State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

XX MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Pigford House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER N side SR 1751 1.0 mi S of US 701

CITY, TOWN Clinton

STATE North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>X OCCUPIED</td>
<td>X AGRICULTURE</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>_MUSEUM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRUCTURE</td>
<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>_COMMERCIAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>-YES RESTRICTED</td>
<td>_EDUCATIONAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>-YES UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>_PRIVATE RESIDENCE</td>
</tr>
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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<td>_GOVERNMENT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Blonnie S. Williams

STREET & NUMBER 713 Calloway Drive

CITY, TOWN Raleigh

STATE North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Sampson Co. Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Clinton

STATE N. C. 28328

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Thomas Butchko

ORGANIZATION Survey & Planning Branch

STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh

STATE NC

NAME / TITLE Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION Research Branch

DATE June 14, 1985

TELEPHONE (919) 733-6545
This charming, vernacular Greek Revival house is the only surviving significant dwelling in the county with board-and-batten siding; Sampson County houses from earliest records were exclusively weatherboard. Believed by tradition to have been built about 1850 for Lafayette Pigford, the small, pleasant house has been historically associated with the Pigford family. According to some local tradition this house is on the site of Maryborough, the plantation of James Sampson (1789), nephew of Col. John Sampson, for whom the county was named. The frame, one-story, single pile house has a classically-inspired center gable porch on the east facade and includes a rear two-room ell with a later weatherboard addition. Not a large house—containing only the four original rooms and the rear addition—the Pigford House is a picturesque adaptation of a common Greek Revival county house form. It would be speculative to discuss from where came the inspiration to build such a picturesque board-and-batten cottage in a county so dominated by the more usual weatherboard Federal and Greek Revival houses; perhaps it could be attributed to A. J. Downing's influence on mid-19th century rural cottages.

Center-hall in plan and one-story in height, the small house's board-and-batten siding, because of its scarcity in the county, is immediately noticed; a wide bottomboard with upper lip encircles the original house and covers its sills. The center bay of the three bay front elevation is sheltered by a handsome gable front porch supported by four pillars and two pilasters having vernacular molded Doric capitals and bases. All that remains of the connecting railing is the shaped hand rail. The porch's height is slightly shorter than the house's main gable roof; this cross gable form is one of the county's most popular for substantial residences in the mid and late 19th century. At each gable end stands a common bond brick chimney with single shoulders—paved and concave on the south and stepped on the north. Boxed cornices return on the gable ends. Fenestration—mostly boarded up—contain six-over-six sash with simple, flat surrounds; the only remaining louvered shutters flank the north chimney. The rear two-room ell, extending westward from the north parlor has details similar to the front block and an interior chimney. An attached, latticed porch serving as an extension of the through center hall. The entire block rests on its original brick piers.

Entry into the simple, fully plastered interior is gained through the center four-panel door framed by a transom and sidelights. Mantels are very simple vernacular Greek Revival types with pilasters and a frieze. A plain baseboard and raised, four-panel doors with molding are the only other distinguishing elements in the very plain interior; surrounds are simple, flat, and two-part. The mantels in the ell are more substantial than those in the front parlor, having more pronounced pilasters with simple capitals and bases and wider frieze.
This charming little dwelling is one of the county's finest surviving examples of the bold gable front porch form of the Greek Revival that was so popular in Sampson County from 1850 until about 1900. According to local tradition, it was erected about 1850 for Lafayette Pigford and located on the site of Maryborough, the plantation of James Sampson (---ca 1789), nephew of Col. John Sampson, for whom the county was named. The house, uncharacteristically covered with board-and-batten siding instead of traditional weatherboard, may derive its picturesque quality from A. J. Downing's influence on the period's rural cottages; the abandoned cottage is the county's only significant board-and-batten dwelling to survive. The property was purchased by William Sampson (1851-1940); a granddaughter currently owns the house.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. The Pigford House is associated with the general development of Sampson County's agricultural landscape in the mid-19th century.

C. A rare surviving example of the use of board-and-batten siding on a middle level dwelling of the period, this house is one of the better adaptations of the front gable porch form of the Greek Revival that was popular in the county from about 1850 until 1900.

D. Is likely to yield information valuable to the history of the area.
The Pigford House is located near the county seat of Clinton. The house dates from the middle of the nineteenth century and was associated for many years with James L. Pigford. The house was built on land purchased by Pigford from Hinton Carr after the Civil War. It is not certain if the house was constructed by Carr, Pigford or someone else.

The 1880 census shows that James L. Pigford owned 155 acres valued at $2,000 and livestock valued at $200. He grew 16 bales of cotton (7,200 pounds), 900 bushels of corn and lesser amounts of rice, oats, apples and sweet potatoes. In 1880 he was a widower with three children. He remarried in the early 1880s and fathered two more children. Tax records indicate that Pigford died between 1892 and 1893. His widow Sue Pigford continued to farm the property until 1909 when she sold the house and 65 acres to William Sampson for $1,500.

William Sampson continued to farm the property until his death in 1940. The property then passed to his daughter Wixie Sampson and then to her niece Blonnie Sampson Williams, a granddaughter of William Sampson.

The Pigford house is representative of a typical nineteenth century Sampson County family farm.

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NOTES

1 Sampson County Deed Book 38, p. 157.

2 Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Sampson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule.

3 Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Sampson County Tax Lists, 1893; Sampson County Deed Book 171, p. 182.

4 Sampson County Deed Book 931, p. 54.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sampson County Deed Books.
Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.
Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.51

Lat. 35° 02' 40"
Long. 78° 19' 29"

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A
C

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
B
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property being nominated is described in Sampson County Deeds, Vol. 931, page 54. Copy is enclosed.
Pigford House
Cedric, N. C. Quad.
Zone 17 Scale 1:62500
Lat. 35° 02' 40"
Long. 78° 19' 29"

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.