

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Camden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Milford

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Relfe-Grice-Sawyer House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West side of SR 1205, .5 miles south of junction with Highway 343

CITY OR TOWN:  
Camden (First Congressional District, the Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Camden	CODE 29
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
William K. Wassink

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Shipyard Ferry Road

CITY OR TOWN: Camden	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Camden	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

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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

Milford, whose 1746 construction date is carved on a brick on the interior face of the north chimney, stands on a broad grassy site shaded by ancient trees. The formal two-story brick gabled structure, two bays deep and three bays wide, has interior end chimneys terminating in molded caps. The brickwork is of Flemish bond with glazed headers, featuring three-course stringers of Flemish bond between the first and second stories and at the base of the gables. The use of one-to-three common bond in the brick of the south gable represents the earliest known example of this type of bonding in North Carolina. The north gable probably corresponds, but the entire north side is now concealed by stucco. Tumbling of the brick occurs along the rakes of the south gable. Tumbled bricks are usually placed at right angles to the gable slope, and the vertical placement of these bricks is, according to Thomas Waterman in The Early Architecture of North Carolina, found in only one other structure, the Wallop house in Accomac County, Virginia.

The west facade formerly functioned as the principal front, but the main entrance is located now in the central bay of the east facade. The doorway as well as the windows of the first story are ornamented only by flat arches serving as lintels. The windows of the second story, set quite close to the cornice, are completely plain. The lintels are formed of rowlocks which originally surmounted the south gable windows are still visible, although the windows are now much smaller. The first and second story windows contain nine-over-nine sash, and the altered south gable windows have four-over-four sash. The windows of the north side, even narrower than those of the front and rear, have six-over-six sash at the first level and four-over-four at the second and in the gable. Each of the openings of the structure is deeply recessed, with splayed reveals. The great plaster cove cornices, believed by Waterman to be unique in colonial architecture south of Maryland, further enhance the monumentality of the house.

The floor plan originally consisted at both levels of one room on either side of a central hall. The interior trim is twentieth century. The unusual positioning of each chimney, which is placed off-center at the lower level and makes a diagonal change of direction in the gable end so that the chimney stack breaks through at the gable peak, is visible in the interior of the attic.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 checked="" 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

When Thomas Paling conveyed 300 acres (part of a tract granted to Thomas Relfe in 1696) to John Ivey on July 13, 1721, the deed contained a reference to "all houses out houses gardens orchards edifices . . . ," but the purchase price of £25 indicates that the large brick house now standing on this property is probably not the house referred to in this deed. John Ivey's will dated September 15, 1771, gives to "my son James Ivey my manor plantation and land whereon I now live to Cow Creek Bridge Branch and all the land belonging to the said Plantation." Dated bricks bearing the inscription 1746 have been found in the interior walls of the house, indicating that the house was built by John Ivey. On March 13, 1783, James Ivey sold his father's house as well as 44 acres to Joseph James, a merchant, for £83 specie. The deed noted that the property was originally "contained in and part of a grant to Thomas Relfe dated February 1, 1696."

On November 18, 1801, commissioners appointed by the county court of Camden divided the lands of Joseph Jones among his legal heirs. Margaret Jones Grice was allotted 356 1/3 acres in this settlement which included the old Ivey house, by that time called "Milford." The property became embroiled in a series of legal entanglements but emerged in the hands of Miles Gregory. T. B. Boushel surveyed the property and divided it into lots in 1869, at which time the property was referred to as the "Shipyard" tract. Boushel's plat, which shows lot number one as containing the house, was registered on July 6, 1874, and Phernelia, Miles Gregory's wife, was awarded this lot by commissioners appointed by the probate court to divide Gregory's estate. Sometime later Phernelia's nephew, John Nash Sawyer, moved with his family to live with Phernelia at Milford. They apparently inherited Milford from their aunt for in 1884 John Nash Sawyer sold a portion of the Milford estate to the county for the Camden County Poor House. Milford remained in the Sawyer family until 1955 when John Sawyer's grandson, I. M. Sawyer, and his wife, Mary, sold Milford to Ernest E. Featherstone, who in turn sold the house to Dr. W. K. Wassink in 1960.

Architecturally Milford appears to be unique in the state. Features of the house such as the large expanse of bare wall area interrupted only by narrow openings, the high yet broad gable, the cove cornice, the string courses, and the unusual brick tumbling represent, according to Waterman, the direct importation of a style found in the Delaware River region. The structure is the only known surviving example of this Dutch idiom in architecture south of Maryland and is probably the earliest two-story brick dwelling in North Carolina.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Camden County Records, Camden County Courthouse, Camden, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).

Camden County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).

Pasquotank County Records, Pasquotank County Courthouse, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, and Wills).

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36°	21'	33"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		76°	12'	58"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 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:

Survey Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

8 October 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

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

H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 8 October 1971

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

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Camden	
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(Number all entries)

9.

Pasquotank County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).

Waterman, Thomas T., and Johnston, Frances B. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

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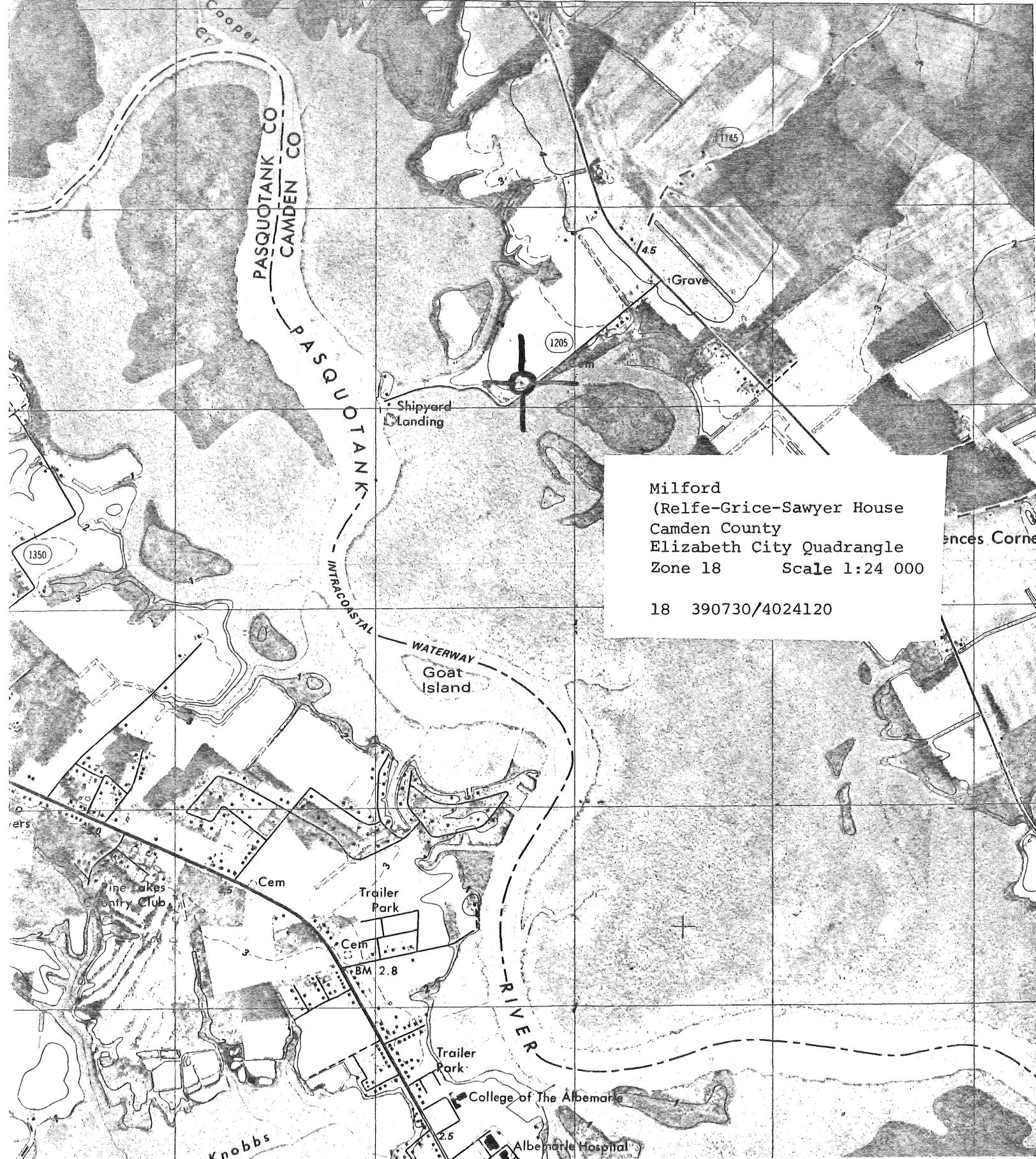
LAMBS CORNER 0.6 KM

391

12'30"

392

393



Milford  
(Relfe-Grice-Sawyer House  
Camden County  
Elizabeth City Quadrangle  
Zone 18      Scale 1:24 000

18 390730/4024120



in County Tax Card  
46, Lot # 60

