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*Flagon & Trencher: Taverner and Innkeeper
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Ordinary Keeper, Nash County, North Carolina 1767 - 1795

Arthur Arrington, Jr., son of Arthur and Mary (West?) Arrington, was born c. 1735 in Isle of Wight County, Virginia; died in Nash County, North Carolina in 1795; married 14 May 1758 in Southampton County, Virginia, Mary Sandefur, born 29 September 1741, daughter of William and Mary (Tompkins) Sandefur. She died 1804-1805.

Arthur Arrington, Jr. migrated to North Carolina in the 1760's where he became politically active and a leader during the pre-Revolutionary War period: an original justice, first sheriff, county trustee, treasurer and commissioner. His plantation house still stands on Swift Creek, unrestored. He had 378 acres that sustained a large household of five daughters and seven sons. There were 16 slaves to share the work of the plantation and the inn. There was a small stone building on the property which probably served as the local "goal" while Arrington was the sheriff.

The Arrington Inn, as it came to be called, was first licensed in October 1767, the license renewed every year until 1795 by a £50 - £100 bond as required by law. Probably because he was a public leader his hostel survived while more than 50 other licensed ordinaries failed after a year or two between 1758 and 1775. The county court set rates for food, drink and lodgings for man and beast, and it was required that these rates be publicly displayed. The success of the Inn also was probably due to its prime location on a well-traveled road leading from the court house northeast to Halifax. The 1808 Price-Strother map of North Carolina identifies "Arrington's Inn", which later became a stage coach stop called "Half-way House."

- Franceine Perry Rees
85-27

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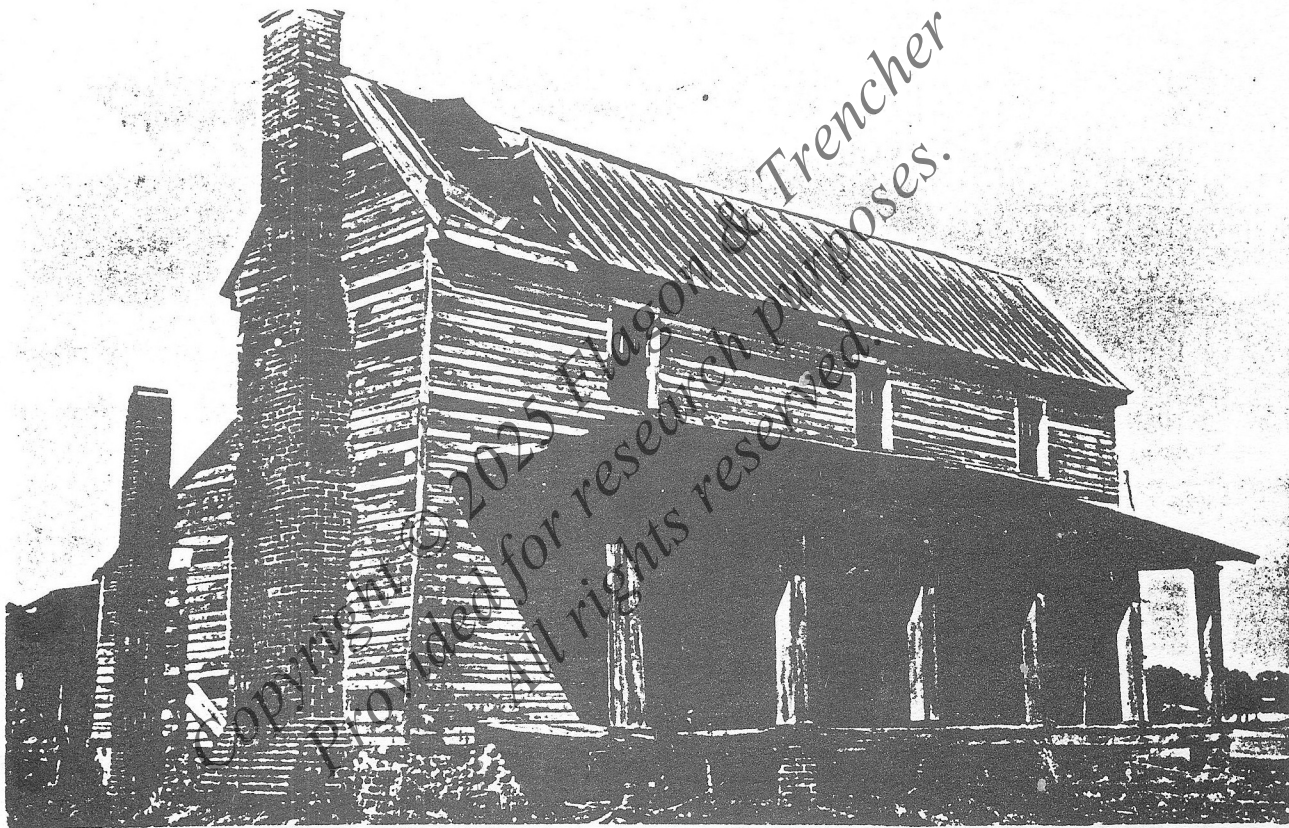
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Arrington's Inn - March 1958 photograph

Arthur Arrington, Jr.'s homeplace
Edgecombe (later Nash) County, N.C.