

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lamb-Ferebee House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side of NC 343, 0.2 mi. North of jct. w/SR 1203 not for publication

city, town Camden vicinity of X congressional district First

state North Carolina code 37 county Camden code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John E. Ferebee Telephone Number (919) 338-6465
H. Clay Ferebee, III (919) 335-4104
street & number Box 13
Box 14
city, town Camden, vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Camden County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number

city, town Camden state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title House certified for purpose of TRA.
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 Lamb-Ferebee House, recently renovated for the purpose of rental, is an example of a substantial Federal dwelling. Constructed in the 1820s, the house is located nearly two-and-a-half miles north of the village of Camden. It is situated fairly close to the highway with farm buildings located to the rear of the house. The two-story double-pile frame house is basically square in plan with a one-story frame ell, eight feet longer than its replacement, which the owners felt was too deteriorated to merit renovation.

The original two-story double-pile portion of the house is three bays wide and has two double-shouldered exterior chimneys on the north elevation. The ridge of the gable roof is parallel to the facade of the house. Toward the south end, the roof is pierced by a newer chimney. The brick piers which originally supported the house are still in place with the visible spaces between them having been bricked-in at different times. The double-shouldered brick chimneys are laid in three-to-one-course American bond and have stepped and corbeled shoulders and stepped bases. The stacks of both chimneys were replaced in the 1930s after a storm toppled the original stacks. Most of the beaded weatherboards are original or old and during the recent renovation new siding was specially made to match the old. The present one-story shed-roof porch on the front (west) and side (south) elevations was built in the 1930s or 1940s and replaced the original one-story front porch, which had a balustrade, and a two-story sleeping porch which was added on the south elevation early in the twentieth century. On the front elevation, the siding at first floor level, under the porch, is flush, not lapped. The box cornice on the front elevation appears to be old, but the dentils were added during the 1930s.

The house retains its original fenestration at first and second floor levels on the west (front) and north elevations. Here the architraves surrounding the windows and door, located in the central bay of the facade, are original with non-mitered fascias, beaded on the inner edge, and mitered cyma reversa or reverse ogee backband moldings. On the facade the nine-over-six sash at first floor level are original as are the six-over-six sash at second floor level. On the north elevation eight two-pane-wide windows flank the two double-shouldered chimneys in pairs at first and second floor levels and contain original sash; at first floor level the windows in the front (northwest) room contain six-over-four sash, to match the height of the windows on the facade, while the remaining original windows in the north elevation all contain four-over-four sash. Some original windows remain on the east (rear) and south elevations, but the fenestration on the south elevation has been altered. The exterior doors date from the 1930s renovation. Nineteenth-century fixed-louver blinds with original hardware survive on the facade.

The plan of the house has been altered over the years by the removal and addition of partitions. The front (west) and side (south) doors both open into the southwest room. In this room the mantel,¹ overmantel, built-in cupboard (which replaced a doorway), crown molding, and chair rail were added in the late 1970s by the present owners. The remaining woodwork in the room dates from the 1930s.

A double doorway, in which the owners replaced hinged doors with sliding doors, leads from the southwest room into the northwest room. Here the mantel and wainscoting are original and quite notable for the region. Fluted pilasters support the entablature of the mantel which has a heavy, carved sunburst in its center, while in the entablature the pilasters are decorated with a carved diamond-like design. The wainscoting is divided by stiles into panels. The owners had the heart yellow-pine mantel and wainscoting stripped of paint and finished with a clear finish during the recent renovation. The crown molding was added by the present

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owners in the late 1970s and the remaining woodwork was installed in the 1930s. At the first floor level the rear (east) part of the house is presently a single room. A modern kitchen, installed by the present owners, is located at the south end of the room. The mantel at the north end of the room was installed by the owners in the late 1970s to replace the deteriorated original mantel.² The chair rail and crown molding were also installed during the recent renovation. The remaining woodwork at the north end of the room was installed in the 1930s. A flat-paneled six-panel Federal door with applied moldings is located neat the center of the east wall of this room and connects the original house to the new wing. The two small top panels have been replaced with glass. This heart yellow-pine door was stripped of paint and finished with a clear finish during the recent renovation. An old brass lock which was recently restored is located on this door.

The stair, installed in its present location in the 1930s renovation, rises against the north half of the interior (west) wall of the downstairs east room from the center of the house to the north wall. The second floor contains four rooms, a hallway, and a bathroom. The irregularly-shaped hallway runs through the house from north to south, with the stair descending from the north end and the bathroom being located at the south end. Most of the second floor woodwork dates from the 1930s renovation, with the mantel in the northwest room being the notable exception. This Federal mantel, like the one in the room below, is original to the house. It is small and extremely simple taking the form of an architrave surrounding the sides and top of the opening rather than the usual full entablature. The fireplaces at first floor level have been reworked but this one has not been and retains its original arched opening and interior brickwork. However, this hearth has been reworked as well as those at first floor level. The floors, which were sanded and finished with a clear finish during the recent renovation, are all heart yellow pine. Some are original and some are replacement.

The Lamb-Ferebee House is still a part of a working farm complex. A number of farm buildings are located to the rear (east) of the house. The most outstanding of these is a large barn built about 1900. Its triple-pitched tin roof slopes nearly to the ground enveloping the barn except for its red frame ends. The farm complex also includes a frame smokehouse, to the northeast of the house, and a frame wash house, directly behind the house, both constructed around 1860; a chicken house; a storage building and shelter; a garage; a feed barn and cattle stalls, constructed in the 1950s or 1960s; and a grape arbor, to the northeast of the house. The family cemetery, which is adjacent to the grape arbor, contains graves of family members back to Miles Lamb, the builder of the house, and his wife, Marietta Matilda.

Footnotes

¹ According to Mrs. H. Clay Ferebee III, wife of one of the present owners, the mantel in the first floor southwest room came from the now-destroyed Jarvis House which was located in Camden County near the Lamb-Ferebee House on land owned by the Ferebees.

² Mrs. H. Clay Ferebee III said that the mantel at the north end of the first floor east room in the original part of the house also came from the Jarvis House.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Camden County's Lamb-Ferebee house was built as a substantial Federal-style dwelling and the seat of a prosperous 400 acre farm by Miles Lamb early in the 1820s. The farm was typical of Camden County's self-sufficient agriculture and the county, one of the state's smallest, has historically been completely rural with no incorporated towns. The house remains in the hands of Lamb's descendants today, passing from Lamb to his children Henry Clay Lamb and Mary Matilda Lamb Jarvis, and in the early twentieth century to his grandson Henry Clay Ferebee. Henry Clay Ferebee, Jr. was one of Camden's most distinguished citizens, serving the community in a variety of positions, both agriculturally oriented and otherwise. Henry Clay Ferebee, III and Edwin Ferebee inherited the house and property upon their father's death in 1968. They have renovated the property, and rented it.

Criteria Assessment:

- B. Built in the early 1820s by Miles Lamb, a substantial Camden County farmer, and remaining in the possession of his descendants.
- C. Representative of a typical Federal-style small-plantation dwelling found in Camden County prior to the Civil War and reflective of the county's developing agricultural economy to the present day.
- D. The Lamb-Ferebee house and property are likely to yield information about early nineteenth century farm life in rural Camden County.

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The Lamb-Ferebee house, one of Camden County's finest ante-bellum rural houses, dated from the 1820s and is still owned by descendants of the builder. The house was built by Miles Lamb, a substantial Camden County farmer sometime shortly before his 1828 marriage to Marietta Matilda Grandy. Lamb was born in 1797. He was the son of Luke Lamb and a nephew of Colonel Gideon Lamb, a Revolutionary War hero.¹

Census records show that Lamb owned a medium sized farm which grew a variety of crops. In 1850 he owned 336 acres, of which 150 were under cultivation. The farm was valued at \$7980. In 1860 the farm had increased in size to 415 acres, 290 improved, and in value to \$10,000. Lamb's personal estate in that year was valued at \$20,000. Corn was the largest crop grown in both years, with a larger figure of 2750 bushels grown in 1860. Lamb also grew large amounts of peas and beans, wheat, oats, and other products. He also owned a large number of livestock, including 18 sheep and 62 swine in 1860. He owned 8 slaves in 1840, 12 in 1850, and 18 in 1860. His farm was by no means the largest in the area, but was typical of the county's self-sufficient agriculture.² Ante-bellum Camden County was almost completely rural. Even today it has no incorporated towns. The county is one of the state's smallest, and much of it composed of untillable marsh lands. As early as the ante-bellum period the county was plagued by a diminishing population, as the county's sons and daughters, unable to find work as there were no cities, and unable to find new land to farm, were forced to move elsewhere. Camden's 1970 population of 5,453 is less than its 1860 population of 6,049.

Lamb died intestate in 1874. After ten years his estate was settled with the "Home Tract" being divided equally between his daughter Mary Matilda Lamb Jarvis, and his son Henry Clay Lamb, a Confederate veteran.³ In 1900 Mrs. Jarvis died, leaving her share of the property to her brother, Henry Clay Lamb.⁴

Henry Clay Lamb died in 1911 and left the property to his nephew Henry Clay Ferebee, the son of Edmund Ferebee and Miriam Lamb Ferebee and a grandson of Miles Lamb.⁵ Ferebee continued to farm the tract. He and his wife Mary had six children, the youngest of whom, Henry Clay, Jr. inherited the property when his father died in 1929.⁶ At this time, early in the Depression, the farm was under heavy debt. Henry Clay Ferebee, Jr., paid off the notes and made the farm a profitable operation again. He was a college educated farmer, having graduated from North Carolina State College. Locally he served as president of the Farmer's Exchange and the farm bureau, and was chairman of the Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service. He also served as director of the National Potato Council. He was a friend of education, serving on the Board of Trustees of Elizabeth City State College and Chowan College. Ferebee served on the State Board of Elections under Governor Kerr Scott, built and donated a home for orphan children in Kinston, and was active in the leadership of his church. He died in 1968 as one of Camden County's leading citizens.⁷

Ferebee's wife Sarah Gregory Ferebee continued to live in the homeplace until her death in 1976. Their two sons, Henry Clay Ferebee, III, and Edwin Ferebee inherited the property, renovated it, and rented it to Mr. and Mrs. Waverly Sawyer, Jr., thus preserving one of Camden County's finest old rural homes.⁸

The Lamb-Ferebee House and its outbuildings represent one of the oldest, most ambitious, and most complete antebellum farm complexes in sparsely settled Camden County. Plagued by outmigration for years, Camden has relatively few early farmhouses surviving in good and inhabited condition. The house exhibits its original form, a substantial portion of its original finish, and a significant aspect of its setting in being the center of a working farm.

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At two times, the house was rehabilitated after falling into decay: in the 1930s and 1970s. These renovations produced some alterations, but because of them the house continues to stand, as many in the region do not. Therefore despite some alterations, the house and its out-buildings are significant to the agricultural and architectural history of Camden County.

The structures of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structures. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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¹Unpublished notes compiled by the owners; Jesse F. Pugh, Three Hundred Years Along the Pasquotank: A Biographical History of Camden County (Old Trap, N.C., n.p., 1957), 70-74.

²Sixth Census of the United States, 1840, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule, Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.

³Camden County Estates Papers, Miles Lamb; Confederate Service Records, Henry Clay Lamb. Lamb's Confederate service record was brief. He enlisted May 31, 1861 in Company I, North Carolina 32nd Infantry, and was captured at Hatteras in August of that same year. He was paroled in February, 1862. No other record appears. His highest ranking appears to have been Corporal.

⁴Camden County Will Book E, p. 307.

⁵Unpublished notes compiled by owners.

⁶Independent (Elizabeth City), August 16, 1929; Camden County Marriage Bonds, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule. Ferebee married Mary Goodwin January 10, 1884. Their children and birth years were Essa 1884, May 1886 Lucy 1888, Ella 1891, John 1892, and Henry 1893; Camden County Will Book F, p. 144.

⁷Daily Advance (Elizabeth City), September 3, 1968. Henry Clay Ferebee is buried in a family cemetery on the homestead property. Others buried in the cemetery include Miles Lamb and his wife Marietta, Miriam Ferebee, and Henry Clay Ferebee, I.

⁸Unpublished noted compiled by the owners.

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Bibliography

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Daily Advance (Elizabeth City). September 3, 1968.

Independent (Elizabeth City). August 16, 1929.

Pugh, Jesse F. Three Hundred Years Along the Pasquotank: A Biographical History of Camden County. Old Trap, North Carolina, n.p., 1957.

United States Census Records, Sixth Census of the United States, 1840, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule, Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

Unpublished notes compiled by the owner. Copy in file, Raleigh: Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Camden County Records. Estates Records, Marriage Bonds, Will Books.

Confederate Service Records. Microfilm copy of National Archives and Records.
Raleigh: Archives and History.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.22 acres (approx.)

Quadrangle name Elizabeth City

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A Lat. 36 22' 23"
Zone Easting Northing

B Long. 76 18' 45"
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is shown on the attached sketch of the property drawn by Mrs. H. Clay Ferebee III, wife of one of the owners. The property is bounded on the north and south by fences and on the west by NC 343 and includes only that part of a larger farm which is immediately associated with the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architectural description: Margaret Long Stephenson, Consultant

Significance: Jim Sumner, Researcher

organization Division of Archives and History
Archaeology and Historic Preservation

date June 1980

street & number Survey and Planning Branch
109 East Jones Street

telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh

state North Carolina

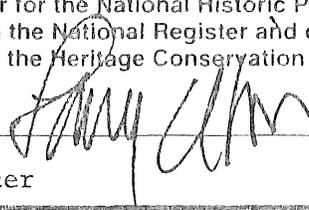
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 25, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

PASTURE

Fence

CEMETERY

SMOKE HOUSE
C. 1860

GRAPE ARBOUR

OLD CHICKEN HOUSE

OLD WASH HOUSE
C. 1850

Storage GARAGE

GARAGE

HOUSE
C. 1820

POULTRY

OLD BARN
C. 1900

FRESH BARN
1864
CATTLE STALLS

TO FIELDS

PASTURE

Fence

← 360' →

PASTURE

N. C. Hwy. 343

← 390' →

