. Harding brought Mr. Donald Carrow over to answer questions concerning his carpentry work on the house in 1925. Mr. Harding also brought over Mrs. Will Wallace who moved to the house in 1911 as a bride. Her daughter, Mrs. Rachel Tarkard, accompanied her mother. They lived in the house from 1911 until 1925. All of these people were most helpful.

Both the interior and the exterior of the house have been greatly changed. The gambrel-roof structure has been changed to a full two-story, three-bay house with double-shoulder Flemish-head original chimneys at each end. A room has been added to the east and west ends and the rear shed rooms have been altered. The front porch with its curved wide board ceiling is early if not original. All of the house has been covered with wooden shingles except under the front porch and rear porch areas where the original beaded weatherboarding applied with existing T-head, handmade nails, is extant. The roof overhang has been extended and the molded box cornice has been given a heavy return at each end. The original top sashes (ca. 1790) have survived in a number of the windows on both the first and second floors but all the lower sashes have been replaced by sashes of one large glass pane each. The exterior window cases and sills under the front porch area are original and the casing is a very plain four-inch wide board, without a molding, mitered together at the top. The front door casing with applied molding dates from ca. 1830 and therefore is not original.

The interior of the structure has been greatly altered. The first floor door casings and window casings have been replaced with ca. 1830 casings carrying applied moldings. The moldings were put on with modern cut nails. The two first floor mantels could be original to the house but are more likely replacements brought in from another structure at the time of the ca. 1830 renovations. The center partitions

dividing the two first floor rooms is in its original location but has been greatly altered. The doorway has been enlarged. All the original raised paneled doors on the first floor have been replaced by late doors. The first floor was replastered in 1925 and all the original handsplit laths were replaced with circular eased ones. A door has been added at either end of the structure at the north side leading to the one-room addition. The original flooring has been covered downstairs with hardwood floors.

The original staircase is in place in the shed room at the rear of the structure. Originally, the rear shed area was divided into two small rooms with a center porch where the staircase is located. On the west wall of this area the original beaded weather-boarding applied with T-headed, handmade nails, is still existing. Portions of the doorway leading to the west shed room are original as determined by tearing out a section of the door casing. The east shed room and the center porch area have been greatly altered. The stairway still has its original treads, risers, handrailing, balusters, and newel post with an altered cap. The wide board paneling on the sides of the stairs area is original but the ceiling is a replacement.

Most of the ripping out of modern materials was done on the second floor level. The partitions on the second floor are still in place and divide the space into three small rooms and a stair landing area. A closet was added on the north side of the stair landing area during the twentieth century. By tearing into the partition walls it was found that sections of the original wall are still in place. It originally was composed of beaded baseboard six inches wide and a two-board wainscot with a chair rail about 24 inches above the floor and wide boards above the chair rail all the way up to the ceiling which was plastered. All of this woodwork was applied with T-headed, handmade nails. The original cream-colored paint still exists on the wainscot and chair rail. The wide boards above the chair rail were whitewashed simulating plaster. On the north and south walls the twentieth-century plaster boards were removed which exposed the original gambrel roof framing. The wainscot and chair rail were found in place along the north and south walls as well as the three corner windows on each side. The plaster above the chair rail in sections is still intact and probably is the original. The handsplit laths are applied with cut nails with handmade heads which were used in the period of 1790 to 1815. The mantel in the east room is not original and the fireplace has been reworked. The mantel in the west room has been removed and the fireplace opening has been closed. The end walls in both of these rooms have been greatly altered. The wainscot, chair rail, window casings, and window sills have been removed from the ends of these two rooms. The second level flooring is original and has not been altered. The original raised paneled doors still exist on the second floor.

All of the rafters in the roof have been replaced except the original end rafters in the west end of the attic area. Rose-headed handmade nails were found in the original work in the attic area.

Based upon the physical evidence found in the existing structure it is my opinion that the gambrel roof house was originally constructed ca. 1790 and that it was slightly altered on the first floor level ca. 1830. These alterations included new window and door casings and probably the addition of the elaborate mantels. The major alterations were made during the last quarter of the nineteenth and the first quarter of the twentieth centuries.

The exact date of construction will have to be determined through historical research and archaeological investigation of the foundation areas. A professional historian should be assigned as soon as feasible to the task of doing thorough research of the history of this project. I have asked Mr. Harding and Mrs. John A. Taskard to try to find early photographs of the house.

Recommendations

Although the structure has been greatly altered there is still enough physical evidence for a complete restoration of this building both on the interior and the exterior. Since this ca. 1790 gambrel roof structure would not duplicate in any way the two historic house museums already in the Historic Bath State Historic Site program, I recommend very strongly that this building be restored as a historic house museum and not as a structure with adaptive use. If at all possible, the house should be restored on its original site. But if the structure has to be moved, the proposed relocation site of this house which would be a little northeast of the visitor center-museum would be a suitable site. An architect should be employed to draw the structure as it now exists and to draw the restoration plans as more of the twentieth-century materials are removed.



Memorandum

Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Date: June 24, 1969

TO : Dr. H.G. Jones (Your Information)

FROM : Mr. Floney

SUBJECT: Exterior Restoration - VANHOVIER HOUSE

ESTIMATED COST BREAKDOWN FOR EXTERIOR RESTORATION

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| MOVING THE STRUCTURE | \$ 2,000.00 |
| HISTORICAL RESEARCH | 500.00 |
| ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS | 250.00 |
| ROOF (Shingles could be donated by the Dept.) | 350.00 |
| FOUNDATIONS (Piers & Chimneys) | 500.00 |
| EXTERIOR RESTORATION (Weatherboarding, window cases, closing windows, etc.) | 5,000.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | Sub- $\$$ 8,600.00 |
| ARCHITECTS FEES | <u>860.00</u> |
| TOTAL | $\$$ 9,460.00 |

HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION

Minutes of Special Meeting, Executive Committee

August 24, 1969

The Executive Committee of the Historic Bath Commission met on call of the Chairman at 2 P. M., August 24, 1969, at The Carolinian, Kings Head, North Carolina, to consider matters pertaining to the Vandervier house. Present were Chairman Edward H. Harding, Vice-Chairman Mrs. Fred W. Morrison, Colonel C. Wings Hoad, Mr. Wayland J. Sermons and Captain Henry C. Bridgers, Secretary. This constituted a quorum and the meeting was called to order.

The Chairman gave a brief of the report of Mr. A. L. Honeycutt, Jr., Restoration Supervisor, dated June 20, 1969, Encl (1). He also submitted Mr. Finney's memorandum of June 24th to Dr. Jones in which the estimated cost of moving and exterior restoration of the Vandervier house was given as \$9,460.00. Encl (2).

The Chairman reported that he had been recently advised by the Treasurer that current assets were:

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|--------------------|--|
| \$ 8,712.29 | in the General Fund |
| 2,950.00 | profits from Gift Shop since its beginning |
| 300.00 | in the special Cookbook acct |
| <u>\$11,962.29</u> | |

for which there are no currently active plans nor known requirements, since it appears impossible at this time to acquire Buzzard's Hotel.

The gist of the ensuing discussion was that, while it might cost more than the estimated \$9,460, available funds seemed adequate to warrant proceeding with moving this house. The Chairman summed up the situation as:

1. Mrs. Smith, the owner of the house, must have it moved soon or be forced to dismantle it herself.
2. Restoring it in its present location is out of the question.
3. Title to the house rests with the Commission.
4. Space is available for it to be relocated as indicated Encl (3).

On a motion by Mrs. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Sermons, it was unanimously voted that the Director be advised that the Commission desires and considers funds available to relocate the Vandervier house to the site selected and to restore/stabilize the exterior, in reply to Mr. Finney's memorandum dated June 24, 1969 Encl (4).

Additional discussion regarding the move was held. The Chairman felt that Mr. W. A. Bessley of Virginia Beach who was born in this house, might be persuaded to make a substantial contribution if suitable recognition were given. He also said that Texas Gulf Sulphur, a corporation which has been most generous in its help, may be willing to assist financially.

The Chairman understands that Carolina Tel. and Tel. plans to spend some money on its system in the Bath area and he feels that they might be persuaded to place the wires underground, especially on Main Street. Also, they might, without charge, raise their lines briefly to permit passage of the house during the move.

On a motion by Mr. Sermers, seconded by Mrs. Morrison, the Secretary was directed to contact the Carolina Tel. and Tel. Company on these two points.

On a motion by Captain Bridgers, seconded by Colonel Reed, it was voted that in advising the Director regarding this move, the Committee express its desire that the Vandover house not be planned as a historic house museum at this time, as recommended by Mr. Honeycutt, but rather that its use be unspecified pending future developments.

Date for the next Annual Meeting was confirmed as the third Sunday in May, 1970.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

Captain Henry C. Bridgers, Jr.
Secretary

Encls (A)

VAN DER VEER HOUSE
RESTORATION COST ESTIMATES

Phase I (Exterior Restoration)

| | | |
|---|---------|---------------|
| A. Architectural Planning | \$1,600 | |
| B. Contractor's Work (Remove late additions; move to new site; construct concrete footings for two chimneys and brick piers; remove modern roof and restore gambrel roof; rework beaded siding; restore period windows and doors; repoint and waterproof two brick chimneys; restore front porch; and paint.) | | <u>30,900</u> |
| Sub-total | | \$32,500 |

Phase II (Electrical and Mechanical)

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|---|--------|----------------|
| A. Engineer Planning | \$ 700 | |
| B. Contractor's Work (Underground service; wires; heating system; air conditioning; humidity control system; and installation.) | | <u>\$7,300</u> |
| Sub-total | | \$ 8,000 |

Phase III (Interior Restoration)

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|--|---------|-----------------|
| A. Architectural Planning | \$1,600 | |
| B. Contractor's Work (Remove hardwood floors; patch plaster; restore first floor partition wall; replace first floor interior doors; replace two second floor wasters; restore the heart pine floors; and paint all walls and woodwork.) | | <u>\$32,900</u> |
| Sub-total | | \$34,500 |
| Total | | \$55,000 |

Phase IV (Furnishings)

Donations to the Historic
Bath Commission

A. L. Honeysett, Jr.
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Restoration Supervisor

October 1, 1970

State Department of Archives and History