

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Isaac Williams House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N side NC 55, near jct with NC 50 ___ not for publication

city, town vicinity of Newton Grove

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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: office

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Mary Ann Williams Hill

street & number Route 2, Box 14-A

city, town vicinity of Newton Grove state North Carolina 28366

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Sampson County Court House

city, town Clinton state North Carolina 28328

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sampson County Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 1979 to December 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records North Carolina Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina 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

A significant example of the post-Civil War farmhouse, the Isaac Williams House, a one-story double-pile five bay-by-four bay frame dwelling, illustrates a transitional phase between the front cross-gable house type that was peculiar to mid-nineteenth century Sampson County and the smaller, so called "Triple-A" block that was a prevalent house type for the middle and lower level of farmers in eastern North Carolina during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The front cross-gable house type, as typified by the Francis Pugh House, ca 1850, and the Livingston Oates House, ca 1870, is a double-pile block covered with a tall gable roof which has a large, central front gable that projects to engage the front porch. The typical Triple-A house, so named because of its distinctive three gables, is a much more modest, single-pile block on which the small, central gable serves a primarily aesthetic purpose; the front porch is attached. The Isaac Williams House is an intermediate step in this transition. While it does have a prominent front cross-gable roof, the front porch is attached and covered by a separate hip roof. The house's traditional Greek Revival finish is typical of the carryover of antebellum details into the post-war period in Sampson County. Especially prominent here are the corner pilasters which have molded Doric capitals that support the plain wide frieze bands and deep boxed cornices with returns. A wide, plain bottomboard connects the bottom of the pilasters. The three-bay front porch also displays classical character in its heavy, turned balustrade and slender pillars with molded Doric capitals. Finishing details are the two original interior brick chimneys, the louvered vents in the gables, and the Greek Revival, flat, two-part surrounds at the six-over-six sash windows. The front entrance is framed by side and transom lights.

The center hall is refreshingly plain, with six-inch wide sheathing on both the walls and the tall ceiling; this sheathing has aged to the mellow heart pine finish. Plain surrounds enframe the four-panel doors--flat panels on the hall side and raised panels on the room side--that lead into each of the four, identically finished rooms. These rooms, all recently replastered, feature matching mantels of the plain, pilaster-and-frieze form; three mantels have been returned to their natural, heart pine finish. Simply molded baseboards and surrounds with rounded sills complete the rooms.

The present owners have added a one-and-a-half story ell on the rear (south) of the house to contain the kitchen, the family room, the dining room, an office, and three baths on the first floor and a spacious master bedroom suite on the second floor. Designed by architect Larry Massengill of Benson, North Carolina, the addition is in close keeping with the character of the traditional late nineteenth century ell in the Sampson-Johnston county area.

8. Significance

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 checked="" 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 1867 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The farm house of Isaac Williams (1837-1920), a one-story, double-pile frame dwelling, was erected about 1867 in a form that was traditional to the middle class Sampson County farmer during the mid-nineteenth century. Its roofline illustrates the transition from the county's front cross-gable house type (a double-pile block covered by a cross-gable roof with the central gable projecting in the front to shelter the engaged roof) that was so popular among the more successful middle tier of farmers in the 1850s and 1860s, to the smaller, more modest, Triple-A block (one-room deep dwellings with a decorative center front gable echoing the two side gables and with an attached porch) that constituted the most prevalent housing form for the middle and lower classes in Sampson and Johnston counties during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. As in a majority of the early post-Civil War farmhouses in Sampson County, the Isaac Williams House is finished with well-executed traditional Greek Revival details; here the corner pilasters and the boxed cornices are especially notable. The Williams House has been handed down through the Williams generations and is now in the ownership of a great-granddaughter. She and her husband have recently restored the house and have enlarged it with a rear addition. They plan to use a portion of the original house as an office for their realty-auction business.

Criteria Assessment

A The Isaac Williams House is associated with the growth and development of the agricultural economy of Sampson County during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

The house is an excellent example of the transition from the front cross-gable house type of the mid-nineteenth century to the Triple-A block that was so prevalent in the area during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

D. May be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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Significance

Isaac Williams was born in Sampson County, North Carolina, on January 26, 1837, the son of John Carouth Williams and Sarah Jane (Butler) Williams, and grew up on his father's farm. During the Civil War he served in Company H, Fifth Regiment of the North Carolina Troops, enlisting in Wake County on September 24, 1864. Family tradition reports that he served with General Robert E. Lee and cared for Lee's horse, Traveler, part of the time.¹ Williams was paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865 and returned to Sampson County.²

On October 18, 1866, Williams married Laura Isabel Johnson (1846-1898), the daughter of Owen Hawes Johnson, a farmer and Methodist minister in the southern Sampson County community of Ingold, and Aholibah E. (Howard) Johnson.³ Soon afterward, on January 2, 1867, brothers Garry F. and John C. Williams, Cumberland County cousins of Isaac Williams, deeded Isaac Williams two tracts of 400 acres each east of the Great Coharie Creek in what was to become Westbrook Township in 1869.⁴ In return, Isaac's father deeded Garry F. and John C. Williams a 266 acre tract in what is now Eastover Township, Cumberland County.⁵ On these two 400 acre tracts Isaac Williams built this house, using timber cut from his own land.

Isaac Williams became a large and successful farmer. The Schedule of Agriculture of the 1870 Census for Sampson County lists Williams as having a farm production value of \$1000 (27th out of 200 farmers in Westbrook Township) and raising the typical variety of crops: corn, oats, beans, peas, and sweet potatoes. The 1870s was a good decade for farming in the Sampson-Johnston county area and Williams, like the other farmers, showed substantial improvement as listed in the 1880 Census. In 1880 Williams owned 900 acres (175 improved) with a value of \$7000. His farm production--corn, oats, wheat, cotton (3200 pounds), cowpeas, sweet potatoes, apples, peaches, cows, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, and eggs--had a total value of \$1175, the tenth highest of the 291 farmers in Westbrook Township. Williams also gathered the sap from fifteen acres of longleaf pine and carried it to a turpentine still in either Falcon or Newton Grove for distillation and sale.

Williams was actively involved in the Newton Grove community. He was a magistrate and performed many marriages.⁶ He was a member, stockholder, and the president of the Johnston and Sampson School House Company which was formed in July 1882. That fall the company erected the Glenwood High School in Meadow Township, Johnston County (about four miles from the Williams house). Glenwood was the first subscription high school in this section of Sampson and Johnston counties and operated until about 1904.⁸

Isaac and Laura Williams, who raised eight children in this house, many of whom remained in the area, lived here until their deaths, hers on January 19, 1898 and his on May 23, 1920. Both are buried in the family cemetery nine hundred feet southeast of the house.

The homeplace,¹⁰ with 160 acres, was inherited by Isaac Johnson Williams (1887-1964), the youngest son.¹⁰ In 1908 he married Mamie Britt (1887-1918), who died ten years later and is buried in the Isaac Williams cemetery. He remarried in 1932. In addition to farming, Isaac Johnson Williams operated a sawmill on this farm. He almost lost the farm during the Depression and in about 1936 he moved to Godwin. There he started his sawmill business again and eventually became quite successful.¹¹ He died there on April 27, 1964 and is buried in Dunn, North Carolina.

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Theodore Samuel Williams (1871-1940), an older brother of Isaac Johnson Williams, paid the back taxes on his brother's farm so that it would remain in the family. Upon his death, Theodore left his brother's farm to his brother's four children, with the oldest, John "Shannon" Williams (1909-1949), receiving the forty acre tract on which the Isaac Williams House stands.¹² Also a farmer and sawmill operator, Shannon lived here with his wife, Mary Lillian (Lee) Williams, until his death. At his death this forty acres was divided among his three children. The oldest, Mary Ann Williams Hill, has purchased the shares of her brother and sister and now owns, with her husband, Edward J. Hill, the house tract and the rest of her father's farm.¹⁵ The Hills have restored and enlarged her great-grandfather's house as a residence and as offices for the Hill Realty and Auction Company. The timber used in this addition, like that of the original house, was sawn from trees cut on the Williams farm.

Footnotes

1. Unpublished Williams family history, p.21-3-1. Compiled by John C. Rosser, Jr., Route 1, Box 290, Godwin, NC 28344.
2. T. Jordan Weymouth, Jr., ed., North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865, A Roster, (Raleigh: Office of Archives and History, 1973), p.233.
3. loc.cit., Williams history.
4. Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 37, Page 99.
5. Cumberland County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 57, Page 279.
6. loc.cit., Williams history.
7. ibid.
8. ibid.
9. ibid. The Williams children: Albertus Hubbard (1869-1940); Theodore Samuel (1871-1940); Lischer Alexander (1873-1916) built a ca 1910 Queen Anne farmhouse on the adjoining farm; Louella Valeria (1875-1933); John Owen (1879-1973); Laura Bessie (1880-1961); Lela Sara Aholibah (1884-1975); and Isaac Johnson (1887-1964).
10. Mary Ann Williams Hill, the present owner.
11. ibid.
12. ibid.
13. Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 707, Page 519, dated July 27, 1960; Deed Book 876, Page 73, dated October 10, 1974; and Deed Book 913, Page 301, dated March 21, 1977.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often evident only in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Rosser, John C. Unpublished Williams family history. Route 1, Box 290, Godwin, North Carolina 28344.

Sampson County Register of Deeds Office, Sampson County Court House, Clinton, NC 28328 1870 and 1880 Censuses, Agricultural Schedule for Sampson County.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.8
Quadrangle name Coharie Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References Lat 35 14'53" N Long 78 22'52" W

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Butchko, Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date September 6, 1983

street & number 293 Newton Road telephone (919) 847-3588

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27609

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. P...

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 20, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Verbal property description and justification.

The property to be nominated is the 2.8 acre tract upon which the Isaac Williams House is located: beginning on the south side of NC 55 at a point 338 feet west of a ditch near the junction of NC 55 and NC 50; following the southern edge of NC 55 in a westerly direction 338 feet to the edge of a field; turning southerly (perpendicular to the road) and following the edge of the field 348 feet to near a ditch; turning easterly and continuing 340 feet; and then turning northerly and continuing in a line perpendicular to NC 55 397 feet to the beginning. This tract is shown as Lot 2 on a "Map of Shannon Williams Division", dated May 1960 and recorded in Map Book 40, Page 315 in the Sampson County Register of Deeds; a copy of the survey is attached. This tract is all the property directly associated with the house. Several deteriorated, moved, or recent outbuildings on the farm are not included in the nomination.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
REPRESENTED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NC
COHA

25' 20'

(Four Oaks)

Isaac Williams House
Sampson County
Coharie Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62500
Lat 35° 14' 53" N
Long 78° 22' 52" W



