

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC William A. Graham, Jr., Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER On SR 1360, 1.2 mi. South of jct. with SR 1382

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
9th

Kidville vic.

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE
37

COUNTY
Lincoln

CODE
109

N.C.

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 David Clark

STREET & NUMBER
Route 1

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Iron Station

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lincolnton

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

499

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

W. A. Graham, Jr.'s farm in eastern Lincoln County is a complex consisting of a large, frame farm house of the 1890s; a most interesting wooden "round barn" of undetermined but probably nineteenth century; a board-and-batten smokehouse; and a small log outbuilding.

Placed on a slight knoll near the road, the two-story, rectangular frame house is well shaded by large trees. The finish of the house is simple, except for the typical late nineteenth century wooden ornament of the main roofline and the porch. The three-bay front facade features a large central gable with ornate gable ornaments; the ornament recurs in the two end gables. The gables, each pierced by a diamond shaped vent, are covered by pointed shingles. Drop pendant brackets mark the ends of the molded cornice and define the windows. A double window with one-over-one sash is in the center bay of the second floor, main facade. It is flanked by single windows with two-over-two sash which is the most common sash in the house. A hip roof porch, carrying across the front features a central gable with an elaborate gable ornament. The porch, now screened, has a simple open-work frieze. Double front doors have large glazed panels with two small square panels above and two rectangular panels below.

There are two projecting bays on the west side of the house and a second-floor porch in the west rear wing. The rear half of the front block roof is pierced by interior brick chimneys. Two wings project from the rear elevation.

The interior follows a center-hall plan, two rooms deep. It is distinguished by interesting machine made mantels and the use of alternating light and dark woods in the floor, wainscot and ceiling. The wainscot and ceiling are made of narrow beaded boards, diagonally set and in some cases forming chevron-like patterns. The floor boards are about three inches wide and are laid in the usual manner. The right front (northwest) room has double folding doors on either side of the chimney breast. When they are a thrown open, there is free access from the parlor to the dining room.

Though the house is interesting, the outstanding feature of the farm complex is the "round barn", which is in fact a sixteen-sided structure. Resting on a low stone foundation, the barn is a two-story, frame building, its walls covered with vertical sheathing. A low, polygonal roof radiates from an eight-sided blind cupola. On the east and west sides, directly opposite each other, are large openings which gave access to the interior. These openings occupy the entire face of one surface plane of the first level and part of the second on the west side. The other planes of the first level are sheathed with board-and-batten with one square, open window in each facet on the north side and no windows on the south side. The second level or loft is sheathed with vertical boards having a breathing space between each. There are no windows in the loft. The cupola, also vertically sheathed, has a narrow, horizontally louvered air space at its eaves. The interior area beneath the cupola is square in plan and open to the floor level. The loft is arranged around this open square area and is raised several feet over the east entrance. It is open over the west entrance and there is a large, square platform resting above the south side of the loft. The first floor has small stalls and storage rooms arranged along the wall with a large open area in the center. The large supporting beams are hewn and the lesser ones are sawn.

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Between the house and barn, set back slightly, is a small, rectangular log out building of dovetailed construction under a gable roof. Its use is unknown. To the other side of the back yard is a square, tall smokehouse with board-and-batten sheathing protected by a gable roof with wooden shingles.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 checked="" 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 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

The William A. Graham, Jr., Farm was the working experimental farmstead after the Civil War of William A. Graham, Jr., son of the governor and statesman of the same name. The younger Graham, avidly interested in agriculture and farmers' welfare, was active in this area in the state legislature, served on the state board of agriculture, and was commissioner of agriculture from 1908 until 1923. Traditionally, he was innovative in farming techniques, which he employed on this farm. Surviving from Graham's period of ownership are the well-built, representative post-War farmhouse, some small outbuildings, and an imposing and unusual sixteen-sided "round barn" said to be an example of innovative agricultural design.

In his will probated in 1883 William A. Graham, a former governor of North Carolina (1845-1849) and renowned national statesman, left to his son, William A. Graham, Jr., a portion of land in Lincoln County. Graham specified that his son was to receive a "tract of land in Lincoln North Carolina on which he now resides comprising about 1614 acres together with all buildings, Machinery which he has erected at his own expense, horses, mules, hogs, wagons, and plantation implements. . . ." It was on this land that the younger Graham built a new house in 1894 after the old Graham house, which had been his grandfather's, had burned. The tract also was the site where during the 1890s he completed and maintained a large and successful farm.¹

William A. Graham, Jr., was born in Hillsborough in 1839. He attended the University of North Carolina for three years (1856-1859) but completed his education at Princeton, receiving the A. B. degree there in 1860. Following his graduation he taught school in Hillsborough for a year until the outbreak of the Civil War. Like his famous father, he initially opposed secession, but at the advent of the sectional conflict, he joined the Confederate Army and was commissioned a lieutenant. In 1862 he was promoted to captain and subsequently wounded at Gettysburg in 1863. He submitted his resignation to his regiment in November, 1863, when he was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General of North Carolina with the rank of major.²

Following the war Graham settled on his family's property in Lincoln County near the community of Machpelah and began farming. He was active in state politics and served in the state senate in the 1870s where he lent his support to North Carolina agriculture. When the state legislature adjourned in 1875, General D. H. Hill praised Graham's efforts to support farming interests in the past session. He insisted that "the able, efficient, and hardworking Senator" took a leading role in watching over farm legislation. With Graham in state government, Hill declared, "the agricultural interest was protected as it never was before."³

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Graham also served on the state board of agriculture from 1899 to 1908 and as Commissioner of Agriculture from 1908 until his death in 1923. In 1908 The Progressive Farmer described him as "a farmer who lives upon his farm, actively serves his party in political campaigns, yet when elected acts for the welfare of the whole people." During his years as Commissioner, the total value of North Carolina's crops rose from twenty-third to fifth in the United States.⁴

Steeped in the customs and traditions of the antebellum South, Graham was in all matters--public and private, social and political--a conservative. While at Princeton he apparently adhered strictly to the wishes and instructions of his parents and made no decision without consulting them. For example, in April, 1859, he wrote to his father from Princeton requesting money and permission to buy more clothes. "It will take more money for me here than at Chapel Hill," he wrote, "but as I buy my clothes here I don't think it will be any dearer for a year." He wanted to be in the fashion at Princeton, and he noted that "the boys dress more here than at the Hill." Nevertheless, he would follow his father's advice: "I suppose you are the best judge of what the cost of my clothes should be," he conceded.⁵

At the age of twenty-five while serving in the Confederate Army, Graham met and fell in love with a young woman, and although he wished to marry her he would not do so without his mother's consent. In 1864 he wrote to his mother requesting her permission:

I have come across a young lady over here whom I desire to address but would like to get your permission first. I certainly like her better than anyone I ever saw but would like to get your permission first.

She has a sweet amiable disposition and a splendid character. It is true she is an Episcopalian but then she is low church and goes to all the churches. She went with me to the Baptist Church last Sunday and I believe would be a Baptist before we were married two years. She is a pious good girl. As you have always said I ought to marry a girl raised on a farm.

She is quite pretty but does not know it (which ruins beauty of a great many) & has the sweetest disposition imaginable and would make a capital farmer's wife. . . Please let me hear from you sometime this month, as I do not wish to engage myself to her with-⁶ out your consent and I know you would consent if you only knew her.

The young lady, Miss Julia B. Lane of Virginia, married Graham in 1864. They subsequently had nine daughters and two sons, and their home in Lincoln County was reported to have been "noted for its open-hearted hospitality and welcome--a happy survival of ante-

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bellum days." Julia Graham died in 1909 and was buried in the family cemetery. In his will Graham requested to be buried beside her.

Besides his allegiance to traditional custom in his private life, Graham was not a man receptive to social or political change but preferred to cling to the old and tried ways of the past. He was nominated in 1867 to serve as the Conservative candidate to North Carolina's Reconstruction Convention, and during this period he was strongly opposed to suffrage and civil rights for blacks. He was also an earnest worker for white supremacy in 1900, and although he was a member of the Farmer's Alliance, he would not support its efforts to gain concessions for farmers through political action in the 1890s.

He was, however, innovative in his use of new agricultural methods and devices at his Lincoln County farm. In fact, he owned the first double footed plow used in the county, the first cotton gin with condenser west of the Catawba River, and the first separator, weeder, and reaper in the county. Local tradition claims that the round barn on his farm was part of his experimental farming effort. He also made some contributions in the writing of North Carolina history, including a history of his Confederate cavalry regiment and his most noted work, "General Joseph Graham and his Revolutionary Papers," an account of his ancestor's role in the American Revolution.⁹

When he died in 1923, William A. Graham, Jr., left "eight hundred acres of land more or less, situated in Lincoln County" and known as his "home place" to his children. The portion of the land containing the "residence. . .and all buildings of every kind connected or used therewith. . ." went to his oldest son, William, who was appointed by Governor Morrison to succeed his father as Commissioner of Agriculture in 1923. He served until 1936.¹⁰ In 1943 William A. Graham (III) left the "home tract" to his son, Joseph. Since that year the property has been transferred to Mr. David Clark of Lincoln County who is the present owner of the Graham farm, and the grandson of Justice Walter Clark,¹¹ a member of the General Assembly, and a promoter of North Carolina agriculture.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Lincoln County Record of Wills, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Lincoln County Courthouse, Lincolnton, Will Book 4:276, hereinafter cited as Lincoln Will Books; Ural Hoffman, "Major W. A. Graham," Historical Papers (Durham: Trinity College Historical Society, 1906) Series VI, p. 22.

²J. G. DeRouhlac Hamilton and Max R. Williams, eds., The Papers of William Alexander Graham (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1973) V, pp. 86-87; Louis H. Manarin, comp., North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1968) II, p. 170.

³Progressive Farmer (Raleigh) March 7, 1908; Mrs. E. E. Moffett (comp. and ed.) "Biographical Genealogical and Historical Memoranda--Major William Alexander Graham," North Carolina Booklet, XI (July, 1911) p. 54; R. D. W. Conner (comp. and ed.) A Manual of North Carolina. . .1913 (Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission, 1913) p. 86.

⁴Progressive Farmer (Raleigh) March 7, 1908; Hamilton and Williams, eds., The Papers of William Alexander Graham, V, p. 87.

⁵Ibid., pp. 98-99, p. 149.

⁶Ibid., pp. 466-467.

⁷Hoffman, "Major W. A. Graham," p. 24; Works Progress Administration, Cemetery Index, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.; Lincoln Will Book 7:114.

⁸Hoffman, "Major W. A. Graham," pp. 23-25.

⁹Ibid., p. 25.

¹⁰Lincoln Will Book 7:114.

¹¹Lincoln Will Book 9:212.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Conner, R. D. W., comp. and ed. A Manual of North Carolina. .1913. Raleigh, North Carolina Historical Commission. 1913.
- Hamilton, J. G. Rouhlac and Williams, Max R., eds. The Papers of William Alexander Graham, 1838-1868. 5 volumes. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History. 1959-1973.
- Hoffman, Ural. "Major W. A. Graham", Historical Papers. Durham, N.C. Trinity College Historical Society. Series VI. Pages 22-26.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	493820	3925935	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Description prepared by C. Greer Suttlemyre, Survey Specialist
Significance prepared by Joe Mobley, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Division of Archives and History	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
109 East Jones Street	733-4763
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Raleigh	North Carolina 27611

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 10, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Manarin, Louis H., comp. North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster. 5 volumes. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C. 1966-1975.

Moffett, Mrs. E. E., comp. and ed. "Biographical Genealogical, and Historical Memoranda--Major William Alexander Graham". North Carolina Booklet. XI. July, 1911. Pages 54-57.

Progressive Farmer. Raleigh, N.C. 1908.

Works Progress Administration. Cemetery Index. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

5' 493 4755 11 SE (DENVER) 494 495 496 2'30" 497



