INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME
HISTORIC

William Teague House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER

E side SR 1004, .2 mi north of jct with SR 1313.

CITY, TOWN
Siler City

STATE
North Carolina

CODE
037

COUNTY
Chatham

CODE
037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDINGS
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
PRIVATE

STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES RESTRICTED
YES UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
MUSEUM
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Joyce Martin

STREET & NUMBER
207 Water Street

CITY, TOWN
Graham

STATE
NC

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
Chatham County Courthouse

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Ray Manieri

ORGANIZATION
Urban Research Associates

DATE
July 1, 1983

STREET & NUMBER
1301 Cornwallie Drive

PHONE

STATE
N.C.
The Teague House, once part of a large Chatham County farm, is composed of several sections built at various times during the first half of the nineteenth century. The older sections are constructed of log and were covered in beaded weatherboard. Although it is located in open pasture land along SR 1004, the house has not been maintained and is now almost completely covered by heavy brush and vines. Several log and frame outbuildings are located to the north and south of the house, but only a small crib and a smokehouse are on the same parcel as the house.

The oldest section of the house appears to be the two story log section (Section A on map), covered in beaded weatherboard and apparently dating from the 1820s-1830s. It features such traditional exterior elements as a steeply pitched gable-end roof, massive brick chimney, boxed cornice with pattern board, and double-hung windows with six-over-six sash surrounded by plain and mitered surrounds. The asymmetrical two-bay facade is defined by an appended shed roof porch supported by interesting tapered and notched posts similar to those on the nearby Bowen-Jordan House and the Whitehead-Fogelman House. The repetition of this element may indicate that the same craftsman, perhaps Arthur Whitehead, was involved in the construction of parts of all three houses.

The interior of this section, laid out in a hall and parlor plan, continues the simple styling developed on its exterior. The hall, which is sheathed with flush boards carrying a molded chair rail, is dominated by a large transitional Georgian/Federal mantel with fluted pilasters, flat moldings, and a flat paneled frieze. Exposed ceiling beams are molded at their juncture with the wall. These beams are identical to those found in the nearby Bowen-Jordan House, again indicating possible involvement of the same craftsman in both houses' construction. A small closet is found under the enclosed stair; the stair door is board and batten, beaded, with strap hinges. The stair has steep winders and rises along the wall of the unadorned parlor to provide access to upstairs bedrooms.

A one-and-one-half story, one room log section (Section B on map) appears to be an early addition to the east side of the original house. This gable-roof section is constructed of hand-hewn logs joined with v-notching and features a one-bay facade defined by an appended shed roofed porch with simple posts. The interior of the room is lit by a small, four-over-two, double hung sash and a French door. An interesting built-in corner cupboard and a wide fireplace surrounded by a large unadorned mantel with heavy shelf characterize the room. A massive all-brick chimney with double stepped shoulders serves this fireplace.

The rear shed and side addition (Section C on map) is also covered in beaded weatherboard but shows no sign of log construction. The interior of this section combines flush sheathing with both plain and mitered window and door surrounds and paneled doors of various types. Some of the doors exhibit two vertical panels typical of the Greek Revival period; others are five panel doors more typical of the Federal era. The overall finish of this addition appears to place its date of construction ca. 1850.
Although the Teague House was once surrounded by various outbuildings, most have been demolished or are no longer on the small parcel of land upon which the house stands. Two large log and frame barns are south of the house on a separate parcel of land. However, a log and frame potato house, now covered in vines, sits just southeast of the house and a small frame crib is just northeast of the house as well.
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<tr>
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<td>OTHER (SPECIFY)</td>
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SPECIFIC DATES: ca. 1820s - 1830s, ca. 1850

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by William Teague, a descendant of one of northwestern Chatham County's oldest families, the Teague House is a fairly typical early farm house expanded to accommodate a growing family over the first half of the nineteenth century. It exhibits typical characteristics of vernacular Federal and Greek Revival design found in Chatham County in the nineteenth century. During the 1850s the Gulf and Graham Plank Road was constructed just west of the house, which was used as a community post office. Following the death of William Teague in 1852, the house was occupied by his son, S.P. Teague, a local farmer, teacher and magistrate.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. Associated with the development of self-sustaining farming society in Chatham County during the nineteenth century.

B. Associated with the lives of William and Samuel P. Teague, descendants of one of the oldest farming families in northeastern Chatham County.

C. Embodies the distinctive form and characteristics of vernacular log and Federal/Greek Revival design that developed in nineteenth century Chatham County.
William Teague was a descendant of one of Chatham County's earliest farming families when he was born in 1786. His grandfather, Moses Teague, settled in an area of southern Orange County that became part of Chatham County which it was formed in 1771. David Teague, William's father, subsequently built a home on the northeast side of Nick's Creek in the 1780s.

Upon reaching manhood, William Teague established his own farm on the southwest side of Nick's Creek and began to raise a large family. Family tradition states that he married Anne Carter in 1810 and built a small home a short distance from his father's farm. This tradition, which is supported by census records, reveals that Teague fathered thirteen children between 1811 and 1837. He purchased 200 acres of land along Nick's Creek, a tributary of the Rocky River, in 1814 and bought another 133 acres from his father in 1822. As the Teague family grew, additions were made to the original house throughout the mid-nineteenth century.

Local tradition which holds that William Teague was a Quaker and owned no slaves is refuted by information from local deeds, wills, and census records. He inherited one slave from his father in 1830 and his son, William M. Teague, owned one slave in 1850. Teague also gave three acres of land to the Rocky River Baptist Church in 1842.

Following the death of William Teague in 1852, the house was occupied by one of his younger sons, Samuel Pleasant Teague. Soon after he occupied the house, the Gulf and Graham Plank Road was constructed within sight of it. Plank roads became popular in the late 1840s and early 1850s as North Carolina's legislature sought a cheap means of transportation which would free her citizens from the bondage of primitive roads. The roads were built by private companies which charged tolls to farmers and other travelers who used them. Construction of the Gulf and Graham Plank Road began in January, 1853 and when it was completed it stretched for twenty-two miles through Chatham County from Gulf to Snow Camp in Alamance County.

### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chatham County Records (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Marriage Bonds, and Tax Lists).

Fifth Census of the United States, 1830, Population Schedule.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY</th>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>C</td>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:
The nominated property consists of approximately seven acres bounded as shown on Chatham County Tax Map #8763-86-0874.
Although they clearly played an important role in the economic development of the state during the 1850s, by providing access to major trading centers, plank roads also played a more subtle role in the social development of the state's population. People from different backgrounds and different sections of the state were brought together during trips along the state's plank roads and often stopped at nearby homes, such as the Teague House, to rest and maintain equipment and animals. "Ideas flowed up and down...along with the goods for market." Family tradition states that travelers on the plank road stopped at the Teague House which provided a blacksmith's shop, and may have served as a post office for the surrounding countryside. The initial popularity of the North Carolina's plank roads was short-lived, however, and by the early 1860s competition from the state's rapidly growing railroad system and high maintenance costs made most plank roads unprofitable.

Local records show that although Samuel Teague did occupy the house after his father's death, final settlement of William Teague's estate took several years. William Teague died intestate in 1852 and his son William M. Teague was appointed administrator of the estate. Following the petition of Samuel Teague and other heirs, the final sale of William Teague's personal property, which brought over $1,300, was held in 1859. Samuel Teague was not able to gain title to his father's home until 1860.

Family tradition states that Samuel Teague followed a varied career as a farmer, teacher, magistrate, and manufacturer, after his possession of the Teague House. During the Civil War he worked for his father-in-law who had a contract to provide shoes for the Confederate Army. Following the war he was employed as a teacher, as well as a farmer, and served as a local magistrate. Local tax records reveal that Teague was a successful farmer during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. Between 1880 and 1890, as the size of the average North Carolina farm was decreasing from 142 acres to 101 acres, Teague increased the size of his farm from 169 to 223 acres. By the end of the century the Teague estate, valued at $1,200, contained land valued at $600.

After Samuel Teague's death in 1913 the house was transferred to his youngest daughter Daisy, who married W. P. Short. Mrs. Short occupied the house until her death in 1967, after which her daughter who married into the Holt family received the house. Mrs. Holt transferred the house to her daughter, Mrs. Joyce H. Martin, the current owner.

2. Ibid.

3. P. D. Short, interviewed May 2, 1983. Mr. Short states that David Teague's home was across Nick's Creek. An exact date for its construction is not known, but since David Teague was born in 1963 ("Teague Family", Rees Collection, Wren Memorial Library) and his son William Teague was born in 1786, it was probably built in the early to mid 1780s.

4. Chatham County Marriage Bonds, 1771-1853.


7. Ibid, Book Z, p. 27.


12. Ibid.


17. P. D. Short, interviewed, May 2, 1983.

19. Chatham County Estate Papers, North Carolina Archives.


22. P. D. Short, interviewed May 2, 1983.


24. Chatham County Tax Lists, 1880-1892.

25. Chatham County Tax List, 1896.


Short, Mr. P. D. Interviewed May 2, 1983.


Teague-Siler Family Bible.

"The Teague Family". Undated, unsigned, and unpublished manuscript. Wren Memorial Library, Siler City, N. C.

Third Census of the United States, 1810. Population Schedule
