

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Robert Nancy Monroe House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Southwest side SR 1328, 0.4 mi. southeast of Jct.w/SR 1334 not for publication

city, town Silver Hill ~~X~~ vicinity of Silver Hill

state North Carolina code 037 county Scotland code 165

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Nancy Gainey

street & number Rt. 2, Box 357

city, town Laurinburg vicinity of state N. C. 28352

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Scotland County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Laurinburg state N. C. 28352

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

An inventory of architectural and historical resources in Scotland County, has this property been determined eligible? yes no
title unpublished

date 1980-1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state N. C.

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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Robert Nancy Monroe House is a picturesque Queen Anne style house being an eclectic blend of the Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Shingle motives combined to create one of the finest and most individualized houses of the county's prosperous turn of the century period. Completed in 1912 by the builder Marshall Smith, this house was to be the home of Robert Nancy Monroe, a prosperous planter, miller, merchant and community leader; he died before the house's completion. When completed the house was occupied by his widow and their children. According to the present owner, Monroe's daughter, the house was patterned after now-lost Grace Verner House in Seneca, South Carolina. Set behind a substantial pecan grove which frames the structure, the Monroe house speaks eloquently of the vivaciousness and ambition of the county's architecture during the years from 1890 to 1918 which, because of the period's prosperous cotton market, are sometimes referred to as "cotton boom houses."

The large, frame, three-bay-by-three-bay house is one-and-a-half stories in height with an additional attic half-story. Sheltering the main double-pile block is a tall truncated-hip roof covered with decorative metal shingles and pierced by two large, heavily-corbeled, interior brick chimneys. The house's many gables and dormers are faced with an intricate sheathing of imbricated wooden shingles, the most elaborate shingling in the county. The gables and dormers are further ornamented with applied decorative woodwork above the windows. In the gables, the two-over-two sash are paired in segmental arch surrounds with circular medallions of the center.

Around the three principal elevations of the first floor extends a wrap-around porch carried by Tuscan columns set on short brick piers in front of the porch floor. The house's dominant original feature was a tall, slender, two-story central portico flanked by gables on the east facade. It sheltered a recessed porch on the second floor and was crowned by a turned balustrade. According to the builder's daughter the roof of the portico was finished with a cement mixture which through time proved to be too heavy. Around 1925 the portico was removed because it was gradually pulling away from the house. Although never rebuilt, a shallow section of the portico's roof, heavily decorated with a complex band of molding, remains.

The rectangular form of the first floor is broken by three bay windows on the front southeast corner and in the center of the north and south elevations. A boxed cornice extends around the house, with returns at all gables and dormers. There are decorative scrolls at the corners of the bay windows and simple brackets supporting the cornices at the two one-room, one-story rear ells, which are connected by an enlarged and enclosed shed porch, the termination of the house's center hall. Another unusual exterior feature is the three stage tower, which is centrally located on the rear west elevation. It has short truncated-hip roof, bracketed corners and is completely woodshingled.

The main block of the house follows a central hall plan with pairs of flanking rooms. The wide, spacious center hall is entered through a door having sidelights and a large, segmentally-arched fanlight. The double dog-leg, "U"-shaped, stair rises at the rear. In the hall is a simple, wainscot of waist height; a low wainscot is in the front and rear south parlors. The plastered interior has standard Colonial Revival mantels and overmantels and simple door surrounds. The second floor rooms, because of the

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roof's many gables and dormers, have four irregularly-shaped rooms arranged around the center hall. From the rear rises the steep, dog-leg stairs to the attic room, a small plastered room in the shape of a Greek Cross, with the arms contained in the various gables, and the stairs, with a turned baluster railing with corner turned posts, rising near the room's center. The attic's only illumination comes from the windows of the large rear tower.

There are no surviving outbuildings.

8. Significance

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1912 Builder/Architect Marshall Smith

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robert Nancy Monroe House, a one-and-a-half story frame house graced by a pecan grove, is one of Scotland County's most ambitious and picturesque Queen Anne houses. Above its weatherboarded first story elevations are numerous gables and dormers and a three stage tower covered with a rich patterning of imbricated wood shingles--the finest and most elaborate example in the county. Financed by the agricultural wealth accrued in the late-19th and early 20th centuries the house is also the finest frame example of the so-called "cotton boom houses" of that period. It was completed in 1912 by the builder Marshall Smith for Robert Nancy Monroe (1852-1911) who died before the house was finished. It became the residence of his widow Margaret McMillan Monroe (1865-1937), the daughter of Andrew McMillan a prominent Presbyterian minister, and the couple's children. The Monroe and McMillan families were large landowners in Scotland County and families of local significance. Thus this house represents the consolidation of their interests and influence. Of the couple's eleven children nine survived, all attended college, and all but one taught school. The house remains in the ownership of the family and is now the residence of Robert Nancy Monroe's grandson, Graham Gainey, Jr.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Built in 1912 the Robert Nancy Monroe House is associated with the agricultural boom in Scotland County in the early 20th century and is the most elaborately finished of the frame houses surviving in the county from that period.
- B. Having been built for--yet never occupied by--Robert Nancy Monroe (1852-1911) the house is indirectly associated with his life as a prominent area farmer and merchant. For twenty five years it was the residence of his wife Margaret McMillan Monroe (1865-1937) and their children. Both the Monroe and McMillan families were locally prominent. Mrs. Monroe was the daughter of the Rev. Andrew McMillan (1814-1897) a prominent regional Presbyterian minister.
- C. The Robert Nancy Monroe House is the most richly detailed and picturesque frame house built in the Queen Anne style in Scotland County and boasts a rich sheathing of imbricated wood shingles on its gables, dormers and three-stage rear tower. Through its assymetrical composition and the use of various classical and colonial revival details on its weatherboarded and wood shingle exterior it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style in a middle class dwelling.

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The Robert N. Monroe House is located in Scotland County near the community of Silver Hill. The house was completed in 1912 by local carpenter Marshall Smith. Monroe died before the house was completed but it is still owned and occupied by his descendants.¹

Monroe (1852-1911), like so many residents of Scotland County, traced his ancestry back to the Scottish highlands. Around 1800 Archibald Monroe (1785-1867) came to Richmond County (now Scotland County) from the Isle of Jura. Beginning in the 1730s the upper Cape Fear region, including Richmond County, was inundated by thousands of Scottish settlers. Archibald Monroe married Flora McKay and they had seven children. Their second son Robert Lynch Monroe (1828-1864) married Nancy Campbell (1823-1853). They had four children, Robert Nancy, Duncan, Mary, and Fodie. Robert Lynch Monroe later remarried and had two additional children. Following the deaths of his parents at relatively young ages Robert N. Monroe was raised by relatives in Scotland County.²

In 1887 Robert N. Monroe married a neighboring school teacher Margaret McMillan (1865-1937). She was the daughter of Andrew McMillan (1814-1897) and Elizabeth Rebecca Brown (1827-1900). Andrew McMillan was a prominent Presbyterian minister and teacher in Scotland County. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1840 and later graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He founded churches at Marks Creek and Ellerbe Springs and also served at Laurel Hill, Antioch, Rockingham, and other churches.³

The Monroe and McMillan families were both large landowners, with much adjacent acreage. Upon their marriage Robert and Margaret Monroe consolidated their holdings. Mrs. Monroe, who outlived her husband by over two decades, owned almost 3,000 acres at the time of her death. Robert Monroe farmed, operated a sawmill, a turpentine mill, a feed mill, and a general store.⁴

The Monroes had eleven children. Raymond was born in 1888, Flora 1889, Robert 1891, Henry Fairley 1893, Marie 1895, Margaret Louise 1897, Grace 1899, William 1901, and Nancy 1904. Two other children died in infancy. All nine of the Monroe children who reached maturity attended college, and all except Fairley taught school, some for only a brief period, however.⁵

Robert Monroe willed his property to his wife.⁶ Following his death the family continued to farm the land. Mrs. Monroe was active in and interested in "state and county history, in civic and religious affairs and was an active church worker." She devoted much time to the Silver Hill Presbyterian Church, which was founded by her father for freed slaves after the Civil War. Mrs. Monroe was mourned as "one of the noblest and most highly esteemed women of the county" upon her death in 1937.⁷

Fairley Monroe took over operation of the family farms upon reaching maturity. He attended North Carolina State College, although he did not graduate. He was an elder in the Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church and was a member of the Scotland County commissioners for about twenty years. He served several terms as chairman of the commissioners. In 1953 he donated land to the Fayetteville Presbytery on which Camp Monroe was constructed. The camp was named after Robert N. Monroe, who operated a gristmill on the site. Fairley Monroe lived at his father's house until his 1935 marriage to Isabelle McNeill. They had no children. They moved to a nearby house and he continued to farm the family lands until shortly before his 1958 death.⁸

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Louise Monroe married Hugh Stewart, a Scotland County salesman in 1920. They lived at the Monroe house until about 1969. Mrs. Stewart was educated at Flora McDonald College and taught school in Scotland County. Her husband died in 1924. They had two children, one whom died in childhood. Mrs. Stewart died in 1969. Her sister Nancy lived in the house until her 1944 marriage to Graham Gainley, a Scotland County farmer. Mrs. Gainey graduated from and did post-graduate work in Queen College in Charlotte. She taught school for forty years in Gaston, Cumberland, and Scotland counties. They had two children. Raymond Monroe married Emily Stribling and was a Scotland County farmer. Flora married D. E. Krimminger and lived in Charlotte. Robert married Berrie Bryant and was a merchant in Laurinburg. Marie married John Allen Wilkins, a Gastonia attorney, and taught school in Gaston and Scotland counties. Grace married Charles Hatch, a Sanford Dentist, and taught school in Lee, Warren, and Scotland counties. She was also a graduate of Queen College. William graduated from North Carolina State College, married Frances Murray, and taught and farmed in Scotland County.⁹

The Monroe house is presently owned by Mrs. Gainey, Mrs. Hatch, and Mrs. Wilkins, all of whom have life estates in the property. Mrs. Gainey's son Graham Gainey, Jr. lives in the house with his wife and children. He farms the land.¹⁰

Although not an old house by Scotland County standards, the Monroe House is historically rich, with its association with two of the areas most prominent families, the Monroes and the McMillans. The house and associated families have importance in a number of fields, including religion, education, agriculture, business, and local politics, making it one of the area's historically significant structures.

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NOTES

¹Telephone interview with Mrs. Nancy Monroe Gainey, November 10, 1981, notes in file, hereinafter cited as Gainey interview. An earlier Monroe house on the property burned shortly after the completion of the second.

²Gainey interview; Mary Rebecca Watson Powers, Our Clan of Johnsons (Kinston: n.p., 1940), 94-95, hereinafter cited as Powers, Our Clan of Johnsons.

³Powers, Our Clan of Johnsons, 94-95; Gainey interview; Marie Monroe Wilkins, "Andrew McMillan," unpublished sketch, copy in file.

⁴Gainey interview; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Scotland County, North Carolina; Scotland County Tax List, 1905; Scotland County Plat Book 6, p. 1.

⁵Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Scotland County, North Carolina; Gainey interview.

⁶Richmond County Deed Book 6-D, p. 109.

⁷Laurinburg Exchange, December 23, 1937.

⁸Gainey interview; Fayetteville Observer, December 31, 1958;

⁹Gainey interview.

¹⁰Gainey interview.

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Laurinburg Exchange. December 23, 1937; June 26, 1953.

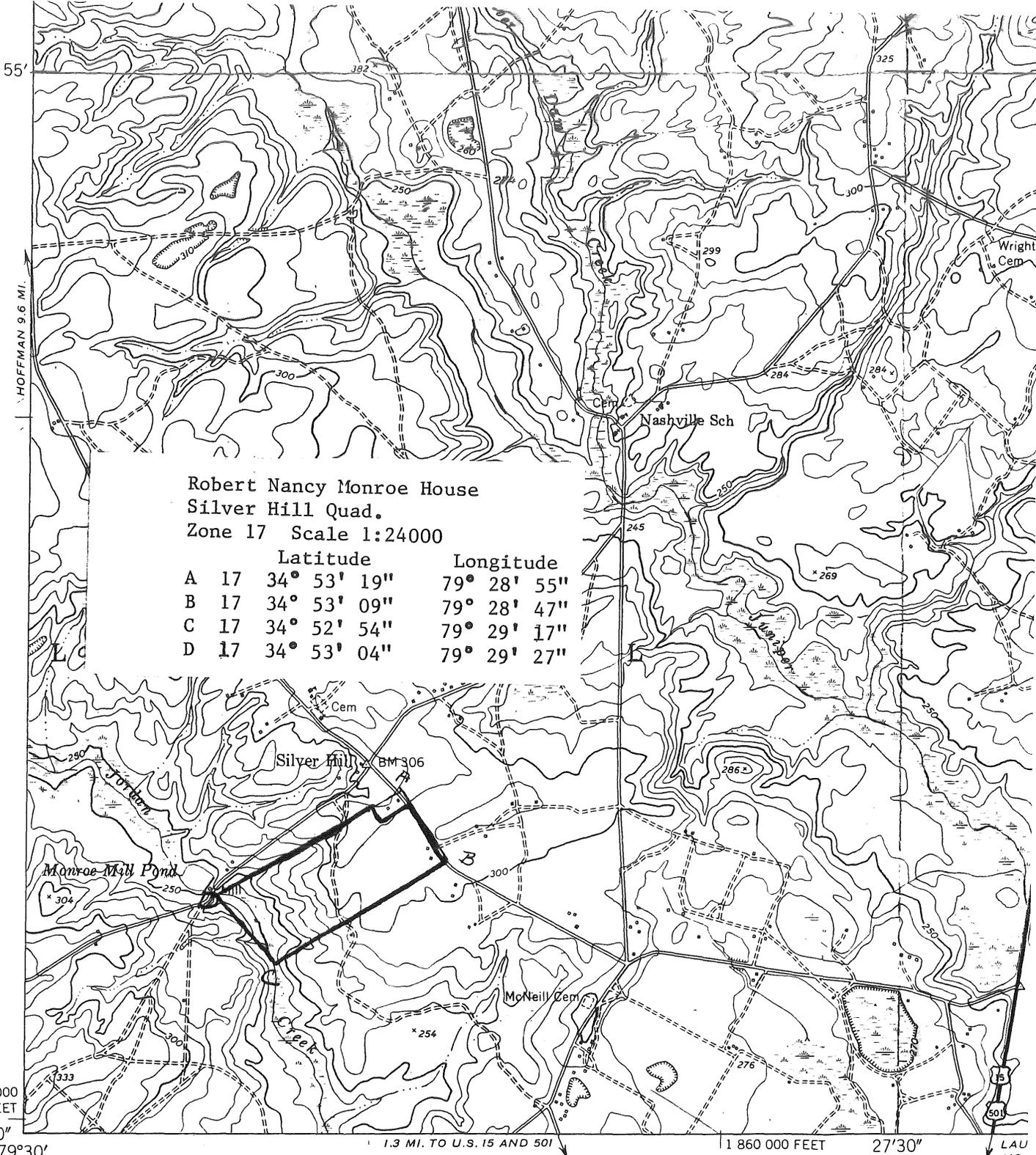
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Wilkins, Marie Monroe. "Andrew McMillan." Unpublished sketch. Copy in file.



Robert Nancy Monroe House
 Silver Hill Quad.
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24000

	Latitude	Longitude
A 17	34° 53' 19"	79° 28' 55"
B 17	34° 53' 09"	79° 28' 47"
C 17	34° 52' 54"	79° 29' 17"
D 17	34° 53' 04"	79° 29' 27"

410 000
 FEET
 34°52'30"

79°30'

1.3 MI. TO U.S. 15 AND 501

1 860 000 FEET

27'30"

LAU
 MC

(GIBSON)

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
 Aerial photographs taken 1948-1949. Field check 1949

Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on North Carolina coordinate system

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

2 1/2°
 TRUE NORTH
 MAGNETIC NORTH

APPROXIMATE MEAN
 DECLINATION, 1949



(1)

(19)

(18)

(17)

75.00 ac Ka Monroe L
o: Nancy Monroe Gurney
sister



N
1" = 400'

(12)

Jordan Creek

(15)

87.1 ac Kay Maggie Monroe
1948
o: W.M. Monroe
bro of NMG

Robert N. Monroe House
Scotland County, NC

Tax Map 321

(15)

56.86 ac Ka
Monroe Land
o: W.M. Monroe



