

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Polk
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Green River Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
S.R. 1005, 0.8 mi. west of junction with S.R. 1302 and S.R. 1145

CITY OR TOWN:
Cox Store vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Eleventh
The Hon. Roy Taylor

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Polk CODE: 149

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. John J. Crowder *Mr & Mrs. Guy L. Odum (New owner)*

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 4 *Green River Plantation* *Mr/Mrs. William Cantrell*

CITY OR TOWN:
Rutherford *Rutherfordton, NC 28139* *Lt Plaza, Maryland*

STATE:
North Carolina 20646 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Polk County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Perched on a rise overlooking the flood plain of the Green River is a rambling two-story house called Green River Plantation. It is composite of three major construction periods. It started as a frame Federal-style house facing west. During the Greek Revival period a separate two-story brick structure of similar proportions was built slightly to the rear (east) of the structure, facing south. Early in the twentieth century these two structures were united with a two-story section. At this time numerous additions and improvements were made throughout, yet the integrity of the two earlier structures was preserved.

The oldest section of the house is two full stories high and four bays wide. It has a gable roof with boxed eaves, plain siding, and dormers most likely added in the twentieth century. For the most part, windows contain nine-over-nine double-hung sash and have molded architraves and sills. The south side appears to have the original configuration of the gable ends; a central chimney flanked by two standard windows at each level with six-over-six sash in the attic. The doorway, placed in the second bay from the right, retains its original treatment, having four-pane sidelights flanked by fluted pilasters (with exaggerated entasis) supporting a frieze with an arched opening, with a molded cornice.

The brick Greek Revival-style section is also four bays wide with a gable roof. The wide cornice is decorated at the top with a variation of the bead-and-reel motif with an exaggerated oval bead. Evidence indicates that this cornice continued along the east gable end, forming a pediment with a fanlight in the tympanum. An interior chimney pierces the roof between the first and second east bays.

The twentieth century section connecting the two structures is unified under a continuation of the main roof of the brick wing. The windows are similar to those on the Federal part, but the main door in the second bay from the left on the south side has sidelights and transom surrounded by symmetrically molded architraves with faceted corner blocks.

Numerous additions were made to the previous structure in the early twentieth century including a two-story gable roof addition to the west side (the first floor being open), a one-story brick wing on the east, a servants wing from the second floor extending north over the driveway, two-tier porches (some enclosed) on the remainder of the north and west sides, and a two-tier porch across the south side of the brick section.

The Federal section has a hall-and-parlor plan downstairs and two rooms to either side of the central hall above. Architectural elements which occur in this section of the house are a flat-paneled wainscot (consisting of double rows of rectangular panels), three-part architraves, some early six-panel doors, sheathing in the walls and ceiling, and a molded cornice. Mantels have three-part architraves surrounding the opening with a flat-paneled frieze flanked by frieze blocks over which the heavily molded shelf breaks out. The most interesting of these, larger in size and of a different configuration, is in the south room of the first floor. The flat frieze with fluted end blocks to each side is painted with a landscape scene. What was formerly an exterior doorway (now connecting the south room with the hall)

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is of similar configuration to the west entrance previously mentioned but has no fanlight or frieze. The hall occupying the space between the two sections features a twentieth century open-string stair with turned balusters.

The Greek Revival section has two rooms to a floor separated by a partition wall containing the central chimney. The walls are plastered and have a molded chair rail. The architraves of the windows, doors, and fireplace surrounds are symmetrically molded with flat, faceted, or roundel corner blocks.

Many outbuildings are present on the property, including a twentieth century log cabin, other log and frame buildings, and a family chapel at the summit of the hill behind the house. The simple Gothic Revival frame chapel is sided with weatherboards and is sheathed in the interior, with narrow boards forming vertical, diagonal and herringbone patterns. The delicate freestanding rood screen, indicative of the sprightly interior woodwork, is composed of trefoil arches under pointed arches with a band of pierced triangles at the crest.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Green River is an imposing and well detailed plantation house that was the home of Joseph McDowell Carson, a member of the politically prominent Carson family. It later was acquired by industrial magnate Franklin Coxe. Originally a single Federal structure, the house is an interesting composite of additions up to the twentieth century.

Joseph McDowell Carson, the probable builder of Green River Plantation, was the son of Colonel John Carson, an early settler of Burke County and a Revolutionary soldier. Joseph left his father's home, Pleasant Gardens, and settled in Rutherford County where in 1807 he bought 600 acres on both sides of Green River for \$3,000. Tradition says that he built the plantation house called Green River in 1804. This would not seem probable considering the date of his deed. It would seem possible, on the other hand, that William Walton, from whom Carson bought the land, had built a house after settling there in 1799. The possible existence of this house would account for the relatively high purchase price. In 1817, by way of comparison, Carson was able to buy more than 100 acres adjoining this tract for only \$20.00. Carson married sometime soon after buying Green River Plantation and, if he did not build a new house, may have begun the first series of alterations or improvements so evident in the present structure. Stylistically the Federal block could have been built during either Walton's or Carson's ownership; tradition credits it to Carson, and it was certainly he who built the Greek Revival section.

Joseph McDowell Carson was a distinguished lawyer and represented Rutherford County in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1813 and 1814. He was elected to the state senate in 1832, 1836, and 1838. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1835 and was a commissioner for the implementation of the public school plan provided for by the resultant amended constitution.

A person of note whom Joseph McDowell Carson brought to live with him at Green River was his half-brother, Samuel Price Carson. When only twenty-four, Samuel Carson embarked on a political career as a United States senator and later as an officer in Sam Houston's government of Texas. He was married at Green River in 1831 to the sister of Joseph McDowell Carson's wife. In the course of his political career, he was involved in one of North Carolina's most famous duels. When Dr. Robert Vance questioned his father's honor, Carson challenged him and in the subsequent duel mortally wounded him.

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Vance was the uncle of Civil War Governor Zebulon Vance, perhaps the most esteemed North Carolinian of his day.

The Agricultural Schedule of the United States Census of 1860 indicates Green River was then a plantation of 1,745 acres with a valuation of \$15,000. There were at that time twenty-five slaves. Carson died in 1860.

Green River was put up for sale and bought by Franklin Coxe, who had married there in 1861 a kinswoman of the Carsons, Mary Mills. When the house became available in 1878, he bought it for \$6,005, together with the 535-acre tract. Coxe was a grandson of Tench Coxe of Philadelphia, assistant secretary of the United States Treasury, and, under Thomas Jefferson, "purveyor of public supplies." For his work in developing the cotton industry, Tench Coxe has been called the "Father of American Cotton Industry." Franklin Coxe was president of the Commercial National Bank at Charlotte when he bought Green River Plantation. It became his summer home when he moved to Philadelphia in 1882. Coxe, who was instrumental in the development of Asheville, was associated with A. B. Andrews in the building of the Western North Carolina Railroad and built Asheville's Battery Park Hotel, "the first modern hotel in the state," which opened in 1886. When Coxe died at Green River in 1903, the house went to his youngest daughter, Maude Coxe. It is now owned by John J. Crowder of Rutherfordton, North Carolina.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Charles Blume, survey specialist; architectural description by Bruce MacDougal, head, research and restoration. Arthur, J. P. Western North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards, Broughton Printing Company, 1914.
 Ashe, Samuel A., ed. Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present. Greensboro, North Carolina: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1907.
 Griffin, Clarence W. Western North Carolina Sketches. Forest City, North Carolina: The Forest City Courier, 1941.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	35°	17'	29"	82°	01'	27"
NE	35°	17'	29"	82°	00'	50"
SE	35°	16'	56"	82°	00'	50"
SW	35°	16'	56"	82°	01'	27"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 12 October 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: H. G. Jones *H. G. Jones*

Title: Director, Division of Archives and History

Date: 12 October 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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9.

Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943.

Patton, Sadie Smathers. Sketches of Polk County History. Asheville, North Carolina: Miller Printing Company, 1950.

Polk County Records, Polk County Courthouse, Columbus, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Polk County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Rutherford County Records, Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Rutherford County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

SR 1005, 0.8 mi W. jct SR 1302 +

SR 1145

Pea Ridge quad

Green River Plantation

Polk Co

MAPPED PL3



