

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Shadrach Lambeth House

AND/OR COMMON Pennington Place, Shoaf House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER End of a private lane on E side SR 2062 0.5 mi. E of jct with SR 2061

CITY, TOWN Thomasville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE North Carolina

CODE 037

COUNTY Davidson

CODE 057

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<u>N/A</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Edwin M. Shoaf Estate

STREET & NUMBER Route 3

CITY, TOWN Thomasville

VICINITY OF North Carolina STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Davidson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lexington

STATE North Carolina

**6 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Ruth Little, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch

DATE June 22, 1983

STREET & NUMBER Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE 919/733-6545

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh

STATE North Carolina 27611

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The unusually well-preserved two-story brick Shadrach Lambeth House is located in a lovely rural setting east of Thomasville in the northeast corner of Davidson County, where Randolph, Guilford, and Davidson counties intersect. The front (north) elevation faces an old road bed which led to N.C. 62 near Archdale. The plain Federal style three-room plan dwelling is closer in form to the Federal era houses in the Quaker community of nearby Jamestown, in Guilford County, than any other buildings in Davidson County. A one-story brick kitchen addition, added in the later nineteenth century, is the only major alteration. No early outbuildings survive.

The main block of the house, three bays wide and two bays deep, is laid in one-to-five common bond. The off-center placement of the front and rear doors, and asymmetry of the chimneys, with an exterior end chimney on the east end and an interior end chimney on the west end, reveals the interior three-room floor plan. The east chimney has a single stepped shoulder, and both chimney stacks are now covered with concrete stucco. The steep gable roof sheathed with tin has boxed eaves on the front and rear, with original molded wooden cornices and pattern boards, and plain flush raking cornices on the gable ends. Both front and rear doors are twentieth century replacements. A twentieth century frame stoop shelters the front door, and a one-story shed porch, one bay enclosed as a bathroom, shelters the rear elevation. It is also of twentieth century vintage, although it may have replaced an original or early porch. Both door and window openings are surmounted by well-laid jack arches. All of the six-over-nine sash in the first story and six-over-six sash in the second story are original, as are the heavy ovolo-molded window surrounds and thick, plain projecting wooden sills. The east gable end is windowless; the west gable end has one small square window opening without a sash.

The kitchen addition is laid in one-to-five common brick bond like the main block, but is considerably inferior in both the quality of the brick and the craftsmanship. The west gable end of the addition features a single stepped shoulder exterior end chimney, with one small rectangular window with a metal shutter in the gable end. The steep roof is covered with composition shingles. In the gable end and the rear walls is a door opening with a cast-iron lintel. The doors are twentieth century replacements. The window frames are identical to those of the main block, and may have been reused from the west elevation which was covered by the addition, but the openings do not have jack arches.

Brick partition walls divide the first story into a three-room plan, with a large parlor on the east and two identically sized rooms on the west, and divide the second story into a large bedroom over the parlor and a smaller bedroom over the west rooms. The enclosed stair rises in the front corner of the parlor against the partition wall. The original plaster walls, wooden floors, some of the wooden ceiling sheathing, beaded baseboards, and three-part molded door and window surrounds survive on both floors. A molded chairrail creates a plaster dado and serves as window sills in the three first floor rooms. Four original interior doors remain: two six raised panel doors between the parlor and the west rooms, an identical door leading from the rear west room to the kitchen addition, and a small four flat-

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paneled door to the closet beneath the stair. The original door in the upstairs partition is missing. All three of the first floor fireplaces have original mantels. The visual focus of the parlor is the large mantel centered on the east wall, which features a rectangular, molded architrave framing the rectangular fireplace opening, a flat-paneled frieze and shallow cove cornice and shelf. Each of the east rooms has a rectangular corner fireplace with a molded surround and a shallow shelf which gives the illusion of passing through the center partition and becoming the shelf of the adjacent fireplace.

On the second floor, the original stair railing, consisting of a heavy square railing with beaded sides and plain rectangular balusters, is still in place, but now abuts the vertical sheathed wooden partition wall added in the later nineteenth century to create a center hall between the bedrooms. This partition has a batten door with cut nails. The east fireplace is infilled, and the mantel is a twentieth century replacement. The west segmentally-arched fireplace apparently never had a mantel. The unfinished attic is accessible through a small scuttle hole in the west bedroom. The kitchen has plastered walls and no decorative trim. A trap door in the floor formerly led to a root cellar which is no longer in use.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

\_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL      XX STATE      \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL

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 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/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES      1837-1838      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shadrach Lambeth House is a well-preserved two-story brick three-room plan house of late Federal style built between 1837 and 1838 in northeastern Davidson County. The house was built either for Clinton Johnson, a local coach-maker, or for Shadrach Lambeth, a prosperous farmer and physician. Although the construction and form of the house is an anomaly for Davidson County during this period, it is similar to the tradition of Federal era brick houses found in Quaker settlements in neighboring Guilford County, and is therefore a significant variation in traditional Davidson County domestic architecture.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Architecturally significant late Federal style house associated with antebellum prosperity.
- B. Associated with Clinton Johnson, early nineteenth century Davidson County craftsman, and with Shadrach Lambeth, prominent farmer and physician in the Thomasville area in the mid-nineteenth century.

Based on the Davidson County tax lists which are unusually complete for North Carolina counties from 1830 to 1850, the construction date of the Shadrach Lambeth House can be pinpointed to 1837-1838, when the value of the 200-acre tract jumped from \$175 to \$1,000.<sup>1</sup> The tract was acquired in 1832 by Clinton Johnson for \$113 at the sale of the estate of Jesse Hargrave, and its value remained at \$113 in the tax lists of 1832 to 1836. Johnson was obviously becoming a citizen of some stature during this period, for in 1835 he became the captain of his tax precinct, and remained so in 1836 and 1837. In 1837 the tax value increased to \$175, apparently reflecting some construction improvement. But in February of this year he was forced to mortgage the property to secure a \$150 debt, and at the end of the six-month payment period specified in the deed of trust, the land became the property of Shadrach Lambeth.<sup>2</sup> The deed specifies "a certain tract of land whereon I now reside . . . on the waters of Uarie /Uwharrie River/ containing 199 7/11 acres more or less" and also lists livestock, farming implements, all household and kitchen furniture, and "1 set smith tools, 1 set waggonmaking tools." It is obvious that there was a dwelling of some sort on the property in 1837.

In 1838, the first year of Lambeth's ownership, the tax value of the 200-acre tract is \$1,000. It is probable, given the fact that the 1838 tax list represented the tax value for the previous year, and given the length of time necessary to construct a substantial brick house, that the present house was completed before Lambeth bought the property. In fact, Johnson may have lost his new house because of debts incurred during its construction. It is possible, however, that Lambeth himself built the two-story brick three-room plan house in the winter of 1837-1838.

Although 1837 would seem late for the construction of a Federal style house, retarditaire architecture is characteristic of Davidson County. The earlier ownership history of this tract suggests that it had been owned since the late eighteenth century by land speculators rather than homesteaders, thus it is unlikely to have had a dwelling on it before Johnson's ownership. The tract was apparently part of the two tracts, grants number 2107 and 2136, granted in 1792 and 1793 to Samuel Parke by the state of North Carolina.<sup>3</sup> The next owner must have been Lewis Tyre, prominent citizen in the section of Rowan County which became Davidson County in 1822. Jesse Hargrave, one of Lexington's most prominent early businessmen and politicians, bought it at a sheriff's sale from Tyre.<sup>4</sup>

The Clinton Johnson who probably built the Lambeth House may be the same Clinton

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Continuation Sheet

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8.57 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	5 8 5 3 1 0	3 9 6 8 2 7 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of Tax Map 337, Davidson County Tax Office, contained in Lot 49, bounded on the east by Lot 46, on the south by Lot 74, on the west by Tower Road (SR 2062) and on the north by Lots 47, 48, 47A, and 46, as outlined in red on map.

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Johnson listed in southern Davidson County in the 1850 Census as a 52 year old coachmaker, with real estate worth \$100. He was living with his young wife and four children.<sup>5</sup>

The house is best known for its association with Shadrach Lambeth, born in Craven County in 1797, raised in Guilford County as a Quaker, and moved to Davidson County with his family in the mid-1830s.<sup>6</sup> His wife Jane was the sister of John W. Thomas, founder of Thomasville,<sup>7</sup> who lived near the Lambeth family when the 1850 census was taken. Thomas was the trustee of the mortgage deed through which Lambeth acquired the property, and he may have arranged for his brother-in-law to take over the new house when Clinton Johnson experienced financial difficulty. Shadrach is listed in the 1850 census as a 52 year old farmer,<sup>9</sup> with real estate worth \$3,300.<sup>8</sup> He lived in the house until his death in 1853,<sup>9</sup> and his wife Jane remained there until 1870, when she moved with her youngest son, Joseph Harrison Lambeth and his family to Thomasville. Shadrach's tombstone inscription has the title "Dr." in front of his name. One source explains that "he was a physician of local note, using the Thomsonian system of medicine, doctoring principally with herbs."<sup>10</sup>

Ownership of the Shadrach Lambeth House during the remainder of the nineteenth century was very unsettled, and the succession of owners may have rented the place as a tenant farm. In 1870 Jane and J. H. Lambeth sold the 234-acre property to Jeremiah Hart of Pennsylvania for \$1,300.<sup>11</sup> Hart mortgaged the property in 1883, and it was sold at public auction in 1886 to J. L. Wright for \$570.<sup>12</sup> In 1889 Wright sold it to D. B. Foucht of Stokes County for \$1,300. Foucht, still residing in Stokes County, sold it in 1896 to J. A. and W. H. Elliott for \$1,300.<sup>13</sup> The Elliotts sold it to W. G. Pennington for \$2,000 in 1899.<sup>14</sup> The Penningtons lived there until 1944, and the main road by the house is known as Pennington Road. Since 1944, a tract containing the house has been owned by the Shoaf family, who first occupied the house as tenants in the 1930s.<sup>15</sup> The most recent resident was Edwin Shoaf.

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Davidson County Tax Lists, 1832-1848, Capt. Lee's company, Capt. Johnson's company, Capt. Conrad's district, Capt. Bowers' district, Capt. Sullivan's district, and Capt. Adam's district. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>2</sup>Davidson County Deed Book 5, page 396 (1832); Davidson County Deed Book 5, page 514 (1837), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>3</sup>Rowan County Deed Book 13, page 219 and page 271, North Carolina State Archives.

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<sup>4</sup>Davidson County Wills, Jesse Hargrave, probated 1830, North Carolina State Archives; Jewell M. Sink and Mary Green Matthews, Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Davidson County, North Carolina (High Point, N.C.: Hall Printing Company, 1972), p. 76.

<sup>5</sup>United States Census, 1850. Population Schedule. Davidson County, page 319, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>6</sup>Molly Lambeth Johnson, "The Lambeth Family," The Heritage of Davidson County, 1982 (Lexington, North Carolina: The Genealogical Society of Davidson County), entry number 681; Sink and Matthews, Pathfinders Past and Present, pp. 229, 345-346.

<sup>7</sup>Sink and Matthews, p.

<sup>8</sup>United States Census, 1850. Population Schedule. Davidson County, page 331, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>9</sup>Henry Reeves, Cemetery Inscriptions Davidson (Old Rowan) Co., North Carolina 1970, Fairgrove Methodist Cemetery.

<sup>10</sup>Johnson, "The Lambeth Family."

<sup>11</sup>Davidson County Deed Book 20, page 879, North Carolina State Archives.

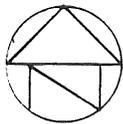
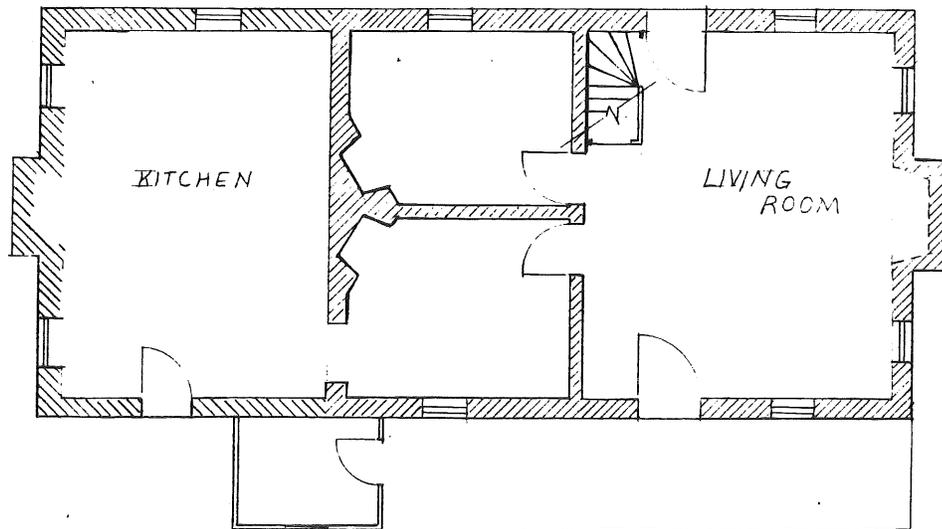
<sup>12</sup>Davidson County Deed Book 45, page 196, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>13</sup>Davidson County Deed Book 49, page 181, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>14</sup>Davidson County Deed Book 51, page 297, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>15</sup>Davidson County Deed Book 157, page 248, North Carolina State Archives.





SHADRACH LAMBETH HOUSE c 1820  
NR THOMASVILLE

1/8" = 1'0" 10-25-83  
PBT

23422  
23422  
23422

Shadesch Lambert House  
Davidson County, N.C.  
Grantangle: Fair Grove, N.C.  
Tax Map 337 Lot 49

45 33.65 AC

43  
42 2.62 AC  
60 3.28 AC  
75

35 27 AC  
31  
32  
70

37 29.3 AC

TOWNSHIP

35.6 AC

47 9.31 AC  
47A  
48

49 8.57 AC

50 4.85 AC  
51 5.08 AC  
74 10.56 AC  
73 3.51 AC

52 6.88 AC  
72 8.63 AC  
70 1.67 AC

53 30.62 AC

40 7.68 AC  
64 1 AC  
39 12.32 AC

38 2.6 AC

61 8.24 AC  
2062

SEE MAP 337E

56 20.41 AC

2062

RD TOWER

37 29.3 AC

38 2.6 AC

39 12.32 AC

40 7.68 AC

41 8.24 AC

42 2.62 AC

43

THOMASVILLE

IN

55 15 AC

52 6.88 AC

53 30.62 AC

54

55 15 AC

56 20.41 AC

57 29.3 AC

58 2.6 AC

59 12.32 AC

60 3.28 AC

61 8.24 AC

62 2.62 AC

63

64 1 AC

65

66

67

68

69

