State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

1. NAME
   HISTORIC
   Francis Pugh House

2. LOCATION
   STREET & NUMBER
   NW corner SR 1751 and NC 403
   CITY, TOWN
   North Carolina
   STATE
   North Carolina
   VICINITY OF
   Clinton
   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
   Third

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY
   - BUILDING(S) X
   - STRUCTURE
   - SITE
   - OBJECT
   OWNERSHIP
   - PUBLIC
   - PRIVATE
   - BOTH
   - PUBLIC ACQUISITION
   - IN PROCESS
   - BEING CONSIDERED
   STATUS
   - OCCUPIED
   - UNOCCUPIED
   - WORK IN PROGRESS
   - ACCESSIBLE
   - YES RESTRICTED
   - YES UNRESTRICTED
   - NO
   PRESENT USE
   - AGRICULTURE
   - COMMERCIAL
   - EDUCATIONAL
   - ENTERTAINMENT
   - GOVERNMENT
   - INDUSTRIAL
   - MILITARY
   - MUSEUM
   - PARK
   - PRIVATE RESIDENCE
   - RELIGIOUS
   - SCIENTIFIC
   - TRANSPORTATION
   - OTHER
   STATE
   North Carolina
   CODE
   037

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   NAME
   Glen and Robin Bradshaw
   STREET & NUMBER
   Route 5, Box 174
   CITY, TOWN
   State
  VCINITY OF
   Clinton, North Carolina
   Book 919, Page 615

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE
   Registry of Deeds, etc.
   STATE

6. FORM PREPARED BY
   NAME / TITLE
   Thomas Butchko
   Jim Sumner, Researcher
   ORGANIZATION
   Survey and Planning Branch
   DATE
   May 18, 1985
   STREET & NUMBER
   109 E. Jones St.
   TELEPHONE
   (919) 733-6545
   CITY OR TOWN
   Raleigh
   STATE
   North Carolina
### DESCRIPTION

**CONDITION**

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**CHECK ONE**

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Located east of Clinton off NC 403 on land that originally comprised part of the Sampson Hall Plantation of Colonel John Sampson, for whom the county is named, the Francis Pugh House was built about 1850 on land given to Pugh's wife by her father, William Kirby. Kirby was a prominent planter, engineer and leader in the Elliott vicinity, five miles southeast of this house. The house is the earliest known example of the bold Sampson County gable front porch form - with a large, pillared porch engaged underneath the front gable of the cross gable roof - that became the dominant rural form of the county's Greek Revival residences from about 1850 to the 1900s. On the site is the grave which local historian Claude H. Morre believes is the final resting spot of Revolutionary General John Ashe, who died in 1782 while visiting Sampson Hall.

This weatherboarded one-story house, with a double-pile center hall plan, rests on brick piers, since infilled, and is crowned by the standing-seam metal cross gable roof. Rebuilt interior brick chimneys pierce the roof's crest. The three-by-two main block is dominated by the large, three bay gable front porch, supported by six pillars and two pilasters having molded Doric capitals and molded bands which apparently once served to anchor the now lost balustrade. Slight arches cut into the frieze board around the top of the pillars, impart a gentle undulating rhythm to the otherwise severe facade. There is a molded boxed cornice in the gable ends. A diamond shaped louver is set in the porch gable while six-over-six sash windows light the attic. The six-over-six sash have flat surrounds with a narrow molding around the outer edge. Corner pilasters identical to the pilasters and trabeated entrance complete the classical exterior. Arranged on each side of the central hall are two equally-sized rooms with interior fireplaces; surviving mantels are the simple pilaster-and-wide-frieze mantels so prevalent in the rural areas of the county. The plastered interior has simple, flat door and window surrounds with a molded edge and a medium height baseboard. Lights similar to the entrance also mark the rear hall door. Renovations since 1975 include the division of the center hall with the kitchen being put into the rear hall, the placement of a bath between the rooms on the north side, and the erection of a rear shed addition for a den.

The only outbuilding is a small twentieth century flower house with many windows, now used as a potting shed. The house is located on a corner lot just at the Clinton city limits. Immediately surrounding the house are fields.

There are two contributing elements in the nomination of the Francis Pugh House.
The Francis Pugh House is the county's earliest known example of the bold gable front porch form that was so popular from the 1850s until 1900. Built about 1850, the house's pillared porch is indicative of the popularity of Greek Revival forms and elements in pre-war Sampson County. It is indicative of the substantial dwellings erected by the county's planters in the prosperous 1850s and after the Civil War. The handsome house is located on a portion of the former Sampson Hall Plantation of Col. John Sampson, for whom the county was named. It was restored in 1972 by Mrs. James C. Bethune for an antique store; the present owner bought the house in 1977.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. This substantial farmhouse, even though its entire complement of early outbuildings has been lost, is representative of the numerous significant dwellings erected by the county's planters during the prosperous decades preceding the Civil War.

C. The Francis Pugh House is the earliest known example of the bold Sampson County gable front porch form. Popular from 1850 until 1900, this rural house form was originally finished with the classical elements of the prevailing Greek Revival style; it later was given Victorian ornamentation. This is the largest and finest of the early Greek Revival forms that survive.

D. Is likely to yield information valuable to the understanding of the history of the area.
The Francis Pugh House is located east of Clinton. The house was constructed about 1850 by Pugh on land given to his wife Mary Ann Kirby Pugh by her father William Kirby. It is believed that this land was originally part of the plantation of John Sampson, for whom Sampson County is named. The house was the centerpiece of Pugh's holdings, one of the largest plantations in the county.

The 1850 census shows that Pugh owned about 1,300 acres valued at $6,500, and 24 slaves. Pugh grew 1,500 bushels of corn, 3,200 pounds of cotton and owned livestock valued at $615, including 140 swine. In 1860 Pugh's real estate, 1,400 acres, was valued at $18,000 and his personal estate, including 33 slaves, was valued at $19,800. Pugh continued to own large amounts of livestock, including 2 horses, 5 mules, 8 milk cows, 4 oxen, 15 other cattle, 20 sheep and 70 swine. The Pugh plantation produced 4,400 pounds of cotton, 2,000 bushels of corn, 700 pounds of rice and lesser amounts of wheat, rye, wool, peas and beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, butter and 15 tons of hay.

The 1860 census shows that Pugh and his wife Mary Ann had at least five children. Shortly after the end of the Civil War Francis Pugh transferred his house and some of his land to his son, James H. Pugh. In 1870 the Pugh household consisted of Francis, Mary Ann, James and two sisters of James Pugh. Both Francis and James Pugh have listings in the agricultural schedule. Despite the expected drop in productivity of the post war period the Pugh farm continued to produce large amounts of cotton, corn and other crops. The Pugh household in 1880 continued to consist of Francis and Mary Ann Pugh, James Pugh and two unmarried sisters. Francis Pugh's real estate was valued at $8,000 and James Pugh's at $5,000. Together they grew over 13,000 pounds of cotton.

James H. Pugh never married. After his death in the early part of the twentieth century the house and property were owned by Henry Bradshaw. Mrs. James Bethune restored the house in 1972 and used it as an antique store. The house's present owners are Glen and Robin Bradshaw.

From its construction date around 1850 until the end of the nineteenth century the Francis Pugh house was the cornerstone of one of Sampson County's largest and most productive plantation-farm complexes. Its construction took place at a time of prosperity for the planter class just a decade prior to the Civil War. The house is indicative of that antebellum agricultural prosperity.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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<tr>
<th>ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY</th>
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| UTM REFERENCES | Lat. 35° 00' 33" Long. 78° 18' 12"
| A ZONE EASTING NORTHING | B ZONE EASTING NORTHING |
| C ZONE EASTING NORTHING | |
| VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION | The property being nominated is the tract containing 0.36 acres, more or less, and described in the Sampson County Register of Deeds Office; Book 919, Page 615 and dated 2 September 1977. A copy of the deed is attached. |

2 Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Sampson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.


5 Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Sampson County Deed Book, 919, p. 615.