

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.

Name of Property

historic name PHILLIPS, JOHN EVANDER, HOUSE

other names/site number JOHN EVANDER PHILLIPS HOMEPLACE

2. Location

street & number S. SIDE NC 24/27 .3 MILES FROM THE TOWN OF CAMERON not for publication N/A

city or town CAMERON vicinity X

state NORTH CAROLINA code NC county MOORE code 125 zip code 28326

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alfred J. Crows SHPO 8/30/00
Signature of certifying official Date

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

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____ Sub: _____

Cat: _____ Sub: _____

DOMESTIC/ SINGLE DWELLING

DOMESTIC/ SINGLE DWELLING

DOMESTIC/ SECONDARY STRUCTURE

DOMESTIC/ SECONDARY STRUCTURE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

foundation BRICK

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof SHEET METAL

METAL SHINGLE

other _____

Narrative Description

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Name of Property

County and State

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)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

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

ARCHITECTURE

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

X 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.

Period of Significance

1893

___ 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.)

Significant Dates

Property is:

1893

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

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or a grave.

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

___ D a cemetery.

N/A

___ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

Cultural Affiliation

___ F a commemorative property.

N/A

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

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

- X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State Agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository:

JOHN EVANDER PHILLIPS HOUSE

MOORE COUNTY, NC

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.42

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) X See continuation sheet.

Table with 6 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing for zones 1, 2, 3, and 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 BETSY GOHDES-BATEN
organization date APRIL 30, 1999
street & number 2737 CIRCLE DRIVE telephone 919-489-6368
city or town DURHAM state NC zip code 27705

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 DIANNE TAYLOR-WEBB
street & number 858 KNOLLWOOD VILLAGE telephone 910 - 695-0608
city or town SOUTHERN PINES state NC zip code 28387- 3006

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

General Description:

The John Evander Phillips House, a large and handsome frame farmhouse constructed in 1893, stands on the crest of a slope above the old Carthage spur line at the northwest outskirts of the town of Cameron in Moore County, North Carolina. The dwelling has a two-story main block that faces northeast and displays influences of the Picturesque Movement in its unusual cruciform plan and generous architectural ornament. A breezeway at the rear of the dwelling, enclosed before 1937, joins the main block and a late-eighteenth-century kitchen house with a hall-parlor plan that was re-sited and altered for the Phillips family when the main block was constructed.¹

Set back about twenty-five feet from Highway 24/27, the dwelling is sheltered by large magnolias, maples, and other ornamental trees that, during summer months, almost entirely obscure it from passing traffic. Only one and four-tenths acres remain in the house tract, but large pastures and fields on three sides of the property are still in Phillips family ownership and comprise almost one-half of the land that made up a substantial farm in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.² The subject property is level and dotted with mature trees, and takes the shape of an irregular polygon that is bounded by NC Highway 24/27 on the north, a fence on the west, a jagged line partially defined by a fence on the south, and a long obtuse-angled line that roughly follows a farm lane on the east.

There are two outbuildings south of the dwelling; a dirt lane that bisects the property separates a brick cider house on the east from a frame wash house on the west. Over the years, other early domestic and agricultural outbuildings deteriorated or were demolished, although a number of barns and sheds dating from the 1950s and 1960s still stand in adjoining pastures.

The John Evander Phillips House was modified on the interior to create three apartments ca. 1970, and in 1997, a fire damaged the interiors of the kitchen house, the breezeway, and a small portion of the main block. Approximately one-half of the eighteenth- and most of the nineteenth-century components and trim survive, and are more than sufficient to enable an accurate restoration of the areas affected by the fire. The current owner, Dianne Taylor-Webb, plans a comprehensive rehabilitation of the dwelling in the near future.

Descriptions of the John Evander Phillips House and Associated Outbuildings: (A Site Map is included as Exhibit A)

1. John Evander Phillips House, 1893, contributing (A floor plan of the John Evander Phillips House is included as Exhibit B)

The John Evander Phillips House, constructed as the opulent home of a wealthy merchant-farmer in 1893, has a frame two-story main block that displays influences of the Picturesque

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

Movement in its unusual cruciform plan and generous architectural ornament. A breezeway, thought to have been enclosed before 1937, joins the main block to a late-eighteenth-century frame kitchen house that was re-sited and renovated in 1893. From the late 1920s until 1970, dwelling was little altered, and was occupied by a second generation of Phillips family members whose fortunes declined irreversibly during the Great Depression. About 1970, the interior was modified and divided into three apartments, and in 1997, was damaged by a fire that affected the kitchen house, the breezeway, the first floor in the south wing, and the first floor and stairwell in the west wing.

Its exterior is substantially preserved, and the stylish main block of the John Evander Phillips House dominates the dwelling with four wings that project at right angles to one another and form the shape of a cross. Standing over brick piers with brick infill, the main block is covered by weatherboard siding and a standing-seam metal roof, and is symmetrical except that the east wing is several feet longer than its western counterpart. Most notable among a very few exterior changes, three-sided bays at the ends of the east and west wings, originally fitted with vertical windows, have been covered with weatherboards.

Fenestration around the main block is balanced, and on most exterior planes is organized in one bay on each floor. On the first floor, there are three entry doors of four panels with molded three-part surrounds and decorative cornerblock ornaments. The main entry door on the front of the north wing and a secondary entry door on the north façade of the west wing are serviceable and have arched glass lights over raised wood panels. On the south façade of the west wing, another secondary entry door with four raised wood panels was nailed shut during the ca. 1970 renovations. Four-over-four windows with molded surrounds and decorative cornerblocks are found on the east and west sides of the north and south wings and on the north of the east wing on the first floor. On the second floor, two-over-two windows with molded surrounds and decorative cornerblocks directly surmount the openings and three-sided bays beneath.

The main block has generous exterior ornament. A wide one-story porch with a hip roof of metal shingles carries around the north wing, supported by turned posts with sawnwork brackets and enhanced with bargeboards beneath the eaves. Between the posts, a fancy turned balustrade is largely intact as is fine jigsawn edging on the frieze above it, though the latter is damaged where serrated points have been broken off. A low-pitched gable embellished with bargeboards and diamond-patterned shingles extends from the center of each facade of the porch roof. A one-story back porch that spans the west facade of the south wing is simpler with a turned and a plain post topped by sawnwork brackets and jigsawn edging on the frieze. Other decoration around the main block includes rake boards with dentil molding, diamond-patterned shingles on second-floor gable ends, an ornate bracket on either side of eaves that overhang each wing, and diamond-patterned shingles and diagonal boards in scalloped frames at the bases of the three-sided bays.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

The interior of the main block reflects its exterior configuration; one room fills each wing both up and downstairs except where small bathrooms have been partitioned off in the east wing. The west wing is a connecting foyer, and a stair hall rises from west to east along its south wall. A central brick chimney serves a triangular hearth with fireboxes that open into the north, east, and west rooms on both levels. In the south wing, a firebox on the first floor is served by a brick end chimney.

As on the exterior, ornament on the interior of the main block is generous, and throughout the structure there are high baseboards topped with quarter-round molding and ceilings of narrow beaded boards. Window and doors have molded surrounds with decorative cornerblocks except in the south room on the second floor where surrounds and cornerblocks are plain. Doors have four-raised-panel, six-raised-panel, or two-horizontal-panel configurations. The north parlor on the first floor, used by the Phillips family when visitors called,³ is particularly decorative; here bulls-eye cornerblocks embellish the door and window surrounds and small panels are set into molded frames beneath the windows.

Walls throughout the main block were plastered originally, but when the dwelling was divided into apartments, the plaster was replaced with modern fiberboard and sheet paneling. Other alterations made at that time included re-aligning the staircase, removing a large newel, installing bathrooms and kitchen appliances and cabinets in the east wing on each floor, covering most wood floors with sheet vinyl, and closing off fireplaces on the second floor in the north and east wings. After the fire, damaged sheet paneling was taken down, several interior doors from the first floor were stacked in the breezeway, and three nineteenth-century mantels with decorative friezes were removed from the dwelling and placed in storage for safekeeping. A one-story breezeway, enclosed before 1937, joins the main block to the kitchen house on the south. The structure is covered with German siding, topped with a sheet metal roof, and has an engaged porch on the west facade. Fenestration is slightly offset to the south, and although a four-panel door serving the porch survived the fire, the windows, one adjacent to the door and two on the east facade, were destroyed. On the interior, fire-damaged sheet paneling has been removed, but the original wood floor, baseboards, and lath, all in relatively good condition, remain.

A frame one-story side-gable kitchen house with a hall-parlor plan, saved when the late-eighteenth-century dwelling of an early Scots settler burned in 1870,⁴ was re-sited and oriented parallel to the east and west wings of the main block in 1893. The kitchen house has a heavy timber frame covered with weatherboard siding, a sheet metal roof, and a bold boxed cornice with gable-end returns. As constructed originally, fenestration around the kitchen house was symmetrical; there were two doors on the front facade, one window at each end, and two doors on the rear facade. When the building was altered, most openings were modified or covered with weatherboards, leaving only an entry door and a window on the north facade, and a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

window on the west end. In the early twentieth-century, a stove chimney was installed in front of the fireplace in the west room of the building.

The fire did most damage to the interior of the kitchen house; the windows and approximately one-half of its original wide-board paneling and ceiling were destroyed. The majority of the wood floor survives as do beaded ceiling beams and two early six-panel doors. A central brick fireplace still stands but will require extensive repairs. A paneled Georgian mantel, said to have been brought from Scotland in the late-eighteenth century,⁵ was removed from the kitchen house before the fire, and will provide an important focal point in the John Evander Phillips House when the rehabilitation is complete.

2. Brick Cider House, ca. 1893, contributing

A small gable-front brick building with a metal roof and a central entry door that faces west is thought to have served the Phillips family as a cider house during the period of significance and afterward.

3. Frame Wash House, ca. 1930, noncontributing

A small gable-roofed frame structure was constructed after the period of significance and is non-contributing. Now in a deteriorated condition, it was used as a wash house in the mid-twentieth century.

Integrity Statement:

Constructed as the opulent home of a wealthy merchant-farmer in 1893, the John Evander Phillips House was occupied with little alteration from the late 1920s until 1970 by a second generation of family members whose fortunes declined during the Great Depression. The exterior of the house remains remarkably intact, but around 1970, the interior was divided into three apartments. Except that the stairs were realigned and small bathrooms were partitioned off in the east room on both floors, the overall arrangement of the space was not significantly altered and the changes made at that time are easily reversible. In 1997, the interiors of the kitchen house, the breezeway, and a small portion of the main block suffered limited damage during a fire. Despite this, approximately one-half of the eighteenth- and most of the nineteenth-century components and trim survive in these areas, and are more than sufficient to enable an accurate restoration of the rest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

Statement of Significance:

The John Evander Phillips House, a handsome frame farmhouse with Picturesque Movement influences in style and decor, meets the requirements of National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance at the local level. Constructed as the centerpiece of a substantial farm, the commodious dwelling was built by John Evander (J. E.) Phillips, a prosperous merchant-farmer who supplemented various mercantile ventures in nearby Cameron with diversified agriculture. The period of significance is 1893, the year the dwelling was constructed. The unusual cruciform plan of the main block is unique in Cameron although the dwelling's generous architectural ornament is more typical of homes constructed by area businessmen during the late-nineteenth century. At the rear of the main block, an enclosed breezeway joins a late-eighteenth-century kitchen house with a hall-parlor plan that was re-sited and renovated in 1893.

After J. E. Phillips, the house was occupied with little modification from the late 1920s until 1970 by a second generation of family members whose fortunes declined irreversibly during the Great Depression. Around 1970, the interior was altered and divided into three apartments, and in 1997, the interiors of an adjoining kitchen house, an enclosed breezeway, and a small portion of the main block suffered limited damage during a fire. The exterior remains remarkably intact, and the majority of the original interior components and trim have survived the alterations and the fire. The dwelling thus documents the stylistic preferences of a wealthy merchant-farmer in Moore County, North Carolina, during the late-nineteenth century, along with a record of the building techniques and building materials that he used.

Narrative History:

After the Civil War, businessmen in the sandhills region of North Carolina found prosperity in its plentiful pine forests as the booming construction trade and industries throughout the South required lumber and turpentine. Transportation of heavy forest products proved cumbersome, however, and shipments by ox or horse-drawn conveyance were at the mercy of weather and road conditions. An official of the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad was reportedly enticed to route the tracks through Crain's Creek Community in northeast Moore County with a generous offer of land near a proposed depot. The railroad was completed in 1875, and Crain's Creek was incorporated as Cameron the following year. Local tradition holds that the new name honored Paul Carrington Cameron, a high-ranking official of the railroad.

Between 1875 and 1890, Cameron was the primary rail shipping point for most of Moore County, and entrepreneurs set up hotels and stores, and constructed opulent homes in the booming town. Among them, John Evander Phillips arrived in 1883 to open a general store first listed in Chataigne's State Directory of that year. In 1884, with business no doubt off to a good beginning, he purchased one-half of a town lot in the commercial district.⁶ Within three years he

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

married, taking Annie Laura (Laurie) McIntosh as his wife on January 13, 1886.⁷ The couple may have anticipated future growth in Cameron or simply wished to establish a farm for in 1887 they purchased eighty acres of land just outside the town limits and advantageously situated on the Fayetteville Road.

The commercial district in Cameron grew rapidly, and frame buildings were constructed in close proximity to one another. Inevitably fire broke out and in 1888, six buildings that included J. E. Phillips' store burned to the ground. Although most of the merchandise was salvaged, Phillips was without insurance and his losses totaled \$350, a sizable sum at the time.⁸ He re-established his business, and according to an area newspaper, took precautions against future fires: "Mr. J. E. Phillips of Cameron is converting his store into a brick building. It is nearly completed and will be a handsome store."⁹

The Raleigh and Augusta Railroad constructed a spur line to the town of Carthage, connecting the seat of Moore County to the trunkline in 1890. A period of stagnation followed in Cameron as businesses that could benefit from proximity to the courthouse were relocated. Then, in 1892, the Lucretia Dewberry, a cultivated blackberry, was introduced into Moore County where sandy soils proved well suited to its production. In Cameron, businessmen welcomed an opportunity to supplement idling mercantile ventures, and J. E. Phillips was among many who planted a large acreage of the new crop. With berry bushes thriving in 1893, he constructed the handsome house that now bears his name and moved to the farm with Annie Laura, and their children, Hubert, aged four, and Maggie, aged two, when it was completed.

By mid 1890, J. E. Phillips not only raised dewberries himself but also acted as agent for other growers. Local newspapers reported that his "large daily shipments net(ted) handsome profits," and characterized him as "one of (Cameron's) young businessmen . . . engaged in merchandising and fruit growing, who is full of push and progress" and "thoroughly alive to anything that tends to develop in the town." Phillips was also the agent for the S. A. L. Industrial Association, an organization "with many practical ideas" the newspapers felt would be of "substantial good to the people."¹⁰

Commercial success brought other improvements, and in 1897, local newspapers reported that J. E. Phillips had completed "the addition of another story to (his) store (that) very much improves the looks of the business portion of our town." Additionally, he was credited as "the prime mover (in the) bright prospect of a nice new and commodious school building (to be) erected in the near future, and the securing of some competent professor."¹¹

Over the next decade, J. E. Phillips increased his land holdings, the size of his family, and his commercial and political ventures. According to Levi Branson's Business Directory he owned ninety-two acres valued at \$902 and one town lot valued at \$300 in 1898. And in 1900, the census described him as a farmer and merchant, aged 41, and the head of a household that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

included his wife, Annie L., aged 34, and children: Hubert, aged 10, Maggie, aged 9, Eula, aged 5, Sarah, aged 3, John E., Jr., aged 1, and an unnamed baby.¹² He added 22 acres to the farm in 1904, and in 1907, local newspapers advertised his purchase of "a large gasoline engine to run a large (cotton) gin that will very soon be ready to do your work."¹³ Also in 1907, Phillips became the mayor of Cameron, a position he held at least through 1909.¹⁴

Whether he had undertaken too much or simply wished to concentrate his efforts where he expected the greatest profits, J. E. Phillips sold his general mercantile store after twenty-five years in business, conveying the stock to A. H. and Donald McDonald in 1908. Afterward, he expanded a furniture and hardware business he had established nearby, and continued to operate his cotton gin and raise berries and vegetables as before.¹⁵

In 1910 J. E. Phillips was 51, and the census of that year included his wife, Annie L., aged 45, Hubert, aged 20, Eula, aged 15, Mary, aged 13, John E., Jr., aged 11, Dewey, aged 9, Annie, aged 8, and Katie, aged 6, all residing at the farm.¹⁶ Until he died in 1928, his multiple enterprises flourished as before: he enlarged the farm by 117.7 acres in 1915, added coffins and undertaker's services at the hardware and furniture store from 1915-1922, and moved with Annie Laura into a fine Cameron home in the mid 1920s. Hubert Phillips and his wife, Alethea, remained on the farm and continued the agricultural ventures.¹⁷

Perhaps his death at 69 was unexpected, for J. E. Phillips left no will. The widow and children made an agreement allowing J. E., Jr., (Jack) and Hubert to manage the lands and business of the estate. In 1929, the court allotted Annie Laura one third of her husband's property for life, and the children equal shares of the remainder. Family disagreements ensued, and Jack resigned as administrator in 1930. A new administrator was appointed, but the Great Depression affected commerce and property values in Cameron, the hardware and furniture store closed during this period, and the court ordered a sale of land to settle estate debts and administrative costs in 1937.¹⁸ According to family members, John Atlas Phillips, a cousin, paid a mortgage and back taxes owing on the farm, and received approximately ninety-nine acres that included the subject property in return. A deed dated February 20, 1937, and in the possession of Sue S. Phillips¹⁹ records this transaction although Hubert Phillips again conveyed the property by deed to J. A. Phillips' son, A. P. (Pete) Phillips and his wife, Sue S. Phillips, on November 14, 1958.²⁰

Despite the change in ownership, Hubert and Alethea Phillips remained on the farm, and of ten children born to the couple, eight survived to adulthood. During the 1930s and 1940s, the family raised tobacco although times were hard and rooms on the second floor of the house were occasionally rented to Jack Phillips or to a family who helped with the crops. At harvest time, the enclosed breezeway often became a work center where family members and helpers bundled leaves for curing. If the upstairs rooms were not rented, they often served to store the tobacco prior to marketing for an African-American man sporadically occupied the packhouse on the farm. In 1954, Pete Phillips established a small herd of Holstein cattle, and Hubert

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

supervised milk production for the Coble Dairy until 1970 when he and Alethea moved into Cameron.²¹

With Hubert and Alethea no longer in residence, the John Evander Phillips House was modified to create three apartments ca. 1970.²² Tenants occupied the dwelling until in 1997, a fire broke out in the kitchen house and damaged a portion of the interior. Afterward Sue S. Phillips sold the house on one and four-tenths acres to Robert G. Nelson on August 13, 1997.²³ Nelson and his wife, Brandelyn, in turn, conveyed the property to Dianne Taylor-Webb on January 15, 1998.²⁴ Taylor-Webb plans a careful rehabilitation of the dwelling, and it will afterward serve as an antiques shop.

Architectural Context:

The late-nineteenth century brought a nationwide building boom of unprecedented proportions and with it many theories about architectural design. Numerous magazines and pattern books included illustrations of picturesque frame dwellings that romanticized the past with a variety of styles, floor plans, and sawnwork decoration. The illustrations could be easily reproduced or modified from mail-order plans, and stock parts and lumber could be readily obtained from nearby woodworking mills.²⁵ In and around Cameron, builders of the period generally catered to wealthy merchants and farmers like J. E. Phillips with a blend of traditional forms and new styles and decoration. Although most of these dwellings, including the Murdock McKeithen, Rodwell, Borst, and Ferguson Houses (all contributing buildings in the Cameron Historic District, NR 1983), have irregular massing, the main block of the John Evander Phillips House has a symmetrical cruciform plan that is unique in an area where other symmetrical dwellings of the late-nineteenth century like the Foust House (contributing building in the Cameron Historic District, NR 1983), are I-houses.²⁶

While ornamental detailing differed from one house to the next in Cameron, particular components were often similar.²⁷ Thus, for his opulent farmhouse then just outside the town limits, J. E. Phillips used variations of decorative motifs chosen by town residents who built their homes at about the same time. Generous turned, sawn, and molded ornament is also found on the Murdock McKeithen House, the John C. Muse House, the Kennedy-McDonald House, the McFayden House, the Rodwell house, the Borst House, and the Ferguson House, and projecting bays on the Murdock McKeithen House (all contributing buildings in the Cameron Historic District, NR 1983).²⁸

With its unusual floor plan and remarkably intact exterior, the John Evander Phillips House retains its late Victorian character despite interior modification ca. 1970 and limited interior damage during a fire in 1997. The dwelling thus provides important documentation of spatial priorities and a record of building techniques and decorative enhancements used by a wealthy Moore County merchant-farmer in 1893.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

Endnotes:

- ¹ Author's interview with Herman Phillips, December 10, 1999.
- ² Author's interview with Sue S. Phillips, November 3, 1999.
- ³ Herman Phillips interview, December 10, 1999.
- ⁴ Sue S. Phillips interview, November 3, 1999.
- ⁵ Sue S. Phillips interview, November 3, 1999.
- ⁶ Moore County Deed Book 23, pages 280-81.
- ⁷ *N. C. Presbyterian*, January 13, 1886.
- ⁸ *Carthage Blade*, December 13, 1888, and *Sanford Central Express*, December 15, 1888.
- ⁹ *Carthage Blade*, November 13, 1890.
- ¹⁰ *Carthage Blade*, June 16, 1896 and *Raleigh News and Observer*, July 21, 1897.
- ¹¹ *The Sanford Express*, October 22, 1897.
- ¹² Federal Population Census in Comer, James V, *When Things were Simple in the Town of Cameron, NC, Vol. I*, 1987, typescript document in North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, p. 83.
- ¹³ *The Sanford Express*, September 27, 1907.
- ¹⁴ North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory, published by the News and Observer in Raleigh, 1907 in Comer, James V, *When Things were Simple in the Town of Cameron, NC, Vol. II*, 1988, typescript document in North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, p. 8. See also p. 109.
- ¹⁵ *The Sanford Express*, September 11, 1908.
- ¹⁶ Comer, Vol. I, p. 89.
- ¹⁷ Comer, Vol. II, p. 51.
- ¹⁸ Letter to Betsy Gohdes-Baten from Webb and Craven, P.L.L.C., pp. 2.
- ¹⁹ Sue S. Phillips interview, November 3, 1999.
- ²⁰ Moore County Deed Book 228, page 449.
- ²¹ Herman Phillips interview, December 10, 1999.
- ²² Herman Phillips interview, December 10, 1999.
- ²³ Moore County Deed Book 1298, page 61.
- ²⁴ Moore County Deed Book 1338, page 552.
- ²⁵ Mohny, Kirk, M., *The Historic Architecture of Davie County, North Carolina*, Davie County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1986, p. 18.
- ²⁶ Cameron Historic District National Register Nomination, Section 7, p. 13.
- ²⁷ Cameron Historic District National Register Nomination prepared by Jo Ann Williford, 1983, on file with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh, Section 7, p.1-2.
- ²⁸ Cameron Historic District National Register Nomination, Section 7, pp. 4-8 and 11-13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Books and Documents:

Comer, James V, *When Things were Simple in the Town of Cameron, NC, Vols. I & II*, 1988, typescript documents in North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

Mohney, Kirk, M., *The Historic Architecture of Davie County, North Carolina*, 1986, Davie County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Webb and Craven, P.L.L.C., letter to Betsy Gohdes-Baten dated September 15, 1999.

Williford, Jo Ann, "Cameron Historic District," 1983, National Register Nomination on file with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh.

Newspapers:

Carthage Blade, Dec. 13, 1888, Nov. 13, 1890, June 16, 1896

Raleigh News and Observer, July 21, 1897.

The Sanford Central Express, Oct. 22, 1897, Dec. 15, 1888, Sept. 27, 1907, Sept. 11, 1908.

N. C. Presbyterian, Jan. 13, 1886.

Moore County Deed Books:

23, 1298, 1338.

Author's Interviews:

Sue S. Phillips, widow of A. P. Phillips, November 3, 1999.

Janet Neville, Phillips family historian, November 10, 1999.

Herman Phillips, son of Hubert Phillips, December 10, 1999.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

UTM References for the John Evander Phillips House:

Zone	Easting	Northing
17	657930	3910810

Boundary Description:

The boundary of the property included in the John Evander Phillips House nomination is shown on Exhibit A, the map entitled *Survey for Sue Phillips*. It includes one parcel of one and four-tenths acres now belonging to Dianne Taylor-Webb. The property is described and recorded in Volume 1338, page 552 in the Moore County Register of Deeds Office, Carthage, North Carolina.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses one and four-tenths acres around the John Evander Phillips House and is sufficient to convey the historic context of the dwelling and to protect its rural character.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 1

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

All photographs are of the:
John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, North Carolina
Betsy Gohdes-Baten, photographer

Photographs and negatives are on file with the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC. (Numbers correspond to locations on Exhibit C: John Evander Phillips House Photograph Site Map).

1. DATE: August 18, 1999
VIEW OF: Long side elevation of the John Evander Phillips House, looking southeast.
2. DATE: August 18, 1999
VIEW OF: Front wing of the John Evander Phillips House, looking southwest.
3. DATE: August 18, 1999
VIEW OF: Decorative details of the John Evander Phillips House on the porch, looking southeast.
4. DATE: August 18, 1999
VIEW OF: Decorative details of the John Evander Phillips House, looking northeast.
5. DATE: August 18, 1999
VIEW OF: Window and decorative woodwork in the front parlor of the John Evander Phillips House, looking southeast.
6. DATE: August 18, 1999
VIEW OF: Interior of the John Evander Phillips House, view from the rear wing looking southwest into the enclosed breezeway into the area of fire damage.
7. DATE: August 18, 1999
VIEW OF: Interior of the John Evander Phillips House, view facing northeast from upstairs bedroom in the south wing of the main block.
8. DATE: August 18, 1999
VIEW OF: Mantels from the John Evander Phillips House now in storage.
9. DATE: August 18, 1999
VIEW OF: Kitchen House and west facade of the John Evander Phillips House, view facing southeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John Evander Phillips House
Moore County, NC

Section number Photo Page 2

10. DATE: August 18, 1999

VIEW OF: Kitchen House and east facade of the John Evander Phillips House, view facing northwest.

11. DATE: August 18, 1999

VIEW OF: Interior of the Kitchen House showing fire damage and the remaining eighteenth-century paneling and beams, view facing southeast.

12. DATE: August 18, 1999

VIEW OF: Georgian mantel from the Kitchen House now in storage.

13. DATE: August 18, 1999

VIEW OF: Cider House, view facing southeast.

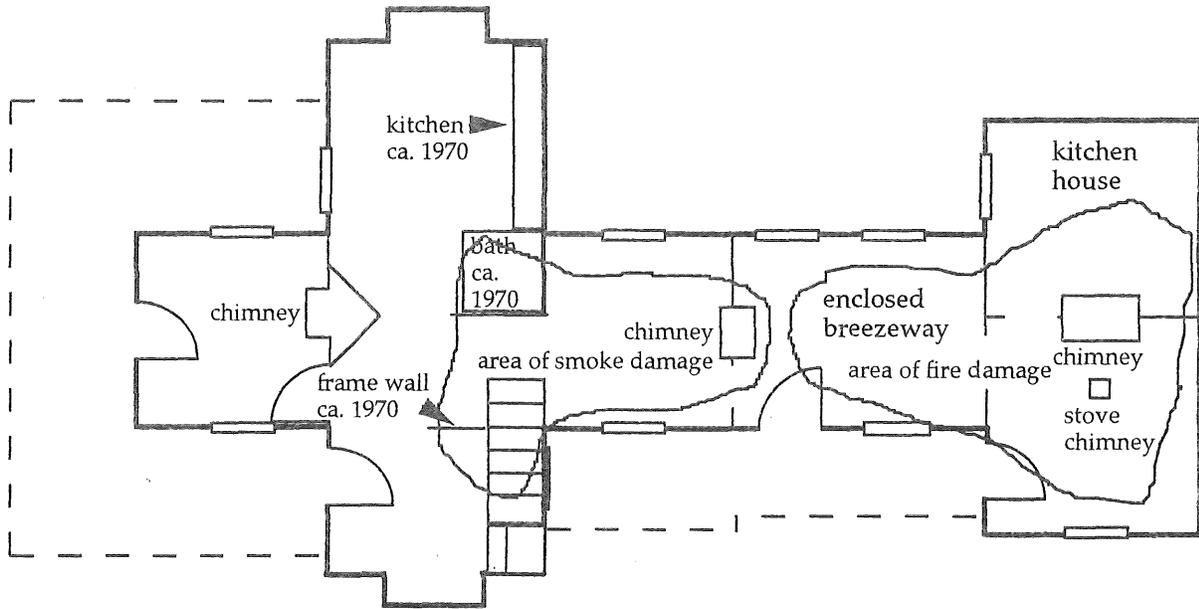
14. DATE: August 18, 1999

VIEW OF: Wash House, view facing northwest.



John Evander Phillips House
Floor Plan Cameron Vicinity
MOORE County

Floor 1



Floor 2

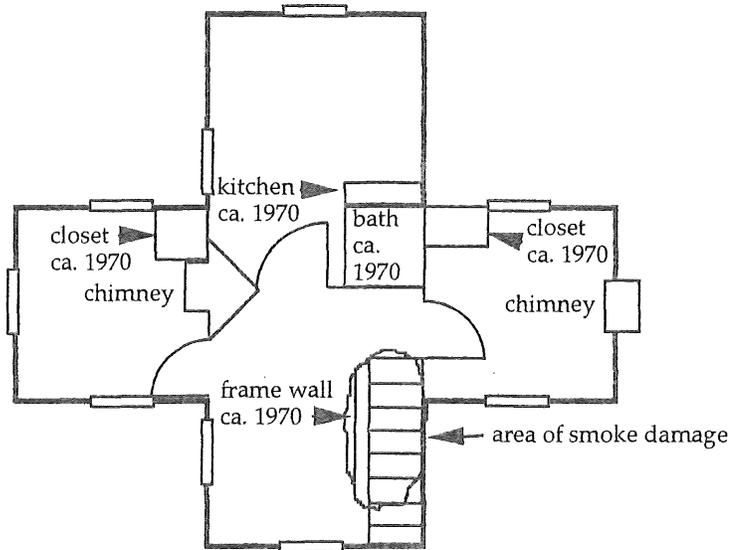
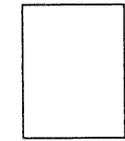
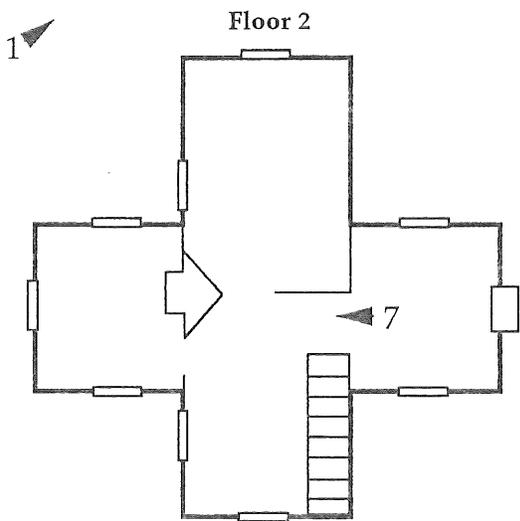
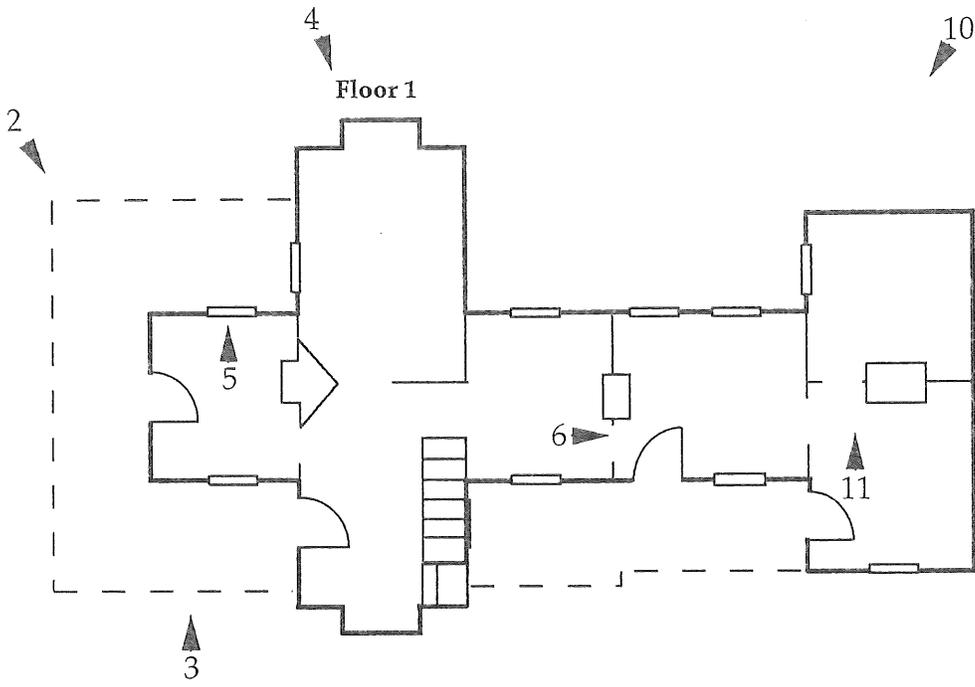


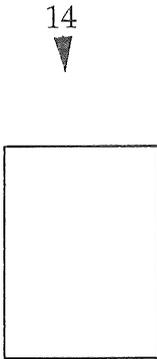
Exhibit C



John Evander Phillips House
Photograph Site Map Cameron Vicinity
MOORE County

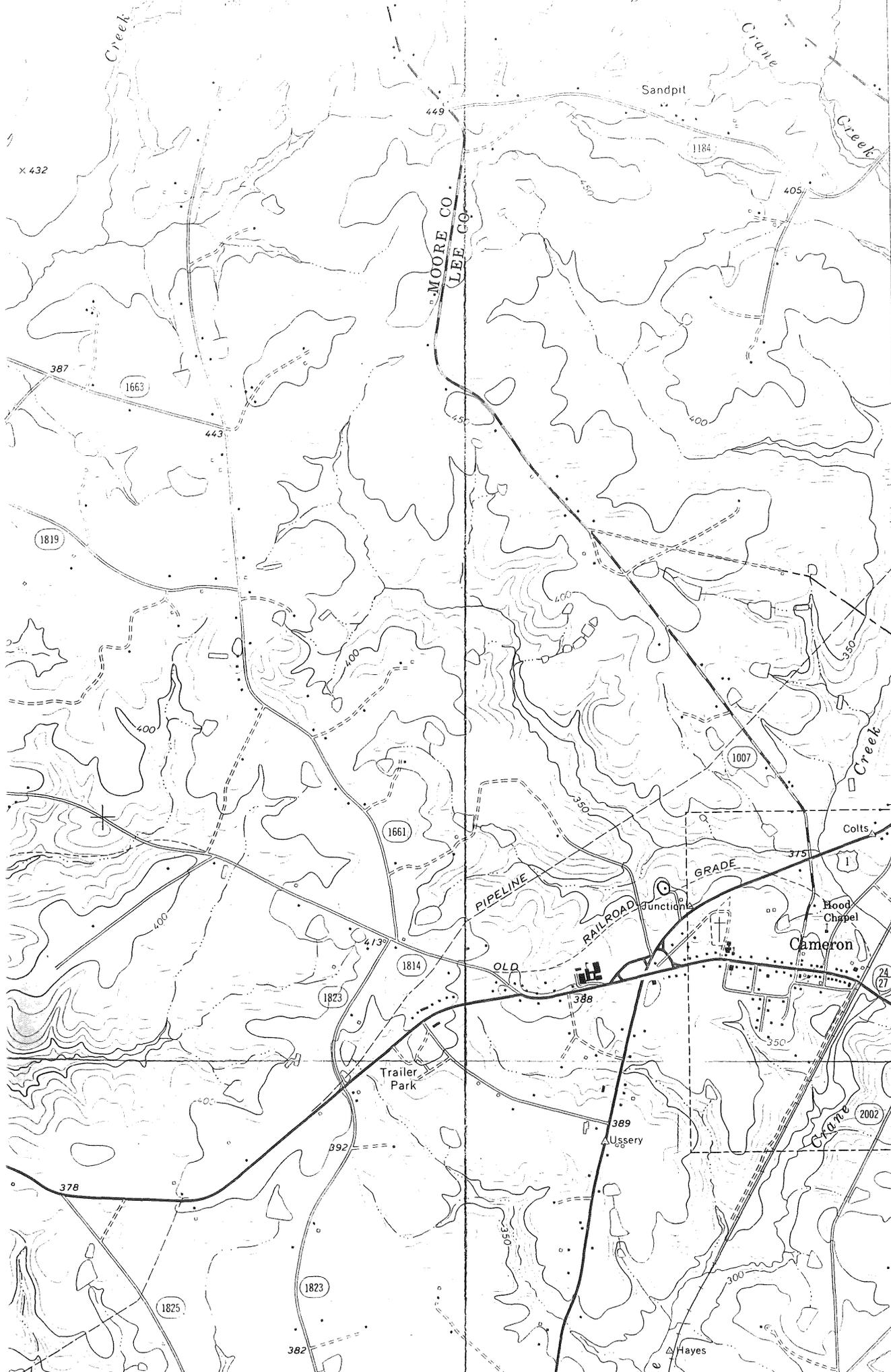


Cider House



Wash House





3915
3914
3913
3912
20
SANFORD 10 MI.
JOHNSONVILLE 10 MI.
(MURCHISON TOWN)
5154 1 SW

VASS
QUAD 5116
J.E. PHILLIPS HOUSE
3911 MOORE CO, NC
17-657930-3910810

x 432

MOORE CO.
LEE CO.

Cameron

Hood Chapel

Ussery

Hayes

Trailer Park

Junction

GRADE

RAILROAD

PIPELINE

OLD

Creek

Crane

Creek

Creek

Creek

Little

