

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

8

Sampson COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Garland, N. C. QUAD

☒ MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR ☐ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Murphy-Lamb House and Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N side SR 1135, 1.2 mi S US 701

☐ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF Garland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third

STATE

North Carolina

CODE
037

COUNTY
Sampson

CODE
163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
☒ DISTRICT	☒ PUBLIC	☐ OCCUPIED	☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ BUILDING(S)	☐ PRIVATE	☒ UNOCCUPIED	☐ MUSEUM
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ SITE	☐ PUBLIC ACQUISITION	☐ ACCESSIBLE	☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ OBJECT	☐ IN PROCESS	☒ YES: RESTRICTED	☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ ENTERTAINMENT
	N/A	☐ NO	☐ GOVERNMENT
			☐ INDUSTRIAL
			☐ MILITARY
			☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Frances Lamb Daughtry (919) 592-6718 home; (919) 532-4101 office

STREET & NUMBER

900 Raleigh Road

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

☐ VICINITY OF

North Carolina STATE 28328

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Book 779, Page 750

STREET & NUMBER

REGISTER OF DEEDS
SAMPSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

CITY, TOWN

CLINTON, N.C. 28328

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas Butchko

Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Survey and Planning Branch

Research Branch

DATE

June 14, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

109 E. Jones St.

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh,

STATE

N C 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of the finest late Federal houses in the county, this handsome structure was built about 1835 for Archibald Murphy. Having been acquired about 1847 by James H. Lamb, a prominent adjacent landowner, and later given to his son Allen, the house is now owned by a granddaughter of Allen Lamb. Located down a private unpaved lane off SR 1135 east of Garland and surveying the surrounding woods and fields from a small knoll surrounded by aged oaks, the handsome house exhibits the traditional two-story, single-pile form with engaged front porch and rear shed rooms. The original hall-and-parlor interior, although altered by Mrs. Allen Lamb about 1875 into a central hall, retains its vigorous Federal mantels which are among the county's most elaborate. Lying half covered with grass north of the barn are gravestones of Archibald Murphy's wife (1813 - 1845) and son (1838 - 1847); they originally stood in the nearby Murphy Cemetery that is now part of a cow pasture. Lamb family tradition has it that, upon the death of his wife and son, a disheartened Murphy sold the house to the Lambs and moved away. The small cedar-sheltered Lamb Cemetery, containing the graves of Allen Lamb, his wife, and four children (two being infants), lies to the southeast of the lane. The only structure of note on the 288+ acre farm is a ca 1910 frame two-room dwelling one-third mile northeast of the house on the banks of the Big Coharie Creek which was built by a son of Allen Lamb. It is being renovated as a retreat by the current owners.

The tall, two-story, single-pile block of the five-bay-by-two-bay house faces the southeast and rests upon a foundation of infilled brick piers. Standing seam metal, prevalent in the county, covers the gable roof which is terminated at each end by a common bond brick chimney with single paved shoulders. Flush eaves mark the gable ends and the front and rear cornices are shallow. First and second floor sash on the weatherboard house are six-over-nine with flat molded surrounds; the original shutters have been removed.

An engaged porch runs the length of the southeast facade, supported by six posts made of wood planks faced with molding trim; a molded railing of slender square spindles unifies the porch. The center bay entrance is comprised of side lights and a transom framed with slender colonnettes with prominent capitals and bases. The rear engaged shed originally consisted of an open central bay, with doors opening onto the hall room and the enclosed stairs which rise from the rear porch to the second floor through the parlor room. The two flanking shed rooms served as bedrooms. The open bay was enclosed in the late 1930s at which time the northeast shed room was divided into bath and closet. In 1918 a shed addition was built along the house's northeast elevation, extending from the front of the porch to the rear of the shed. This contained the new kitchen and den; the previous kitchen was moved away at this time.

The interior, before its 1875 remodeling into the present center-hall plan, followed a hall-and-parlor plan, with the hall being the southwest room. In 1940, the downstairs was replastered and a decorative plaster cornice molding removed from the hall room; the original plaster remains intact upstairs. Both first floor mantels are large three-part Federal mantels covered with an elaborate pattern of carved detailing; the parlor mantel is especially fine. Window surrounds are shallow molded with beaded edge. There is no wainscot, only a molded chairrail. The second floor follows the same plan as the first, with the stairs opening onto a small hall from which open doors to the bedrooms and a small closet. Mantels similar in form to those downstairs, but neither as large nor intricate, are found on the second floor.

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There remain only three outbuildings. The turn-of-the-century barn is frame with a gable front roof. Two square gable-roofed ca 1930 tobacco barns also survive.

Allen W. Lamb Graveyard

Allen W. Lamb: 20 July 1844 - 30 Jan. 1923

Same Stone - His Wife

Rachel C. Lamb: 24 Apr. 1847 - 12 Nov. 1921

Eliza Jane, dau. of Allen & Rachel Lamb d. 29 Apr. 1877, age 5-0-4.

Emma Clark, dau. of Allen & Rachel Lamb d. 17 May 1877, age 2-10-23.

Allen Tate Lamb: 25 Sept. 1876 - 13 Aug. 1901.

Minnie C., dau of A. W. & R. C. Lamb 14 May 1879 - 22 July 1910.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ STATE

____ XX LOCAL

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Identical in form to the 1840 Samuel Johnson House, the Murphy-Lamb House is one of two distinguished examples of the late Federal house in rural Sampson County. The two-story, single pile house has an engaged front porch and engaged rear shed rooms flanking an originally open central porch. The hall-and-parlor interior has two of the finest, most intricately carved mantels in a county where robust Federal interior treatment was not unusual. Archibald Murphy built the house about 1835 and left the area after the death of his wife and son in the late 1840s; the house was acquired by the prominent area planter family of Lambs, in whose possession it remains. Picturesquely sited on a shaded knoll overlooking the cleared fields, the property extends to the broad curving banks and ox-bows of the Big Coharie Creek. On the property are several plain outbuildings, the Murphy gravestones (removed from graves), and the Allen Lamb cemetery.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Like most of the major plantations of Lower Sampson County, the Murphy-Lamb House and Cemetery has frontage along the Big Coharie Creek, which shortly gives rise to the Black River, providing a convenient method of transport. The house, with its two family burial sites, is representative of the plantation development in pre-Civil War Sampson County.
- C. An extremely handsome, well-sited house, the Murphy-Lamb House is a prime example of the area's well-built Federal farmhouses, one of the two very similar ones in the county. The hall-and-parlor interior features two of the finest, most elaborate mantels in the county's Federal vocabulary.
- D. Is likely to yield information valuable to the history of the area.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Murphy-Lamb house is located in the western part of Sampson County, near the community of Garland. The house was constructed in the middle 1830s by Archibald Murphy but has been owned by the Lamb family for most of its existence.

Archibald Murphy was a prosperous farmer who owned around 2,000 acres in the 1830s. Following the death of his wife Ann in 1845 and the death of their son James in 1847, the embittered Murphy sold the property. It was purchased in 1850 by Elizabeth Murphy and her future husband, Joseph Stevens. It is not clear what relation, if any, Elizabeth Murphy was to Archibald Murphy. In 1854, James Murphy of New Hanover County (relationship also unknown) purchased the property which he sold to James Henry Lamb. Lamb paid \$12,300 for several tracts totalling 1,995 acres, including the house tract.

James Lamb was one of the area's leading farmers and largest landholders. In 1870 he gave the house and 350 acres to his son, Allen Wright Lamb. It is not clear who lived in the house during the interim between Archibald Murphy and Allen Lamb. Allen Lamb was born in 1844, the eldest of eight children of James and Nancy Underwood Lamb. He served in the 63rd Regiment, North Carolina Troops, C.S.A., during the Civil War and was wounded at Appomattox. He returned from the war and married Rachel Caroline Matthis in 1869, acquiring the property about the same time.

Allen and Rachel Lamb had seven children, two of whom died young. Lamb was a farmer who also brokered real estate. The 1880 census credits Lamb with the ownership of 350 acres valued at \$1,500 and livestock valued at \$200. He grew corn, cotton, wheat, oats, and sweet potatoes.

Allen Lamb died in 1923, two years after the death of his wife. Their son, Leon James Henry Lamb (1887 - 1966), lived with his parents on the farm and inherited the house and land which he continued to farm. Leon Lamb was educated at North Carolina State College (now University) in Raleigh and was regarded as a progressive farmer who assiduously promoted rural electrification. He married Mattie Flowers (1897 - 1954) in 1917. They had four children--Leon, Jr., Charles, Dixon, and Frances--who share ownership of the house. The house is presently unoccupied. Also on the property is a small family cemetery which contains the graves of Allen Lamb, his wife and four of their children. The graves of Ann Murphy and her son, James Murphy, are also on the property.

The Murphy-Lamb House has historical importance both as a representative of Sampson County's antebellum prosperity and because of its long post-war association with the locally prominent Lamb family.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bizzell, Oscar M., ed. The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina. Winston-Salem: Harper Publishing Company, 1983.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 288.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	7, 4, 1	9, 5, 0	3, 8	5, 4	5, 2, 5
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1, 7	7, 4, 1	2, 7, 5	3, 8	5, 2	3, 5, 0

B	1, 7	7, 4, 2	6, 7, 5	3, 8	5, 3	9, 0, 0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
D	1, 7	7, 4, 0	3, 5, 0	3, 8	5, 2	9, 5, 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundary

The property to be nominated, containing 288.5 acres, more or less, is that tract shown on the map of the Property of the Leon H. Lamb Heirs, dated 6 August 1974 and registered in the Sampson County Register of Deeds Office, Map Book 15, Page 36. Also described in Deed Book 370, Page 350, dated April 1, 1966.

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Footnotes

¹Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983), 470, hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County.

²Sampson County Deed Book 30, p. 269; Book 33, p. 32.

³Sampson County Deed Book 37, p. 559.

⁴Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 470; The deed from James Lamb to Allen Lamb was dated January 21, 1869 but was not registered until August 13, 1870.

⁵Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 470; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Sampson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.

⁶Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 470, 472; Sampson County Deed Book 130, p. 517; Book 327, p. 553; Book 779, p. 750.

Samuel Johnson House & Cemetery
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

A	17	744175/3856750
B	17	745675/3855875
C	17	745525/3855550
D	17	743750/3855825

Murphy- Lamb House & Cemetery
Garland Quadrangle *INGOLD QUAD*
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

A	17	741950/3854525
B	17	742675/3853900
C	17	741275/3852350
D	17	740350/3852950

James H. Lamb Farm
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

A	17	744475/3853550
B	17	745000/3852800
C	17	742550/3851100
D	17	741900/3852100

David Dickson Sloan House
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

A	17	738500/3851900
B	17	739300/3850900
C	17	737425/3848700
D	17	736875/3849875

Clear Run
Garland and White Lake Quads.
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

A	748200/3850150
B	750750/3850875
C	Lat. 34° 44' 00"
	Long. 78° 17' 52"
D	Lat. 34° 42' 13"
	Long. 78° 13' 41"



