

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Joshua James Blanchard House

Warsaw vicinity, Duplin County, DP1186, Listed 8/28/2012

Nomination by Ed Turberg and Janet Seapker

Photographs by Janet Seapker, September 2011



Overall view



Rear view

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Blanchard, Joshua James, House

other names/site number Blanchard, William A., House

2. Location

street & number 415 Carrolls Road (SR-1108) not for publication N/A

city or town Warsaw vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county Duplin code 061 zip code 28398

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<u> </u> entered in the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Blanchard, Joshua James, House
Name of Property

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County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County,
North Carolina, ca. 1790-1943

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

DOMESTIC secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

concrete

roof metal

walls wood; weatherboard

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1898

Significant Dates

c. 1898

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Areas of Significance

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.31 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 760100 3873780
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward F. Turberg

organization Architectural Historian date April 18, 2012

street & number 307 North 15th Street telephone 910-762-6301

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28401

12. Additional Documentation: Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name John and Denise Kamm, Jr.

street & number 415 Carrolls Road telephone 910-293-4184

city or town Warsaw state NC zip code 28398

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended

(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Built c. 1898 and located in the rural Baltic community of Duplin County, five miles southwest of Warsaw, the Joshua James Blanchard House is surrounded by broad fields of wheat, corn and soybeans that support a vibrant farming activity that has been a part of the region for generations. Although of late nineteenth-century construction, the house incorporates the form and features of plantation architecture dating to an earlier period in surrounding areas such as Warsaw, Wallace, Magnolia, Rose Hill and Faison, as well as houses located across the county line in Sampson County west of the Blanchard property.

Facing west and set back 100 feet from Carrolls Road (SR 1108), the Joshua James Blanchard House is situated on a level terrain encompassing broad agricultural fields and woodlands that surround several small creeks. The road continues southwest, crossing Stewart's Creek, bordering the south side of the property, before diverging eastwardly to Magnolia and westerly into Sampson County along Buck Hall Road (SR 1104).¹ The house, situated on 5.31 acres of the original 146-acre tract acquired by the Blanchards in 1795, is five miles south of the closest town, Warsaw, and thirteen miles northwest of the Duplin County seat of Kenansville. It is also fifteen miles southwest of Faison (the cultural center of the county) and twenty miles northwest of Rose Hill. The parcel extends from the east side of State Highway 1108 east to woodlands bordering Buck Hall Swamp, and from a farm lane leading from the road along the north side of the yard to the winding stream forming the southern terminus of the property. Landscape features of the property include intact patterns of woodlands, pecan groves, flowerbeds, and streams across from which lies the family cemetery outside the nominated area. The vista from the house encompasses farms spreading into the distance, sylvan swamplands and winding waterways, which create an impression of rural detachment typical of many agricultural areas in the coastal plain.²

Joshua James Blanchard House. c. 1898, 1940s, 2008-2009. Contributing building.

Exterior

The Joshua James Blanchard House is a two-story, frame, hipped-roof structure with a one-story gabled-roof kitchen wing attached to the north end of the east elevation of the main block. The two-story section is three bays wide and two bays deep with a one-story hipped-roof wraparound porch across the front (west) elevation and the first bays of the north and south elevations. The rear wing is five bays wide along its north and south sides and two bays wide. A partially enclosed hipped-roof porch extends across part of the east elevation of the main block, turns along the south bays of the attached wing with a shed roof, and terminates as a short recessed section along the east end of the

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kitchen. All the porches feature replacement round posts with molded bases and capitals, and turned spindle balustrades. The two posts flanking the front entrance formerly rested on tall brick piers and were replaced to more closely match the original columns. Both the main structure and the rear wing are raised about twenty-eight inches above the ground, with their pine sills resting on a series of solid brick piers with concrete block infill. Wide wooden steps rise to the front and rear porches. The central bay has a glazed upper-panel door flanked by multi-pane paneled sidelights opening into the front hall, while a similar door and sidelights at the rear of the hall opening to the porch in the east elevation. The upper story of the façade contains a central door and sidelights like those at the lower level, sheltered by a single-bay hipped-roof porch supported by two round corner posts and enclosed by turned-spindle balustrades with molded railings. Six additional exterior doors open onto the rear porch from a storage room at the northeast corner of the porch, from the east and south sides of the kitchen, from the breakfast room (originally the dining room), from the library and from the bathroom at the south end of the porch. The latter was originally a storage room which was changed to a bathroom in the 1940s.

The secondary exterior and interior doors have long, paired panels in their upper sections, shorter lower panels, and horizontal central panels in line with the mortised locks and doorknobs. Except for the windows under the porch along the rear wing, the fenestration consists of two-over-two sash framed by fixed-slat louvered blinds. The exterior finish consists of plain-edge weatherboarding terminating in molded cornerboards. The standing-seam metal roofs project out over wide architraves forming lintels for the porches and upper-story windows. Two interior chimneys with corbeled caps rise through the north and south slopes of the main roof. The turned-spindle and molded-rail balustrade atop the roof of the main block is a reconstruction of the original work which matches the design of the front porch. The two interior chimneys on the main roof were repaired during the 2008-2009 restoration, but the two chimneys on the ridge of the rear wing were rebuilt because the original stacks had collapsed.

Interior

The interior of the Joshua James Blanchard House contains four principal rooms in the main block, each measuring sixteen feet by sixteen feet with a ceiling height of ten feet. The dividing walls between the front and rear rooms contain back-to-back fireplaces and closets. The mantel designs are restrained but pleasing in appearance: in the north parlor, library and southwest bedroom, the mantel shelves are supported by ogee brackets with scalloped interstices and molded pendants; the dining room mantel has twin S-curve brackets; the family room features two freestanding columns and a beveled mirror in the overmantel; the northeast bedroom mantel has twin pilasters and a short backboard with a molded cap. Other original features of the rooms include tongue-and-groove pine

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floors, tall molded baseboards, symmetrical window and door moldings, molded cornices, tongue-and-groove ceilings, and vertical tongue-and-groove wainscoting in the first-floor hallway. The rear wing retains its original pantries and an original kitchen sink. The bathroom and water heater closet opening from the breakfast room were added in 2008 in what was part of the original sixteen-foot by sixteen-foot dining room. The restored claw-foot tubs in the bathrooms add to the historic ambience of the house. Stairs in the front halls rise in straight flights to the second and third levels along the north wall on each floor. A third, quarter-turn stairway in the northeast corner of the library ascends to the sitting room above. The closed string staircases incorporate square and stout newel posts with turned caps, square balusters and molded hand rails. The attic, reached by a similar stairway, has two modern cedar closets set beneath the exposed roof rafters.

Barn 2009. Noncontributing building.

The barn is a two-story structure resembling a tobacco barn with a wraparound porch supported by square posts at the first level, and a second story surmounted by a gable roof with exposed rafter ends. Large, double-leaf doors in the front façade open into the work and storage area. Windows contain one-over-one sash. The exterior is sheathed with horizontal siding and the interior of the structure has exposed framing.

The farmyard behind the house formerly contained a large barn, a stable for ten mules, a tobacco barn and a pack house. All those structures were removed over time.

The Joshua James Blanchard House is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and other structural remains which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details, is 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 likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Paragraph

The c. 1898 Joshua James Blanchard House, with its retarditaire, classical-influenced symmetrical front façade, one-story wraparound porch supported by round columns, central entrance featuring a glazed upper-panel door framed by paneled sidelights and a wide transom, upper-story central door and sidelights sheltered by a single-bay hipped-roof porch supported by two round columns and enclosed by turned-spindle balustrades and molded railings more typical of the late nineteenth century, is exemplary of the quality of design and craftsmanship in rural Duplin County in the late nineteenth century, and meets National Register Criterion C for architecture. Its period of significance is c. 1898, its date of construction.

The architectural context of the Joshua James Blanchard House is discussed in the associated historic contexts titled: "Town Building and Agricultural Development in Duplin County, 1876-1943," pages E22-38 in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), *Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina: ca. 1790-1943*. The Joshua James Blanchard House meets the registration requirements discussed on pages F63-64 for significance in the history of the county's architecture outlined in Property Type 2B: "Houses built Between the Civil War and 1943," F60-63.

Historical Background

On November 10, 1784, James Thompson, Esq., acquired from the state of North Carolina 150 acres of land on Buck Hall Swamp in Duplin County. On April 1, 1795 he sold several tracts, totaling 146 acres in the area to Uriah Blanchard for £400. Subsequently, over the next 210 years, the land was farmed, devised and divided to and by his descendents until the purchase of the late nineteenth-century Blanchard house and 5.31 acres of surrounding property by the current owners, John and Denise Kamm, in 2005.³

Family tradition holds that the Joshua James Blanchard House, built c. 1898, was a wedding gift to Joshua James Blanchard (1866-1910) and his wife, Sallie Ward (1871-1915), from her father, Senator William Robinson Ward (1817-1892).⁴

The Blanchards had one son, William A. Blanchard born in 1896, who was a minor at the time of his parents' death. Thus, the estate was bequeathed to relatives who sold their title to William, in 1917, when he attained the age of twenty-one. In 1933, Blanchard defaulted on a \$10,000 mortgage

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and the house and land were claimed by the mortgagee, the Union Central Life Insurance Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The property was purchased by the neighboring, and Blanchard-related, Torrans family and remained in their ownership for the next seventy-two years.⁵

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The closest urban area to the Joshua James Blanchard House is Warsaw, five miles to the north, which was established in 1847 along the 161.5-mile railroad that connected the port city of Wilmington to the south and the North Carolina-Virginia border city of Weldon to the north. In Warsaw there are a significant number of architectural resources dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century which represent popular residential styles of each successive period. These styles, which are represented throughout the county, developed because railroad traffic expanded architectural fashions from large cities to small towns and rural areas and made possible the shipment of building materials and furnishings from distant factories and local manufactures such as the J.H. Pierce Company situated along the railway just north of Warsaw and several millworks in the Wilmington area.⁶

During the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the Greek Revival was the dominant architectural style in Duplin and surrounding counties, replaced mid-century by the Italianate style, and in later years by Queen Anne and Neoclassical Revival designs, the last two styles being more popular in towns and cities than in rural regions. Many pre-Civil War houses had square or rectangular floor plans with kitchens and storage rooms in separate buildings, in one- and two-story forms. Later, kitchen and dining room wings were added to the rear of the main block forming an L or T plan. Often houses of this type in Duplin County were one room deep with external chimneys and gable-end roofs. During the early twentieth century, this form was superseded by hipped-roof forms with interior chimneys placed between the front and rear rooms on each side of the center hall.⁷ Two examples of the one-story hipped-roof design are the late nineteenth-century O. W. Herring House, on Gum Street in Warsaw, and the ca. 1900 Willie Blanchard House, on SR1148 near Rose Hill.⁸ The former structure contains a center hall and four rooms of equal size in the main block and a rear ell at the northeast rear corner. The latter house has a similar floor plan, a wraparound front porch, a central door with a glazed upper panel flanked by paneled sidelights, and twin interior chimneys with stepped caps.

The Joshua James Blanchard House, although of late nineteenth-century construction, incorporates the form and classical features of plantation architecture dating to the earlier Greek Revival period in surrounding areas. These include a symmetrical façade, entries with sidelights, and porches

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supported, originally, by columns. The current replacement posts reference this classical influence with molded caps and bases. The single-bay second-story porch over the wraparound one-story porch is also a carry-over from the earlier Greek Revival style of architecture. On the interior, classical mantels with pilasters, columns, or brackets, tall molded baseboards, symmetrical window and door moldings, molded cornices, and wainscoting in the first-floor hallway, further link the architectural style of the house to an earlier period. This continued use of the Greek Revival style is seen commonly throughout the county into the first decade of the twentieth century, but the Joshua James Blanchard House is one of the few intact rural examples of this retarditaire use and the only known two-story example in the western part of the county.

ENDNOTES

1. Puetz, C. J., *North Carolina County Maps*, pp.50-51.
2. Duplin County Deeds, Book B, p.246; Book 3A, p.292; Book 1528, p. 38.
3. Joshua and Sallie were married on April 19, 1893, and it is possible that the house construction began soon after their wedding; an inscription on a baseboard in the upstairs hall reads "Sallie E. Blanchard, Baltic." Moore, Claude, "The Ward Family of Sampson and Duplin", *Mount Olive Tribune* (Mount Olive, NC, undated copy). Duplin County Marriage Record; Telephone conversation with Denise Kamm, May 24, 2011.
4. Duplin County Deeds, Book 357, p. 560; Book 1523, p. 38.
5. *Sears, Roebuck Home Builder's Catalogue, 1910* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1990).
6. Martin, Jennifer E., *Along the Banks of the Old Northeast: The Historical and Architectural Development of Duplin County, North Carolina* (Rose Hill, NC: Duplin County Historical Foundation, Inc., 1999), pp. 44-47.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 189.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 212.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bishir, Catherine W. and Michael Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: NC University of North Carolina Press, 1996).

Duplin County Cemetery Records, New Hanover County Public Library, Local History Collection, Wilmington, NC.

Duplin County Census Records, 1800-1920, New Hanover County Public Library, Local History Collection, Wilmington, NC.

Duplin County Deed Books, Duplin County Register of Deeds Office, Kenansville, NC.

Martin, Jennifer , *Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina, ca. 1790-1943* (Rose Hill, NC: Duplin County Historical Foundation, Inc., 1999).

----- *Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina, ca. 1790-1943*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (NC Division of Archives and History, 1994).

Moore, Claude, "The Ward Family of Sampson and Duplin", *Mount Olive Tribune* (Mount Olive, NC, undated copy).

Powell, William S., *The North Carolina Gazetteer* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1968; 1982).

Puetz, C. J., *North Carolina County Maps* (Lyndon Station, WI, n.d.).

Sears, Roebuck Home Builder's Catalogue, 1910 (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1990).

Sikes, L. H., "The restoration of the William A. Blanchard house: A new life for an old home in Baltic" *Duplin Times* (Kenansville, NC, September 17, 2009).

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Joshua James Blanchard House are shown by a heavy dark line on the accompanying tax parcel map at a 1" = 100' scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes a 5.31 acre tract historically associated with the Joshua James Blanchard House and provides an appropriate setting.