

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 Desserette

and or common

2. Location

street & number Centered on the southwest side SR 1320, 1.15 mile southeast of junction with SR 1318 n/a not for publication

city, town X vicinity of White Oak

state North Carolina code 037 county Bladen code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. George Sloan Council, Jr. Mr. William James Council

street & number 13497 Keytone Road 1733 Westover Avenue, S.W.

city, town Woodbridge, Virginia 22193 ___ vicinity of Roanoke, Virginia 24015 state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Bladen County Courthouse

street & number Post Office Box 247

city, town Elizabethtown state North Carolina 28337

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Bladen County Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes .xx. no

date N/A ___ federal .xx. state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Desserette, a mid-nineteenth century turpentine plantation in northern Bladen County, is located in the vicinity of White Oak just east of the Cape Fear River. Until the coming of the railroad, this river and the two roads which ran parallel to it, were the primary transportation routes in the county. A string of large plantations grew up in Bladen County along these avenues. Access to the waterways was vital in marketing the turpentine produced in local distilleries. While Desserette is typical of the large turpentine plantations which once populated these river banks, it is also unique in that it is one of the few plantations which survive there today. Architectural evidence suggests that this two-story frame, double-pile house was built in the 1840s. It is in the Greek Revival style with some late Federal detailing on the interior. The original stained and grained finish which survives on the interior woodwork is one of its chief claims of significance. Desserette is accompanied by two contemporary outbuildings; a detached kitchen and a meathouse. The corncrib dates from the later-nineteenth century.

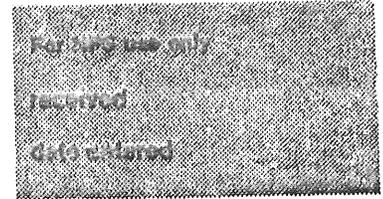
The plantation seat at Desserette stands in the center of the house grounds in the bend of SR 1320 which are shaded by towering elm and pecan trees and other trees. Many of the dogwood and crape myrtles would appear to date from the nineteenth century, however there is an abundance of old-fashioned plant material which from its location and size appears to date from the early twentieth century. In addition to a large well-maintained grape arbor are plantings of: oak leaf hydrangeas; bridal wreath; boxwood; yucca; magnolia; cedar; hibiscus; specimen privet; and later plantings of camellias and azaleas. Fields, pastures, and woodlands surround the house and cover the acreage included in the nomination.

The house rests on a high brick pier foundation, is covered with aluminum siding and topped with a hipped roof that terminates in a boxed cornice. Two symmetrically placed interior brick chimneys project from the roof, are plastered, and have decorative corbelled caps. The house is five bays wide and three bays deep. Each elevation contains six-over-six light double hung sash windows with plain wood surrounds, and a mixture of original wood and replacement aluminum louvered shutters. The window trim was left undisturbed when the new aluminum siding was added. A one-story hipped roof porch with boxed cornice is attached to the facade of the building over the three center bays. It rests on square, fluted wood supports. Pilasters stand against the front elevation. Mortice slots midway up on these supports indicate that the porch area had once been enclosed by a railing. The main entrance is set in the center of this facade (east) and consists of a seven-paneled door flanked by recessed rectangular panels surmounted by side lights. A four-pane transom is located directly above the doorway which is then crowned with a four-pane demi-lune window. A moulded surround frames this whole arrangement. The entrance on the west facade is identical to the front entrance. Another one-story porch covers half of the rear facade and is supported by octagonal, presumably original wood columns. This porch probably continued across the full length of the house before the one-story frame kitchen ell was added in 1916.

On the interior, the center hall double pile plan interior and its original stained and grained finish on the woodwork remains virtually unchanged. A wide hall which runs the full depth of the building features a narrow, paneled pegboard continuing along the

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length of the south wall. Stained and grained wainscot with recessed rectangular panels and two-part chairrail ornaments all four walls. The hall also contains an impressive, open string, bracketed stair that rises against the north wall in a long single flight to the second floor. The simple balustrade is composed of a square newel post with lamb's-tongue chamfering, square wood bannisters, and a shaped handrail. Against the wall of the rising stairway is more wainscoting, but with two tiers of recessed rectangular panels which also retain their original grained finish. This sheathing continues up the stairs and around the second floor stairwell as a solid railing. Beneath the stairway is a two-panel grained Greek Revival door which opens into a closet. The symmetrically molded surrounds and plain corner blocks that trim this doorway are identical to the woodwork found on the other interior doors in the hallway with one exception: the interior doorways also feature two-pane transom lights. Similarly, molded and beaded trim, and corner blocks accent the contours of the front and rear exterior doors on their interior face. The only alteration made to this area has been the addition of a partition wall in 1965 which bisects the hall into two sections, front and rear halls.

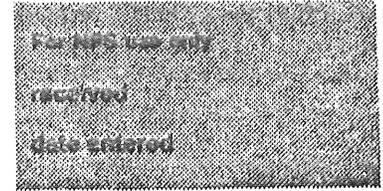
Northeast of the hall is the most elaborate room in the house. While all the first floor rooms feature high baseboards surmounted by wainscoting with recessed panels and molded caps (with original graining in NE and NW rooms): heavily molded window and door surrounds with plain corner blocks; two-panel grained Greek Revival style doors with original mineral knobs and hardware; and fully plastered walls and ceilings, the richly carved mantel in the northeast parlor sets this room apart from the rest. The fire box is flanked by heavily molded Greek Revival style pilasters with finely reeded capitals. The frieze follows a three part composition with a central raised table on which a vernacular sunburst is carved in the Federal style. Between the frieze and the mantel shelf, which breaks out over the pilasters and central carved panel, is a strip of applied dentil molding, a feature also characteristic of the Federal period.

Across the hall, the front southeast room differs from the northeast room in that the woodwork lacks its original graining (or it is painted over?) and that the mantel is somewhat less elaborate than in the previous room. Heavy Greek Revival style fluted pilasters rest on unornamented plinths and feature capitals with five applied diamond-shaped blocks arranged in an "X" formation. The plain frieze supports a mantel shelf with a beaded edge. The left hand side of the mantel shelf was cut off when a bathroom was added in the southwest corner of this room. A closet was also built in the 1940s in the northwest corner by enclosing the space between the projecting chimney breast and the wall with tongue and groove sheathing.

The woodwork in the northwest room retains its original stained and grained finish. The chimney breast, however, has been enlarged and encased in brick veneer. It features a modern wood mantel shelf supported by corbelled brick brackets. Fortunately, the original mantel was removed before these changes were made and is currently stored in the attic of the house. It too boasts a three part composition in the frieze area with a central raised panel. The columns which flank the fire opening have vertical strips of wood applied to their surface to simulate a molded relief column. A door, set into the space of an original window, in the west wall connects to the 1916 kitchen.

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The southwest room in the house also has closet and bath additions located on either side of the chimney breast. The trim in this room is consistent with that seen in the rest of the downstairs rooms. Unfortunately, the grained wood finish also has been painted over in this room. The mantel is unadorned: flat pilasters are surmounted by blank capitals. The single recessed panel frieze is equally as plain, as is the mantel shelf.

The four upstairs chambers are also plastered, have high baseboards and feature door and window treatment similar to that on the first floor. Each room is furnished with a molded chairrail but without wainscoting. Instead, the molded window surrounds continue below the window sash to the top of the baseboard forming aprons. The only traces of the original decorative wood graining on this floor appears on the handsome two-panel Greek Revival style doors which lead from the hall into its four adjoining rooms. The mantels in the southeast, southwest and northwest upper story rooms are identical to the one in the southwest room on the ground floor and the mantel in the northeast room on the second story mirrors the one now stored in the attic. A wide hall runs the full depth of the building on the second story. A second open string stair rises from this hall against the north wall and above the main stair to an open attic level with plastered walls. This stairway does not boast the ornamental detail seen in the other staircase, but does have a small, square newel post with lamb's tongue chamfering, square bannisters and shaped handrail.

Directly behind (west of) the house is a one-story two-room frame building covered (partially) in original lapped cypress siding and corner boards which served as the first kitchen to the house. The gable roof extends over the main facade to form an engaged porch, although the porch deck and posts are no longer extant. Beneath the porch is a two bay facade -- both bays holding two-panel Greek Revival style doors. The window openings on the rear and side elevations have batten shutters to cover these openings. There is no visible evidence of window sash. The central chimney has also been removed, but had been of brick and provided fireplaces to each room. A vertical board partition wall had divided the interior space. These rooms are fully plastered.

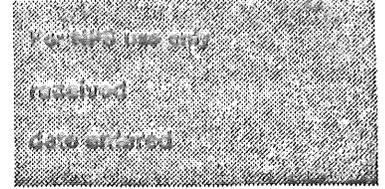
The meathouse, southeast of the kitchen is frame, one-story with a gable roof and crudely boxed cornice. The cypress weatherboard siding appears to be original. Access is gained to the unfinished interior through a board and batten door located in the center of the north front elevation.

Several hundred yards north of the house, and across SR 1320, is a double crib log barn with a covered passage between the two pens. The openings into the pens are from the center passage. The logs are joined with saddle notching. A pole supported shed carries along its north rear elevation.

The fourth surviving outbuilding at Desserette is a poultry house probably erected in the 1930s. It is a simple rectangular frame building, covered with weatherboards and a shed roof, and stands inside a pasture to the northwest of the house. It has a board and batten door and an opening (once screened) for ventilation on its east front elevation.

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The plantation cemetery at Desserette is located on a slight knoll some 150 yards east/northeast of the house, on the east side of SR 1320. It is owned by William James Council, a brother of the late C. C. Council. It is enclosed in a fence of woven wire. The cemetery contains the graves of fourteen members of the Council family. The granite marker at the graves of John Taylor Council (1818-1887) and his wife Mary Jane Council (1840-1918) is the most prominent and by its classical design would appear to have been erected about the time of Mrs. Council's death in 1918. Alexander McAlister Council (1859-1925), the second son of John Taylor Council, who with his wife Annie M. Cromartie (1872-1956) lived at Desserette from 1916 until their deaths are buried here. (They were the parents of Charles Colvin Council (1907-1985), the last member of the family to reside at Desserette on a permanent basis; he is buried elsewhere.) Also interred here is the body of Annie Laurie Council (1909-1941), the wife of George Sloan Council, who died in childbirth on October 24, 1941 at the birth of George Sloan Council, Jr., the present owner of Desserette.

RESOURCE COUNT:	CONT.	NONCONT.
Buildings:	1 (house)	
	1 (kitchen)	
	1 (meathouse)	
	1 (log barn)	
		1 (1930s poultry house)

Sites:	1 (cemetery)
	1 (plantation landscape)

6	1

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1840s - 1887

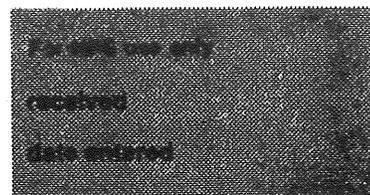
Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house known as Desserette epitomizes the role played by the home of a wealthy antebellum planter as the Old South gave way to a new order. Built in the 1840s, Desserette was simultaneously a post office for the community, the seat of John Smith's 3,400 acre plantation and the center of a prosperous turpentine industry. Though its antebellum owners had enjoyed prosperity, Desserette is most closely associated with the family brought to it through the tragedy of the Civil War. John Taylor Council, who had lost over 14,000 acres of land, 131 slaves, and a personal fortune because of that conflict, moved to Desserette in 1863. There, with the help of his wife's inheritance, he began to rebuild some of what he had lost, using the turpentine industry as his economic base. Thus Desserette was the setting for a drama that played throughout the postwar South: the wealthy antebellum planter driven into bankruptcy who struggled in the aftermath of war to regain a measure of comfort for himself and his large family in the changing society of the New South. The Council home was among the most fortunate survivors of the war in Bladen County for it has remained as the center of a family farm and has been well preserved.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

- A. Desserette is associated with the dramatic transformation of the antebellum planter society of Bladen County and North Carolina to a new social and economic order after the Civil War, and the success here of that transition. In this context, the period of significance extends from its construction in the 1840s by John Smith, an affluent planter who built the house and lived there until about 1857, through the occupancy of John Taylor Council (1818–1887), likewise a planter, who acquired it in 1863 and developed it as the center of a profitable turpentine industry. Council occupied the house until his death in 1887, and it has remained the residence of his descendants to the present.
- C. Desserette is a handsome example of the large Greek Revival style plantation house which survive in ever decreasing numbers in eastern North Carolina. The center-hall, double-pile form is typical of the seat of the planter and large farmer class. However, the especial significance of Desserette is the remarkable survival of so much of its original stained and grained interior decoration and the form and architectural finish of the house, its kitchen and meathouse.

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The house known as Desserette appears to have been constructed in the 1840s by John Smith, member of a prominent Bladen County family who settled along the Cape Fear River. There is no doubt that he was living in the house in 1850 and it is presumed that he built the structure a few years earlier. His household in 1850 consisted of himself, his wife Anna, their three children, John's brother Thomas, A. K. Crosland, and Betsy Galloway.¹ Both Thomas Smith, 45, and Crosland, 21, were physicians, suggesting a partnership medical practice and the possibility that a mini-clinic may have been operated at Desserette in the antebellum period.

John Smith himself was a forty year old farmer who owned a 3,400 acre plantation and forty-one slaves. He raised considerable livestock (mostly cattle, sheep, and swine) but no cash crop. Indian corn was the largest production (3,000 bushels);² however, the bulk of that commodity went for food for the family, slaves, and livestock.² Smith's principal income seems to have been derived from his timber and turpentine industries. Slaves supplied the labor force for the turpentine production which turned out 500 barrels annually valued at \$1,000. For the timber business Smith hired three male hands at a total cost of \$13 a month to produce 200,000 feet of lumber annually valued at \$1,200.³ Thus, from the beginning, Desserette was a center of a significant Bladen County industry as well as the seat of a sizable plantation.

John Smith obviously called his home and plantation Desserette, though the derivation of the name remains unknown. In 1853, the federal government established a post office at Desserette, appointing John's brother Thomas as the first postmaster,⁴ on June 1. Two years later John took over as postmaster and held the post until 1857.⁴ About that time he transferred ownership of Desserette to William D. Pearsall.⁵

Virtually nothing could be found about Pearsall except that he was appointed postmaster at Desserette on November 10, 1857.⁶ He owned 2,308 acres of the former Smith plantation, including the dwelling house, all of which he sold three years later to John T. Council. Council bought the property on January 14, 1860, but initially had no plans to make Desserette his home.⁷ He was then living at The Hollow, a vast plantation exceeding 14,000 acres on the opposite side of the Cape Fear River. In fact, he sold the Desserette property on May 16, 1860 to his wife's cousin, Charles Colvin, for \$10,000.⁸ The Civil War would cause an abrupt change in J. T. Council's plans and bring him back to Desserette, but in the meantime, Charles Colvin turned over management of the plantation to his cousin, Alexander McAlister.

Alexander McAlister was the brother of Mary Jane McAlister who married J. T. Council in 1856.⁹ Their father died the same year Mary Jane was born and both were practically raised by their cousin and guardian, Charles Colvin, who had lived with the family for many years.¹⁰ Alexander McAlister had been appointed postmaster at Desserette on January 11, 1860, suggesting that an arrangement had been made for his occupancy prior to J. T. Council's purchase of the property.¹¹ When Council conveyed the land to Colvin, McAlister stayed on to manage the plantation. In 1860 McAlister is listed in the census

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with twenty-six slaves but is not shown in the agricultural schedule.¹² The close family relationship makes it virtually impossible to determine who supplied the labor force and reaped the profits, but it seems likely that all shared in the benefits of the enterprise. In 1861 McAlister entered into the service of the Confederacy, after which he moved his family to Randolph County.¹³ The war disrupted postal service and the office at Desserette was officially closed in 1866.¹⁴

The war also treated John T. Council unkindly. In 1860, his plantation, The Hollow, had been valued at \$127,640. He had owned 131 slaves quartered in thirty slavehouses and personal property was valued at \$150,740. A thriving turpentine business and distillery produced commodities valued at \$32,000, the chief source of his income.¹⁵ Union blockade of southern ports stifled the export of his turpentine products and by 1863, J. T. Council had been driven to bankruptcy. He sold The Hollow (which later burned) in 1863 and moved across the river to Desserette.¹⁶ Charles Colvin, who then owned the property, moved with Council and his family and lived at Desserette until his death in 1869.¹⁷

The war wiped out Council's antebellum fortune, eliminating his entire landholdings and reducing his personal property to \$500.¹⁸ By the will of Charles Colvin, however, Mary Jane Council inherited 5,000 acres by which John T. started anew. He revived the turpentine business and used 500 acres of the farm for the raising of livestock, primarily hogs, sheep, and cattle. His only crop was Indian corn, most of which went for local use.¹⁹ John T. and Mary Jane Council had twelve children, nine of whom were born at Desserette. Between 1870 and 1880, Mary Jane's widowed mother, Elizabeth McNabb, and her two children by her second husband also came to live at the Council home.²⁰ John Taylor Council died on July 29, 1887, at the age of sixty-nine. Mary Jane McAlister Council continued to live at Desserette with children and grandchildren. She died on November 18, 1918.²¹

When his father died, Alexander McAlister Council, the eldest surviving son and then a student at the University of North Carolina, came home to assist his mother in the care of his eight brothers and sisters. He did not marry until 1897 when, at the age of thirty-eight, he was married to Annie Mary Cromartie. They lived on the plantation within sight of the old family home. Alexander farmed a part of the land which had been divided among the surviving children of John T. and Mary Jane Council.

The Alexander McAlister home burned in March 1919 and his family moved into Desserette where his youngest brother, Royden I., and wife and baby, Royden I., Jr., lived. The house at that time was much larger than now. On the south side there was a breeze way connecting the back porch to a very large latticed-in room suitable for parties and entertainment, next a dining room and a kitchen plus a small room large enough to hold a single bed. This addition plus the new kitchen which had been added in 1916 made it possible for the two families to live comfortably. Alexander had a combination saw mill and cotton gin, and he cut lumber to build a new house. In the meantime Royden I. decided to build a new house about a mile closer to the Cape Fear River where his section of the best farm land was. Then Alexander made a trade with Royden in which Royden took the cut lumber and other things of value which made it possible for Alexander's family to live on at Desserette.

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Sometime about 1922-1923 the roof over the south wing of the house became rotten and moss began to grow under the shade of a huge elm tree that stood beside it. Cinders blew down and caught fire on that section which burned a large area in the roof. Alexander managed to get a ladder and with some of his children's help put enough water on it to put it out. Royden had moved into his new house before then and this wing was no longer needed, so the four rooms of the south wing were torn down. The lattice fence made a great chicken yard which stood behind the smokehouse for years and years.

Alexander died on September 23, 1925, leaving Annie and several of their eight children in the old homeplace.²² Following Council's death a resolution praising his stewardship at Bethlehem Methodist Church was presented and adopted at the January 16, 1926 Quarterly Conference of the Bladen Circuit. Mrs. Council lived on at the house until her death on March 29, 1956. She taught in the Bladen County public schools and, like her husband, she was active in Bethlehem Methodist Church. She was also an amateur genealogist, serving as historian of the Cromartie Clan for a time, and a contributor to Council-McAlister Family and Descendants.

One child, Charles Colvin Council was born in 1907 and has lived most of his life at Desserette. He fought in World War II where he received a citation for service in the Pacific. On December 21, 1946 Colvin Council married Grace Roberson (1907-1974) and returned to the family home to farm a part of the old plantation and to care for his aging mother who died March 29, 1956. His wife, Grace Council, taught in the Bladen County schools for many years. Grace died in 1974 and she and Colvin had no children. Charles Colvin Council was the last family member to live full-time at Desserette, occupying the house until his death on January 12, 1986. By his will Charles Colvin Council bequeathed Desserette and the house tract of fifty acres to his nephew, George Sloan Council, Jr., Commander, U. S. Navy, and his wife Patricia (Averitte) Council.²³

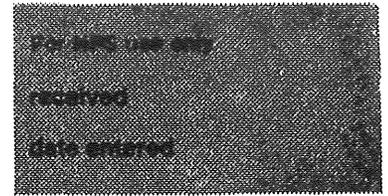
During the Council ownership, the house and grounds underwent several changes. An original arbor in front was removed in 1916. That same year a kitchen wing and rear porch were added after June 1, 1916, when John T. Council's youngest son, Royden I., was married to Isabel McKay. Electric wiring, interior closets, and a bathroom on each floor were installed in 1948. These improvements were made possible by an inheritance Mrs. Council received from the estate of her parents William James and Mary (Sloan) Cromartie. In 1965 the rear chimney received brick veneer and aluminum siding was applied to the exterior. Since 1965 only minimum maintenance work has been done and some deterioration has taken place.²⁴ Since inheriting Desserette the present owner has checked the deterioration and has set about to stall and reverse its effects. He anticipates returning to live there upon his retirement. The cemetery tract is the property of William James Council (b. 1913), the eighth child and youngest son of Alexander McAlister Council.

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Desserette is one of a small number of important plantation seats which survive along the Cape Fear River in Bladen County. It is closest in date and physical proximity to Walnut Grove Plantation (listed in the National Register in 1975), also built in the antebellum period and standing on the west side of the Cape Fear River near Tar Heel. Walnut Grove is the homeplace of Mrs. George Sloan Council, Jr., one of the present owners of Desserette: her mother, Mrs. E. M. (Sarah Myers) Averitte, continues to live there. In both these instances the plantation seat postdates the establishment of the plantation whereas the house at the Purdie Place (National Register, 1977) also near Tar Heel, dates from 1803-1806 and the great seat of General Thomas Brown at his Oakland Plantation, (National Register, 1972) at the southern end of Bladen County, dates from the eighteenth century. Together these four plantations, together with Harmony Hall (National Register, 1972), also near White Oak, represent the importance and evolution of the plantation system along the Cape Fear River in Bladen County.

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FOOTNOTES

- ¹Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; North Carolina, Bladen County, Population Schedule, 77. Census records hereinafter cited by number, date, schedule, and page. That Smith's home was Desserette was determined by its size, location, and value through comparison of the 1850 census and subsequent transfer information. See Seventh Census, 1850, Agricultural Schedule, 245; J. T. Council to Charles Colvin, Bladen County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Bladen County Courthouse, Elizabethtown, Deed Book 34, p. 524, hereinafter cited as Bladen County Deed Book; and Will of Charles Colvin, Bladen County Wills, copy in files of Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Colvin will.
- ²Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, 77; Slave Schedule, 225; and Agricultural Schedule, 245.
- ³Seventh Census, 1850, Industrial Schedule, 277.
- ⁴U.S. Post Office Department, Records of Appointments of Postmasters 1832-1929, microfilm, State Archives, Raleigh, 328, 394, hereinafter cited as Postmaster Appointments.
- ⁵The actual deed from Smith to Pearsall was destroyed when the Bladen County Courthouse burned; however, a deed from J. T. Council to Charles Colvin refers to the property as the W. D. Pearsall land and Pearsall was postmaster at Desserette beginning November 10, 1857. See Bladen County Deed Book 34, p. 524; and Postmaster Appointments, 394.
- ⁶Postmaster Appointments, 394.
- ⁷Bladen County Deed Book 69, p. 158; and Researcher's interview with Katherine Burckley, great-granddaughter of J. T. Council, October 17, 1984, hereinafter cited as Burckley interview.
- ⁸Burckley interview; Eighth Census, 1860, Agricultural Schedule, 643; and Bladen County Deed Book 34, p. 524.
- ⁹Bladen County Records, Marriage Bonds, State Archives, Raleigh, arranged alphabetically by surname of male; and Council-McAlister Family and Descendants. Compiled by Addie Stanly Hall, 1952. Revised by Susie D. Council, 1982, p. 14, hereinafter cited as Council-McAlister Family.
- ¹⁰Council-McAlister Family, 14-15.
- ¹¹Council purchased the property only three days after McAlister's appointment. Postmaster Appointments, 394; and Bladen County Deed Book 69, p. 158.
- ¹²Eighth Census, 1860, Slave Schedule, 553.
- ¹³Weymouth T. Jordan and Louis H. Manarin, North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster, VI (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1977), 418; and Council-McAlister Family, 14. The date given in the family history for entering service is in error.
- ¹⁴Postmaster Appointments, 394.

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¹⁵Eighth Census, 1860, Slave Schedule, 593; Agricultural Schedule, 643; and Industrial Schedule, 645.

¹⁶Letter to J. T. Council, February 7, 1863, found in Council family papers at Desserette, now in possession of family, copy in Survey and Planning files, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. The signature on the letter is illegible, but the text confirms the agreement to purchase Council's old home tract. See also Burckley interview; and Council-McAlister Family, 17.

¹⁷Council-McAlister Family, 14-15.

¹⁸See Ninth Census, 1870, Population Schedule, White Oak Township, 3-4.

¹⁹Colvin will; Burckley interview; and Ninth Census, 1870, Agricultural Schedule, White Oak Township, 1.

²⁰Ninth Census, 1870, Population Schedule, White Oak Township, 3-4; Tenth Census, 1880, Population Schedule, White Oak Township, 18; and Council-McAlister Family, 14, 16.

²¹John T. Council is buried in the Council Private Cemetery, White Oak, Bladen County. W. P. A. Graves Index, State Archives, Raleigh. See also Council-McAlister Family, 17.

²²Letter to Davyd Foard Hood, October 2, 1986, from William J. Council, and Council-McAlister Family, 18.

²³Council-McAlister Family, 22; Davyd Foard Hood's interview with George Sloan Council, Jr., August 1, 1986; Hood interview with Mrs. George Sloan Council, Jr., August 27, 1986.

²⁴Kathy Goddard, notes from interview with Charles Colvin Council, undated, in Survey and Planning files, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

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Bladen County Records

Deeds

Estate Papers

Marriage Bonds

Wills

Burckley, Katherine. Interview, October 17, 1984.

Council Family Papers. Possession of Family.

Council, Mr. & Mrs. George Slaon, Jr., Interviews, August 1, and 27, 1986.

Council, William James. Letter to Davyd Foard Hood, October 2, 1986.

Council-McAlister Family and Descendants. Compiled by Addie Stanly Hall, 1952.

Revised by Susie D. Council, 1982.

Goddard, Kathy. Notes from Interview with Charles Colvin Council, undated.
Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Jordan, Weymouth T. and Louis H. Manarin. North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1977.

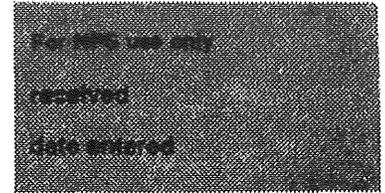
United States Census Records, 1850-1880. North Carolina, Bladen County.

U.S. Post Office Department. Records of Appointments of Postmasters, 1832-1929. State Archives, Raleigh.

W.P.A. Graves Index. State Archives, Raleigh.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**



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Item number 10

Page 1

The property being nominated is outlined on the attached Bladen County property Ownership Map # 0368. The three tracts making up the nominated property are: Parcel 5250 (block 72); Parcel 1834 (block 81); and Parcel 0399 (block 92).

Boundary justification: The three tracts being nominated are lands which have been in the Council family since 1860 and which remained intact as one tract until the settlement of Alexander McAlister Council's estate. The home tract (Parcel 5250), the location of the plantation seat and its surviving outbuildings, became the property of his son Charles Colvin Council (1907-1986). The larger tract of 74.70 acres (Parcel 0399), adjacent to the house tract and the site of the family cemetery, became the property of another son William James Council. The small one-acre tract (Parcel 1834), surrounded by the above tracts, was given to George Sloan Council, Jr. by his grandmother, who wished that he would return to Desserette to live. By the terms of his uncle Charles Colvin Council's will George Sloan Council, Jr. inherited Desserette this year.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 125.70 acres
Quadrangle name Saint Pauls, N.C.

Quadrangle scale 1: 62 500

UTM References

A

1	7	7	0	3	6	2	5	3	8	5	2	3	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

1	7	7	0	4	2	5	0	3	8	5	2	4	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

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

D

1	7	7	0	3	9	5	0	3	8	5	3	3	5	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

1	7	7	0	3	4	0	0	3	8	5	3	0	5	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architectural description by Kathy Goddard and Davyd Foard Hood; criteria assessment by Davyd Foard Hood; statement of significance by Jerry Cross and Davyd Foard Hood.

organization Division of Archives and History date August 18, 1987

street & number 109 East Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

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. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 18, 1987

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

