

# INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lovett Lee House

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

SW corner SR 1725 and SR 1730

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Giddensville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Sampson

CODE

163

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

G. J. Sullivan, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 1, Box 202

CITY, TOWN

Faison

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 28341

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Sampson County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Sampson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

STATE  
North Carolina

28328

## 6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas Butchko

Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Survey & Planning Branch

Research Branch

DATE

May 23, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh,

STATE

North Carolina 27611

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

One of the county's most elaborately decorated late 19th century farmhouses, the Lovett Lee House built ca 1880, is an exceptional and well-preserved example of the addition of ornamental millwork to the standard, two-story, single-pile dwelling so common in Sampson County after the 1870s. The house's double-tier front porch is among the most elaborate in the county, suggesting a lace veil over a plain face. The builders son, Charles Frank Lee (1883-1962), for a while rented rooms here to teachers at the nearby Piney Grove School. A son of the present owner, whose father bought the house in 1946 from the Lee heirs, completely restored and renovated the house for his residence in 1980.

The frame, two-story, single-pile, center-hall plan block is contained under a hip roof of standing seam metal. A replacement common bond brick single shoulder chimney stands at each end. On the northwest is an enlarged, two-room ell, with an enlarged and enclosed porch along the ell's southwest elevation connecting to the house's through hall. The rest of the house's rear elevation is occupied by a single shed room. The front three bays of the main block is occupied by the decorative double-tier porch supported by chamfered posts. The first floor railing is carried by large, turned balusters, while the second floor railing has a sawn-slat railing. At both levels is a boldly scrolled sawn frieze which further heightens the lacy appearance. The front block's corner boards are treated as pilasters and carry a boxed and bracketed cornice with frieze, which continues around the hip-roofed porch; similar brackets are also on the ell. Windows on the porch facade are four-over-four in pairs, with bracketed molded cornices. A similar treatment surmounts the central door and sidelights on each level. The other sash are six-over-six and have flat, two-part surrounds. The house rests on infilled brick piers and has a wide, continuous baseboard.

The center hall interior is plastered with excellent woodwork, highlighted by decoratively laid ceilings of beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing in the downstairs hall and side parlors; the south bedroom is especially fine, with sheathing in an octagonal pattern joining at the center. This room and the hall also have wainscots of the same sheathing. The bedroom mantel is an interesting pilaster-and-frieze form with a dentiled shelf, decorated with applied molding in diamond shapes. The other mantels are simple, with the upstairs mantels being made of beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing. The center hall extends to the depth of the southwest shed room, and from the hall's rear rises the traditional staircase of slender turned balusters, two per tread, and the large, oversized newel. The wall of the staircase above the wainscot and the small upstairs hall have been sheathed with replacement ca 1950s knotty pine paneling. Downstairs surrounds are fluted with cornerblocks; those upstairs are plain and two-part. Minor alterations in the house have been the construction of an arch from the front, northeast parlor to the dining room in the ell, and the replacement of the original frame first floor porch floor with a poured cement floor.

The handsome Lovett Lee House is shaded by several large pecan trees. Across the road to the southeast is a large produce processing shed; the owner's residence is immediately adjacent to the southwest. The other two sides are fields.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

\_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ XX LOCAL

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

SPECIFIC DATES

Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The elaborately ornamented Lovett Lee House is indicative of the level of exuberant Victorian embellishment sometimes added to the county's traditional two-story, single-pile frame farmhouses in the late 19th century. Only the John E. Wilson House can compare with the elaborateness of the two-tier porch's sawn and turned ornamentation. For several years in the early 20th century, teachers from the nearby Piney Grove School rented rooms here from Charles Frank Lee (1883-1962), a son who inherited the house. In 1946 G. J. Sullivan, Sr. (1878-1977), a neighboring farmer, bought the farm from the Lees. The house, in the midst of the county's most productive farm area and shaded by several large pecan trees, has recently been completely restored and renovated by Jay Sullivan, a grandson of G. J. Sullivan, Sr.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- C. The Lovett Lee House is one of two prime examples - and the only restored one - of the marvelous decorative appearance achieved in the last quarter of the 19th century by the application of extensive sawn and turned Victorian millwork to the traditional two-story, single-pile farmhouse so prevalent in the Sampson County landscape. Traditional and decoratively-laid beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing decorates the interior. The handsome structure is well shaded on an ample site in the richest farming section of Sampson County.
- D. The Lovett Lee House is likely to yield archaeological information valuable to the understanding of history.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Lovett Lee House is located in the eastern part of Sampson County, near the community of Giddensville. The house dates from around 1880 and remained in the Lee family until the middle of the twentieth century.

Lovett Lee was born in 1851, the second child of William and Millicent Lee. He married Clarrisa Boyette (1860-1937) in the late 1870s. Their seven children were born between 1879 and 1901. Lovett Lee was involved in the lumber business, first for the Rowland Lumber Company and later for himself. The Lee family moved to Faison, in Duplin County, sometime prior to 1900, but retained ownership of the house, which was occupied by Lovett Lee's son, Charles Lee, sporadically over a period of years.

Charles Franklin Lee (1883-1960) was the second child of Lovett and Clarrisa Lee. He worked in the lumber business with his father and older brother Henry, and later was a farmer. He inherited the Lee homestead at this father's death in 1916. He and his family, which included his wife, Hattie O'Berry (1885-1960), and their children, lived in the house until 1924 when they moved to Mount Olive. They returned to the Lee House in the early 1930s and remodeled it. The Piney Grove school was opened near the house about this time and Mrs. Lee taught there for a period. The Lees also rented rooms to teachers from the school on a regular basis.

Charles Lee sold the house and land to area farmer, George Sullivan, Sr. (1878-1977), in 1946. His son, George Jarman Sullivan, Jr., is the present owner of the house.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983); 477-478, hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule. The Lee family had moved to Faison by 1900, according to the 1900 census.

<sup>2</sup>Sampson County Will Book 6, p. 42; Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

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

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

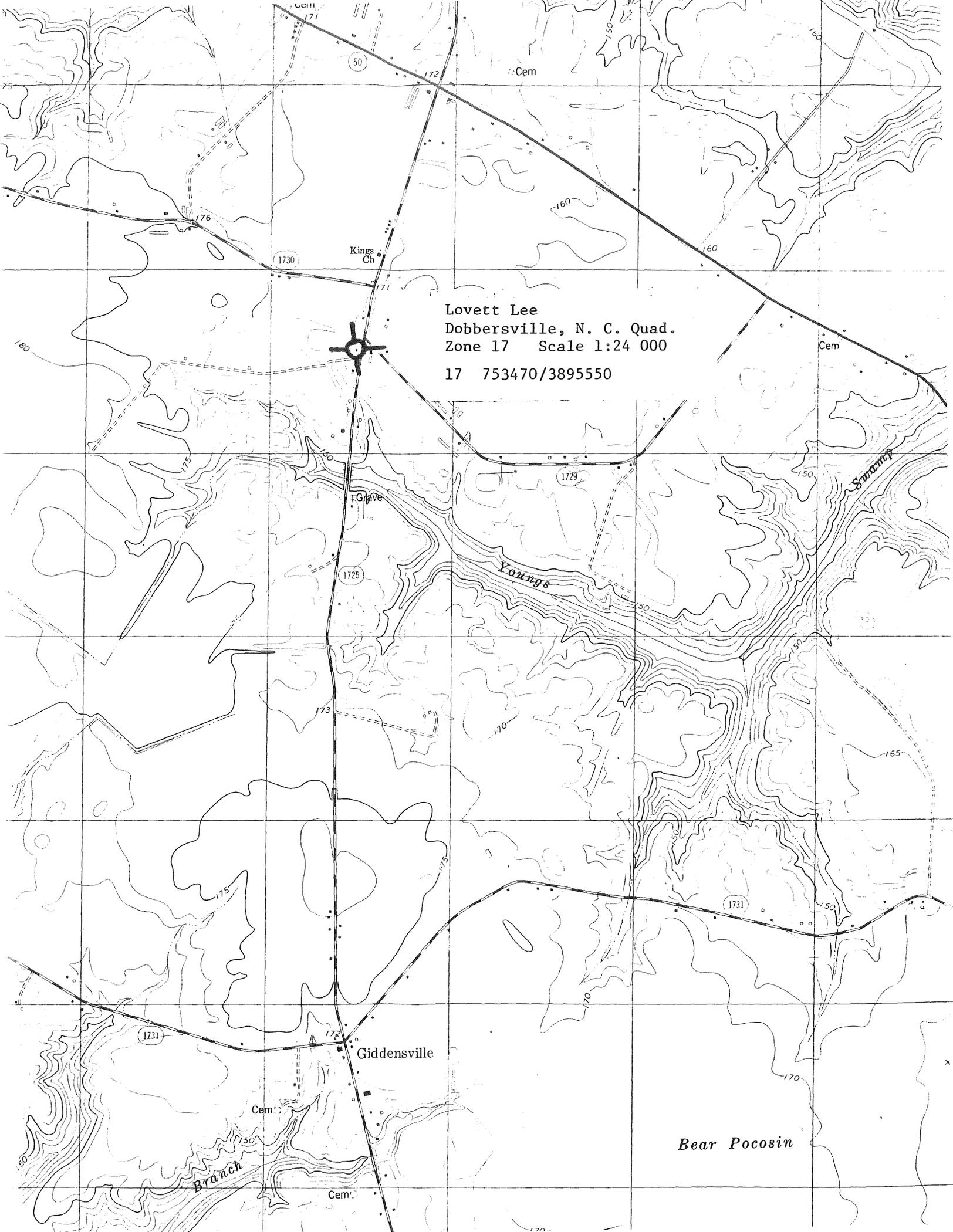
C			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property to be nominated is the Lovett Lee House site, less than one acre, as noted on the Plat of the Sullivan-Grimes and Grimes Property, dated 9 February 1946 and registered in the Sampson County Register of Deeds Office, A copy of the map is attached.





Lovett Lee  
Dobbersville, N. C. Quad.  
Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000  
17 753470/3895550

Kings  
Ch

Grove

Giddensville

Branch

Swamp

Bear Pocosin

