INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

X MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Jonas McPhail House & Annie McPhail Store

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
S. side US 13; 0.1 mi E of SR 1845
CITY, TOWN
Rosin
STATE
North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDINGS(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE
YES RESTRICTED
YES UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER

N/A

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Reggie Lee Jones
Emma L. Morrissey
John L. Hudson
STREET & NUMBER
Route 2, Box 318-E
Route 2, Box 324
CITY, TOWN
Newton Grove
Newton Grove
STATE
N. C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Sampson County Register of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER
Sampson County Court House
CITY, TOWN
Clinton
STATE
North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE
Tom Butchko
Survey and Planning Branch
RESEARCH: Jim Sumner
DATE
October 10, 1985
TELEPHONE
(919) 733-6545
STATE
North Carolina
CITY OR TOWN
Raleigh
DESCRIPTION

The most elaborately ornamented of the county's late 19th century one-story farmhouses, the Jonas McPhail House is an eloquent and well-preserved statement of the elaborate possibilities with the use of applied millwork onto the prevalent small rural house with characteristic false center gable. Located at the small rural crossroads of Rosin Hill, which was named for the vicinity's once extensive naval stores industry, the charming house is one of three surviving Rosin Hill structures. Associated with this house is the Annie McPhail store, operated by the builder's wife. The adjacent ca 1820 Asher W. Bizzell House is being nominated separately.

An elaborate Victorian porch graces the front northwest facade of this single-pile, one-story, 3-A weatherboard house. Supported by turned posts and unified with a turned balustrade, the porch is crowned with intricate sawn scrolls; the porch's cornice is further ornamented with acorn pendant brackets. The cornerboards, which rest on a plain bottomboard, support a shallow boxed cornice with sawn pendant scrolls that are larger and more elaborate than those on the porch. Sash are four-over-four with peaked lintels. Louvered shutters remain only on the main block. The gable louvered vent is a locally popular form, with flat rays emanating from the upper part of a central circular medallion; three rows of sawtooth dentils crown the upper surround. A bracketed octagonal bay window with molded panels extends from the southwest parlor. Chimneys are exterior end, common bond brick with concave shoulders on the northeast and at the end of the ell; an interior chimney is between the front southwest parlor and the ell. The various gables have a returning molded frieze. The rear ell porch has chamfered posts, a turned railing, and simplified side scrolls. On the rear southeast is a three-room ell with engaged porch, shed and pantry rooms along the ell's east elevation; a single shed room occupies the rest of the rear elevation.

An elaborate Victorian door with square colored-glass panes affords entrance into the center hall. The plastered interior has tall dado boards and molded surrounds in the hall and two front rooms. Mantels are vigorous vernacular adaptations of Victorian forms, with extensive molding, engaged turned balusters, and geometric designs. One mantel has a stylized Tudor arch. The ell rooms, due to their utilitarian purposes, are plainly detailed, with simple vernacular mantels and moldings.

Several frame outbuildings survive. The most intact is the weatherboarded smokehouse with projecting front gable roof and boxed cornices. There is a plank door on the front gable end. The finer of the two chicken coops has an uncharacteristic gable roof, with wide board sheathing on the north elevation; the other three sides are covered with evenly spaced boards and open areas. The other coop is a large weatherboarded shed roof structure; it is quite deteriorated. Three hundred and fifty feet southwest of the house is the large barn, a substantial four stall, center aisle structure, thirty feet square. Sided with sheathed boards, it is one of the county's finer surviving barns.

The wholesale-retail store of Annie McPhail, the wife of Jonas, stands 400 feet southwest of the house, on the southwestern side of SR 1845. Contemporary in age with the
The Jonas McPhail House & Annie McPhail Store is a large, two-story, three-bay-by-three-bay, frame structure with a double-door entrance on the eastern gable end. Much of the interior shelving remains. The barn and store, while associated with the Jonas McPhail House, is owned by Jake Hudson, the owner of the Asher W. Bizzell House, which is located between the McPhail House and Store and is included separately in this Multiple Resource Nomination. Surrounding all three structures are mixed forests.

This nomination contains seven contributing structures.
In a county where academic Victorian architecture was practically unknown, the county's Victorian styles were limited to the application of various decorative elements to traditional housing forms. The Jonas McPhail (?-1933) House is the finest example of the exuberance of such embellishments on the one-story frame dwelling. The picturesque house is a charming composite of turned and sawn ornamentation on the porches, cornices, and gables; an exuberance echoed by the interior woodwork and mantels. Annie Warren McPhail (1874-1967), the builder's wife, operated a large, two-story general store nearby which survives. This was a major commercial establishment in the former community of Rosin Hill, which was a center of rosin production at the end of the 19th century. Only the McPhail House and Store and the Asher Walter Bizzell House survive.

**CRITERIA ASSESSMENT**

A. The house and store are associated with the former rural crossroads of Rosin Hill, which was a prosperous rosin making location at the end of the 19th century and was thus important to the development of extreme northern Sampson County.

C. The house is the county's prime example of the traditional, rural, one-story house richly-embellished with applied Victorian ornamentation.

D. Is likely to yield information valuable to the rural, agricultural and naval stores history of the area.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Jonas McPhail house dates from the late 1890s and is located near the small northern Sampson County community of Rosin. Located nearby is the historically-related Annie McPhail store, which also dates from the late 1890s.

The community of Rosin, originally known as Rosin Hill, dates from about 1820. As the name implies, naval stores were the main business of the community. In 1896, Jonas McPhail and Annie Warren married and moved to Rosin Hill. Jonas McPhail (1873-1932) was a native of Sampson County, the son of Duncan McPhail and Isabelle Tart McPhail. He was educated at Glenco Academy and Turlington Military Institute in Smithfield and became a school teacher in Newton Grove. Annie Warren (1871-1964) was the eldest daughter of Samson and Kilty Daughtry Warren. She attended a number of Sampson County schools and also taught school in Newton Grove. The McPhails were married while teaching in that community and moved to Rosin Hill shortly afterwards.

The McPhails were the leading citizens in Rosin Hill at the turn of the century. Jonas McPhail helped establish a post office and was postmaster. He also managed the Clinton-to-Dunn telephone line, served as a county commissioner and township magistrate, farmed, operated a sawmill, and helped operate the store. Mrs. McPhail devoted most of her energy to the operation of the store which, as a general mercantile establishment, served a wide part of northern Sampson County. She continued to operate the store through a 1921 fire which destroyed the sawmill, the Great Depression which closed many of the area businesses, and the 1932 death of her husband. In later years she was active in the local Grange and Home Demonstration Club.

The McPhails did not have children. Following the death of Mrs. McPhail, the house and store had several owners. The house is currently owned by Jesse Lee, while the vacant store is owned by John L. Hudson.

The community of Rosin Hill did not survive the Great Depression and little remains of its turn-of-the-century prosperity. The McPhail house and store, along with the nearby Asher Bizzell house, are the main reminders of the community's prime. Both the McPhail house and the McPhail store are important structures in the development of northern Sampson County.

Major Bibliographical References


Geographical Data

Acreage of Nominated Property: 4 acres, more or less.

UTM References

Lat. 35° 22' 20"  Long. 78° 24' 58"

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The properties to be nominated are lot eight, owned by Jesse Lee; lot seven, owned by John L. Hudson; and that portion of lot five northeast of the run of the Prong of Seven Mile Swamp, also owned by John L. Hudson; all shown on a copy of the map is attached.
NOTES


2 Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 42, 514, 735.

3 Sampson County Deed Book 783, p. 398; Book 815, p. 791.