

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Humphrey-Williams House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East side of N.C. 211, 0.6 mi. south of junction with S.R. 1001

CITY OR TOWN:
Lumberton vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Seventh
The Hon. Charles Rose

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Robeson CODE: 155

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thomas Smith

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 3, Box 948

CITY OR TOWN:
Lumberton

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Robeson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lumberton

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:
Lumberton

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Robeson

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

The Humphrey-Williams House, a two-story frame farmhouse dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, is located close to the road in an impressive setting of large trees, surrounded by an early wooden picket fence. A number of early outbuildings, including a barn, a carriage house, a smokehouse, and a store-post office, complete the farm complex. The house, five bays wide and three deep, is in its original form with the exception of an unobtrusive twentieth century one-story center rear wing, which replaced the original one-bay wide two-story porch. It is set on a high brick foundation and covered with plain lapped siding. Nine-over-nine sash windows with simple molded architraves beneath projecting cap molding illuminate all elevations. In each upper gable end are four-pane transom windows with the same surround. A handsome molded box cornice with short returns terminates the front and rear facades, and a narrow molded cornice continues along the gables. Two interior brick chimneys with ornamental stucco bands beneath the molded caps rise from the gable roof.

An original one-story shed porch runs across the main (south) facade. The porch roof extends beyond the porch floor, and is supported by turned posts with unusual turned capitals resembling coiled rope. The posts are set on freestanding brick piers. The treatment of the porch cornice is identical to that of the main cornice. Chamfered posts, plain balusters, and a molded handrail form the porch railing. The space enclosed by the porch is treated like an interior room, with three facade entrances with detailed architectural trim opening to the porch, and a flat-paneled wainscot extending across the facade nearly to the corners. The porch railing is identical to the interior stair railing, which enhances the interior ambience. In the center bay is a double door with transom and sidelights. The door, each leaf containing a single vertical panel, has an elaborate surround consisting of pilasters composed of slender engaged half-round moldings, with flat-paneled corner blocks, supporting a molded entablature above the door. Pilasters composed of slender vertical wooden strips which form flat panels flank the sidelights and support an identical entablature surmounting the entire entrance. Each flanking entrance is a single door containing two vertical panels set within a plain frame and surmounted by a transom and an entablature like that of the main entrance. The first-floor facade windows are distinguished from the remaining windows by an architrave composed of slender applied vertical wooden members like the center entrance pilasters.

The interior of the Humphrey-Williams House, a center-hall plan two rooms deep, continues the vernacular Greek Revival finish of the exterior. The hall is divided into a front and rear hall at both levels. The rear hall was originally open to the rear porch at both levels, but was closed in when the rear porch was removed. An open-string stair rises against the east wall in the front hall. A tall chamfered newel, plain balusters and a molded handrail form the balustrade. The flat-paneled hall wainscot, with a simple molded chair rail, is repeated on the stair spandrel and continues up the stair wall to the upper hall. Above the wainscot the spandrel is flat-paneled, and curvilinear brackets adorn the open string. With the exception of the parlor, each room has plastered walls and a wood-sheathed ceiling. The first-floor front and rear hall and the first-floor southeast

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(Continuation Sheet)

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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

room contain flat-paneled wainscots with molded chair rails, and the second-floor front hall contains a flat-paneled wainscot. The window and door architraves throughout the house are very similar to the architraves of the first-floor facade windows, and are surmounted by projecting molded caps. In several of the rooms the window architraves extend to the floor, framing two horizontal flat panels. Each door has two vertical flat panels, and a number of original box locks survive. Each of the rooms contains the original mantel; no two are identical, but each is composed of pilasters, frieze and shelf elaborated by varying combinations of the same decorative elements employed on the facade.

The southwest room, the parlor, the most finely finished room, has plastered walls and ceiling, with a molded plaster frieze and cornice and a large plaster ceiling medallion composed of concentric rings. The parlor mantel, the most elaborate in the house, is composed of symmetrically molded pilasters with a two-tier molded frieze, a flat-paneled center tablet, and a molded cornice and shelf.

The store-post office, located at the rear west side of the house, is a small rectangular frame building covered with plain lapped siding and a steep gable roof with plain boxed eaves. The main (south) gable end facade contains the only entrance, a diagonally sheathed batten door hung on strap hinges, with a large iron door pull. A small window with a single flat-paneled shutter is present in the front and rear. Beneath the front window is the letter chute, probably dating from 1856 when the Raft Swamp Post Office was established here. The interior is covered with wide horizontal sheathing, with exposed beaded ceiling joists. The windows are framed by a simpler version of the interior surrounds of the main house. The built-in wooden shelves and counter are perhaps original to the store.

3. 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) between 1835-1856

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Humphrey-Williams House is an unusual and well-preserved vernacular Greek Revival house, of particular significance in exhibiting the handling of porches as rooms, a regional characteristic admirably suited to the lowland climate. The full complement of early outbuildings includes an 1856 store-post office.

The Humphrey-Williams House was apparently built by Richard B. Humphrey between 1835, when he began to acquire the land on which the farm is located, and his death about 1856. At his death his orphaned children, Ann Eliza and William B., were left in common his 3,000-acre estate. During the August, 1859, term, the county court of pleas and quarter sessions divided the estate, awarding Ann Eliza and her husband Warren Williams 1,487 acres containing Richard Humphrey's house and outbuildings, valued at \$6,961, and the remainder to her brother. In 1908 the Williams bequeathed the house and plantation, reduced to about 600 acres, to their children Robert W., Ida and Janie, and in 1965 it was sold to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thomas Smith.

The house has had little alteration, and is now under restoration. It is one of the best-preserved of the few remaining examples of antebellum domestic architecture in Robeson County, a swampy, sparsely settled area of the state in the nineteenth century. It is significant not only for the unusual application of whimsical Greek Revival architectural trim, but as an example of the fluid handling of interior and exterior space characteristic of southeastern North Carolina dwellings of the period. The facade porch is finished to resemble an interior room, and the rear hall at both levels was originally open to the outside as a porch. A portico in antis occurs at the nearby Philadelphus Presbyterian Church, which, according to county tradition, was built by the same carpenter who built the Humphrey-Williams House. The presence of several early outbuildings and the early nineteenth century store, containing the Raft Swamp Post Office established in 1856, adds to the historical integrity of the farm complex.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Ruth Little Stokes, survey specialist.
 Robeson County Records, Robeson County Courthouse, Lumberton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Robeson County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			D R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		34° 42' 07"	79° 03' 47"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Office of Archives and History

DATE: 22 June 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

Title State Historian/Administrator

Date 22 June 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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CUMBERLAND
COUNTY 79 00

Humphrey-Williams House
Lumberton vicinity
North Carolina

State Highway Commission Map
Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$: 1 mile
Date: 1967

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
34	42	07	79	03	47

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