

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic name Tilley, Marcus House

other names/site number Roscoe Tilley House

2. Location

Street & number 7616 Jock Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Bahama vicinity N/A state North Carolina code NC

county Durham code 063 zip code 27503

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 _____ nationally X statewide X locally.

(____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey A. Cross SHPO
Signature of certifying official

12/1/99
Date

State or 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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 4 </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 4 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC/single dwelling, AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: I-house

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls weatherboard
other concrete

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)

- 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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Architecture

Period of Significance ca. 1880; 1939-1942

Significant Dates ca. 1880

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Tilley, Nannie May
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

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

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.63 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>17</u>	<u>694040</u>	<u>4003140</u>	2	<u>17</u>	<u>694320</u>	<u>4003380</u>
3	<u>17</u>	<u>694500</u>	<u>4003180</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>694220</u>	<u>4002920</u>

_____ 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 M. Ruth Little and Michelle Kullen
organization Longleaf Historic Resources date August 18, 1999
street & number 2709 Bedford Ave. telephone (919) 836-9731
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27607

=====
12. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

=====
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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 1
Marcus Tilley House
Durham County, North Carolina

Section 7: Description

The Marcus Tilley house is an I-house, built about 1880, over an earlier one-and-a-half-story log house with a one-and-a-half-story rear shed. The house and surrounding outbuildings stand as the centerpiece of the 13.63 acre home tract of the Marcus Tilley Farm, adjacent to Lake Michie in the northeast section of Durham County. The property, located about two miles southeast of the village of Bahama, is approached by a long unpaved driveway connected with Jock Road (State Road 1625). A row of peach trees and large pecan trees stand east of the driveway, and the eastern boundary of the home tract is a spring branch lined with hardwoods. The front of the house is shaded by large oak and evergreen trees. A wood and barbed-wire fence runs along the east side of the drive then curves northeastward to outline the front and side yards. A pasture at the rear of the house slopes down to the shore of Lake Michie, created in the 1930s by a dam on the Flat River, which earlier had formed the northeast boundary of the farm.

Hidden inside the right (east) bay of the I-house is the original one-and-a-half-story log section. Below this section is a root cellar with a rock floor, brick walls, a small brick fireplace that may have helped to keep vegetables dry, and outside entrance on the east gable end. The main log room is entered through a wide, short batten door and has a lower floor level. The room features wide plain trim, heart pine wood floors, wide window sills, and an original large brick fireplace with a Federal style mantel consisting of a flat rectangular panel with a molded cornice. The upstairs log room also has a floor level lower than that of the rest of the house. Original features here include a batten door and wide horizontal sheathing on the walls. The Greek Revival style mantel with curvilinear frieze was probably installed when the house was enlarged. The original log rear shed section does not retain any visible early fabric.

The main block of the house is a frame, two-story, side gable, single-pile, three-bay wide dwelling with a wide center hall and flanking rooms (**Figures 1 and 2**). Exterior features include wide eave returns, molded capped corner boards, and exterior end single-shouldered chimneys of one-to-five common bond with minor variations in banding and corbeling. Original weatherboard sheathes the exterior. Other features include an attached one-story hipped roof porch with turned supports and bead board ceiling and original front and rear entrances with wide doors with four raised panels flanked by sidelights. A one-story concrete block addition with flat roof is attached to the rear of the original log shed.

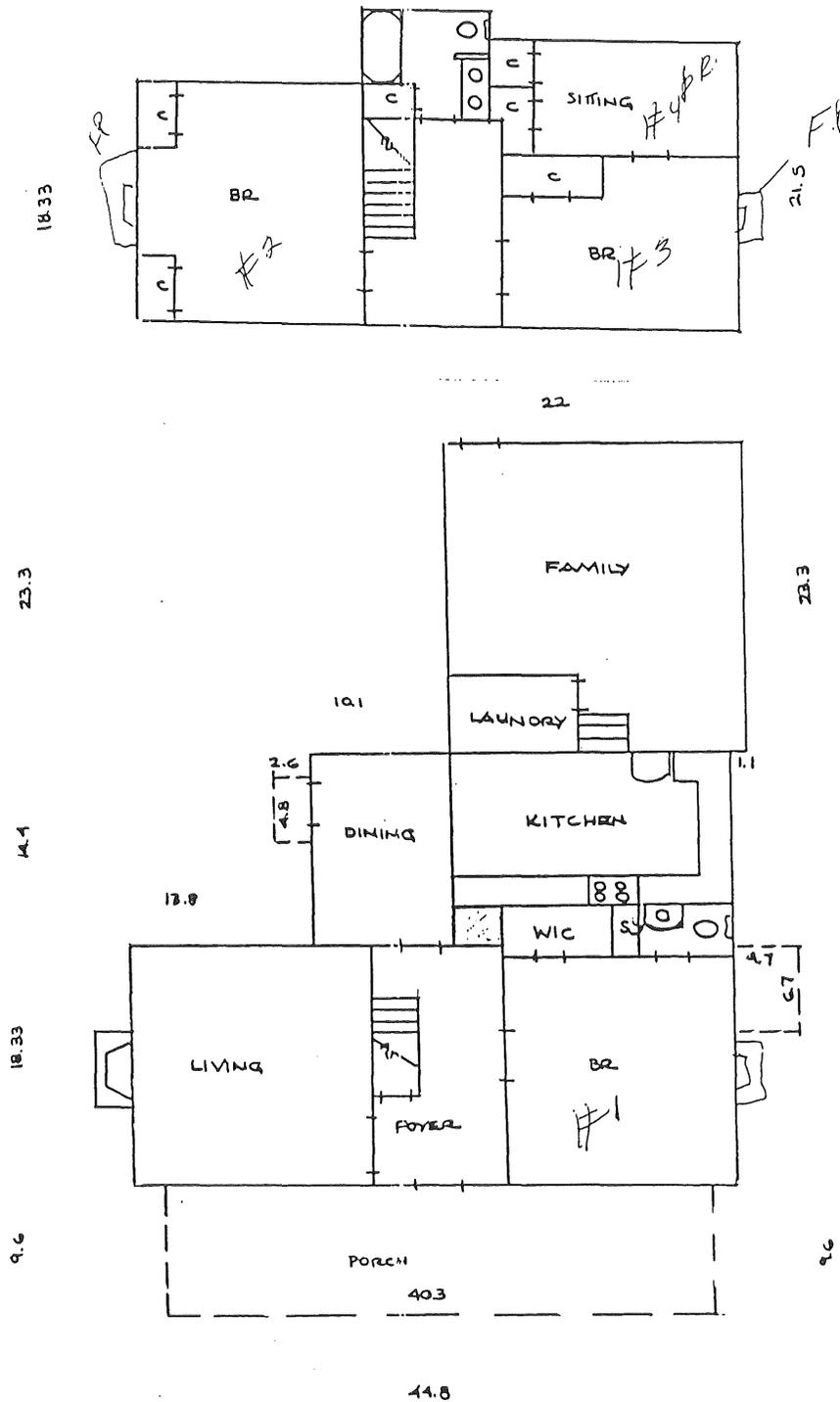
Interior finish of the I-house rooms built ca. 1880 feature intact, modest Greek Revival trim. The original finish includes heart pine floors, high baseboards, plaster walls, molded trim, and Greek Revival style two-panel doors. An open-string stair rises from the rear of the center hall. It features a chamfered newel with molded cap, plain posts, a square handrail, and a front stair closet. The parlor on the first floor and left (west) second floor bedroom contain simple, handsome Greek Revival mantels with pilasters, friezes, and shelves.

The only surviving historic outbuilding, a log smokehouse, stands behind the house. The half-dovetailed, hand-

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Figs. 1-2. Marcus Tilley House, first floor plan, second floor plan. Drawn roughly to scale by current owner.

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Marcus Tilley House

Durham County, North Carolina

hewn log smokehouse has a projecting, front-gabled roof, a hinged batten door, and has lost its original chinking. Four noncontributing outbuildings stand to the rear and west side. A gabled spring house with concrete block walls, built about 1950, stands east of the house on the branch. A circa 1950 frame, four-bay vehicle shed, built from old lumber from nearby Camp Butner, has a side-gable roof, square posts, exposed rafters and a tin roof. Behind this building is a 1970s tobacco/storage building built of corrugated metal. The frame well house with weatherboard siding and gable roof was built in the 1970s. South of the vehicle shed stands a sizeable grape arbor.

Alterations were made to the house over time. The original one-story hipped roof porch with slender posts, visible in an old family photo (a copy is located in the nomination file) was replaced in the 1920s-30s with a wider, one-story hipped roof porch with square Doric posts. These posts were replaced with turned porch posts in recent years. All of the six-over-six sash windows are vinyl replacements added about 1990. Ceilings in most of the main rooms have acoustical tile. The back porch or breezeway which led from the rear entrance of the I-house to the detached kitchen (now demolished) was enclosed as a dining room in the early twentieth century, and a back shed porch attached to the log shed was enclosed. After the original kitchen was demolished, Adolphus Tilley built a concrete block family room on its site about 1950. About the same time, Adolphus converted the rear log shed room, which had served as a bedroom, to the kitchen. An upstairs bathroom was added by converting the center window to a doorway and adding a small shed addition above the dining room (see Figs.1-2).

The main block of the Marcus Tilley House retains sufficient integrity of materials and workmanship to meet the integrity threshold for National Register eligibility. Although windows and porch posts are replacements, all other exterior fabric is original or early, creating an overall historic character. The rear elevation, with its large ca. 1950 one-story family room, has changed greatly from its ca. 1880 appearance; however the scale and materials of this addition characterize it as a distinctly mid-twentieth century phase of construction. Its location behind the house minimizes its disruption of the overall architectural integrity. On the interior, the Tilley House retains most of its original finish, both in the original log core and the I-house enlargement.

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Marcus Tilley House
Durham County, North Carolina

Section 8: Statement of Significance

Summary:

The Marcus Tilley House, also known as the Roscoe Tilley House, located on a thirteen-acre home tract adjoining Lake Michie in the Bahama vicinity of northeastern Durham County, is a simple, well-preserved frame I-house built about 1880 around the earlier one-and-one-half-story log house of the Tilley family. Marcus belonged to a well-known clan of tobacco farmers who achieved fame with their early innovations in curing Bright Leaf tobacco in the 1860s. Marcus's youngest son, Roscoe, remained at the homestead and continued to farm the 380-acre farm until his death in 1935. The oldest of Roscoe's children, Nannie May Tilley, never married, but pursued a career as one of the first generation of female North Carolina historians. She earned her master's degree and doctorate in history at Duke University. Her dissertation, *The Bright-Tobacco Industry: 1860-1929*, published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1948, remains the standard reference book on the history of tobacco cultivation and manufacturing in Virginia and North Carolina. The Marcus Tilley House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B as the home of pioneering female historian Nannie May Tilley from 1899 until 1947. Tilley's most productive years while living in the house began with the completion of her dissertation in 1939 and concluded in 1942 at her mother's death, the last year in which she is documented as living there. These years mark the period of significance for Criterion B. Her experience on the family tobacco farm shaped her choice of subject matter in her field, and the homestead symbolizes the history of tobacco culture during its formative period in rural Durham County in the second half of the 1800s.

In addition, the Marcus Tilley House has architectural significance under Criterion C as a well-preserved farmhouse that symbolizes the typical evolution of small farmhouses from log cabin to frame I-house during the second half of the nineteenth century. The Tilley House stands as one of a relatively few, relatively intact examples of this dominant house type left in a rapidly suburbanizing county.

Historical Background:

Marcus Tilley (1832-1904) lived in the Stagville community of Mangum Township in northeast Durham County, where he spent his life farming on the Flat River. Marcus was part of a large clan of Tilleys who farmed in this region. Just across the Flat River lay the farm of Haywood Tilley, who operated a mill on the river. Tilley's Mill had been operating since at least the 1870s, when it drew customers away from the Stagville Mill.¹ Marcus's father, John Tilley, probably gave Marcus the land on which he established his farm, although the conveyance of this land to him has not been located. John Tilley, whose sons included noted tobacco farmer Dennis Tilley, apparently lived in the Knapp of Reeds section of Granville County, just across the Durham County boundary, where Dennis Tilley's farm was located.²

¹ Durham County DB 73, 125 (1915); Jean Anderson, *Piedmont Plantation, The Bennehan-Cameron Family and Lands in North Carolina* (Durham: Historic Preservation Society of Durham, 1985), 90.

² Eddie L. Smith and Ben Patrick, *Voices from the Field: A Pictorial History of Camp Butner* (Oxford, N.C.: Oxford Orphanage School of Printing, 1992), 129, 130; Nannie May Tilley, *The Bright-Tobacco Industry: 1860-1929* (Chapel Hill: University of North

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As a young man, Marcus built a one-room log house, with a loft bedroom and rear shed, on a rise overlooking the river, just east of the Stagville Road (SR 1625).³ He and his wife Mary Ball raised six children. By 1880 Marcus's wife must have died, for the census taker recorded his household with six children and no wife. The oldest sons, Adolphus W. Tilley, aged twenty-five, and J. Norman Tilley, aged twenty-three, are designated in the census, along with Marcus, as farmers. One young black farm laborer boarded in the Tilley household. The Agricultural Schedule shows that Marcus operated a small diversified farm, typical of Durham County's dominant class of small land owners. Five of his forty tilled acres were planted in tobacco, the rest in corn, oats, and wheat. On his five-acre pasture he grazed horses, oxen, and cows. In his fifty acres of woodland, chickens and pigs roamed. His small orchard contained apple and peach trees. The farm produced tobacco, butter, eggs, grain, and other foodstuffs worth \$1,000 in 1879. Sons Adolphus and J. Norman farmed a share of the land as renters, each responsible for managing about twenty acres of tilled land and twenty-five acres of woodland.⁴

By the time of the 1880 census, the Marcus Tilley family may have been living in their larger frame house, built around the original log building. The exact date of construction of the I-house is unknown, but its pegged, heavy timber frame and Greek Revival finish indicate a time frame in the second half of the 1800s. Thus it is obvious that Marcus himself must have built the enlargement, as he apparently lived here until his death in 1904. Marcus is buried in the family plot at Mount Bethel Methodist Church in the nearby community of Bahama. This loosely-organized antebellum crossroads settlement originally known as Round Hill was renamed Bahama junction when it became a stop on the Durham to Lynchburg Railroad as it advanced in 1890 through north Durham County on the way to Lynchburg, Virginia.⁵

In 1893 Marcus deeded a number of tracts of land to his oldest son Adolphus.⁶ Marcus apparently remained on his home tract, however, probably with his next-to-youngest son Roscoe H. Tilley (1871-1935). Eventually Adolphus, who gave up farming and operated a store at Bahama throughout his adult life, obtained the home tract, and in 1915 he sold it to Roscoe, specifying that the 380-acre farm was "all the lands formerly owned by Marcus Tilley, deceased."⁷ Roscoe had married Lucy Roberts, daughter of locally prominent landowner Captain Roberts, in 1896. By the time the Miller Map of Durham was drawn in 1914, the farm is designated as the Roscoe H. Tilley place.⁸ Roscoe farmed throughout his lifetime and was active in the community, serving as a justice of the peace. The oldest of their six children, Nannie May Tilley, was born in 1899. At his death in 1935, the children inherited

Carolina Press, 1948), 131.

³ Although family tradition maintains that the log core dates from the late 1700s, local historian Mildred Harris credits Marcus Tilley with construction of the original log house. (Mildred Harris interview with Jane Sheffield, 1987, in Tilley House Survey File, N. C. Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.)

⁴ United States Census, Population Schedule, Durham County, 1880; Agricultural Schedule, 1880.

⁵ M. Ruth Little, "Historic Resources of Durham County," multiple property documentation form, 1991. Copy at North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, 17.

⁶ Durham County DB 16, 216.

⁷ Durham County DB 73, 125.

⁸ C. M. Miller Map of Durham County, 1910. N.C. State Archives.

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Marcus Tilley House

Durham County, North Carolina

the farm, but conveyed their interest to their mother Lucy.⁹ By this time the farm had shrunk to 350 acres because the county had dammed the Flat River to create Lake Michie, taking about 30 acres of the Tilley farm. As an adult, Nannie May Tilley lived part of the time at home with her mother and part of the time at a residence in the city of Durham, until her mother's death in 1942.¹⁰ Nannie, Clifford and Adolphus inherited the farm at Lucy's death. In 1947 Nannie moved to Commerce, Texas to teach history at East Texas State College.¹¹

In her classic study of the North Carolina tobacco industry, Nannie May Tilley states that her great-uncle Dennis Tilley (1827-1900), brother of Marcus Tilley, was the first individual tobacco grower in Granville County to become famous as a Bright Tobacco farmer. Dennis lived near Knapp of Reeds village, just across the county line from Nannie's homeplace. She devotes much of one chapter to tobacco culture in Granville County, an early center of perfection of the Bright Tobacco curing process, which she learned, in part, from interviews with family members such as her uncle, J. Norman Tilley.

Doubtless influenced by the example of successful planters in nearby Caswell and southern Virginia, [Dennis] Tilley turned his attention to the production of tobacco perhaps as early as 1861. Concentrating his efforts on the curing process, he soon became noted for obtaining the unusual profit of \$600 per acre, and one editor declared that "some few like Dennis Tilley of Granville [made] over \$1000 per field hand." Tilley generally sold his tobacco in Richmond, where he came to assume a measure of dictatorial authority over the market by notifying commission merchants that his crop would arrive on a specific day In addition to his rank as a tobacco farmer, Tilley, with T. B. Lyon, was responsible for the introduction of the flue into Granville County. Stories of his achievements undoubtedly influenced many farmers of Granville and elsewhere to begin cultivation of tobacco.¹²

Among the third generation of Tilleys to reside at the Marcus Tilley homestead, Adolphus Tilley (youngest child of Roscoe and Lucy) and his wife Earline moved into the house in 1945. Adolphus had received the house and about 100 acres of land as his one-third share of the farm. He farmed tobacco, chickens, cows, and pigs. His children, Richard, Judith, David, and James grew up here. After Adolphus died in 1958, Earline remained at the homestead until 1975, when she deeded the home tract to her daughter Judith and built a smaller house on the property. Judith and her husband Eugene Crabtree rehabilitated the Marcus Tilley House and raised their own family there. Two of their sons, Christopher and Charles Marcus, now live in recently-constructed houses on acreage subdivided from the home tract.

The Marcus Tilley House, with its outbuildings, stands on a 13.63 acre tract that is set apart from the newer houses by its historic setting of fields, pasture, woodland, the spring branch, and the shore of Lake Michie. The

⁹ Durham County DB 115, 112.

¹⁰ Author's interview with Judith Tilley Crabtree, May 1999.

¹¹ Crabtree interview.

¹² Tilley, *The Bright-Tobacco Industry*, 131, and f. 35.

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Marcus Tilley House
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Crabtrees are committed to preserving the house and maintaining the rural character of their land.

Architecture Context

The log homestead served as the dominant nineteenth century house type built in the area that became Durham County in 1881. Many of the log houses retain their integrity as free-standing farm houses; many others are hidden within larger frame houses, or serve as the rear service wing for a later frame house. The I-house, a two-story frame house type, was erected by prosperous farmers in Durham County from the 1840s into the early 1900s, with little change in construction or finish. The nineteenth century examples have modest Greek Revival finish. A typical I-house, the Gaston Herndon House in southwest Durham County, is firmly dated to 1879. The three-bay-wide house has gable end chimneys, large six-over-six sash, a one-story front porch and a center hall plan, just like the Marcus Tilley House. The Wiley Ball House, located near the Tilley House, began as a log homestead that was expanded into an I-house in the 1870s, with interior finish of late antebellum character like that of the Tilley House. These Durham County I-houses with earlier log cores are a material embodiment of the evolution of the agricultural economy in Durham County in the second half of the nineteenth century. Subsistence farming families lived in simple log homesteads. As they planted tobacco and were able to sell it in Richmond or the nearby town of Durham during Reconstruction and later, the newly-earned cash enabled them to build commodious frame houses, the I-houses, that symbolized their new middle-class status.

Although hundreds of I-houses once dotted the Durham County countryside as the ubiquitous middle-class farmhouse, development since the middle-twentieth century has reduced the number of such houses to approximately seventy.¹³ As urban and suburban construction pushes outward from Durham and Chapel Hill, the northern half of the Research Triangle Park area, the I-house is rapidly becoming a scarce house type, emblematic of the rural, tobacco farm culture that has now largely disappeared. Among those that still stand, many are covered with artificial siding and dwarfed by additions, leaving the Marcus Tilley House as one of a small group of relatively intact I-houses in Durham County.

Criterion B: Nannie May Tilley, Early Female North Carolina Historian

Nannie May Tilley, a member of the first generation of female historians of southern history, possesses statewide significance as a member of a small, pioneering group of female scholars of North Carolina history. These women, who also included Guion Griffis Johnson, Virginia Gearhart Gray, Marjorie Mendenhall, Julia Cherry Spruill, and Eleanor Miot Boatwright were born around the turn of the century, lived, worked or studied in the Durham and Chapel Hill area of North Carolina, and produced studies that explored new areas of history, including social history, agricultural history, the status of women, lower-class economic groups such as tenant farmers, and African-Americans. All produced their first pioneering studies in the 1920s and 1930s.¹⁴

¹³ Author's interview with Betsy Gohdes-Baten, August 18, 1999. Gohdes-Baten conducted a historic architectural inventory of Durham County in the mid-1990s.

¹⁴ Anne Firor Scott, ed. *Unheard Voices: The First Historians of Southern Women* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1993), 1-

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Marcus Tilley House

Durham County, North Carolina

Tilley (1899-1988), pursued a lifelong career as a historian of North Carolina, writing a number of innovative studies that included *The Bright-Tobacco Industry: 1860-1929*, a comprehensive analysis of the tobacco industry in North Carolina and Virginia that is still the standard reference work on the subject. The study had been her dissertation, which she finished in 1939 and the University of North Carolina Press published in 1948. Born into the Tilley clan, famous tobacco farmers who lived in the Flat River region of Durham and Granville counties, her choice of the tobacco industry as the main focus of her research is not surprising. Nannie grew up on a tobacco farm and continued to live there until she was middle-aged. As the homeplace and residence during the pioneering years of Nannie May Tilley's writing career in the 1930s and early 1940s, the Marcus Tilley House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion B.

Nannie was born on the family farm in 1899 and never married. She remained at home and pursued her education, an unusual accomplishment in the 1910s. In 1921 she earned an undergraduate degree at Woman's College in Greensboro (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro). She then worked as an elementary school principal in the Durham County schools during the decade of the 1920s. In 1931 she earned a master's degree in history at Duke University, and taught history during this decade at Western Carolina Teachers College in Cullowhee, North Carolina. From 1935 to 1939 she worked in the Manuscript Division of Duke University Library and directed this division from 1940 to 1947.¹⁵ In 1942 her widowed mother died, so her role as caretaker of her parents ended. Awarded a doctorate by Duke University in 1947, she immediately made a dramatic move to Commerce, Texas and taught history at East Texas State Teachers College until 1958, where she was head of the department during her last eight years.¹⁶ She returned to North Carolina to work as a historian for the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company from 1959 to 1964, and compiled a corporate history of that company that remained unpublished until about 1985 because of Reynolds family objections. In addition to *The Bright-Tobacco Industry*, Nannie's other published books are the *The Trinity College Historical Society 1892-1941* (1941); the *Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the Duke University Library* (1947); *Reynolds Homestead, 1814-1970* (1970?); and *The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company* (1985). Tilley also published articles on related topics in the *North Carolina Historical Review* and the *American Historical Review*.¹⁷

Nannie May Tilley's closest contemporary in the field of North Carolina history in the 1930s and 1940s is Guion Griffith Johnson (1900-1989), author of *Antebellum North Carolina: A Social History*, published in 1937 by the University of North Carolina Press. Johnson was a Texas historian who moved to Chapel Hill in the 1920s to work on a Ph.D. in history at the University of North Carolina, along with her husband Guy, who was pursuing a doctorate in sociology. Johnson's classic study of antebellum North Carolina social history introduced a new dimension into North Carolina historiography through its innovative usage of a wide variety of source material and

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¹⁵ Biographical Note, circa 1939, Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library, Durham, N.C.

¹⁶ William S. Powell, "Nannie May Tilley," *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, v. 6, 35-36; Dr. Marie Roberts, author's telephone interview, Bahama, June 15, 1999.

¹⁷ *Directory of American Scholars*, vol. 1 (New York: Jaques Cattell Press, 1969); Crabtree interview.

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Marcus Tilley House

Durham County, North Carolina

research interests, including the status of women, both white and black, of children, and of relationships between husbands and wives.¹⁸ Johnson's book was so ahead of its time that it "even yet has not been replicated for any other state."¹⁹

This first generation of female historians were largely excluded from academia, a bastion of male dominance. Although they earned their doctorates, most had to content themselves with working in historical archives, temporary teaching positions, women's colleges, women's organizations, and as independent scholars. Guion Johnson was never able to secure a permanent position at the University of North Carolina, and eventually built her career as a statewide leader in various women's organizations. Tilley spent much of her career at the Duke University Manuscripts Department. In her late forties she secured a teaching position at a Texas college, where she distinguished herself for a decade. Today, at the end of the twentieth century, female historians are sufficiently numerous in universities that they have altered the terrain with such fields as women's studies. It is time to honor the pioneers in the field, like Nannie May Tilley, who made significant contributions while laboring on the fringes of academia in the 1920s and 1930s.

¹⁸ Sarah Carolina Thuesen, "Taking the Vows of Southern Liberalism: Guion and Guy Johnson and the Evolution of an Intellectual Partnership," *North Carolina Historical Review* (LXXIV, 3) July 1997, 284-324.

¹⁹ Scott, *Unheard Voices: The First Historians of Southern Women*, 40.

United States Department of the Interior
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Section 9: Bibliography

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Section 10: Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated tract is shown in the accompanying Survey Plat of the property of Judith T. Crabtree and husband Charles E. Crabtree, drawn by Jerry L. Hunt, land surveyor, 1994.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include all of the home tract that is now included with the Marcus Tilley House.

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**Section Photos Page 12
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Durham County, North Carolina**

Photographs:

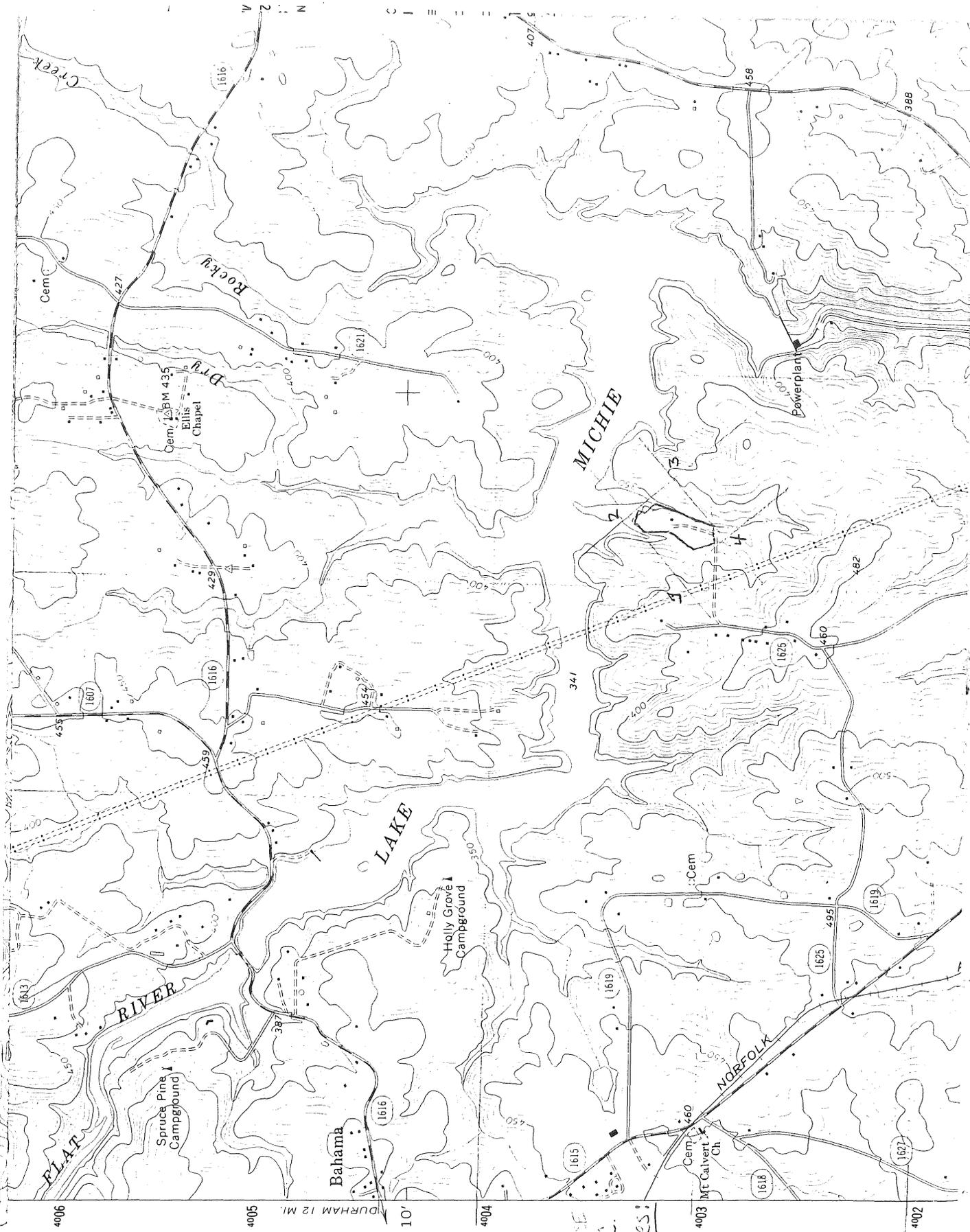
The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: Ruth Little or Michelle Kullen

Date: May 1999

Location of negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

- A. Overall view of Marcus Tilley House, from southwest.
- B. Rear elevation of Marcus Tilley House, from northeast.
- C. Front door of Marcus Tilley House, from southwest.
- D. View of front acreage along driveway, from northeast.
- E. Smokehouse, from west.
- F. Interior view of stairway.
- G. Interior view of main log room.



ROAD TILLY HOUSE
 DURHAM CO., N.C.

UTM References:

1. 17/694040/4003140
2. 17/694320/4003380
3. 17/694500/4003180
4. 17/694220/4002920

