State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

X MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Dr. David Dickson Sloan Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
E side US 701, 0.7 mi N of South River

CITY, TOWN

STATE
North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Miss Catherine B. Sloan

STREET & NUMBER
3203 Oberlin Drive

CITY, TOWN
Greensboro, NC

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Sampson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Clinton, NC

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Thomas Butchko, Jim Sunner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION
Survey and Planning Branch, Research Branch

DATE
June 11, 1985

TELEPHONE
(919) 733-6545

STATE
NC 27611
Built about 1849 for Dr. David Dickson Sloan and his wife, Harriett Cromartie, this handsome Greek revival house was erected on land which was a gift to the couple from her father, John Cromartie, member of a large, wealthy, land owning family in Sampson and Bladen counties. The house is the centerpiece of a large farmstead on the bank of the South River. Sloan was the area's leading physician and citizen; prior to the late 1880s Garland was known as Sloan's Crossing, in reference to the bridge on the Sloan land that crossed the South River into Bladen County. The center hall plan house, featuring peaked and battered dog-ear surrounds throughout and fronted with an exceptional pedimented portico, is the finest rural Greek Revival house in the county.

Resting on brick piers and crowned with a low hip roof pierced by stuccoed interior chimneys, the handsome weatherboarded house has a well-executed pedimented portico from the central three bays of the five bay western facade. Simple Doric capitals carry the unadorned boxed cornice and frieze; the cornerboards, unlike many in the county, are simple and not treated as pilasters. A balustrade of slender, square members carries the rounded hand railing, terminating at the bottom of the central steps with a large, square, pointed newel. The entrance, which has a transom and sidelights, and all the six-over-six sash filled window openings of the main block have peaked and battered surrounds with dog-ears; this surround is also used throughout the interior. While this battered surround is prevalent on antebellum Greek Revival houses in the county, nowhere is it used as extensively as here; its interior application is indeed unusual.

At the southeast of the main block is the two-room kitchen ell, separated from the main block by a passage (now screened) which continues as a porch along the north elevation of the ell as an extension of the center hall and terminates at the engaged rear shed pantry. From the south side at the southwest room of the main house, connected by a screened and latticed porch and extending south, extends a small, one room structure which was originally the cook's house. Both the ell and the cook's house have simplified Greek Revival details and are two steps lower than the main house.

The plastered interior consists of two main rooms and a small rear bedroom arranged on each side of the center hall. A simple plaster medallion consisting of three molded concentric circles highlights the hall near the entrance. This medallion is one of the few instances of decorative plasterwork in the county to survive. Vernacular pilaster-and-frieze classical mantels are used at three of the four interior hearths; the northwest parlor is graced by a similar, though larger and paneled mantel. The same battered surrounds as on the outside frame the interior openings; doors have four slightly-raised panels with several two-panel doors on closets flanking the chimneys. Tall baseboards and the original pine flooring complete the rural Greek Revival interior.

Only four of the once extensive complement of outbuildings have survived to the present in addition to the attached cook's house. The most important is the frame potato cellar. The others are the grape arbor, a section of the original paling fence which once surrounded the yard, and a ca 1920 garage. General locations are known of the log kitchen (razed ca. 1975), dairy, well-house, privy, smokehouse, buggy house, six horse stables, two mule stables, numerous log cattle stables, and Dr.
Sloan’s office, which was used after his death as a school house; it burned about 1925. The house sits in a dense forest of mixed hardwoods on high ground east of the South River 400 yards back from US 701. Across US 701 is the Sloan Family Cemetery where the builder, his wife, his father and several of their children and other relatives are buried.

INVENTORY

A Dr. David Dickson Sloan House, ca. 1849 Greek Revival plantation house.
B Cook’s House, ca. 1849, a frame dwelling attached to the main house by a porch. This house features simple Greek Revival finish of one room.
C Potato Cellar, frame potato house contemporary with the ca. 1849 main house.
D Grape Arbor, late 19th century grape arbor
E Paling fence, mid-19th century fence separating the house from other outbuildings.
F Garage, ca. 1920 frame garage
G (former) dairy, site of former dairy, archaeological site.
H (former) log kitchen, contemporary with the main house, archaeological site.
I (former) privy, mid-to-late 19th century, archaeological site.
J (former) smokehouse, mid-to-late 19th century, archaeological site.
K Site of former garden
L (former) buggy house, mid-19th century, archaeological site.
M (former) well house, mid-19th century, archaeological site.
N (former) barns and stables, 6 horse and 2 mule barns.
O (former) Doctor Sloan’s office, mid-19th century.
P (former) slave houses, sites of 6 former slave houses, mid-19th century
Q (former) cattle barns, sites of 12 log cattle barns, mid-19th century.

There are four extant structures on the land being nominated. In addition, there are a number of archaeological sites including the sites of former slave houses, cattle, horse and mule barns, dairy, log kitchen, smokehouse, privy, well house and buggy house.
Situated among the mixed pine-hardwood forests that border the picturesque South River, the Dr. David Dickson Sloan Farm is a prime example of the substantial farmsteads built by the county's planters before the Civil War. The plantation was a gift to Sloan and his wife from her father, John Cromartie, a wealthy neighboring landowner in Bladen County. Sloan (1821-1876) was the area's leading physician and citizen; prior to the late 1880s Garland was known as Sloan's Crossing in reference to the bridge on the Sloan land that crossed the South River into Bladen County. The centerpiece of the plantation is this extremely handsome residence which was built in 1849. The one-story, center hall plan Greek Revival cottage has a stately central pedimented portico supported by four Doric pillars; traditional Greek Revival elements, especially the notable battered door and window surrounds compliment the house. The house site was inherited by William Sloan (1858-1938), a son of Dr. Sloan, who continued to operate the farm. The house is currently occupied by his daughter, Miss Anabel Sloan. 388 adjoining acres of the once extensive Sloan landholdings remain in the family and are included in the farmstead.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. The farmstead is indicative of the traditional plantations of upper class in the early and mid 19th century, situated on a major river or stream to afford relatively easy transportation.

B. This was the home of Dr. David Dickson Sloan (1821-1876), the area's leading physician and prominent citizen. The land was previously associated with his father-in-law, John Dromartie (ca 1774-1850), one of the largest and wealthiest landowners in adjacent Bladen County.

C. The handsome residence, built in 1849, is the county's finest one-story, Greek Revival cottage, with a sophistication of design and quality of workmanship that equals that of the county's grandest and largest plantations.
The David Dickson Sloan house was built about 1849 near the community of Garland. The house is still owned by a descendant of the builder and has housed members of the prominent Sloan family since it was built.

David Dickson Sloan (1821-1876) was the son of Dickson Sloan (1796-1864) and Catherine Bryan (1801-1845). The elder Dickson Sloan served nine terms in the North Carolina General Assembly and one term as a state senator in a period from 1828 until 1840. David Dickson Sloan received his degree from the Medical College of South Carolina in Charleston in 1844 and became one of Sampson County's leading physicians. He married Harriet Cromartie in the 1840s. The Sloan house was built on property given by Mrs. Sloan's father John Cromartie.  

Census records show that Sloan owned about 300 acres but did not farm it extensively. In 1850 he had only 40 acres under cultivation. His land was valued at $500 and his livestock at $150. Sloan owned four slaves in 1850 but apparently owned none in 1860. He and his wife had a number of prominent children. Henry Sloan followed in his father's footsteps and became a Sampson County physician. Daughter Katherine Bryan Sloan married Alexander Graham and became the mother of Frank Porter Graham, who became president of the University of North Carolina and a United States senator from North Carolina.

After David Dickson Sloan's death his widow Harriet Sloan continued to live in the house. By the time of his death he owned in excess of 400 acres but the Sloans continued to farm the land only in a modest way. In 1891 Harriet Sloan deeded the house to her son William Sloan.

William Sloan (1858-1938) served as postmaster for Garland for many years. He also operated a general store in the Garland area, operated farms in both Sampson and adjacent Bladen counties, and was an active supporter of education in Sampson County. Sloan and his wife Carrie Moore Sloan had eight children, one of whom died in infancy. Their daughter Annabel Sloan, a longtime Bladen County school teacher, currently resides in the house, which is owned by Catherine Bryan Sloan, a granddaughter of William Sloan. The Sloan house is one of Sampson County's leading antebellum houses. It epitomizes the substantial houses built by the county's leading citizens in the years which immediately preceded the Civil War. Its long association with the Sloan family adds to its historical importance.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 626

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See plat map enclosed. Property is outlined in red.
NOTES


2 Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 598-601; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Sampson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Sampson County, North Carolina, Slave Schedule.


4 Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 598-601.
Boundary justification:

The property being nominated in association with the Dr. David Dickson Sloan House approximately 426 acres, represent the approximately 400 acres which Dr. Sloan was able to amass during his lifetime. The property includes the house and a number of outbuildings. The property is principally forested now. The house itself is set well back from the road and the amount of property maintains the seclusion and isolation of the house.
A - Residence
B - Cook's house
C - Potato cellar
D - Grape arbor
E - Paling fence
F - Garage

G - Former dairy
H - Former log kitchen
I - Former privy
J - Former smokehouse
K - Former vegetable garden
L - Former buggy house
M - Former well house
N - Former barns & stables
   6 horse, 2 mule
O - Former Doctor's office
P - Former slave houses
   (about 6)
Q - Former cattle barns
   12 of log

Soybeans planted for deer

Old road

Dr. David Dickson Sloan Farm
Sampson County, N.C.

Not to scale