State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

4

Sampson COUNTY

Garland QUAD

X MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR ____ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC
General Thomas Boykin House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
0.9 mi down private land, W side
SR 1214, 1.5 mi SW of Jct with SR 1222

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

__ VICINITY OF Clinton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
North Carolina	037	Sampson	163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER Abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Jeff D. Johnson, III

STREET & NUMBER
306 Elizabeth Street

CITY, TOWN
Clinton, __ VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina 28328

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Book 559, Page 409

STREET & NUMBER
REGISTER OF DEEDS
SAMPSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE
CLINTON, N.C. 28328

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Thomas Butchko Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION
Survey & Planning Branch Research Branch

DATE
June 12, 1985

STREET & NUMBER
109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE
(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN
Raleigh,

STATE
NC 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	X DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This large, two-story with attic frame house, built about 1810, is the seat of the county's prominent Boykin family. General Thomas Boykin (1785-1859), was a Captain in the War of 1812 and later General of the Militia; he served two terms in the state House and one term in the state Senate. The son who inherited the homeplace, John Loftin Boykin (1812-1902), served in the state House in 1850-51. Thomas was the son of Byus Boykin (1747-1812) who passed through the area in about 1807 while moving from his native Virginia to Georgia; he was so impressed with the land that he settled here instead. The Boykin descendents were to become large landowners in Sampson County - at one time owning much of the land between Clinton and Garland - prosperous planters and prominent citizens and leaders, with four different members of the Boykin family serving three senate and four house terms in the State General Assembly. This Boykin house is the oldest family house that survives, and built in the vernacular Federal style with a hall-and-parlor plan. It is the earliest and largest Federal house remaining in the county, and has remained essentially unaltered through the years, although time and more recently neglect and vandalism have taken their toll. Built with the finest heart pine timber available, the house, although vacant for at least ten years and somewhat deteriorated, is in a stable condition with excellent restoration potential.

The large, frame, weatherboarded house is sheltered under a gable roof of standing seam metal and faces south; on the west is a one-story, two-room wing, added later. Between the two sections, connected by an enclosed breezeway, is an American bond (irregular) end gable chimney whose shaft has fallen. The complimentary chimney at the east end of the main block has been removed. The gable eaves are flush. Across the southern facade stood a full-width porch that has been lost, leaving only the wide board sheathing on the house's first story face. The center window on the second floor was originally a door, permitting access either onto a second floor porch, the form of which is unknown. Sash are nine-over-nine on the first floor and nine-over-six on the second. The small attic windows have been boarded in. Exterior surrounds are flat and plain, with wide board being used for the two center bay door surrounds. The rear, or north side, has no remnants of a porch, although one surely existed. The rear door does have a transom and several of the rear sash do retain their original paneled shutters. The house is raised on a brick and rock pier foundation.

Entrance from the front is into the hall of the hall-and-parlor plan interior. Along the north wall of each floor are arranged three small, engaged shed rooms, the center one containing unusually steep, dog-leg stairs with delicate slender, square spindles carrying the rounded handrail; these stairs extend to the unfinished, one room attic. The interior is plastered, except for the stair hall and west shed room on the first floor and the stair hall and parlor room on the second floor. The only original mantel remaining in the main block is the large, three-part, late Federal one with engaged, fluted Doric columns in the downstairs parlor. The other three have been removed. Detailing in the first floor parlors consists primarily of a molded chair rail and three-part door and beaded window surrounds. A simple, paneled wainscot is in the parlor; doors have six flat panels. The finishing

upstairs is finer than that of the first floor, and features a superb paneled wainscot in the hall that has a beaded, spiral trim at the base. A wall was added some time ago, dividing the original hall into a center hall and bedroom. Upstairs surrounds are the same as those on the first floor with the addition of an excellent beaded corner-block. The side, two-room ell contains the kitchen and dining room; the interior chimney has mid-19th century vernacular mantels. Sash are four-over-four.

The Boykin house is located nine-tenths of a mile down a private lane, sheltered by several outstanding oak trees and surrounded by extensive fields and woods. As the owner of the house has recently died, the prospects of the estate selling to someone able to restore are promising; the house has been out of the Boykin family since about 1940. There are no remaining outbuildings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL _____ STATE _X_ LOCAL

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	_X_ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
_X_1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	_X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Ca. 1810 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The General Thomas Boykin House, the largest and earliest of the county's handsome Federal residences, is the oldest family seat of the county's prominent Boykin family. It was erected about 1810 for Thomas Boykin (1785-1859), a Captain in the War of 1812, later a General in the Militia who served three terms in the state House and Senate. His father, Byus Boykin (1747-1812), settled in the area in 1807. Tradition maintains that while moving from his native Virginia to Georgia, Boykin was detained by a freshet on the Great Coharie Creek. Deciding he liked the land, he settled here instead, purchasing an initial tract of 50 acres. His descendents were to become large landowners and prominent planters, citizens and leaders of the county. The builder's son who inherited the house, John Loftin Boykin (1812-1902), also served in the state House. The residence, a handsome two-story with attic, hall-and-parlor plan house with engaged rear shed rooms on both floors is a notable example of the rural Federal style. At the time of its completion, this house was the finest and most stylistically up-to-date house yet built in the county; a fact it most likely owes to the Virginia upbringing of the builder. The house, which has been vacant for about ten years, and has suffered from neglect and vandalism. The house is currently in the estate of the deceased owner and will be put up for sale; it's potential restoration by a direct descendent looks favorable.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. Indicative of and associated with the settlement and growth of the county in the early 19th century.

B. The house was the residence of General Thomas Boykin (1785-1859), Captain in War of 1812, later a General in the Militia and a three term member of the state General Assembly. This is the homeplace of the county's prominent Boykin family-large landowners, prominent citizens, prosperous planters, and members of the state General Assembly.

C. The house is an early and excellent example of the Federal style as built by local craftsman in the early 18th century. It is the earliest and largest of the county's numerous early plantation houses.

D. Is likely to yield information valuable to the study and history of the region.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The General Thomas Boykin house was constructed about 1810 near the present town of Clinton. For much of the nineteenth century it housed one of Sampson County's leading families.

Thomas Boykin (1785-1859) was one of four children of Byus Boykin (1747-1812) and Elizabeth Boykin, who moved from Virginia to Sampson County in the early part of the nineteenth century. Thomas Boykin's brother John Boykin also became a prominent Sampson County planter and served in the North Carolina Senate from 1842 until 1843.[1]

Thomas Boykin was prominent in a number of civic affairs. He was a captain in the War of 1812 and later was a general in the militia. Boykin was one of the commissioners who laid out Clinton in 1818 and served in the North Carolina General Assembly for most of the 1820s.[2]

Boykin married Elizabeth Fennell and they had ten children. Son John L. Boykin represented Sampson County in the General Assembly in 1850 and 1851. He also obtained the house prior to the Civil War. Census records show that the Boykin farm was large, although not one of the largest in the county. The 1860 census credits John L. Boykin with 1,800 acres of land valued at $15,600 and a personal estate, including 28 slaves, valued at $24,510. The plantation had a large amount of livestock valued at $1,490 and grew a variety of crops, including wheat, rye, corn, oats, rice, peas and beans, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes and 7½ tons of hay.[3]

Following the Civil War the Boykin plantation became a farm. Boykin continued to farm, although not on the prewar level. In 1870 he had 175 of his over 2,000 acres under cultivation, while in 1880 he had only 40 acres under cultivation. Boykin continued to own large amounts of livestock and had begun to grow cotton by 1870.[4]

John Boykin lived at the Boykin house until his death in 1902 at the age of 90. His son George R. Boykin (1848-1909) owned the house next followed by Lofton Kerr, a grandson of John L. Boykin. The house left the family in 1940 when it was purchased by Jabez Williams. In 1947 he sold it to local historian Cora Bass in 1947. The property is currently owned by Jeff D. Johnson, III, a descendant of the builder. Although unoccupied for some time it is hoped the house can be restored.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mrs. Anne Jacobs Boykin Murphy, History and Genealogy of the Boykin Family (Richmond, VA, 1964)

Mrs. Taft (Cora) Bass, "Sampson County's Boykins gave County Heroes in Three Wars." Raleigh News and Observer, June 13, 1948

Jeff. D. Johnson, III, Clinton

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 249

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	739 300	382 625	B	17	740 575	382 175
C	17	740 200	381 000	D	17	739 100	381 250

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property of be nominated is 249 acres, more or less, as described in the Sampson County Register of Deeds Office, Book 559, Page 409, dated 7 November 1947 and as shown on the Map of Dr. J. H. Williams Farm, dated 20 April 1943, and registered in Plat Book 1, Page 306. Copies of the map and deed are attached.

The General Thomas Boykin house is one of the more important houses in the county, both because of its age and because of its long association with one of the county's most prominent families.

NOTES

[1]Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983), 68, 318, hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County.

[2]Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 68, 318. Boykin was a representative from 1821-1822, a senator from 1824-1826, and a representative again from 1827-1829.

[3]Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 68, 318; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Sampson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.

[4]Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Sampson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Sampson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.

[5]Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 318; Information supplied by Jeff D. Johnson, III, notes in file; Sampson Deed Book 559, p. 409.

Royal-Crumpler-Parker House
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1"62 500

17 743425/3875850

Robert Herring House
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

17 744250/3876050

GARLAND QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA
MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

College Street Historic Dist.
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

A 17 745050/3875900
B 17 745350/3876075
C 17 745150/3876000
D 17 745125/3875850

W. Main-N. Chestnutt Sts. HD
Garland and Coharie Quads
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

A 17 743875/3876275
B 17 744200/3875700
C 17 743800/3875200
D 17 743700/3876025

Powell-Bethune Building
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

17 744250/38775450

Pugh-Boykin House
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

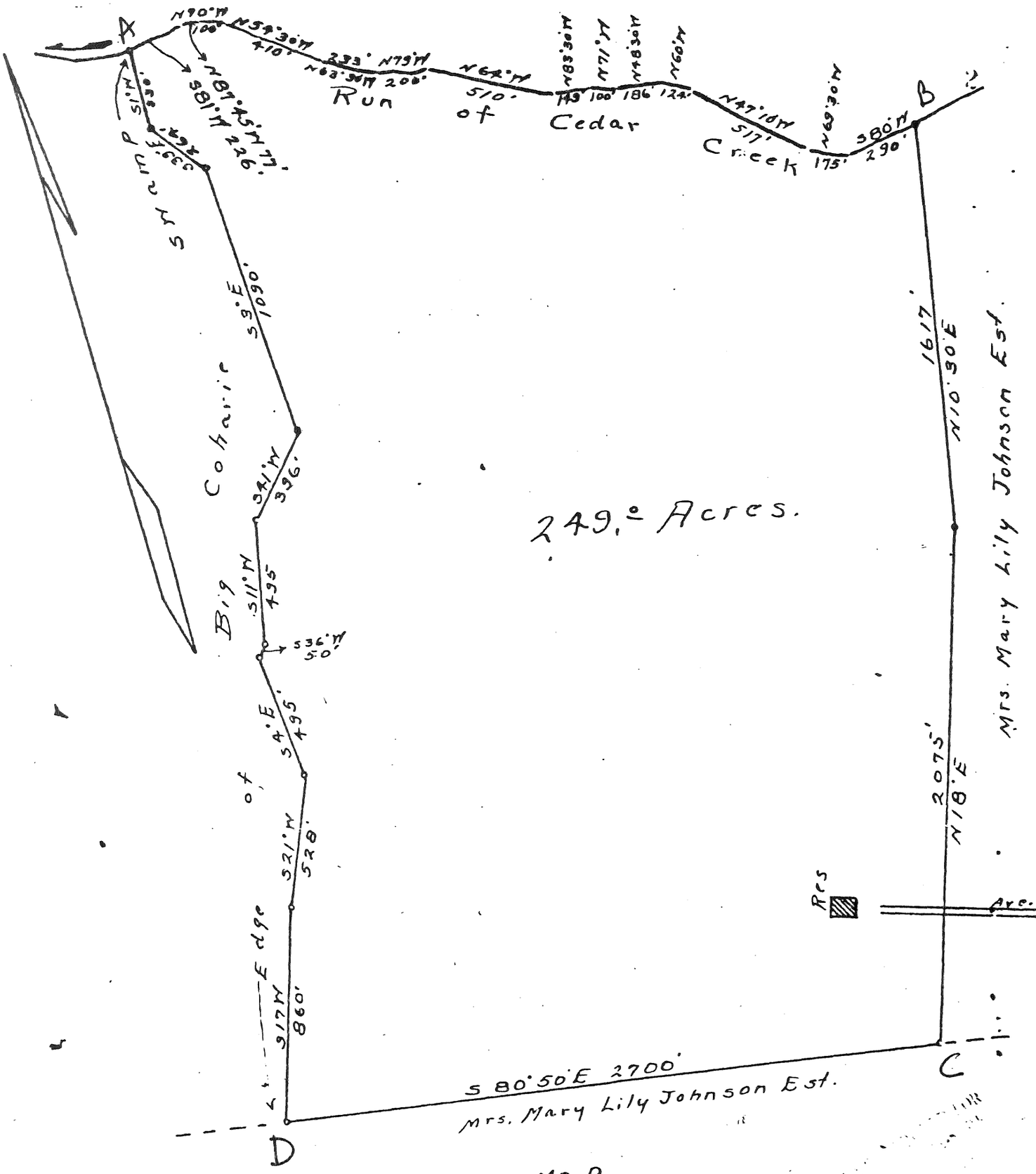
17 744075/3875800

Gen'l. Thomas Boykin House
Garland, N.C. Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62500

A 17 739300/3872625
B 17 740575/3872175
C 17 740200/3871000
D 17 739100/3871250

Fleet Matthis Farm
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

A 17 749675/3862100
B 17 749725/3861450
C 17 748225/3860875
D 17 748100/3861500



Map of
Dr. J. H. Williams' Farm
6 Mi. S. of Clinton, N.C.
Scale - 1" 500' Apr. 20, 1943
Survey and Map By
L. C. Kerr, Engr.

NORTH CAROLINA - SAMPSON COUNTY.

L. C. Kerr, being duly sworn, says that the foregoing and annexed plat is in all respects correct and was prepared from an actual survey made by me April 20th., 1943.

L. C. Kerr
Surveyor

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
this the 12th. day of May, 1943.

Mary E. Johnson
Notary Public.
My Commission Expires: Dec.11,1944.

Plat Book 1
Page 306

NORTH CAROLINA - SAMPSON COUNTY.

The foregoing plat is adjudged to be duly proven as required by law. Let the said plat