

**THIS PROPERTY IS LISTED IN THE  
TARBORO MULTIPLE RESOURCE  
NOMINATION. FOR FULL FORM,  
PLEASE SEE TARBORO MULTIPLE  
RESOURCE NOMINATION.**

TARBORO MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION

C. Oakland Plantation (Lloyd Farm, Elks Lodge) ED430

North side of Edmondson Street, 2 lots east of Lloyd Street, Tarboro, NC

LESS THAN ONE ACRE: 1 lot

Owner: President, Elks Lodge  
708 Edmondson Street  
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

UTM REFERENCE:

Description

Although much altered inside for its varied uses, the unchanged and notable exterior makes this one of Tarboro's most interesting structures architecturally; in addition, the presence of a plantation house at the edge of town is historically important in conveying the character of antebellum Tarboro. The dwelling is composed of a central 2-story section, flanking 1-story wings, and a series of rear additions. It is oriented diagonally relative to the grid of more recent streets. The frame house has shallow hip roofs supported on a series of handsome brackets, and across most of the front extends a very handsome and well-preserved 1-story porch of the distinctive Tarboro lattice type. Openwork sawn posts are filled with a rich variety of delicate geometric and Gothic tracery, and are linked by upper latticework shaped into an arcade. This links the house with others in Tarboro and outlying regions of the county that feature this delightful airy porch geometry.

Significance

This building is significant for two primary reasons: as a surviving antebellum plantation house which, though now surrounded by residential development, still recalls the original limits of the town and the presence of nearby plantations and their houses; and as an excellent example of the vigorous, eclectic antebellum domestic architecture of the town and county. The combination of a three-part massing, bold Asher-Benjamin pattern book pilasters, and Grecian taste, Italianate brackets, and the distinctive regional lattice and openwork trim gives the house unique charm and significance.

The original owner of the house is uncertain. The property was owned in the early 19th century as a plantation of Edmund and Mary Gregory; in 1836 the property was sold to pay debts, and the Gregorys' son-in-law Joseph R. Lloyd purchased the plantation and operated it.<sup>1</sup> He was a member of the state legislature 1821-1822.<sup>2</sup> He evidently returned the plantation to his mother-in-law Mary Gregory before his death in 1841, and she in turn left the property to her grandson Henry S. Lloyd in 1858. (She died in that year aged about 103 years.)

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Significance

Lloyd, a bachelor and Martin County planter,<sup>3</sup> added acreage to the property, including about 80 acres purchased from John S. Dancy, and others.<sup>4</sup> He died in 1859, leaving the property to his brother Joseph W. Lloyd;<sup>5</sup> whether the house was built for Henry in 1858-1859 or for Joseph, who owned the place from 1859 until his death in 1885, is uncertain. Joseph seems more likely. His will of 1885 contains the first reference to a dwelling house.

Joseph W. Lloyd owned the plantation until his death in 1885 when the estate was divided among his children.<sup>6</sup> During his ownership the estate consisted of 450 acres of improved land and 750 acres of unimproved land. The plantation's main crops had been corn, peas and beans, sweet potatoes, and cotton. The value of the produce in 1870 was \$6,000.<sup>7</sup> (Apparently Lloyd did not take possession of the property until after the 1860 census--so don't know about slaves. He owned 14 before receiving the Lloyd land.)<sup>8</sup>

In the division of 1885 the portion of the Lloyd property containing the "dwelling house" went to James B. Lloyd.<sup>9</sup> He was probably the best known of the Lloyds to live on the plantation. He is particularly remembered for being influential in the Populist Party in the 1890s and for being the editor of the Farmer's Advocate, a Tarboro newspaper devoted to the Farmer's Alliance and Edgecombe agriculture. In 1892 the Democratic Party nominated him to the legislature, but he failed to get elected. He abandoned the Democratic Party and joined the Populists who nominated him to the legislature in 1894, although he was again defeated. As a Populist in 1898 he ran against Republican George H. White, a black man, for Congress but was defeated. He subsequently returned to the Democratic Party.<sup>10</sup>

In 1906 Lloyd sold the plantation to Henry Johnston who soon sold it to William G. Clark, a real estate developer.<sup>11</sup> Clark evidently divided it into small lots.

In 1921 the building was still a dwelling with the land immediately around it still undeveloped, with a few scattered dwellings. By 1931 streets had been cut through, lots laid out, and the building was labeled "Elks Home (Negro)." It still serves the same purpose, as the meeting place for the group.

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Edgecombe County Deed Book 21: p. 453.

<sup>2</sup> John L. Cheney (ed.), North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History (Raleigh: State Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), p. 278.

<sup>3</sup> Edgecombe County Will Book G: 181

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Footnotes

- 4 Edgecombe County Deed Book 28: p. 482.
- 5 Edgecombe County Wills, Henry S. Lloyd, 1859, Archives, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
- 6 Edgecombe County Estates, Joseph W. Lloyd, 1885, Archives, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
- 7 Edgecombe County Census, 1870: Population Schedule, 615.
- 8 Ibid., 1860: Slave Schedule, 272-273.
- 9 Edgecombe Estates, Joseph W. Lloyd, 1885.
- 10 J. Kelly Turner and Johathan L. Bridgers, Jr., History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1920), pp. 292, 299, 303, 308, 314.
- 11 Edgecombe County Deed Book 130: p. 307.

Source of information:

Verbal Boundary Description: