

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 an 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 Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House

other names/site number Grubb-Grimes-Sigmon House

2. Location

street & number 213 McCoy Road

N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Salisbury

N/A ☐ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Rowan

code 159 zip code 28144

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Jeffrey J. Crows SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

1/4/99
Date

State of 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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

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	
6	3	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
7	3	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)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/horticultural facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

Wood

roof Asbestos

other Asphalt

Copper

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet.

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House
Name of Property

Rowan County, North Carolina
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.)

- ☒ 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.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1911; 1927-1942

Significant Dates

1911

1927

1938-1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

North Carolina Division of Archives and History

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House
Name of Property

Rowan County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.92 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	5	4	5	0	9	0	3	9	4	9	1	9	0
2	Zone													

3	Zone													
4	Zone													

☐ See continuation sheet

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 Davyd Foard Hood

organization _____ date 21 May 1998

street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-4331

city or town Vale state N. C. zip code 28168

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Roy H. Campbell, Jr. / Mrs. Katharine Weisiger Osborne

street & number 213 McCoy Road / 1349 East Colonial Drive telephone 704/637-5402 // 704/633-2881

city or town Salisbury state N. C. zip code 28144

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 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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 1

An Overview of the Property Development

The Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, a well-preserved two-story Queen Anne-style frame house with later Colonial Revival-style interiors, stands on open, tree-shaded landscaped grounds at 213 McCoy Road in Milford Hills, a suburban residential park in the southwest quadrant of Salisbury. When built in 1911 by Henry Clay Grubb as the residence of his farm manager, Charles Pinkney Jacobs, the house, its lawn, now-lost outbuildings, and domestic yard were surrounded by open, productive fields comprising some 372.50 acres. In the mid 1920s when the former Grubb farm was acquired and combined with adjoining properties by the Salisbury Development Company as the site of its new subdivision, the farm manager's house was set aside on lot #168 on the plat of Milford Hills. The south-facing house and its lot, together with lots #167 and #169, flanking it on the north and south respectively, and a trio of adjoining lots on the east (#159-161) were acquired by Ross Minish Sigmon, the local agent of the development company; these six lots comprised a generally rectangular holding defined by McCoy Road on the west, East Colonial Drive on the east, and the boundaries of adjoining lots on the north and south.

Here, about 1927--four years prior to obtaining title to the property--Mr. Sigmon set about the creation of a small suburban estate; he turned the house (#1) ninety degrees to face west onto McCoy Road, laid out a brick walk lined with English boxwood between the house and the road, fitted up a dependency as a servant's quarters, and added a combination garage/stable (#4), a playhouse for his daughter (#3), and a greenhouse (#7) for Mrs. Sigmon; to the house lawn and grounds, then shaded by white oaks, Virginia cedars, and a pecan grove, he added Deodora cedars, magnolias, and flowering shrubs. Leslie Marshall Weisiger, who acquired the property late in 1938 and who resided here from 1939 until 1973, followed Mr. Sigmon's precedent. The servant's quarters, by then infested with termites, was replaced on site ca. 1941 by a guest house (#2) of similar appearance. He replaced the then-derelict smokehouse, standing to the northeast of the kitchen ell with a new smokehouse (#6) the next year, and he added a truck garage/workshop (#5) beside it to the south; Mr. Weisiger built the smokehouse (#6) and the garage/workshop (#5) at the east rear of the property between Mr. Sigmon's garage/stable (#4) and the greenhouse (#7).

The six-lot grounds of the house remained intact from the mid 1920s until 1968 when Mr. Weisiger sold the south part of lot #159, together with lot #158, to his daughter, Katharine Weisiger Osborne, and son-in-law as the site whereon they would build a house where she continues to reside. In 1974 when the Weisigers sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Allen, their neighbors at 209 McCoy Road, the purchase included only the three front lots (#167-169) facing onto McCoy Road on which stood this house, the guest house, and the playhouse; the remainder of lot #159, and all of lots #160-161, on which stand the other buildings erected by Mr. Sigmon and Mr. Weisiger, subsequently became and remain the property of Mrs. Osborne. The Allens moved a small playhouse (#8) from 209 McCoy Road into the yard of this property and soon erected a one-car garage (#9). The final building on this acreage is the garage (#10), erected in 1997 by the present owners.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 2

Although the house, the acreage, and outbuildings included in this nomination are in two ownerships, there is no physical differentiation along their shared legal boundary. The grass covered lawn of the front "house" lots carries across the property line and continues as the setting for the outbuildings on the rear lots near East Colonial Drive; the effective appearance is that of one property. Further linking this acreage under two ownerships is a stand of eight pecan trees, dating from the original Jacobs' residency, which shade the southeast corner of the nominated acreage. The overall grounds are further embellished with other shade trees and flowering shrubs in informal specimen or grouped plantings.

Inventory List

1. The Grubb-Sigmon Weisiger House
1911; repositioned to face west in 1927
Contributing building

The Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House is a well-preserved weatherboarded frame Queen Anne-style house standing on a low mortared brick foundation and covered with an asbestos-shingle side-gable roof. The main block of the house, three-bays wide and one-room deep, is two stories in height; the north and south elevations of this block are finished as three-sided bays on both levels and finished with pent gable ends supported by brackets. The rear block of the house is comprised of paired one-story ells, slightly unequal in depth, which are covered by gable-end roofs. In appearance these two blocks of the house are unified by the expansive one-story porch which encircles the front block and carries eastward about one-half the length of the ells; on the south side, the east end of the porch was enclosed in the 1920s to provide an additional bedroom. The composition of these elements is further unified by the symmetrical positioning of brick chimneys on the rear east wall of the main block which are echoed by like brick chimney stacks rising in parallel position through the roofs at each end of the ells. The house's elevations are sheathed with plain weatherboards, between wide sill boards at their base and frieze boards at the top, and finished with simple corner boards. The eaves are well-finished with turn-of-the-century moldings. The house's window openings contain mostly original two-over-two sash in plain board surrounds with shallow projecting fillets across the top.

Symmetry and the expansive porch are the defining features of the façade of the house facing onto McCoy Road. Center entrances on both stories are flanked by single windows fitted with louvered blinds which recur on the gable ends. In plan, the expansive porch projects forward in front of a shallow projecting bay holding paired six-pane over two-panel doors and woven-wire screen doors installed in 1939 by Mr. Weisiger; it echoes the three-sided bays as it wraps the north and south gable ends of the house. The porch's bracketed turned posts are linked by a railing of reeded rectangular members. At the second-story level a small porch is positioned in the center bay above the roof of the lower veranda. It, too, is supported by bracketed turned posts and a reeded member railing. Its pent gable end is centered by a round, louvered ventilator with a keystone block. Like ventilators are also set in the house's north and south pent gable ends. The ceilings of both upper and lower porches are sheathed with tongue-and-groove ceiling.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 3

The house's side and rear elevations are asymmetrically composed. On the north elevation, the one-story porch continues around the three-sided bay and eastward along one-half of the one-story ell (the depth of the dining room). At the east edge of the porch's north end, there is a break in the railing which gives onto steps descending to a walk which leads to the private driveway off McCoy Road. This break was on axis with a door into the dining room, behind the porch, which was closed by Mr. Weisiger when he added the door in the north end of the two-story block which opens into the den; that door has six panes above two tall panels and retains its original 1939 screen door. The single window and former doorway in the north wall of the dining room, under the porch were replaced by paired one-over-one sash windows in 1939. A pair of six-over-six windows are centered in the east half of the ell's elevation; they illuminate the eating area in the remodeled kitchen. A brick stairwell descends to a door opening into the basement under these windows. As noted above, the rear elevation of the house is defined by a pair of offset gable ends; the north gable end is blind while the south gable end has square casement windows positioned to either side of the interior-end chimney. A shallow service porch is recessed in the offset. During the Allen ownership it was enclosed with six-over-six sash windows above a vertically-sheathed apron. A door opens onto steps down to the walk leading eastward to the guest house. The east elevation of the main block's second story has a window in the center, between the two brick chimney shafts, which illuminates the second-story bathroom. On the south side of the house, the southeast end of the porch was taken down and a small bedroom and very small bathroom enclosed in its place. Paired two-over-two windows are centered on the east and south sides of the bedroom and a small window is positioned on the west wall of the bathroom (under the porch). There are single conventional two-over-two sash windows illuminating the two principal bedrooms in the ell and a third, smaller two-over-two sash window between them which illuminates the principal bathroom on the first story.

The interior of the house, built on a center, stair, through-hall plan, retains signal features of its original construction and the 1939 Colonial Revival-style remodeling by the Weisiger family. The house's original symmetrically molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks were retained and replicated in the hall and elsewhere when necessary. The doors have six horizontal panels and mostly glass knobs; they appear to be original or replicated as necessary. The walls and ceilings are plaster. The floors were overlaid with oak flooring by the Weisigers, and most of the bedroom floors are covered by wall-to-wall carpeting. A simple, appropriate cornice molding was added throughout the house. The finish of the principal bathrooms on both stories also dates to the Weisigers' 1939 renovation.

The house's paired front doors open into a wide center hall which carries the depth of two rooms. The staircase, positioned along the hall's south wall, rises westward to the second story; it was refitted with a Colonial Revival-style newel and handrail, of turned and tapering members respectively, in 1939. The doorways opening into the living room in the front southwest corner of the house, the den in the front northwest corner, and the dining room, behind (east of) the den were enlarged in 1939 and fitted with paired fifteen-pane French doors. A door on the south side of the hall, near the foot of the stairs, opens into the principal first-story bedroom, behind (east of) the living room, and a like door at the east end of the hall opens into a passage giving into the kitchen. The Allens added the molded chair rail and crown molding in the hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 4

The finish of the first-story rooms is consistent with the hall, except for the chair rail and crown molding. The living room, in the house's southwest front corner, has carpet on the floor, wallpaper on the walls, and a painted ceiling. The brass wall scones with etched globes were added in 1939; however, the chandelier was installed by the present owners. The fireplace, in the center of the east wall, is fitted with a Colonial Revival-style mantel of fluted pilasters rising to a molded frieze and mantel shelf; the hearth and firebox surround is black marble. An original door linking this room with the bedroom, on the north side of the chimney, to the east was closed by the Allens and plastered over when they added a closet in the bedroom. There is a display alcove, with open shelves above doors, to the south of the fireplace. The room on the north side of the hall, opposite the living room, was used as a parlor by the Sigmons and redecorated as a den by Mr. Weisiger who added dark wood recessed-field paneling and a beam-and-tray ceiling. The Colonial Revival mantel, similar to the one in the living room, is fitted with a green marble hearth and firebox surround. Recessed bookcases on either side of the interior chimney have paneled doors at the bottom and paired glazed doors of ten panes each at the top. Except for the addition of a chair rail by the Allens, the dining room is as finished by the Weisiger family. The five-light brass chandelier has etched glass globes and crystal pendants; matching scones are positioned on the east wall where a six-panel swinging door opens into the kitchen. An arch-headed niche for china display is positioned at the north edge of the east wall; it has open shelves above paired doors at the bottom. The kitchen, in the northeast corner of the house, incorporates the former kitchen and breakfast room of the Weisiger era, as well as the east end of the house's original through center hall. It was remodeled to varying degrees by the Allens, the Lyman, and lastly, to the greatest degree, by the Mickelsons between 1992 and 1995; they added a terra cotta tile floor and all new cabinetry. An eating area occupies the space formerly used as the breakfast room; and the Sigmon-era pantry, over the service stair to the basement, survives in place. A door opens onto the service porch on the east and a door in the kitchen's south wall opens into the small bedroom at the east end of the south ell.

The south one-story ell contains two bedrooms flanking a bathroom. The bedroom in the pendant space to the dining room, immediately east of the living room, has always served as the master bedroom. It has closets inset in the west wall, flanking the chimney providing a fireplace to the living room. A door in its south wall, flanked by Neo-classical-style wall scones installed in 1939, opens into the small bedroom, enclosed from the porch, which now serves as a dressing room; it, too, is fitted with a pair of Neo-classical-style wall scones. A counter, fitted with a lavatory, is positioned on the west wall beside a door which gives onto a small bathroom, finished with a ceramic tile floor, and fitted with a shower and a toilet. A door in the east wall of the master bedroom opens into a passage which also serves the bathroom and the bedroom at the east end of the ell. The bathroom, redecorated and refitted in 1939, is a well finished interior of its period. Soft-yellow and black ceramic tile are used on the floor; a like soft-yellow tile is used for the wainscot which terminates with a black border at the top. Inset white ceramic fittings and towel rods complement the original white bathtub and pedestal sink (the white toilet is a replacement). A medicine cabinet, with paired beveled, mirrored glass doors is positioned above the sink; on the east wall and to its left (north) is an inset linen closet with blind paired doors. The bedroom at the east end of the south ell has a Colonial Revival mantel with fluted pilasters and a molded projecting shelf in the center of its east wall; the firebox, fitted with a coal grate

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 5

The finish of the second-story hall replicates that of the hall below, while the finish of the two bedrooms and bathroom is also similar to that on the first story. The hall's oak floor dates to the Weisiger ownership as does a hanging light fixture with its etched glass globe and crystal prisms, and the brass wall sconces. The chair rail installed by the Allens continues here. The door onto the upper porch has a large glass pane above three horizontal panels while the doors into the bedrooms, a small cedar-lined closet, and bathroom, have six horizontal panels. The bathroom, between the bedrooms, has a black and white ceramic tile floor, a white tile wainscot with a black border rail, the original white tub and pedestal sink, and an inset medicine cabinet with a beveled-mirror door flanked by (painted) metal sconces with etched glass globes. The north and south bedrooms are virtually identical in their finish and appearance. Both have carpeted floors and wallpaper on their walls. The mantels are the same and feature fluted pilasters rising to a molded frieze and projecting shelf. The fireboxes are fitted with coal grate inserts and covers; the hearth and surround are pale blue ceramic tiles. Each room also has a pair of Neo-classical-style brass wall sconces with etched globes like those in the downstairs' master bedroom. After the Allens acquired the house in 1974 they enclosed closets in the northeast and southeast corners of the south and north bedrooms, respectively, which provide day-to-day closets, seasonal storage, and luggage storage.

2. Guest House
Ca. 1941
Contributing building

Occupying the site of the former servant's quarters of the Sigmon family, this long rectangular frame building was erected as a guest house by Mr. Weisiger ca. 1941; bedrooms are positioned at each end of the building with a shared bathroom between them. It has a common bond brick foundation, weatherboarded elevations, and a slate roof; the elevations are finished with a sill, frieze, and corner boards and molded eaves. Entrances on each gable end are protected by shallow hip-roof porches which are inset from the side elevations. Rectangular louvered ventilators occupy the upper gable ends. There are two door openings under the front west porch, one of which has been infilled with weatherboards while the south opening holds a five-horizontal-panel door as does the east rear doorway. The side elevations have three six-over-six sash windows in plain board surrounds with projecting fillets across their lintels. The three rooms are finished with pine floors and painted sheet rock walls and ceilings. The interior doors have a five-horizontal panel arrangement. The bathroom is fitted with a wall hung sink and a claw-foot tub that might have been reused from the main house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 6

3. Playhouse
Ca. 1928-1930
Contributing building

This charming diminutive weatherboarded frame cottage (5' 10" by 7' 10") was built by Ross Minish Sigmon for his only daughter, Katherine Balfour Sigmon (b. 1921), shortly after the family moved into the main house. It stands on low brick piers and is covered with a wood-shingle gable-front roof. A tall arch-headed doorway, fitted with a board and batten door, and a small four-pane window with hinged board blinds occupies the front, west elevation; paired four-pane casement windows are set in a simply molded surround on the south side. The interior has a plywood floor and sheathed walls.

4. Garage/Stable
Ca. 1927
Contributing building

This sizable rectangular frame building is the most substantial historic outbuilding on the property. It has a low brick foundation, weatherboarded elevations, and a gable-front roof covered with asbestos shingles. It was built to provide garaging for Mr. Sigmon's automobile and stalls for the family's horses and ponies. In plan the garage area, positioned in the building's northwest corner, takes up about one-third of the interior; the four stalls, a passage, and a feed/tack room are ranged in an inverted L-shape along the east and south sides of the building. The wide garage opening on the west front elevation is fitted with its original sliding multi-leaf doors, on tracks, which have four panes above two tall panels per leaf. The interior of the garage area has a poured cement floor; the east and south walls and ceiling are sheathed with tongue-and-groove ceiling. A door in the garage's southeast corner opens onto a passage in the stable area which is partitioned with boards. A six-panel door to the south of the garage opening provides access to the feed/tack room in the building's southwest corner. It has a wood floor and holds a former ice box used as a feed bin and a glazed front cabinet which was taken out of the kitchen during a remodeling. Three openings, fitted with board and batten blinds, are symmetrically positioned on the south elevation. On the rear elevation a braced pent-roof carries across the wall to protect the four openings here into the stalls; the stalls have batten doors. There is a single opening with a blind at the east edge of the north side.

5. Truck-garage/workshop
Ca. 1942
Contributing building

Standing immediately to the north and in parallel position with the garage/stable, this long rectangular frame building was erected by Mr. Weisiger about 1942 to house a pickup truck and provide a small workshop. It has a common bond brick foundation, weatherboarded elevations, and a gable-front asphalt-shingle roof. The wide garage opening on the west end is fitted with paired batten doors. The garage area has a poured cement floor. The north and south side elevations are blind except for a doorway at the east edge of the north elevation, which opens

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 7

into the workshop at the east end of the building. The opening is fitted with a six, horizontal panel door. The workshop, finished with a pine floor and a tongue-and-groove ceiling and partition wall with the garage, is illuminated by a six-over-six sash window in the center of its east wall.

6. Smokehouse
Ca. 1942
Contributing building

Standing to the north of the above building, this small (10' 2" by 12' 2") frame building was built by Mr. Weisiger ca. 1942 in a short-lived experiment to cure pork for family use. It, too, stands on a common bond brick foundation, and has weatherboarded elevations and an asphalt-shingle gable front roof with exposed end rafters. A metal flue rises from the roof's ridgeline. The elevations are blind except for a batten door in the center of its west, front elevation. The interior has a dirt floor and flush sheathed walls and ceiling which follows the pitch of the roof.

7. Greenhouse
Ca. 1933
Contributing structure

Erected about 1933 for Mrs. Sigmon, this rectangular greenhouse, eighteen feet and eight inches wide (north and south sides) and fifteen feet three inches deep (east and west sides), is covered by a gable-front roof. The poured-cement perimeter base of the greenhouse is three feet, three inches tall, above grade, and supports a structural wood framework which held the sash-like glazing. Originally the roof was glazed as well; however, sheathing and asphalt shingles were overlaid on it in recent years. While virtually all of the glass panes have been lost, the structure is still sound.

8. Playhouse #2
Ca. 1971; moved here 1974
Noncontributing building

This twice-moved building was originally constructed about 1971 by Elmer Lee Allen, Sr., in the yard of 209 McCoy Road as a playhouse for his young granddaughters. In the summer of 1974, when Elmer Lee Allen, Jr., and his wife bought this house from the Weisigers, the playhouse was moved some one hundred feet to the south to the site now occupied by the new garage erected by the present owners. In spring 1997 the building was moved to this location and placed on a common-bond brick foundation. Its elevations are sheathed with German siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The eave across the west front has a scalloped edge. A doorway and window opening are symmetrically positioned on the west front elevation and a window opening occurs in the center of the north side; the door has six panes above three horizontal panels, while the openings are fitted with four-over-four sash. The interior has a wood floor and manufactured sheet paneling sheathing. It is now used as a tool shed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 8

9. Garage #2
Ca. 1978
Noncontributing building

This small single-car frame garage was built by the Allens; it has a low poured cement foundation and floor and a gable-front roof covered with asphalt shingles. The garage was originally sheathed with manufactured Masonite-like siding; however, the present owners had it covered with vinyl siding in 1997 when the large new garage was built. The garage opening on the south gable front is fitted with paired X-braced board-and-batten doors. A conventional doorway on the east side holds a six-pane above three-panel door, and a window opening here contains six-over-six sash; a single window opening on the west side contains six-over-six sash. The interior is a single space; a workbench carries on part of the west wall and shelves are mounted on the north wall.

10. Garage #3
1997
Noncontributing building

Rick Perry and R & L Contractors of China Grove erected this substantial rectangular one-and-one-half-story garage building in the spring and summer of 1997 for the Campbells. It has a common-bond brick foundation, elevations sheathed in vinyl siding, and a side-gable asphalt-shingle roof. The west front elevation has two garage openings, fitted with partially-glazed overhead doors, in the center and south bays; a conventional door and window opening are positioned in the north bay. This window opening and those in the center of the north and south gable ends and an opening in the northern part of the rear east elevation are fitted with one-over-one sash with faux six-pane mullions. The two dormer windows symmetrically positioned above the west elevation hold like sash with four-pane mullions. The two garage doors open into a large space with a poured cement floor and plywood ceiling; the side walls of the garage area are unfinished. The shop area in the north third of the interior also has unfinished side walls; a stair to the upper level is roughed-in in its northeast corner. The upper level has a plywood floor and is intended for domestic storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 9

Summary Statement

The Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, a well-preserved two-story Queen Anne-style frame house erected in 1911, with Colonial Revival-style interiors from 1939, occupies a unique place in the architectural history of Salisbury and Rowan County and possesses local significance in the areas of architecture and social history. The house satisfies the criteria for listing in the National Register as an important surviving example of a Queen Anne-style farmhouse in Rowan County, and for its role as the centerpiece of small estate-making efforts in the 1920s and 1930s in suburban Milford Hills, a residential park in the southwest quadrant of Salisbury.

In 1908 Henry Clay Grubb (1870-1913), a wealthy distiller and entrepreneur who is perhaps best known today as the builder of Salisbury's Renaissance Revival-style Grubb-Wallace Building, acquired the residual Macay-McNeely farm tract of 372.50 acres at the west edge of Salisbury. On 30 December 1910 the SALISBURY POST announced his impending construction of "a handsome new country home" on property he had acquired two years earlier. The house was completed in 1911 and first occupied by Grubb's farm manager, Charles Pinkney Jacobs, and his family. In 1915 two years after her husband's (untimely) death Mrs. Grubb sold this property to John D. Grimes of Lexington, a prosperous miller who held it as an agricultural investment property, and he, too, housed his own farm manager in the house. It remained in the Grimes family until 1924 when it was sold to the Hotel Holding Company of Greensboro which transferred title to the Salisbury Development Company in 1925. The farm's 372.50 acres were combined with other adjoining tracts to provide the acreage on which Milford Hills, a suburban residential park, was laid out and developed.

Ross Minish Sigmon (1892-1942), the local managing agent for the company, did not receive legal title to the house and six adjoining lots here until 1931; however, he and his family were occupying the house in the autumn of 1927. Although the house was only sixteen years old then, its Queen Anne style was distinctly unlike the Colonial Revival-style houses expected to be built in the development; nevertheless, its symmetrical façade, imposing appearance, and its history appealed to Mr. Sigmon who made it the centerpiece of a small suburban estate. He turned the south-facing house ninety degrees to face west, laid a brick sidewalk to McCoy Road and lined it with English boxwood, built/rebuilt quarters for a family servant, added a playhouse for his only daughter and a greenhouse for Mrs. Sigmon, erected a combination garage/stable where he kept both his automobile and the horses and ponies that he, his family, relatives, and friends rode through the development and surrounding countryside, and embellished the grounds with magnolias, deodora cedars, and flowering shrubs. His efforts here reflected contemporary estate-making activities by people of means who, often like Mr. Sigmon, enhanced, enlarged, and otherwise embellished an old, historic place for modern family life in the 1920s and 1930s.

The idyllic suburban life of the Sigmon family came to an end here in 1937-1938 and the property was acquired by Leslie Marshall Weisiger (1895-1980) who resided here with his family from 1939 until 1973. He, too, preserved the exterior of the Queen Anne house and further developed the suburban estate; he remodeled the house's interior in the Colonial Revival

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 10

style, and added a truck garage/workshop and smokehouse, and he replaced the old servant's quarters with a complementing frame guest house. Those improvements remain intact and contribute to the unique architectural significance of this local landmark.

Historical Background

The history of the Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, erected in 1911 for Henry Clay Grubb (1870-1913) as the residence of his farm manager, has a long, complicated, and colorful twentieth-century history that is matched in part by the longer eighteenth and nineteenth century accounts of the plantation of whose lands it was once a part. In 1908 Mr. Grubb, a flamboyant distiller and entrepreneur, acquired a farm of 372.50 acres here, on the waters of Grant's Creek, and two years later the SALISBURY EVENING POST announced that he was planning to build "a handsome new country home on the old Fink farm near the fairgrounds" (POST, 30 December 1910). The house was completed in 1911 and occupied by Mr. Grubb's farm manager Charles Pinkney Jacobs. Mr. Grubb's death on 9 August 1913, at the hands of his wife, occasioned the sale of the house and farm in 1915 to John D. Grimes whose family held title until 1924. Members of the Grimes family sold the property to the Lexington Finance Company and it soon passed into the ownership of the Salisbury Development Company who developed a suburban residential park on its former fields. The house stood as the centerpiece of "Milford Hills" and became the residence of Ross M. Sigmon, a local agent of the real estate company. Mr. Sigmon turned the south-facing house to the west, added a boxwood lined walk to McCoy Road, erected a playhouse (#2) for his daughter Kitty, and other frame buildings. The happy life of the Sigmon family here came to an end in 1937-1938 when the house was sold by a court-appointed trustee to Leslie Marshall Weisiger and his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Weisiger, who remodeled the interior in the Colonial Revival style, occupied the house for the longest period in its history, from 1939 until 1973, when they sold it to Elmer Lee Allen, Jr., a former mayor of Salisbury, and his wife who resided here until 1990. The house was then, briefly, the home of Frederick Lyman, executive director of the Historic Salisbury Foundation, and his wife. The house was next owned by Richard Mickelson and wife who conveyed it to the present owners in 1995.

The agricultural lands on which this house was built in 1911 and their owners were well-known in Rowan County in the Colonial period and through the course of some 150 years up to 1911. The first known owner-resident on this property (although not this specific site) was John Frohock (17__-1767), a wealthy planter who was serving as clerk of court in Rowan County in the 1750s. The plantation, known as Mount Pleasant, included a grist mill, a large mill pond, and a seat that was described by the Revolutionary patriot and first attorney general of North Carolina, Waightstill Avery (1741-1821), as "the most elegant and large within one hundred miles" after he was entertained there in March 1769 (Rumple, 191). The plantation and its seat were then the home of John Frohock's brother, Thomas, who had received it as a bequest from his (bachelor?) brother. In 1794 Thomas Frohock sold the plantation of 2,601 acres on both sides of Grant's Creek to Spruce Macay (ca. 1755-1808), a prominent North Carolina lawyer and judge, whose best-known law student, Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), would later become the seventh president (1829-1837) of the United States (Rowan County Deeds: 13, 413).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 11

The former Frohock plantation remained in the extended Macay-McNeely family for just over one hundred years during which time it was gradually dismembered into smaller tracts, and sold, so that the core holding was reduced to 372.50 acres by 1898. Alfred Macay (1795-1827), the first son of his father's second marriage, inherited the plantation and left it to his younger brother, William Spruce Macay (1808-1856), at his death from an overuse of laudanum. William Spruce Macay, born posthumously about a month and a half after his father's death, lived on the plantation until his own death on 8 May 1856. Thereafter, it was home to his second wife and widow Mildred Ann (Hunt) Macay (1835-1887), who was married to William Gaither McNeeley (1832-1899) in 1860 (Fowler interview). It was during this ownership, in 1873, that the large mill pond, held by a dam rebuilt by the Macays, and known successively as Macay's Pond and McNeely's Pond, was drained, having been cited as a breeding ground for mosquitos. Following Mildred Ann (Hunt) Macay McNeeley's death in 1887, the residual 372.50-acre Macay holding was sold on 16 October 1888 by her estate administrator to her son Thomas C. McNeely (1876-19__) (Rowan County Deeds: 70, 388). Mr. McNeely experienced financial difficulties and the tract was auctioned at the court house in the autumn of 1898 and bid in by his elder sister Miss Fanny McNeely (1865-1954) for \$3,865 (Rowan County Deeds: 83, 392). On 21 November 1898, two weeks after the property was conveyed to her, Miss Fanny McNeely sold the property to George Fink, of Morgan County, Illinois, who became a dry goods merchant in Salisbury (Rowan County Deeds: 83, 394). Mr. Fink and his wife held the residual tract of 372.50 acres and the Macay-McNeely house for just over a decade, until 23 December 1908, when they sold it to Henry Clay Grubb (Rowan County Deeds: 118, 482). On 11 December 1908 the SALISBURY POST carried a short, advance notice of the transaction, describing the former Macay place as "one of the most valuable farming properties in the county" and informed its readers that the entire acreage was "all under cultivation" (POST, 11 December 1908).

By late 1908, when Henry Clay Grubb (1870-1913) acquired the residual tract of the legendary Frohock-Macay-McNeely plantation, his own life had become the stuff of legend and he has remained notorious to the present. Public interest in the details of his life and death, at the hands of his wife—whose brother he had earlier killed—have been fueled over the century by oral tradition and a series of newspaper articles including a quartet by reporter Heath Thomas in the SALISBURY POST (14-17 January 1968). That said, notice must also be given to the fact that in 1909-1911 he erected a seven-story Renaissance Revival-style skyscraper on the square in Salisbury, the Grubb-Wallace Building, which remains the city's tallest building to the present and one of its principal landmarks.

Henry Clay Grubb was born on 22 November 1870 in western Davidson County to Henry Grubb (1836-1909) and his wife. He was educated in local schools and soon showed real skills as a liquor distiller; by the turn of the century he had earned a substantial fortune. He invested the profits in commercial real estate and agricultural lands and amassed substantial holdings in both Davidson and Rowan Counties. In Salisbury he owned the theater building at 213 South Main Street erected by T. J. and P. P. Merony, and in 1907 he acquired the site of the Mansion House Hotel, the north corner of the square at the crossing of Main and Inness Streets where he erected the multi-story office building designed by Frank Pierce Milburn. His purchase of this property

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 12

on 23 December 1908 was the last principal real estate purchase he made in Rowan County (Rowan County Deeds: 118, 482).

On 30 December 1910 the SALISBURY EVENING POST carried an article concerning Mr. Grubb's plans to erect a new house on the farm he had purchased from George Fink under the heading "New Residence: Mr. H. Clay Grubb to Erect Beautiful Country Home."

Mr. H. Clay Grubb is preparing to erect a handsome new country home on the old Fink farm near the fair grounds. The old buildings are being torn away and preparations made to erect a new residence. It is needless to say that the new residence will be of the latest and most elegant style of architecture and one of the most beautiful country residences in the State.

Mr. Grubb has not made any definite plans as yet, but it is hoped that he will occupy the residence himself with his family.

The age and appearance of the "old buildings . . . being torn away," formerly occupied by the Macay-Neely family, are not known; however, little doubt exists concerning the fact that the house being undertaken in the winter of 1910-1911 was planned as the residence of his farm manager. Mr. Grubb was then residing at a very large two-and-a-half-story frame house at Churchland, Davidson County, which burned in the final years of his life, and it was succeeded by a second large frame house at Churchland which was uncompleted at his death; it, too, was lost to fire. A documentary photograph, dating to ca. 1912, survives and shows the recently-completed house; Charles Pinkney Jacobs and his family, including his son Ransom Clay Jacobs (1910-1977), are seen in the foreground, in front of the porch encircling the house. Except for the fact that the house was turned to face west, its appearance is virtually unchanged to the present.

The notoriety which marked many of Mr. Grubb's actions accompanied his death. In 18 Henry Clay Grubb was married to Emma Frances Davis (1875-1946). For a period Mr. Grubb operated a partnership distillery arrangement with his wife's brother Obe L. Davis (1871-1904). The relationship soured over time and on 16 October 1904 Mr. Grubb shot and killed Mr. Davis on the grounds of Piney Church at Churchland. The sensational trial which followed in Salisbury in May 1905 resulted in an acquittal on the charge of murder; prominent among Mr. Grubb's quartet of defense attorneys was United State Senator Lee Slater Overman (1845-1930) (POST, 26 February 1939). During the evening of 8-9 August 1913, an argument with his wife, exacerbated by his own intoxication, turned abusive and violent. About 1:30 AM in the morning of Saturday, 9 August, Emma Frances Davis Grubb shot and killed her husband in self-defense; his death occurred in the large house then in process of completion on the site of his mansion which had recently burned. A coroner's jury assembled on the morning of 9 August confirmed Mrs. Grubb's assertion of self-defense (POST, 9 August 1913). His body was buried in the family cemetery, within view of the house, which he had established and embellished with fencing and plantings at the death of his father on 6 December 1909.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 13

On 1 April 1915 Emma Frances Grubb sold this property to John D. Grimes, of Lexington, Davidson County (Rowan County Deeds: 140, 233). In 1906 Mr. Grimes had acquired the North Side Roller Mill in Salisbury, which was renamed the Grimes Mill (NR, 1984) and where he placed his son, John Percy Grimes, as manager. His purchase of the Grubb farm was for investment purposes; the house continued to be occupied by a farm manager; it was never a residence of the Grimes family. In 1919 Mrs. Grimes conveyed the farm to her four children: John Percy Grimes, W. L. Grimes, L. M. Grimes, and Maude Grimes (Rowan County Deeds: 153, 99). The siblings owned the farm for five years, until 1924, when they deeded it to the Lexington Finance Company, of which W. L. Grimes was president (Rowan County Deeds: 181, 121). That same day the Lexington Finance Company conveyed the farm property to the Hotel Holding Company of Greensboro (Rowan County Deeds: 181, 123), which, in turn, sold the house and its agricultural acreage to the Salisbury Development Company (Rowan County Deeds: 181, 425), a subsidiary of a Greensboro-based real estate company.

These transfers of the property in the mid 1920s were made as part of the process by which the broad open fields surrounding the house and adjoining lands were to be converted to a new suburban residential park for Salisbury. The developers gave the name "Milford Hills" to their project. It was not the first suburban development at Salisbury, that honor is held by the more conventional streetcar suburb of Fulton Heights, but it was the first in which the natural topography of the land influenced the curvilinear pattern of streets and expansive lots. The farm manager's house became the centerpiece of the development; it and its surrounding grounds were set aside on six lots (#159-161 and #167-169) between McCoy Road and East Colonial Drive.

Although Ross Minish Sigmon (1892-1942), the resident agent/manager of the development company, did not actually receive title to the six lots until 1931 (Rowan County Deeds: 198, 33-34), he and his family were occupying the former farm manager's house in the early autumn of 1927. Mr. Sigmon moved here from his house at 629 Mitchell Avenue in Fulton Heights. He rotated the south-facing house ninety degrees to face west onto McCoy Road and lined the brick walk leading to the street with boxwood. While a Colonial Revival-style update of the house might have been expected in the 1920s, especially since the house was so prominent in the new residential park, Mr. Sigmon left the late-Victorian Queen Anne-style architectural finish of the house intact. He added a bathroom on the south side of the kitchen ell, enclosed a part of the south porch as a bedroom, made improvements to the kitchen area, and installed a bathroom in the second-story hall. The grounds had existing oak, cedar, and pecan trees--some of which survive today--and to these Mr. Sigmon added Magnolia, Deodora cedar, and other trees and flowering shrubs. Concurrent with the 1927 renovations, Mr. Sigmon added/rebuilt a small frame building to the east for servants and erected a combination frame garage/stable (#4). About 1928-1930, a small, yet attractive playhouse (#3) was built for the Sigmons' only daughter Katherine Balfour Sigmon (b. 1921) and a greenhouse (#7) was subsequently, ca. 1933, added to the property; both survive today (Sigmon interview).

Mr. Sigmon, his wife Marie Louise Hardin (1892-1950), and their family of three children occupied the house for about a decade, until they removed to live with Mrs. Sigmon's mother,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 14

Mrs. William Hill Hardin, at 630 Maupin Avenue in Fulton Heights. During those years Mr. Sigmon served as vice-president of the Salisbury Development Company and he was a/the founder of the Memorial Park Company which developed the public cemetery operating today as Salisbury Memorial Park. (He was buried there at his death in 1942.) He was also involved in other business enterprises in this period, and he served on the State Highway Commission in addition to other civic and political positions (POST, 11 September 1942). Financial misfortune had forced the Sigmon family to leave this place; the house and its six lots were sold at public auction on 12 December 1938 for \$8,260.00, and conveyed by Julius C. Smith, trustee, to Leslie Marshall Weisiger, the president and general manager of the Carolina Tractor and Equipment Company, and his wife (Rowan County Deeds: 241, 210).

Leslie Marshall Weisiger (1895-1980), the longest-term owner and resident of the Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, was born in Richmond, Virginia, and educated in South Carolina where he received a degree in civil engineering from the University of South Carolina in 1918. He served as an engineer with the South Carolina highway department from 1919 until 1922. In partnership, successively, with J. Roy Penell and J. M. Gregory, he undertook road construction projects in the Carolinas and Virginia from 1922 until 1928 when he moved to Asheville and became the western North Carolina distributor for Caterpillar Tractor Company. After a brief residency in Hickory in 1929, he came to Salisbury in 1930 as president and general manager of Carolina Tractor and Equipment Company. He remained president of his company until 1965, when he was succeeded by his son, Edward Innes Weisiger (b. 1931), and chairman of its board until May 1980, two months before his death on 11 July 1980. He was a member and officer of numerous patriotic, civic, social, and business associations. Mr. Weisiger was a principal donor for the Weisiger-Brown Building, an athletic facility at North Carolina State University. He was married to Katharine Van Benthuyzen (b. 1902); they were the parents of three children: the son mentioned above; a daughter, Katharine Jennie Weisiger Osborne (b. 1927); and a son, Leslie Marshall Weisiger, Jr. (1929-1950). Mr. and Mrs. Weisiger occupied this house until moving to Charlotte in the summer of 1973, a year before selling it and the three lots fronting on McCoy Road on 3 July 1974 to Elmer Lee Allen, Jr., and his wife (Rowan County Deeds: 561, 944).

Following the example of the Sigmon family, the Weisigers left the Queen Anne-style exterior of the house intact; however, they remodeled the interior in a late-1930s Colonial Revival style. The staircase in the house's center hall was rebuilt and fitted with a turned newel and railing which carries in a single flight westward to the second story. The front, northwest room, formerly the Sigmons' parlor, was refitted as a den and sheathed with dark wood paneling; shelves were added to either side of the fireplace and a door was inserted in the north end of the bay to open onto the porch. At that time, the door opening from the porch into the dining room was refitted and paired with the single window to the west as a double window. The original front door(s) were replaced by the present Colonial Revival-style partially glazed doors; inside the house the doorways linking the hall with the den, living room, and dining room were enlarged and fitted with paired fifteen-pane French doors. The house's pine floors were overlaid with oak. The final principal change to the interior was the removal of the house's mantels and their replacement with well-made, yet conventional Colonial Revival style mantels of the late 1930s. The respect for the exterior appearance of the house and its traditional outbuildings was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 15

maintained in the construction of the guest house (#2), a combination workshop/truck garage (#5), and a smokehouse (#6). These improvements, following the precedent established by the Sigmons, further developed the place as a small suburban estate on grounds whose feeling of expansiveness is belied by their small dimensions.

When the Weisigers sold the house in 1974 they found that the prospective owners only wanted to purchase the house and the lots facing McCoy Road. In 1968 Mr. and Mrs. Weisiger had sold the south part of lot #159 together with lot #158 (which they had purchased separately) to their daughter Katharine and her husband Robert Victor Osborne (1919-1987), who erected a one-story brick veneer house thereon (Rowan County Deeds: 535, 583). On 3 July 1974, the Weisigers conveyed the north part of lot #159 to their daughter and son-in-law (Rowan County Deeds: 561, 809). More recently, Mrs. Weisiger has conveyed the remaining two back lots (#160-161), the site of four outbuildings, to Mr. and Mrs. Osborne (Rowan County Deeds: 600, 326). Elmer Lee Allen, Jr., and his wife purchased the house and the three lots (#167-169) facing onto McCoy Road on 3 July 1974 (Rowan County Deeds: 561, 944).

Elmer Lee Allen, Jr. (b. 1931) and his wife, the builders and first residents of the ranch house at 209 McCoy Road, had long admired this house. Mr. Allen, the president of Citizens Federal Savings and Loan Company, served as mayor of Salisbury from 1971 to 1973. Except for the relocation of their daughters' playhouse (#8) here and the construction of a garage (#9), their improvements to the property were confined to the interior of the house. They added the chair rail and crown molding in the hall, closed a door connecting the living room with the master bedroom and added a closet on the north side of the chimney, added closets to the upstairs bedrooms and the small east first-bedroom, and made some changes to the Weisiger kitchen. In 1990, after occupying the house for about sixteen years, they sold it and its three lots to Frederick W. Lyman and his wife (Rowan County Deeds: 0661, 47). Mr. Lyman served as executive director of the Historic Salisbury Foundation for a brief period. On 25 February 1992, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman sold the property to Richard A. Mickelson and his wife (Rowan County Deeds: 0686, 465). Three and a half years later, on 16 August 1995, the Mickelsons sold the house to Roy Howard Campbell, Jr., and Norma Eakes Herr (Rowan County Deeds: 0764, 575). Mr. Campbell and Mrs. Herr were married on 26 January 1996 and moved into the house that day. In 1997 they built the new garage (#10) for automobiles and storage.

Architectural and Social History Significance

The architectural significance of the Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, reflecting three important periods in its history, is associated with the house as an important, surviving example of a late-Victorian/Queen Anne style farmhouse in Rowan County, and for its role as the centerpiece of small suburban estate-making efforts in the 1920s and 1930s by successive owners. In retrospect, the retention of a Victorian farmhouse at the center of Milford Hills, a 1920s suburban development planned and laid out on its former fields, makes it something of an anomaly in a neighborhood whose earliest houses are Colonial Revival style; in addition, two of the principal streets in Milford Hills are East and West Colonial Drives, and McCoy Road, on which this house faces, honor Spruce Macay who acquired this property in 1794. However, this

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 16

two-story frame house, because of its location on a plantation whose history can be traced well into North Carolina's Colonial period, has always commanded an unusual degree of interest and respect by its sequential owners and the Salisbury community. Although this house was completed in 1911 and first used for over a dozen years as a farm manager's residence, those seemingly humble circumstances in no way deterred Ross Minish Sigmon from an admiration for the house and its grounds which he developed as a small suburban estate for his family. His efforts in the later 1920s and early 1930s to preserve and adapt the house for modern family life were continued in 1938-1939 by Leslie Marshall Weisiger who kept the exterior of the house intact, refashioned the interior in a late-Colonial Revival style, and added two traditional frame outbuildings to the grounds occupying lots between McCoy Road and East Colonial Drive.

As the appearance of the Grubb-Wallace Building suggests, Henry Clay Grubb was not a man given to architectural half-measures. When the 1822 Mansion House Hotel burned in 1907, Mr. Grubb bought the lot and commissioned Frank Pierce Milburn to design Salisbury's first "skyscraper" for the site. Milburn, whose Mission Revival-style Southern Railway Station was then being completed in Salisbury, designed a handsome Renaissance Revival-style seven-story commercial building which remains a landmark on the square in Salisbury and the city's tallest building to the present. A documentary photograph of his large frame mansion at Churchland, published in the SALISBURY POST on 14 January 1968, also attests to his architectural ambition. Thus, it was entirely reasonable for the newspaper reporter to suggest that Mr. Grubb's proposed "handsome new country home on the old Fink farm" would be "of the latest and most elegant style of architecture and one of the most beautiful country residences in the State" (POST, 30 December 1910). Although the Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House cannot be accurately described as "one of the most beautiful country residences in the State," it is indeed a substantial, well-detailed house, and one of the finest farmhouses of its period in Rowan County. By erecting such a well-finished house for his farm manager Mr. Grubb sought to have it reflect handsomely both the productivity of the farm and his station as an entrepreneurial landowner. It achieved both ambitions.

Stylistically, the house is similar in appearance and materials to a number of like turn-of-the-century houses in Salisbury; however, as a country house and the seat of a farm it was decidedly more sophisticated than the conventional two-story three-bay gable-end frame houses erected by farm families from the mid-1850s, through the Reconstruction era, and into the 1910s. Its closest parallel in rural Rowan County, its original context, is the T-plan two-story frame house which farmer-carpenter J. Lawson Kluttz (1850-1935) erected for his family near Rockwell, in the eastern part of the county (Hood, 248). The Kluttz house has bayed gable ends, not unlike those of this house; however, its nineteenth-century asymmetry has given way here to a symmetrical façade dominated by a two-tier porch whose lower story encircles the main block. This house, completed in 1911—a few years before World War I—would be succeeded by bungalows in the post-war years on farms throughout Rowan County.

The decision by Ross Minish Sigmon to occupy this house with his family was influenced in part by the advantage it offered him, as agent of the Salisbury Development Company, to live in the new suburban residential park where his fortunes as an investor lay. His decision also reflected a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 17

trend in the social and architectural history of the period whereby older houses were refitted, updated, remodeled, or overbuilt for modern family needs and enhanced with domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Such projects imitated, on an admittedly smaller scale, the contemporary estate making projects by leaders in finance, industry, and the professions; at the same time they reflected the strong influence of the Colonial Revival style in domestic architectural practice. The New England writer Mary H. Northend had written a book on the subject, *REMODELED FARMHOUSES*, which was published in 1915 and featured before and after photographs of both exterior and interiors. Popular shelter and home furnishing magazines of the period also featured examples of updated houses and small estates in their pages through the 1920s and 1930s. While Mr. Sigmon left the exterior of the south-facing house intact, he turned it ninety degrees to face McCoy Road, and his workmen laid a brick-paved walk to the street which he then lined with English boxwood (and which may have been on the property). He effectively abandoned a large frame barn and concrete silo (both lost) which stood near the house; he replaced the barn, then the place's principal outbuilding, with a combination garage/stable (#4) which housed both his motor car and the horses and ponies which he, his children, their cousins, and friends rode over the unsold or still vacant lots in Milford Hills and the surrounding countryside. While the early-twentieth century farmer's wife may have had a brick flower pit, he soon provided Mrs. Sigmon with a small glazed greenhouse, and he built a playhouse for the couple's only daughter. He also added/rebuilt a small frame outbuilding as a quarters for the family's servant. In short, Mr. Sigmon capitalized on the fabric and traditions of rural life while providing his family an enviable residence in Milford Hills where business and professional men soon built and relocated their families.

When Leslie Marshall Weisiger purchased the property at auction on 12 December 1938, he followed the architectural precedent established by Mr. Sigmon. Except for the replacement of the front doors with paired doors, the closing of the dining room doorway onto the north porch, and its replacement with a door from the den onto the north porch, he kept the exterior of the house intact. His improvements on the interior, also following the advice offered by shelter magazines of the period, included a Colonial Revival refurbishment with a new stair, mantels, oak flooring, and paired fifteen-pane French doors linking the principal first-story rooms with the hall. However, he retained and otherwise replicated the house's original symmetrically-molded surrounds with cornerblocks. On the grounds he erected two traditional frame outbuildings: a combination truck garage/workshop beside the garage/stable, and a small smokehouse to the north of the truck garage. While the garage/stable, the truck garage/workshop, the smokehouse, and the greenhouse are held in the ownership of Mr. Weisiger's daughter, they retain their physical and associative relationship with the house. Altogether these buildings comprise a small-scale suburban estate of the 1920s and 1930s, and they continue to evoke and represent the architectural ambitions of Mr. Grubb, Mr. Sigmon, and Mr. Weisiger.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 9 Page 18

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Rumple, Jethro. A HISTORY OF ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA CONTAINING SKETCHES OF PROMINENT FAMILIES AND DISTINGUISHED MEN. Salisbury: J. J. Bruner, 1881.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 10 Page 19

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property comprises Lots #167-169 and #160-161 as shown on the Map of Milford Hills recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds Book of Maps, page 183. These same lots are parcels #100 (Lots #167-169) and #50 (Lots #160-161) on Rowan County Tax Map #335 in the office of the Tax Assessor of Rowan County. The nominated acreage is outlined in pencil on the enclosed copy of Rowan County Tax Map #335.

Boundary Justification: The nominated acreage serves as the site and setting of the Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House and its related outbuildings. Except for Lot #159 this boundary includes all of the property acquired by Ross Minish Sigmon in 1931 and whereon he developed a small suburban estate in Milford Hills. The south part of Lot #159 (and all of Lot #158) was conveyed by Leslie Marshall Weisiger and wife to their daughter Katharine Weisiger Osborne and husband in 1968; the Osbornes erected a house thereon. In 1974 the Weisigers conveyed the remainder of Lot #159 to their daughter and son-in-law.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, Rowan County, North Carolina

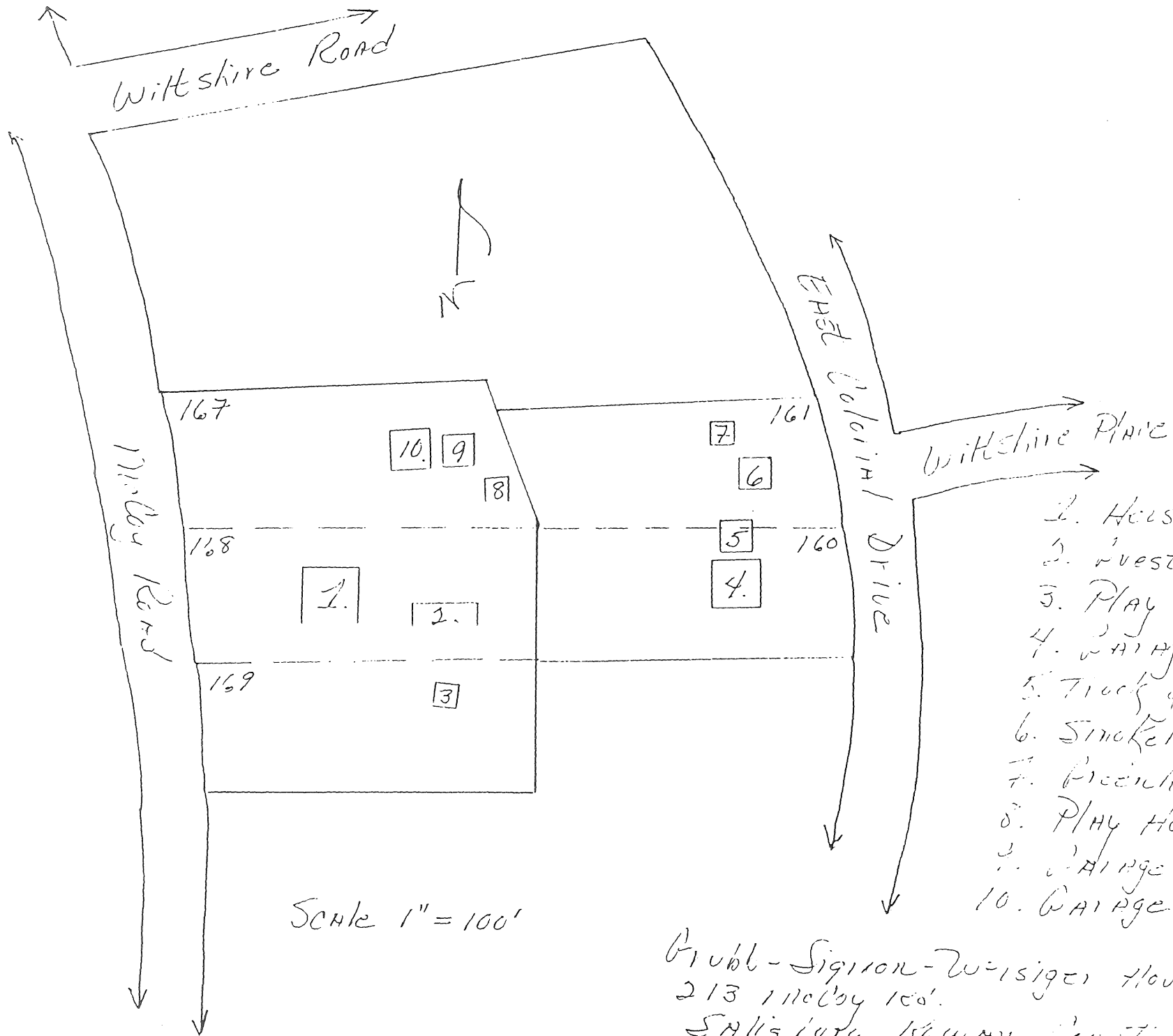
Photographs

Section number _____ Page 20

Photographs

The following information applies to all of the photographs submitted with this nomination.

1. Name of property: Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House
2. Location: Rowan County, North Carolina
3. Name of photographer: Davyd Foard Hood
4. Date of photographs: 9 January 1998
5. Location of original negative: North Carolina Division of Archives and History
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2807
6. Description of views:
 - A. Overall view, looking northeast.
 - B. West, front elevation, looking northeast.
 - C. Stair hall, looking west to front door.
 - D. Dining room, looking southwest into stair hall.
 - E. North second-story bedroom, looking southeast.
 - F. Landscape view with (L to R), house (#1), playhouse (#3), guest house (#2), garage #3 (#10), garage #2 (#9), and playhouse #2 (#8), looking north/northwest.
 - G. Landscape view with (L to R), garage/stable (#4), truck garage/workshop (#5), smokehouse (#6), and greenhouse (#7), looking west.



1. House
2. Guest House
3. Play House
4. Garage/stable
5. Truck garage/pickup
6. Smokehouse
7. Pickenhouse
8. Play House #2
9. Garage #2
10. Garage #3

Grubbs-Sigmon-Weisiger House
 213 Molly Road
 Salisbury, Rowan County, N.C.
 27 May 1998, David Fred Hood

Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House
Rowan County, North Carolina
Tax Map #335





