

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

William P. Morrow House

Graham vicinity, Alamance County, AM0300, Listed 8/9/2006
Nomination by Laura A. W. Phillips
Photographs by Laura A. W. Phillips, May 2006



Overall view



Side and rear view

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Morrow, William P., House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number South side SR 2146, 0.1 mile west of junction with SR 2145
(3017 Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Road)

N/A not for publication

city or town Graham

vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Alamance

code 001 Zip code 27253

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/20/06
Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National
Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	4	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
LANDSCAPE/garden

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Stucco
Weatherboard
roof Metal
other Brick
Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark 'x' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1855

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Checkboxes for documentation types: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Primary location of additional data:

- Checkboxes for data locations: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, etc.

Name of repository:

Morrow, William P., House
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approx. 14

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,7	6 5 5 0 4 0	3 9 8 0 1 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1,7	6 5 5 4 0 0	3 9 8 0 0 8 0

3	1,7	6 5 5 3 8 0	3 9 7 9 9 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1,7	6 5 5 1 6 0	3 9 7 9 9 0 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian

organization N/A date January 25, 2006

street & number 637 N. Spring Street telephone 336/727-1968

City or town Winston-Salem state NC Zip code 27101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Gunter M. and Kathleen L. Glass (Mr. and Mrs.)

street & number 3017 Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Road telephone 336/376-8050 (H)

City or town Graham state NC Zip code 27253

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Morrow, William P., House
Alamance County, North Carolina

7. DESCRIPTION

Summary and Setting

The William P. Morrow House is a ca. 1855 two-story brick dwelling coated in stucco scored to resemble stone. Its three-bay-wide, single-pile, rectangular form has gable-end chimneys and a low hipped roof. The exterior of the Greek Revival style house is austere and simple, in part due to the loss of its front entrance porch prior to 1978. The mid 1980s one-and-a-half-story, weatherboarded frame, central rear ell replaced a 1920s frame ell attached by a breezeway which, itself, had replaced a free-standing log kitchen. The interior of the center-hall-plan house features chaste and consistent Greek Revival detailing, including wood-grained two-panel doors with corner blocked and paneled surrounds as well as a classical post-and-lintel mantel in each of the four original rooms. The interior is unusual in having not only an open-string stair in the center hall, but also a parallel, enclosed stair leading from the adjacent dining room to the second-floor east bedroom.

Associated with the house are a garden shed, a well house, a barn, and a corn crib, all frame and appearing to date from the early twentieth century, as well as a workshop built in 1992 and a small frame compost bin of approximately the same date. Immediately behind the house are a formal garden with a small orchard behind it.

The Morrow house is located in the rural southeastern section of Alamance County in North Carolina's central Piedmont region. Its site in Thompson Township is less than a mile west of the Orange County line. Although the house is formally listed with a Graham, North Carolina address, it is geographically closer to the mill village of Saxapahaw, which lies approximately six miles to the west. The tract of nearly fourteen acres on which the house stands is bounded on the north by Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Road (SR 2146), on the east by Thom Road (SR 2145), and on the south and west by a jagged line that follows, in part, the course of a small creek.

The eastern half (approximately) of the property consists of an agricultural field bordered on the southwest and west by woods. The house and outbuildings are located in the western portion of the tract. The house faces north on a rise above Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Road. A grassy lawn with several black walnut, elm, and magnolia trees fronts the house. A gravel driveway leads from the road to the east side of the house, circling the barn and continuing in a southeastward direction to the workshop, which stands in a wooded area removed from the immediate surrounding of the house. From the driveway, a brick walk leads to the east side of the ell at its north end next to where it joins the original house. A pea-gravel walk leads from the brick walk along the east side of the ell, passing the well house and continuing southward along the east side of the garden, with branches running eastward to the driveway and westward along the rear of the house. On the west side of the house, a pea-gravel

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walk leads southward from the northwest corner of the house to the garden shed and rear walk, interrupted along the ell by a brick patio. West of the west walk and patio, a side yard with a large and very old American elm tree is encompassed by an unpainted picket fence. A fence also encloses the smaller east-side yard and the formal herb and flower garden with its pea-gravel walks located behind the house. At the rear of the garden, a round-arched wood arbor leads to a small orchard, surrounded not only by the picket fence, but also by taller, more widely spaced palings to deter deer encroachment. The garden and the landscaping around the house were created in recent years by the present owners. Adding to the rural beauty of the property, a broad meadow bordered by woods extends west, south, and southeast of the house and its immediate surroundings. Largely hidden in the woods south of the house is the corn crib, and along the tree line southeast of the house is a frame compost bin.

1. **House**, ca. 1855

Contributing building

Exterior - The original, front section of the house is a two-story rectangular dwelling, three bays wide and one room deep. It has a brick foundation, scored-stucco brick walls, stuccoed brick end chimneys with added caps on the east and west elevations, and a low hipped roof—sheathed with replacement 5-V metal—that has widely overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. The north facade is symmetrical, with a central, double-leaf entrance with sidelights and flanking six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Three identical windows light the second story. Recessed about three inches from the face of the exterior wall surface, the windows have splayed, beveled wood surrounds and projecting sills. The facade is especially austere because the porch is missing, removed at some unknown time prior to 1978. Ghost marks of a steeply pitched entrance porch appear in a 1978 photograph. Subsequent to that, the stucco was patched to hide the ghost marks, but the patch itself still reveals, in rougher form, the outline of the porch roof. The east and west elevations are identical, with six-over-six sash windows flanking the chimneys at both levels. Six-over-six sash windows still define the outer bays (both levels) of the rear (south) elevation, but the center bay is largely hidden by the rear ell.

In 1984-1985 the one-and-a-half-story ell was added to the rear of the house. Although it is large, the ell does not detract from the original house because of its sensitive design. It replaced a ca. 1920s frame kitchen attached to the main house by a breezeway which, itself, replaced a log kitchen. However, the very large, double-shouldered brick chimney on the east side survives from the original kitchen chimney. Though it utilizes a traditional form and repeats the six-over-six sash windows of the main house, the ell is distinguished from the original house by its one-and-a-half-story height, gable roof, and weatherboard siding. A subtle but important aspect of the ell is that the bay connecting it to the main house is shorter in height than the ell and set in from it, so that it gives the appearance of a connector

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between the two sections of the house, rather like an infilled breezeway. On the east side of this “connector,” the original rear entrance of the house—a double-leaf door with unusual double-wide sidelights on only one side—has been moved from its original location at the end of the center hall of the house, turned ninety degrees, and positioned to serve as the primary ell entrance, which is currently the primary (most used) entrance to the entire house. Other features of the ell include a brick foundation, 5-V metal roof sheathing, three hipped wall dormers on both east and west sides, first-story sash windows on east and west sides, and a row of French doors with transoms (the outer doors are fixed) opening to the west side patio. The rear (south) wall of the ell has a single French door and a six-light window on the first story and a tall, round-arched window on the upper story.

Interior - While the exterior of the original portion of the house reflects the Greek Revival style only in its overall form, proportions, window casings, and stuccoed surface scored to resemble stone, the interior presents a consistent and thorough expression of chaste Greek Revival styling. The interior has a center-hall plan with a single room on either side on both first and second floors. Floors and ceilings are wood, while the walls are plastered and have simply molded baseboards. Doors are two-paneled, and most retain their original painted wood graining. Doors have paneled jambs and soffits, and both doors and windows have paneled surrounds with corner blocks. The four identical post-and-lintel mantels reflect simple Greek Revival classicism. In the center hall, a simple but graceful open-string stair rises from south to north along the east wall. It features a plain balustrade, curvilinear stair brackets, and a paneled spandrel. The stair makes a quarter turn as it reaches second-floor height, and a balustrade surrounds the stair opening on the second floor hall. The most unusual aspect of the house’s interior is that the center-hall stair is paralleled on the other (east) side of the stair wall by an enclosed stair that rises from the current dining room to the second-floor east bedroom. The secondary stair rises two steps—with the same curvilinear stair brackets as found on the hall stair—before it is enclosed by a wall and a two-panel door. Like the main stair, the secondary stair makes a quarter turn just before reaching the second floor. The second-floor opening is surrounded by a plain balustrade like that found on the second floor of the main stair. At the south end of the second-floor hall, a partially enclosed stair rises to the attic along the west wall. The first three steps make a quarter turn in the open before the remainder of the stair is enclosed by a wall and a two-panel door. The attic is unfinished. The original section of the house opens into the rear ell addition through the broad opening that originally held the rear door of the house. The door itself, with its accompanying wide sidelight, was turned ninety degrees to become the entrance to the ell from the east side. The doorway surround repeats the detailing of the original doorway. The first floor of the addition has a bathroom and a coat closet opposite the side entrance and a large family room that opens through French doors to the west patio and merges with the kitchen at the south end of the ell. From the west side of the kitchen, a door

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leads to a utility room, which has a single French door leading to the exterior. Between the family room and the utility room, an open string stair, modeled after the center hall stair, rises from west to east to the upper floor. The dominant feature of the family room is the very large brick fireplace, with its segmental-arched opening. While the firebox itself is believed to date from the log kitchen originally on the site, the broad wood mantel that surrounds it was added in the 1980s at the time of the ell construction. The upper floor of the ell has a central hall running from the brick portion of the house southward to the rear bedroom. East of the hall, moving from north to south, are a laundry room, a bathroom, and a large closet. West of the hall are a large closet, a linen closet, a bathroom, and the ell stair.

2. **Garden Shed**, first quarter twentieth century Noncontributing building

Located at the southwest corner of house and facing northeast, the garden shed is a small, rectangular, frame building with a concrete-block foundation, vertical-board siding, a batten door, and a low gable roof sheathed in metal. The shed may originally have been a smokehouse. It was moved from an earlier location east of the house to its present site in the mid 1980s.

3. **Wellhouse**, first quarter twentieth century Noncontributing building

The wellhouse stands east of the rear ell of the house and faces north. It is a small, rectangular, frame building with vertical-board siding and a metal-sheathed low gable roof that extends northward, supported by a wood pole at each corner, to form an open shed over the concrete well head. Although the original door opening on the north side remains, a door has been added to each side of the building, and an eight-light window has been added to the rear. The building currently serves as the pump house.

4. **Barn**, first quarter twentieth century Noncontributing building

Located east of the house in the center of the driveway, the barn is a dilapidated one-and-a-half-story weatherboarded frame building with a metal-sheathed low gable roof. On the south end are two vehicular openings on the first level and, on the upper level, a central loading door opening flanked by two window openings. Each side of the building also has a window opening in the upper level, but the north end of the building facing the road has no openings. The original use of the building is not certain.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Around 1855 William Parks Morrow (1806-1877), a wealthy Alamance County, North Carolina, tobacco planter, built a Greek Revival house in the southeastern section of the county on land that had been in his family for several generations. For more than a century, until 1972, the house remained in Morrow family ownership. The William P. Morrow House fulfills National Register Criterion C and is of local architectural significance, because it is an important member of a small group of mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival houses in a county whose architecture had long expressed conservative traditionalism. Houses in this group, including the Morrow house, are characterized by a two-story height, a symmetrical three-bay facade, a shallow hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves, a pair of chimneys—usually one at each end—a front porch, and a center-hall-plan interior with Greek Revival detailing. Although it has lost its front porch, the Morrow house is a particularly distinctive member of this group because it is the only one that is brick—reflecting the limited use of fully brick construction in the county at the time—and because it is the only known example in Alamance County of a brick house coated in stucco scored to resemble stone, a treatment that would have been considered highly sophisticated anywhere in the state. In addition, the interior of the William P. Morrow House is an excellent and unusually intact example of the use of chaste Greek Revival detailing throughout, including two-panel doors, paneled and cornerblocked door and window surrounds, classical post-and-lintel mantels, and a simple but graceful center-hall open-string stair. A particularly unusual feature is the secondary, enclosed stair that parallels the primary stair on the east side of the center-hall wall. The period of significance for the William P. Morrow House is its date of construction, ca. 1855.

Historical Background

Alamance County was formed from Orange County in 1849. Bounded by Orange, Chatham, Randolph, Guilford, and Caswell counties, it contains an area of approximately 434 square miles. Graham was established as the county seat (Powell, 5). Typical of counties in North Carolina's Piedmont during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, agriculture was the mainstay of the economy in Alamance County and, before it, in Orange County. Typical crops included corn, wheat, and potatoes, and, as the nineteenth century progressed, tobacco (Agriculture Schedule, 1860 Census). Beginning in the 1830s, cotton mills established along the Haw River and its tributaries developed into another significant economic force in the county. Another boost to the local economy came in the 1850s, when the North Carolina Rail Road extended across the county and located its central repair

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shops at Company Shops, which later became Burlington, near the center of the county. This event greatly aided commerce, industry, and agriculture (Bishir and Southern, 239).

Settlers arriving in the area beginning in the mid-eighteenth century included Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, primarily in the east section of what became Alamance County, English in the south, and Germans in the west (Bishir and Southern, 239). The Morrow family, who were Presbyterians, began at this time to settle in the southwestern section of Orange County and in the southeastern section of what was to become Alamance County near the confluence of Cane Creek and Haw River (Troxler and Vincent, 465). There, successive generations of the family prospered on neighboring farms and with a grist mill on Cane Creek. Because multiple generations used and reused many of the same names, it is sometimes difficult to keep straight the various family members. However, a comparison of deeds and wills, census records, and genealogical records provides the following history.

When William Morrow Jr. (1767-1852), who had inherited land from his father, William Morrow, drew up his will in 1845, he designated that at his death, his property would go to his wife, Jane Gattis Morrow (1769-1860 or 1868); his eight children; and Bethlehem Church—where he was an elder and a founding member—for the “support of the Gospel” and “foreign missions.” When he died on September 8, 1852, he was called the Patriarch of Cane Creek (Will Book 1, p. 67; Mallard, 182). Morrow’s wife received, among other things, “the house that we live in.” Various tracts of land were give to the various children or their heirs. Son William Parks Morrow (1806-1877) was given “the plantation on which I live on also the plantation I bought from (Maj) John Thompson,” among other things. The 1850 Census makes clear that William P. Morrow was living in the same household with his parents at that time, so it seems that, legally, ownership of the homeplace was divided, with widow Jane Gattis Morrow receiving the house and her son, William P. Morrow, receiving the land (plantation) on which it stood. Provision was also made for William P. Morrow to take care of his sister, Nancy, whose particular situation is not known. However, she died three months prior to the death of her father, so it was not necessary for William P. Morrow to fulfill that obligation (Will Book 1, p. 67; Population Schedule, 1850 Census; Bryan Family History, p. 10.)

Census records for 1850 reveal more about the Morrow family. Living together at that time were William Jr. and Jane Morrow (eighty-three and eighty-one, respectively), fifty-year-old Nancy (William P.’s sister), forty-four-year-old William P., and his two children, Martha (ten) and Thomas (nine). Both William P. Morrow and his father, William Jr., were listed as farmers. In that year, father William owned sixteen slaves, and son William owned ten (Population and Slave Schedules, 1850 Census). In February 1839, William P. Morrow had married Frances “Fanny” Armstrong. However, she died on November 7, 1841, at the age of only twenty-one, quite possibly at the time of, or soon after, the birth of their second child, Thomas A. Morrow, and thus was not listed in the 1850 Census (Mallard, 75, 91). On September 8, 1852, William Morrow Jr. died. Records differ on whether Jane Gattis Morrow

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followed him in death in 1860 or 1868 (Morrow Family History, 10; Morrow Cemetery Listing).

Exactly when the William P. Morrow House was built is not known. It does not seem plausible that it could have been built by William Morrow Jr., both because he was not likely to have built a new house when he was at such an advanced age, and also because the house would have been stylistically inappropriate for an earlier period in his life. The house in which the family was living in 1850 must have been a different, earlier house. However, the William P. Morrow House does appear stylistically to date from the 1850s. It seems probable that it was built after the death of William Morrow Jr. in 1852 and as William P. Morrow was reaching the height of his prosperity before the Civil War. Thus, a conjectural date of ca. 1855 seems appropriate.

Census records for 1860 reveal much about William P. Morrow's status in life at that time. Now, as the head of his household, he was listed as a farmer with real estate valued at \$5,000 and a personal estate valued at \$19,200. This total estate of \$24,200 put him among the wealthiest twenty-nine men in Alamance County whose estates ranged from \$20,000 to \$186,000, while 323 men in the county had estates that ranged from \$3,000 through \$19,999. (How many men had estates below \$3,000 is not known.) Probably much of Morrow's personal estate was made up of the twenty-five slaves he owned in 1860. Comparing the ages of slaves listed in 1850 and 1860 suggests that some of his slaves in 1860 had been his father's a decade earlier. In 1860 Morrow had 700 acres of land, 400 of which were improved. While he had the usual complement of livestock and typical crops such as wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, peas and beans, orchard products, butter, and hay, his largest crop was tobacco. His crop of 12,000 pounds made him the second largest tobacco producer in Alamance County. Morrow also owned shares of the North Carolina Rail Road, but how many is not known. Living with Morrow in his household in 1860 were his children, Martha A. and Thomas A. Morrow, and his mother, Jane Morrow (Population, Slave, and Agriculture Schedules, 1860 Census; Troxler and Vincent, 185, 213, 507).

After the Civil War, William P. Morrow's financial situation was diminished. The 1870 Census lists him with real estate valued at \$3,500, but with a personal estate of only \$600, probably due to the loss of his slave property. Living in his household at that time were his second wife, Jane, his older sister, Elizabeth, Rebecca (connection unknown), and two black farm laborers (Population Schedule, 1870 Census). The date of Morrow's marriage to his second wife—Deborah Jane, who was twenty-three years his junior—is not known.

Soon after 1870, William P. Morrow began to pass on much of his property to his descendants. On June 10, 1872, he and his wife, Deborah Jane, conveyed 200 acres on Rocky Run Branch and the road between Oaks and Saxapahaw to his son, Thomas A. Morrow. On March 6, 1873, William P. and Deborah Jane Morrow conveyed 158 acres on Rocky Run Branch to William James Morrow, widower of Martha Ann Morrow (William P.'s daughter), and his and Martha's children, Edward Lee and Samuel Graham Morrow. At William James Morrow's death, ownership of the property remained with Edward

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Lee and Samuel Graham Morrow (Deed Book 5, pp. 550-552). William Parks Morrow died in 1877, and Deborah Jane Morrow died in 1886 (*The Alamance Gleaner*, November 7, 1877 and July 15, 1886).

In 1886 Thomas A. and Caroline Morrow conveyed fifty-eight and one-third acres to his nephews, Edward L. and S. Graham Morrow, through their guardian and father, William J. Morrow (Deed Book 13, p. 276). In 1891 Lawrence S. Holt conveyed to Edward L. and S. Graham Morrow twenty-two and one-half acres that had been part of Thomas A. Morrow's land on which Morrow had given a mortgage deed to Holt that he could not repay (Deed Book 15, 128). Thus, through these three deeds from William P. and Deborah Jane Morrow, Thomas A. and Caroline Morrow, and Lawrence S. Holt, the brothers Edward L. and S. Graham Morrow amassed nearly 239 acres that had once belonged to their grandfather, William P. Morrow. The 1893 Spoon Map of Alamance County still labeled the property as the William Morrow Place, but on the Spoon Map of 1928, it was labeled "Graham Morrow" (Spoon Map, 1893, 1928).

Samuel Graham Morrow died intestate in 1926; his wife, Mary Jane, died intestate in 1949; and Edward Lee Morrow, who never married, died intestate in 1934. By intestate succession, Martha Etta and William Lee Morrow, the children of Samuel Graham and Mary Jane Morrow and the niece and nephew of Edward Lee Morrow, became owners of the approximately 239 contiguous acres of Morrow land. In 1971, Martha Etta Morrow sold her half interest in the property to her brother, William Lee Morrow (Deed Book, 384, p. 458). The following year, William Lee Morrow and his wife, Narvie, sold 37.35 acres of the property, including the William P. Morrow House, out of the Morrow family, to Myron A. and Sarah H. Rhyne (Deed Book 393, p. 373). They conveyed it to Bernett N. Lane Jr. in 1977, and in 1984, he conveyed the present 13.96 acres to Douglas Edward and Karen Perry Williams, who replaced the ca. 1920 kitchen ell with the present one-and-a-half-story ell (Deed Book 428, p. 573; Deed Book 489, P. 157). In 1992, the Williamses sold the property to Gunter M. and Kathleen L. Glass, the present owners, who have continued to preserve the historic character of the William P. Morrow House and its surrounding acreage (Deed Book 778, p. 860).

Architecture Context

The first half of the nineteenth century in Alamance County, as in much of Piedmont North Carolina, was a period that witnessed the persistent continuation of traditional house types, most of which had emerged by the end of the eighteenth century. Only in the last decade before the Civil War did popular outside tastes begin to affect this conservative building tradition. Even then, for the most part, new architectural ideas were expressed in a restrained, tentative manner. During the first several decades of the century, most houses—whether of log or frame construction—were modest and continued to exhibit one-, two-, or sometimes three-room plans (Lounsbury, 7).

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In the two decades prior to the Civil War, a major transition in house types occurred in Alamance County when use of the central passageway entered the mainstream of local building practices. Prior to this time, center-hall-plan houses were rarely found in the county, and it was only in the late antebellum period that the stair was placed in the center passage and these two features developed into the focus of domestic interior design (Lounsbury, 14-15).

Unlike log and frame construction, brick construction was uncommon in Alamance County during the first half of the nineteenth century. In fact, farmhouses built entirely of brick, like the William P. Morrow House, did not appear until the late 1830s. The manufacture of brick during the period was a laborious process, and the first-known permanent kiln, near Graham, did not appear until ca. 1850, coinciding with the 1849 establishment of Graham as the county seat and, a few years later, the arrival of the North Carolina Railroad Company Shops in what today is Burlington. Brick construction was expensive, and few men in the county could afford to build a house entirely of the material. By the late 1970s, only a dozen brick dwellings from the period survived in the county; most were built by prominent citizens (Lounsbury, 18-20).

The mid-nineteenth-century continued to see the construction of traditional vernacular houses—often in the form of plain, two-story dwellings with gable roofs, gable-end chimneys, and a front porch—few of which exhibited strong evidence of architectural styling. However, in the 1850s, a small group of houses built in both town and country reflected a definite sense of the Greek Revival style that was popular throughout the United States at that time. These houses were two stories in height, with a three-bay facade, a shallow hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves, a pair of chimneys—usually one at each end—a front porch, and a center-hall plan. In-town examples of the type include the B. Frank Mebane House in Mebane and the W.F.R. Clapp House and Harden House in Graham. Among the rural examples are the Jeff Wilkins, Paisley-Cates, and William P. Morrow houses. Another example, the Thomas Dixon House, was destroyed in 1997 (Lounsbury, 43; Survey files, SHPO).

The Morrow house is a particularly distinctive member of this group of simple Greek Revival dwellings in Alamance County. In addition to the characteristics it shares with the other houses, it is the only one in the group that is brick. (There are several other brick houses of the period, but they are more traditional in form.) Moreover, the Morrow house is the only known example in the county of a brick house coated in scored stucco to resemble stone. At the time, this treatment would have been considered highly sophisticated anywhere in the state. One of the best examples is Blandwood, the 1844 home of Governor John Motley Morehead in Greensboro. Blandwood, designed by nationally prominent architect Alexander Jackson Davis, was a more elaborate house than the Morrow house; still, it made use of the same stripped-down aesthetic, scored-stucco-covered exterior brick, and low hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves as the Morrow house (Bishir, 291). Whether William Morrow was familiar with Blandwood in neighboring Guilford County is not known. Nevertheless, these features of the

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Morrow house clearly placed it in good company architecturally.

Despite the loss of its front entrance porch, the exterior of the Morrow house still conveys a strong sense of its Greek Revival stylishness from the decade prior to the Civil War. This is even more true of its interior, which is an excellent and intact example of the use of chaste Greek Revival detailing throughout, as seen in the formality of its center-hall plan, its two-panel doors, paneled and cornerblocked door and window surrounds, classical post-and-lintel mantels, and simple but graceful center-hall stair. An unusual feature of the interior is the secondary, enclosed stair that parallels the primary stair on the east side of the center-hall wall. Uncommon for enclosed stairs, it continues—on the first two steps before the enclosure—the use of the same curvilinear brackets found on the primary stair

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1850: Population Schedule
Slave Schedule

1860: Population Schedule
Slave Schedule
Agriculture Schedule

1870: Population Schedule

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTMs (continued) -

5. 17/655000/3980060

Verbal Boundary Description -

The boundary of the nominated property is defined as Tax Lot 28 of Block 32, Alamance County Tax Map 9 (PIN 9810725310).

Boundary Justification -

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses a tract of approximately fourteen acres that includes the William P. Morrow House, its outbuildings, and the agricultural fields, meadows, and woodlands that form its setting. The nominated property is all that remains with the William P. Morrow House of its historic setting that during Morrow's ownership included approximately 700 acres.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for numbers 1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) William P. Morrow House
 - 2) Graham vicinity, Alamance County, North Carolina
 - 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
 - 4) October, 2005
 - 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7)
- A: Overall view to SW
B: Setting from road, view to SW
C: Setting from south end of rear meadow, view to NW
D: Overall view to SE
E: Window and scored-stucco detail, view to W
F: Rear ell, view to NW
G: Well house and barn, view to NE
H: Workshop from barn, view to SE
I: Interior, front entrance and stair detail, view to N
J: Interior, center-hall stair and parallel enclosed stair, view to NE
K: Interior, view to NE from rear ell, showing original rear entrance opening, original rear door and sidelight (now used as side entrance to ell), and center-hall stair
L: Interior, mantel in second-floor east room, view to E
M: Interior, view to W from second-floor east room, showing wood-grained two-panel door and enclosed stair (in hall) to attic