

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Black Rock Plantation House

Riegelwood vicinity, Columbus County, CB0110, Listed 8/18/2014
Nomination by Janet Seapker
Photographs by Janet Seapker, January 2014



Overall view



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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Black Rock Plantation House

other names/site number Allen-Love House

2. Location

street & number 7875 Old Stage Road (NC 87)

| |
|-----|
| N/A |
|-----|

 not for publication

city or town Riegelwood

| |
|---|
| X |
|---|

 vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Columbus code 47 zip code 28456

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 2 | Total |

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival

Federal

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick

 walls: Weatherboard

 roof: Asphalt

 other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Black Rock Plantation House is located in northeast Columbus County, North Carolina, four miles west of Riegelwood and just south of the Bladen County line, on a flat property and faces north toward Old Stage Road (NC 87). Old Stage Road connects Riegelwood to Fayetteville and Wilmington, the largest cities in the area. Riegelwood is largely rural and agricultural in character and the house is surrounded by fields on the south side of NC 87 and a scattering of houses to its east and north.

The ca. 1845 Black Rock Plantation House is a classic frame, two-story I-house in good condition considering that it has not been occupied for some thirteen years. Some ancient crape myrtles and large pecan trees sit at the rear of the acre lot.

A non-contributing ca. 1830 frame kitchen was moved to the property in July 2013 from Strawberry Hill Plantation, in Bladen County, about twelve miles northwest, thus sparing it from demolition. The kitchen was placed to the southeast of Black Rock Plantation House, in the rear yard. To the east of the house is an early 1960s, non-contributing, concrete block store, which has recently been rehabilitated for residential use. A three-bay, gable-roof carport was added to the store in 2013.

Narrative Description

Black Rock Plantation House, ca. 1845, contributing building; rehabilitated 2013.

Exterior

Black Rock Plantation House, a classic, two-story, five-bay, braced frame I-house, is covered with weatherboarding. A gable roof sheathed in replacement asphalt shingles, runs east/west across the house. In the rear a shed roof covers two one-story piazza rooms of unequal size and, in between, an open bay is more-or-less centered on the rear façade. The house sits on brick piers. Single-shouldered brick chimneys, with no perceivable bond, are on the gable ends of the main block; they are flanked by windows on each level and have stepped shoulders. The chimney on the west shed piazza room is missing. A one-story shed-roofed porch along the façade is supported on six wood boxed posts, square-in-section, with molded caps. The porch was replaced ca. 1996, and is said to have been a copy of the original porch. There is no porch railing, although pockets for a railing exist on the façade. The 1992 survey photos show a simple railing with pickets, square-in-section. The porch ceiling is clad in wide boards running parallel to the façade; some have beaded edges. The windows throughout are six-over-six wood double-hung sash with mitered frames. Bands of squared wood form the back band of the frames. Many retain their louvered blinds, hung on original hardware. A four-panel door, with molded panels facing outward and flush-panels on the reverse, a five-light transom, and four-light-over-panel sidelights, create the entrance. A door opening to the south of the east chimney takes the place of the window found on the opposite side elevation and is thought to have been used to bring in food from a kitchen outbuilding to the dining room. The frame of the door abuts the chimney and shares the moldings of the other doors.

From the rear, the interior is accessed by a four-panel door matching the front door. It leads from the recessed rear porch into the hall. Horizontal, beaded flush siding sheaths the porch walls and bead-board covers the ceiling. Four-panel doors from the porch lead into the flanking piazza rooms.

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Interior

The conservative, vernacular interior employs elements of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival styles. The house has a center-hall plan and plaster walls and ceilings, in good condition. Throughout the house, tall, beaded baseboards are used. The two principal first-floor rooms, but not the stair hall, employ molded chair rails. The stair ascends steeply from back to front, in a single run with winders twisting at the bottom on the east side of the hall. They intersect an attenuated newel post, square-in-section, with a square cap and pickets, two to a step. Beneath the stair is a closet with a four-panel door with rim lock. Rim locks are used throughout the house. Inside the closet is shelving along three sides set on small sections of what appear to be leftover molding. The doors have four flat panels with moldings and unmolded interior panels. Both piazza rooms are finished with plaster walls and bead-board ceilings. The western, larger room has a chair rail and two rear windows. The smaller eastern piazza room has a rear window and one on the east side.

The mantels on the first level reflect a combination of Federal and Greek Revival design, rendered in a vernacular manner. They have Greek Revival pilasters, with simple fillets and an angular architrave reminiscent of the Federal style, surrounding the fire box. The pilasters employ angular, flat, Greek Revival moldings as capitals. The pilasters support an unadorned frieze, above which is either a single or paired, bold fillet beneath another angular, flat, Greek Revival molding and a plain blocky shelf. The single, bold bead beneath the shelf of the west mantel is paired across the east mantel. The original mantel in the west piazza room is missing but a replacement, identical to the mantel in the west front room, has been installed from Strawberry Hill Plantation. Tall baseboards with molded tops grace the first floor rooms. The window and door frames are two-part with a molded backband.

The second floor is divided into three rooms: the end rooms are heated; an unheated room occupies the space in between. The stair rises to a short transverse hall with end doors leading to the two bedrooms and a third leading to the middle room to the south. An added communicating space between the east and middle rooms has been closed off with a glass-fronted cabinet, taken from Strawberry Hill Plantation, opening into the east room. It is not unusual for earlier styles to be expressed on the second or private floor and such happens here. The second floor mantels reflect an earlier Georgian/Federal style, with a molded surround around the fire box and plain blocks on the ends of the frieze, with a repeat of the downstairs mantels—a single or double bold fillet beneath an angular, flat, broad Greek Revival molding and a plain blocky shelf. Bands of squared wood form the back band of the second floor window and door frames. In the attic, the roof rafters are pegged with no ridge pole, suggesting an early nineteenth-century construction.

Kitchen, non-contributing building, ca. 1830; moved 2013

In July 2013, a weatherboarded, gable-ended kitchen outbuilding, which was slated for demolition, was moved to Black Rock Plantation from Strawberry Hill Plantation about twelve miles northwest, on Elwell Ferry Road in Bladen County. It is missing its mammoth exterior brick end chimney on the east. The kitchen, moved on a flatbed truck, was placed on piers, as it was on its original site. The outbuilding is situated on what is thought to be the approximate location of the kitchen that served Black Rock Plantation's dwelling house. The family tradition is that the door on the east side of Black Rock Plantation House gave access to the dining room from the kitchen. A roof of standing-seam metal covers the kitchen. Save for the chimney end, the other three sides each had a double-hung sash window, now missing. Remnants of louvered blinds survive and their hinges are installed with blunt-ended screws, suggesting that they date from 1840 or before. The window opening on the north side is east of the entrance door. A rudimentary mantel survives. After construction, the owners installed a stove and clad the walls and ceilings in bead-board, much of which has been stripped out revealing the braced frame structure, blackened from decades of cooking smoke.

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Store, non-contributing building, early 1960s; rehabilitated, 2013

The concrete block store located to the east of the house was built and operated during the ownership of Miss Campbell in the early 1960s. Its gable roof had collapsed by 2012. During the 2013 rehabilitation of the building as a residence, the current owner added a plywood-sheathed clerestory beneath a new gable roof. On the west side are two rectangular, fixed windows, flanked by square fixed windows between the gable roof and the walls of the first story. A glazed door flanked by a large fixed window provides access from the west side. On the front, north elevation, three fixed rectangular windows replace two display windows and a double-leaf entrance door. Three windows in the gable end help light the space. A lower three-bay gable-roof carport was added on the south end and a glazed door provides access from this elevation to the house. The interior has been divided into domestic spaces.

A General Statement Regarding Archaeological Potential

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

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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.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1845

Significant Dates

ca. 1845

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for Black Rock Plantation House is ca. 1845, its date of construction, approximately two years after David D. Allen purchased the property.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Black Rock Plantation House, believed to be constructed by David D. Allen about 1845, meets National Register Criterion C for architecture, as an early Columbus County example of the Greek Revival style, seen in its four-panel doors with molded panels facing outward and flush-panels on the reverse, a five-light transom, and four-light-over-panel sidelights, six-over-six double-hung sash windows, heavy square-in-section posts with molded caps supporting the porch across its façade, and symmetrical proportions. On its interior, the house combines Greek Revival and Federal style architectural detailing on the first story, including mantels combining Greek Revival pilasters, with simple fillets and an angular architrave reminiscent of the Federal style, surrounding the fire box, tall molded baseboards, and two-part window and door frames with a molded backband. Federal/Georgian style detailing, such as mantels with a molded surround around the fire box and plain blocks on the ends of the frieze, is reserved for the second story. The period of significance is ca. 1845, the date of construction.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Summary:

Architectural Context

Black Rock Plantation House is a classic I-house, two-stories, of frame covered with weatherboarding as described by Catherine Bishir in *North Carolina Architecture*, “The Federal Period,” “Developments in Regional Traditions.”

In most rural areas, even the richest planters built along conservative lines. They continued to use a range of traditional house forms and an approach to ornament established before the Revolution. . . . After about 1800, however, wealthy residents increasingly chose to build two-story houses. . . . By the early nineteenth century, the two-story gable-roofed house, usually with exterior end chimneys, became a proud and predominant house form for leading residents of town and plantation.¹

The Greek Revival style in America developed between the 1820s and 1860s as a result of two basic factors: the emergence of a cultural identity based on classical ideals and the rapid advance of the national economy. A full-fledged Greek Revival style was in its ascendancy especially in public architecture, one of the earliest examples in the state being the 1833-40 State Capitol (NR 1970) in Raleigh, designed by the eminent New York architectural firm of Town and Davis. By 1843, the port of Wilmington embraced the style in a new Custom House facing the Cape Fear River, designed by New York architect, John H. Norris. The two-story brick structure featured Tower of the Winds columns supporting a broad pediment and a cast-iron balcony above the ground floor. Norris' Custom House began the public use of the Greek Revival style in the counties of the Lower Cape Fear. Greek Revival details first appeared in porches, moldings and mantels applied to traditional residential structures. In the Cape Fear region, Orton Plantation (NR 1973; boundary increase 2013) was the first domestic building to employ the Greek Revival style. Dr. Frederick Jones Hill enlarged and enhanced his eighteenth-century house, in ca. 1840, by adding a tall Doric portico and classical frieze to the riverfront facade. In 1841, Armand J. DeRosset Jr. chose the Greek Revival style for his new residence at Second and Dock streets (NR 1974), featuring a front porch incorporating Doric columns and a classical frieze similar to that at Orton Plantation.

¹ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture, The Portable Edition*, (Chapel Hill, NC: The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina Press, 2005), 128-132; hereinafter cited as Bishir.

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Within a short time, the style spread into the countryside where the Black, Northwest Cape Fear, and South rivers flowed, and railroads ran, spurring economic and cultural interests among urban and rural residents. During the 1840s, 1850s, and 1860s, the rural Coastal Plain population created plantations and built houses and churches exhibiting the Greek Revival style "with such fervor that the architecture became a part of the romantic image of the Old South for generations."²

Early nineteenth-century domestic buildings tended to follow the classic I-house of two stories, with a center-hall plan. Black Rock Plantation House has a side-gable roof, exterior end chimneys, and piazza rooms enclosing the ends of shed rear porch. Throughout the state there are many early and mid-nineteenth-century dwellings that share architectural aspects of Black Rock Plantation House, particularly the piazza rooms beneath the rear shed. "Most of these were built as part of regional clusters of houses linked by artisans and family connections. In the coastal zone, builders continued to develop their inventive and practical variations on the use of the piazza and interplay between outdoor and indoor living space."³

Similar two-story, I-houses with rear shed or piazza rooms once were common in Columbus and nearby counties. Such early vernacular houses are now rare survivors, especially in a nearly unaltered form, as found in Black Rock Plantation House. It retains its roof form, chimneys, rear shed with piazza rooms, shed-roofed front porch, six-over-six sash windows, and intact floor plan and interior appointments.

Several other houses in Columbus County have similarities to Black Rock Plantation House. The form and details of the Greek Revival style I-house are seen in the 1880s Elkins House, in the Clarkton vicinity within Columbus County, is a double-galleried, two-story house with piazza rooms under an engaged rear porch at both levels.⁴ An early nineteenth-century house, the Smith-Powell House, built in 1806 in the Hallsboro vicinity, has a plan similar to Black Rock Plantation House, but is unusual in that the central block incorporates engaged front and rear porches flanked by piazza rooms at each of the four corners. A well-crafted sunburst, reeding, and molded pilasters adorn one of the first floor mantels of the Smith-Powell House. Throughout the dwelling astylistic wide planks with chamfered battens cover the walls and ceilings.⁵ Black Rock Plantation House only has piazza rooms in the rear. The ca. 1826 Singletary House, located in the Clarkton vicinity within Columbus County, is a three-bay, two-story dwelling with a shed-roofed front porch and shed-roofed rear wing. The rear porch has been enclosed; Black Rock Plantation House's rear porch bay has been reopened. The ca. 1866, three-bay Gore House, located in the Pireway vicinity, is another I-house, this one with a double-story front porch and rear porch, flanked by piazza rooms. Like Black Rock Plantation House, the front entrance consists of a door surrounded by a transom and sidelights, and has the six-over-six sash of the Greek Revival era.⁶

Brunswick and Bladen counties, immediately to the southeast and north of Columbus County, respectively, each has a resource that relates to historic buildings in Columbus County. The core of Brunswick County's Hickory Hall, in Calabash, is an I-house similar in form to Black Rock Plantation House. It is thought to be a ca. 1819 house that was reworked and enlarged in the 1840s. The side-gable-roofed, weatherboarded house has single-shouldered, exterior brick end chimneys, five bays at the first-level front façade, and three at the second story. A two-story, shed-roofed rear element was originally only one story; a single-shoulder brick chimney was adjusted with an

² *Ibid.*, 7.

³ *Ibid.*, 128.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Edward F. Turberg, Columbus County Architectural Survey, 1998, 13; hereinafter cited as Turberg.

⁵ Turberg, 13.

⁶ *Ibid.*

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excessively tall stack upon the advent of the second story. The windows in the I-house section are either nine-over-nine or nine-over-six double-hung sash, while those in the wing are all six-over-six. The integrity of Hickory Hall has been compromised with remodelings, additions, the inclusion of raised hearths, and the removal of much of the lath and plaster on the interior walls, but has a stair with winders and a number of four-panel doors identical to that in Black Rock Plantation House.

An I-house in Bladen County, the Stewart-Cromartie-Liles House, located in the South River vicinity, is the closest in plan to Black Rock Plantation House, in spite of its being built in the late eighteenth century and enlarged in the mid-nineteenth century. It is two-stories high under a side-gable roof with exterior brick, end chimneys, and shed-roofed front and rear porches. The rear porch is divided with end piazza rooms with an open bay between. It has mantels of a decidedly Federal style. The well-crafted mantels, products of the mid-nineteenth-century enlargement, are academically sophisticated, with symmetrically molded pilasters and tripartite friezes. Plaster walls, wooden chair rails and four-panel doors were introduced during the enlargement. Six-over-six windows are throughout. Black Rock Plantation House's interior finish is much less academic.

Also in Bladen County, Strawberry Hill Plantation's ca. 1845 house, in the Carvers vicinity, has been demolished, but some elements have been preserved by moving them to Black Rock Plantation House. The original, ca. 1845 configuration of Strawberry Hill Plantation had been compromised by late nineteenth-century additions and alterations, and demolitions, but it seemed that the two-stories, center-hall plan, one-room-deep I-house, had a one-story shed-roof rear area, which probably was divided into two piazza rooms with an open central bay. The interior chimneys pierced the hip roof and served the four first-floor rooms—all very different from what appears at Black Rock Plantation House. Strawberry Hill Plantation's house also had a mantel identical to that in the western room in the main block of Black Rock Plantation House. The mantel from Strawberry Hill Plantation was reclaimed to serve the fireplace of the west piazza room of Black Rock Plantation House. Strawberry Hill Plantation's house shared with Black Rock, four-panel flat panel doors, very tall molded baseboards, plaster walls, a back-to-front stair, and a mantel identical to one at Black Rock. The mantels on the first level reflected a combination of Federal and Greek Revival design, rendered in a vernacular manner. They had Greek Revival-style pilasters with a simple, beaded architrave reminiscent of the Federal style, surrounding the fire box. The pilasters themselves employed angular, flat, Greek Revival moldings as capitals. Rather than fancy moldings, the mantels relied on square or rectangular stripes for the horizontal ornamentation. The pilasters supported an unadorned frieze, above which was a single strip beneath another angular, flat, Greek Revival molding with a plain blocky shelf.

In Black Rock Plantation House and the other similar, rural houses, the architectural style is expressed inside, in a vernacular form. The mantel designs did not generally come from a pattern book, but rather were homemade designs with references to academic designs. In Hickory Hall the addition and changes were made in the Greek Revival style. The mantels in the old section all were replaced with simple post and lintel Greek Revival-style ones; four flat-panel Greek Revival-style doors, like those in Black Rock Plantation House, were introduced. Black Rock Plantation House and Hickory Hall share the design of an astylistic straight-run stair that runs from back to front, with winders, handrail, and balusters, leading to the possibility that perhaps they were accomplished by the same craftsman.

The "Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina, ca. 1790-1943," MPDF, pages F57-59, reveals the prevalence of the Greek Revival style in that county, which is farther to the northeast. The ca. 1850 Bryan Whitfield Herring House, (NR 2001), in the Calypso vicinity, is a much larger, handsomely proportioned residence resplendent with fine architectural details, centered on the double-story entrance porch and four massive

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gable-end chimneys. Windows contain six-over-six sash and square moldings that project outward into crossetted lintels, a *retardataire* Georgian detail. Entrances at the first and second levels have four-panel doors with triangular, Greek Revival-style moldings and multi-light transoms. Tall sidelights flank the lower door and transom. A one-story, shed-roofed section extends across the rear elevation and has an unusual arrangement: small porches occupy the central and corner bays, while the second and fourth bays contain piazza rooms.⁷

The ca. 1852 William Wright Faison House, (NR 2004), in the Bowdens vicinity, has good exterior integrity and is the largest in scale and proportion of all the Duplin County Greek Revival-style houses. They all express the Greek Revival style more robustly than Black Rock Plantation House does, having cornerboards and wide entablatures at the eaves. The William Wright Faison House has especially well executed, bold, pedimented gable ends. The front doors at both the first and second floors, are crafted with transoms and sidelights. The doors themselves are unusual, each executed with four octagonal panels.⁸ The William Wright Faison House also evidences remarkable interior integrity. While like others, it has a center-hall, double-pile plan, its center hall is especially wide, more like a room than a hall. The interiors of the Duplin County Greek Revival-style houses are similarly finished with plaster walls, simple door and window frames, baseboards, and mantels framed with pilasters; however, the William Wright Faison House has some unusual features, like the faceted newel post and, in the front parlor, crossetted door and window frames with panels beneath the windows. The Duplin County Greek Revival-style houses owe their academic design quality to the cultural transference enabled by the railroad that traveled through the area.⁹

The exterior of Black Rock Plantation House, with its shed roof front porch and shed rear addition, exterior end chimneys, and gable roof sets the tone for a Greek Revival, vernacular, rural house. The interior has four-panel Greek Revival doors as well. The more *retardataire* Federal and Georgian features are reserved for the interior. They mainly are seen in the mantels, with those on the first floor being Federal and those on the second floor, being Georgian in character.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Many early North Carolina settlers took advantage of the wealth of longleaf and loblolly pine forests that grew in the territory. Such is certainly the case with the residents of Brunswick and Columbus counties who collected valuable resins from the trees to produce turpentine, tar, pitch, and rosin for a naval stores industry that continued well into the late nineteenth century. They cut other trees, especially live oaks, to be dressed and cured for building ships, rafting the logs along the Cape Fear River to portside mills and markets in Wilmington.¹⁰

The land historically identified as Black Rock Plantation, is named in an 1828 Brunswick County deed that referenced a 1726 grant to Nathaniel Moore who lived in Smithville (now Southport), the then county seat of Brunswick County.¹¹ It is uncertain when the modest house at Black Rock Plantation was built by David D. Allen (1804-1866) who purchased the land from Purdie Richardson in 1843. Richardson had removed to Anson County

⁷ Edward F. Turberg, "Bryan Whitfield Herring House." National Register Nomination. (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 2001).

⁸ Janet K. Seapker, "William Wright Faison House." National Register Nomination. (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 2004).

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Turberg, 13.

¹¹ Brunswick County Deed Book K/130, July 22, 1828, grant to Purdie Richardson. Despite being founded in 1808, deeds for property and other official records of Columbus County dated well into the nineteenth century were registered in Brunswick County.

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and in one conveyance sold approximately 2,300 acres to Allen.¹² David D. and his second wife, Calista Ann Huggins (1821-1881), reared their children, David Charles Allen (1834-1903), Clara Ann Allen Love (1845-unknown) (also known as Clarisse, Clarissa), and Mary Rebecca Allen Lesesne (1849-after 1880), in the house, and farmed the land with thirty-one slaves.¹³ The house remained the home of David and Calista Allen's extended family for 116 years, when the last member of the family, Lura H. Love, died in 1959.

While Black Rock Plantation House is a rather modest dwelling, the Allens owned a lot of property of significant value. The value of David D. Allen's real estate holdings was reported as \$5,000 in the 1850 census and in 1860, \$6,330; his personal property value was recorded as \$29,019.¹⁴ He served in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1848-1849,¹⁵ and as a justice of the peace and magistrate.¹⁶ Allen was a member and treasurer of the Black Rock Masonic Lodge Number 135.¹⁷ He owned thirty-one slaves in 1860 housed in eight slave houses,¹⁸ and thirty-one in 1863.¹⁹ The Owens, owners of the property before the current owner, reported having heard of slave quarters being on the property, but there is no above-ground evidence remaining; the specific location is unknown.

David Allen's son, David Charles, followed in his father's footsteps as was leader in the community. D. Charles was a lawyer and a captain in the Confederate States Army, Thirtieth Regiment, and claimed to have been among those who fired the last guns of the war at Appomattox. He was present when General Robert E. Lee surrendered, ending the Civil War.²⁰ Local tradition holds that in March 1865, the house was occupied by Union soldiers supervising Sherman's great migration via the Old Stage Road, when more than 15,000 former slaves, Union sympathizers and wounded Union army, marched from Fayetteville to Wilmington, after the fall of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865. It is said that captured Confederate soldiers were held as prisoners at Black Rock Plantation House. D. Charles also served in the North Carolina House of Representatives for Columbus County for 1899-1900 and again in 1901.²¹

Like other southern regions, Columbus County suffered greatly during the Civil War because of the loss of farmers to military service and high state taxes levied on agricultural yields, finances, and food staples. The inflation rate rose alarmingly and the economic stress was made more difficult to bear by news that Columbia was razed, Charleston vacated, Wilmington occupied, and Sherman's army plundering through the region around Whiteville.

¹² *Ibid.*, Brunswick County Deed Book N/57, March 20, 1843. A portion of the land is again referred to as Black Rock.

¹³ *Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Brunswick County, North Carolina*, Slave Schedule, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, New Hanover County Library, Wilmington; grave marker, Wayman's Chapel graveyard; *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Columbus County, North Carolina*, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, New Hanover County Library, Wilmington. Microfilm, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).

¹⁴ *Seventh Census of the United States, 1850 and Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Brunswick County, North Carolina*, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, New Hanover County Library, Wilmington).

¹⁵ John R. Cheney, Jr, *North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History*. (Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 1981), 317, hereinafter cited as Cheney.

¹⁶ Tax Assessment, Brunswick County, North West District, 1847.

¹⁷ *Clarendon Courier*, Old New Hanover Genealogical Society, Winter 1997, Vol. 9, No. 4. Taken from the *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Your Masons, of North Carolina, 1855*, 5.

¹⁸ *Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Brunswick County, North Carolina*, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, New Hanover County Library, Wilmington).

¹⁹ Tax Assessment, Brunswick County, North West District, 1863. This record is remarkable in that it names all the slaves in addition to their ages; it also lists the number of acres and the value of the land and the slaves.

²⁰ Weymouth T. Jordan Jr., compiler; *North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865, A Roster, Vol. VIII, Infantry, 27th-31st Regiments*; (Raleigh, Division of Archives and History, 1981), 342; University of North Carolina Alumni Records.

²¹ Cheney, 477 and 479.

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Nevertheless, at the end of the war and through reconstruction, agriculture and timber/naval stores industries were restored. The decline of naval stores markets at the end of the nineteenth century had little, if any, effect on the timber cutting and saw mill operations across the area. In addition, the region was important as a farming belt. In the nineteenth century, cotton, wool, and upland rice were common crops, together with a variety of vegetables, grapes, peaches, strawberries, peanuts, and tobacco.²²

David D. died intestate in 1866. His son, D. Charles Allen, administered the estate and, in accordance with the order of the Probate Court, auctioned his father's assets to pay the debts. Calista was allotted one third of the estate as her widow's dower, receiving 798 acres, including the land on which Black Rock Plantation House is located. She then purchased 813 acres of the estate for \$400.²³ Her dower also called for her to receive the use of turpentine boxes, confirming that the family engaged in naval stores production, as well as farming.²⁴

Calista conveyed the house tract to her daughter, Clara Ann and her husband John Love Sr. in 1874. She was living with Clara and John Love Sr. when the 1880 Columbus County census was enumerated.²⁵ Calista gave her other daughter, Mary Rebecca Allen Lesene, 251 acres known as the upper Black Rock tract, and 107 acres, known as the Gus King tract, in 1874.²⁶ The heirs of Clara Ann Allen Love conveyed their interest, four-fifths of the property, to their brother, John B. Love Jr. of Portsmouth, Virginia, on October 1, 1929. The tract known as the "John B. Love Jr. place," amounted to 171 acres in both Columbus and Bladen counties.²⁷ A plat delineating the property is on file in the Columbus County Register of Deeds office.²⁸

After Jr.'s death, in 1948, the heirs deeded the land to Hobbs Lumber Company of Wilmington. The tract changed hands twice more that year: Hobbs Lumber Company deeded the property back to the one remaining Love heir, Lura Huggins Love, who then deeded 170 acres of the property to J. A. Owen of Bladen County, reserving "the dwelling house and one acre of land around it."²⁹ Lura died in New Hanover County in 1959, devising the dwelling house and surrounding acre to the Episcopal Diocese of East North Carolina. The year 1959, is the first time the land had passed out of Allen and Love family ownership. The diocese immediately sold the house to Beulah Inez Campbell.³⁰ Campbell conveyed the house acre to J. A. Owen and his wife, Frances, in 1968. J. A. Owen died in 1997, predeceasing Frances who died in 1999, willing all the property to her three children, Karen Y. Owen-Bogan, Joy Denise Owen, and John Andrew Owen.³¹ The will stipulated that the house and surrounding acre were to be used by John Andrew Owen as his residence for the rest of his life.³² The house and one acre of land were transferred to Everett Lewis on July 3, 2013.³³

²² *Ibid.*, 9.

²³ Brunswick County Estate Records, May 7, 1870; *Ibid.*, Brunswick County Deed Book, V/115-117; until 1880, deeds and census reports for owners of Black Rock Plantation were filed in Brunswick County. The property is still referred to as Black Rock at this point.

²⁴ David D. Allen, Estate Papers, Superior Court Brunswick County, Inventory, August 29, 1866.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, Brunswick County, Deed Book W/359-360, December 30, 1874; *Tenth Census of the United States*, 1880: Columbus County, North Carolina, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm, New Hanover County Library, Wilmington).

²⁶ Bladen County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 18/26-28.

²⁷ Columbus County Register of Deeds, Deed Book, 157/104-105.

²⁸ Columbus County Register of Deeds, Plat book 2/72.

²⁹ Columbus County Register of Deeds, Deed Book, 184/218.

³⁰ Columbus County Register of Deeds, Deed Book, 224/224.

³¹ Columbus County Register of Deeds, Deed Book, 252/283.

³² Columbus County Register of Deeds, Deed Book, 593/373.

³³ Columbus County Register of Deeds, Deed Book, 1063/228-231.

Black Rock Plantation House
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Black Rock Plantation House
Name of Property

Columbus, NC
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Black Rock Plantation House

City or Vicinity: Riegelwood vicinity

County: Columbus State: North Carolina

Photographer: Janet K. Seapker

Date Photographed: May, July and August 2013; and January 2014

Description of Photograph(s), date, and number:

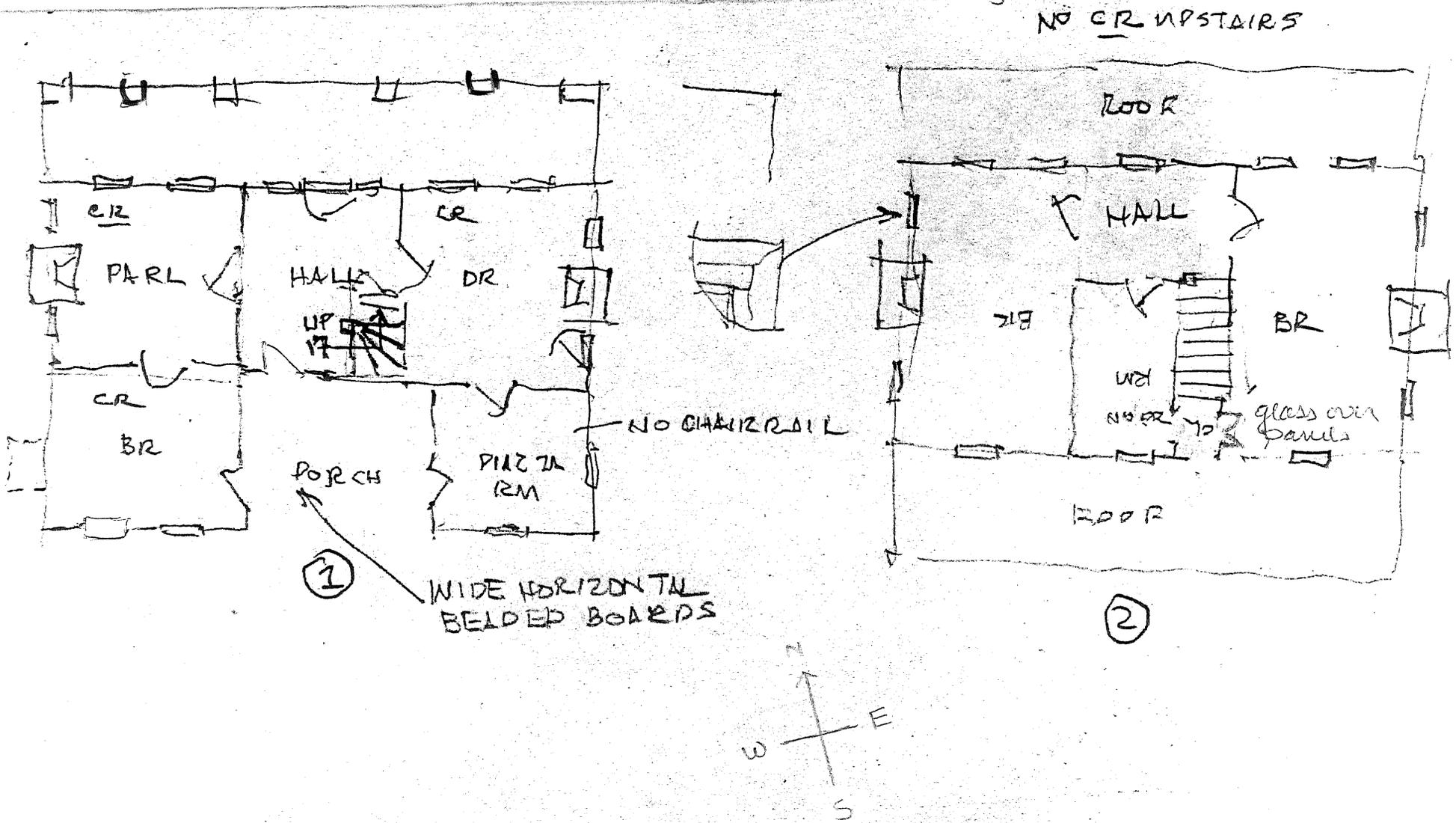
- 1 of 9: Oblique view of house and store looking southeast, January 2014
- 2 of 9: Oblique view of rear and east side of house, January 2014
- 3 of 9: West elevation of house and kitchen looking east, January 2014
- 4 of 9: West side of store and carport, August 2013
- 5 of 9: Stair from rear porch, July 2013
- 6 of 9: Interior of hall closet under stair, May 2013
- 7 of 9: East parlor room, mantel wall, May 2013
- 8 of 9: West room, dining room mantel detail, January 2014
- 9 of 9: East bedroom mantel wall, July 2013

Property Owner:

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

name Everett Lewis
street & number 1131 Alta Loma Rd., #322 telephone 213-810-0133
city or town West Hollywood state CA zip code 90069

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Black Rock Plantation House, 7875 Old Stage Road, Riegelwood, NC, Columbus County, NC

Floor Plan, not to scale



Black Rock Plantation House
7875 Old Stage Highway (NC 87)
Riegelwood, Columbus County, NC
PIN # 29116

Scale: 1"=200'

National Register Boundary —————

Contributing 

Noncontributing 

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