

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Burke COUNTY

Morganton North QUAD

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Historic Resources of Morganton

XX MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1. NAME

HISTORIC

John Alexander Lackey House

AND/OR COMMON

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

102 Camelot Drive

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Morganton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Burke

CODE

023

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| | NA | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stephens

STREET & NUMBER

102 Camelot Drive

CITY, TOWN

Morganton

STATE

North Carolina 28655

NA VICINITY OF

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Burke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Morganton

STATE

North Carolina 28655

6. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Suzanne Pickens Wylie

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Consultant

DATE

July 31, 1986

STREET & NUMBER

3301-T Park Road

TELEPHONE

(704) 527-1610

CITY OR TOWN

Charlotte

STATE

North Carolina 28209

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Alexander Lackey House was constructed ca. 1900 by Lackey to replace a frame house on the same site that burned ca. 1899. The two-story common-bond, brick farmhouse has been rehabilitated in recent years and alterations include a new porch, a small second story addition for bathrooms, and a small addition on the rear of the kitchen wing. In spite of these additions, the house retains its basic integrity as a turn-of-the-century farmhouse and is significant as an unusual example of a vernacular farmhouse plan executed in brick.

The boundaries of the Lackey House nomination include a large portion of the property presently associated with the house, but are drawn to exclude two modern barns southwest of the house. The house faces east and fronts on Bost Road. Pasture surrounds the house; riding stables are located behind the building as is a modern residence. A thick, high hedge effectively shields the Lackey House from this modern development.

The Lackey House is a T-shaped, gable-roofed, brick residence which exhibits restrained Colonial Revival influences. The slate roof, unusual during this period in Burke County has a heavy-boxed cornice and finials on the gable peaks. Original lightning rods also still survive. The roof is punctuated by interior corbelled chimneys. Fenestration is two-over-two sash surmounted by splayed and corbelled lintels. The hip-roofed wraparound porch retains the basic form of the original but has new support posts and a new denticulated cornice. It appears that Lackey constructed the house of brick with a slate roof to make it as fireproof as possible.

There is a one-story, gabled kitchen wing with a small modern extension on the rear, attached to the north wing of the main block. A modern, but visually compatible, garage is attached to this wing.

The interior retains much of its original detailing including molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks, beaded board wainscoting, six original mantels, and elaborate brass hardware. Perhaps the most notable of the interior features are the parlor mantel with a beveled mirror overmantel with fluted columns, a fleur-de-lis friezeboard, mantel shelf supported by fluted consoles, and a soapstone opening; and the quarter-turn-with-landing staircase with a turned newelpost and spindle balusters. Most of the floors have been carpeted but the hardwood is intact beneath.

Resources Count: 1 Building

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

 X

_____ LOCAL

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Alexander Lackey House was constructed ca. 1900 and is located on the outskirts of the present Morganton city limits. Much of the property originally associated with the house is now a residential subdivision; however, sufficient acreage has been retained immediately around the house to preserve its character as a rural farmhouse. One modern residence is located directly behind the house but does not intrude visually on the setting. A large expanse of lawn remains in front of the house and pasture land to the south. The Lackey House is an unusual example in Burke County of a traditional T-shaped farmhouse executed in brick. The house also features Colonial Revival detailing in the exterior and interior ornamentation and has a slate roof, extremely rare for its rural setting and time. The house replaced a frame, weatherboarded house with a similar form and Victorian detailing that burned ca. 1899. Apparently Lackey decided to use more fireproof materials in the construction of this house and to construct his home after the most fashionable designs of the day. Although the house has been renovated in recent years, it retains its basic integrity and its architectural significance.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- C. The Lackey House is significant as an unusual Burke County example of a traditional farmhouse form executed in brick when most farmhouses in the Western Piedmont were frame. The house also has interesting Colonial Revival elements that are unusual in a rural residence in the first year of this century in Burke County.

The Lackey House, built ca. 1900 by John Alexander Lackey, is architecturally significant as an unusual example of a brick farmhouse. Although now located within the Morganton city limits, the area around the house was originally a rural agricultural context. The overwhelming majority of rural Burke County farmhouses were frame making the Lackey House an interesting and relatively sophisticated example of rural residential construction.

John Alexander Lackey was born in Cleveland County in 1853. He came to Burke County as a student at Rutherford College. Lackey and his brother stayed in Rutherford College after graduation and together bought Connelly's Store, where they had worked during school. Lackey married Sallie Peeler, a classmate, in 1875. Not long after their marriage, the store in Rutherford College burned and the Lackeys moved to Morganton.

In 1882 Lackey won a very heated battle for the office of sheriff of Burke County, a post he held until 1894. In 1889 he was appointed construction manager of the Southern and Western Airline Railroad Company in Gaston and Cleveland County. About 1893 Lackey purchased the property on which the present house stands and constructed a frame farmhouse for his rapidly growing family. During the 1890s Lackey worked as a fertilizer sales agent for the Old Dominion Guano Company and acted as president of the Farmers Union Warehouse Company, a local organization dealing in farm implements and advice. He served for a brief time as secretary for the Morganton Land and Improvement Company of which he was a stockholder. From 1906 until 1909 Lackey was manager of the Catawba Valley Canning Company in Morganton.

In order that his eight children might attend school, the Lackeys spent several winters living in town. During one of these periods away from the farm in Quaker Meadows, the frame house burned. Shortly after, about 1900, Lackey constructed the substantial brick farmhouse that exists today. He resided there until his death in 1921.

In addition to his business dealings, Lackey served as the secretary-treasurer of Rutherford College for about twenty-five years. He was also a Mason and was very active in the Methodist Church serving as superintendent of the Sunday School and treasurer of Oak Hill Methodist Church for many years.¹²⁵

(See continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Cover Form, Section 9.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2.29 acres

UTM REFERENCES

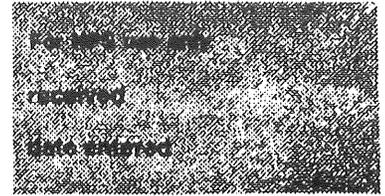
| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------------|-------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1, 7 | 43, 50, 40 | 3, 9, 5, 8, 2, 50 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the John Alexander Lackey House National Register nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Burke County Tax Map #11-56 drawn on a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The boundary includes the house and a substantial portion of the lot on which it is located but excludes adjacent nonhistoric barns and modern residential construction.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



John Alexander Lackey House:

Continuation sheet

Historical Background

Item number 8

Page 1

The Lackey House is basically a T-shaped brick farmhouse. The house features a cross-gable roof with boxed cornice with returns. Finials decorate the peak of each gable end. The porch that wraps the front is a replacement but retains its basic form. The roof is slate, a relatively rare material in Burke County. Apparently Lackey was careful to use fire-proof materials as much as possible. Interior features follow vaguely Colonial Revival lines and include symmetrically molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks, matchboard wainscoting, and six original mantels including one with fluted columns and a beveled mirror overmantel.

(For footnotes, see Cover Form, Item 9.)

