NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
COMMON:
Sanders-Hairr House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
S. R. 1525

CITY OR TOWN:
Clayton (Third Congressional District)

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

COUNTY:
Johnston

CODE:
101

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
(China One)

☑ District □ Building □ Site □ Structure □ Object

OWNERSHIP

☑ Public □ Private □ Both

Public Acquisition:

☑ In Process □ Being Considered

STATUS

☑ Occupied □ Unoccupied

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

☑ Yes: □ Restricted □ Unrestricted □ No

PRESENT USE:

☑ Agricultural □ Government □ Park

☑ Commercial □ Industrial □ Private Residence

☑ Educational □ Military □ Religious

☑ Entertainment □ Museum □ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
A. Y. Hairr

STREET AND NUMBER:
S. R. 1525

CITY OR TOWN:
Clayton

STATE:
North Carolina

COD:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Johnston County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
212 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Smithfield

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

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:
The Sanders-Hairy House is an exceptional eighteenth-century dwelling notable for its unusually elaborate and sophisticated detail. The two-story house, built of molded weatherboards, has a fine cornice consisting of a row of pierced dentils above modillions. At either end stands a massive double-shafted exterior end chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond. The house rests on a Flemish bond brick foundation.

The front (east) facade is five bays wide with flush siding under a one-story shed porch which extends the length of the facade. The porch, probably the most distinguishing of its type extant, has a concave ceiling and delicate supports composed of tapered fluted posts on pedestals. Diagonally set balusters and a molded handrail adorned by pierced dentils make up the balustrade. The cornice of the porch, like that of the roof, consists of pierced dentils and modillions. The central entrance contains a double door below a large transom with geometric tracery. The windows on the first level, accentuated by heavy molded architraves and keystones, contain nine-over-nine sash. The windows in the second story are similar but have six-over-nine sash and an unusual band of pierced dentils above each window.

The ends are pedimented by the horizontal extension of the dentil course from the main cornice. The complete cornice, including the modillions, carries around the eaves. Each tympanum features a circular oculus, accentuated by a molded architrave and keystone, on either side of the chimney. The chimney is flanked by elaborately framed windows in each story. Each first-story window is pedimented, has a molded architrave, a keystone, and is surmounted by a full entablature ornamented with pierced dentils. The windows at the second level are similar but lack the pediments. The rear of the house has been altered by recent additions, but the windows on the second level are like the corresponding ones on the front.

The interior arrangement of the house is quite unusual. It is possibly a variation of the so-called Quaker plan with the rear portion of the south parlor partitioned to form an unheated room and a rear hallway which is in effect an extension of the main room.

The main entrance opens into the large southeast parlor. This room has a high wainscot consisting of a range of horizontal raised panels over a range of vertical ones; the wainscot breaks beneath the windows. Dominating the room is an elaborate mantel on the south wall. The fireplace opening is framed by a crossetted architrave, which is surmounted by a plain frieze and a cornice shelf featuring a band of incised geometric ornament. The shelf breaks over projecting blocks at either end of the frieze. The overmantel features a large horizontal raised panel framed by a crossetted molding. Flanking the mantel are full-height stop-fluted pilasters which stand on flat-paneled pedestals. These support a full entablature of which only the cornice carries around the whole room. The entablature is broken above the pilasters.

The small southeast room behind the parlor was unheated. Most of its original trim was removed when it was made into a bathroom.
7. Description

The two north rooms have corner fireplaces and paneled wainscots of the same design as that in the large parlor. The mantel in the north room features a ramped entablature, while that in the northwest room has vertical panels below a shelf ornamented with dentils. The window on the right wall in the northeast room was originally a door leading to a kitchen in the side yard. An enclosed stair which opens into the hallway at the rear of the parlor rises on the left side of the northwest room.

The second floor originally had a plan similar to that of the first, but alterations have resulted in a center hall with two rooms on either side. The stair leads into the northeast room. Both this and the northwest rooms have plaster walls above flat-paneled wainscots and corner fireplaces with arched openings. The southeast room has a raised-paneled wainscot and a mantel which is a simpler version of the one in the parlor below. It has a crosseted architrave below two endblocks which support the molded shelf. The southwest room is less elaborate, with plaster walls above a flush-paneled wainscot. An enclosed stair rises above the main stair to an unfinished attic.
Land grants as early as 1757 record the presence of the Sanders family in Johnston County. According to a deed of May 11, 1786, Reubin Sanders bought 150 acres of land on the north side of Swift Creek. It seems likely that he built his house on this tract about 1787. Sanders continued to acquire property in the area. By 1798 he owned 2,624 acres and sixteen slaves, and at the time of his death in 1830 his holdings amounted to about 6,000 acres. In addition to his extensive farm, Sanders also operated a grist mill and a saw mill, and served as clerk of the superior court and as senator in the North Carolina General Assembly.

The Sanders house remained in the family until it was sold to W. R. Long on January 19, 1885. It passed through several hands before its purchase in 1950 by A. Y. Hairr, the present owner.

Though the Sanders-Hairr house in its overall appearance is typical of many late eighteenth century homes in North Carolina, it is especially noteworthy for the sophistication of its design and the excellent execution of its architectural detail. Containing some of the most interesting woodwork in its area, the house represents an early stage in the transition from the Georgian to the Federal styles. It is possibly the earliest extant frame house away from the coastal areas with sophisticated exterior architectural detail. As such, it is one of the most important structures in the study of the development of domestic architecture in North Carolina.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


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


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<td>78° 32' 05&quot;</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF HOMEDATED PROPERTY: ___ Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Walls, III, Supervisor
ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 102 East Jones Street
CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

12. STATE LIASON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Linison 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 [x]

Name: H. G. Jones, Liaison Officer
Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History
Date: April 6, 1971

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:
Sanders-Hairr House
S. R. 1525
Clayton, North Carolina

North Carolina State Highway Commission
Scale: 1"/1 mile
July 1, 1967

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