INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Owen Family House and Cemetery
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
E side SR 1212, 1.6 mi. N of SR 1214
CITY, TOWN
McDaniels
STATE
North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE

STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES RESTRICTED
YES UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
MUSEUM
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Dr. Henry J. Carr, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER
Chorrie Drive

CITY, TOWN
Clinton

STATE
North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE
Sampson County Registry of Deeds

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Sampson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Clinton

STATE
North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE
Thomas Butchko
Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION
Survey & Planning Branch
Research Branch

STREET & NUMBER
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN
Raleigh

STATE
North Carolina

DATE
May 23, 1985

TELEPHONE
(919) 733-6545
Although the early ownership of this house has not been documented, local historians insist that the house has always been associated with the Owen family. There is an Owen cemetery in a rear field, with the oldest Owen grave being that of the Rev. John Owen, M.C. (1770-1859). Three houses of different ages exist on the site. The earliest, a weatherboarded, one-room log dwelling apparently dates from around 1800. The rear block of the main house is a large, early-19th-century coastal cottage with engaged porch and rear shed rooms flanking an open central porch. The main block of the front portion is a two-room, center hall house with a prominent gable front porch displaying bold Greek Revival detail. It is conjectured that this block may have been built in the mid 19th century. All three houses individually are important examples of their styles. Collectively, the three summarize the successive predominant forms of domestic middle level architecture in rural Sampson County during the first half of the 19th century. The house, used for farm tenants for a number of years, was purchased around 1940 by the present owner's father.

The one-and-a-half story log house is built of round logs with round notching; it is covered with weatherboarding, some of it beaded. There is only one door or window per elevation. The interior has beaded ceiling beams, some surviving wall sheathing, and the remains of a corner stairs in the east corner. Used for storage and a variety of farm-related purposes for many years, the house has unfortunately suffered greatly from neglect, vandalism, and salvage.

The second house built on the site is a large, hall-and-parlor plan dwelling which follows the traditional coastal cottage form; it presently forms the ell of the front block. Oriented northeast to southwest, this section is sheltered by an end gable roof. At the northwest end stands a large, paved shoulder, Flemish bond brick chimney, with a replacement stack. Surviving Flemish bond in Sampson County is very rare. The porch, extending the entire width of the section, is screened and has a sheathed wall facade. The original sash are nine-over-nine. Inside the rooms are unusually large and tall. The hall is approximately twenty-by-fifteen and the parlor twelve-by-fifteen; both are sheathed with beaded wide boards, often fifteen inches or more wide. Beading is also very prevalent on the exposed beams, the ceiling height being about ten feet. The parlor's mantel is large and extremely plain and the firebox opening is segmentally arched, the only known one in the county. This section retains four original doors, each made of beaded wide boards with their original strap hinges. Along the northwest elevation of this section are the engaged shed rooms, originally composed of two enclosed shed rooms and an open, central porch. The porch has been enclosed and, with the removal of one of the dividing walls, combined to form one large shed room. The surviving small shed room contains the kitchen. At the south and west corners of the hall partition walls have been built to enclose a new bath and closet. Between these rooms is the door leading into the wide breezeway, since enclosed, which connects the rear Federal section to the 1850s Greek Revival block on front.
This front, five-by-two-bay, one-story single-pile section is one of the county's finest examples of the smaller gable-front porch form, here sheltering the three center bays. Four pillars with vernacular Doric capitals support the roof. Between the pillars runs a delicate railing of slender square spindles. Cornerboards treated as pilasters carry the continuous boxed cornice and frieze around the house. This simplified entablature forms the pediments on the end gables. A single, paved shoulder American-bond (1:3) brick chimney stands on the southeast; the northwest chimney has been removed. Sash are six-over-six with peaked surrounds and dog-ears or crossettes (unlike those in Clinton, rural surrounds of this type are rarely battered). The center entrance is exceptional, with a marvelous eight-panel door. Transom and sidelights are framed by a double peaked and dog-eared surround with a dentil course. This is the only vigorous vernacular adaptation of this very prevalent dog-eared surround in Sampson County. The interior of the front single-pile center hall Greek Revival block is sheathed with vertical boarding, which having never been painted, has achieved a natural pine patina. Surrounds are simple and two-part. The surrounds of the entrance lights is similar, quite large and with cornerblocks. A dado board marks the walls. The mantels in this Greek Revival block are large Federal ones, being three-and-four-part handsome and well-built.

The adjoining Greek Revival and Federal blocks are sheltered under numerous large oak trees which have prominent surface root systems. The log house, used for storage, has been moved to the southeast side of the house lot. At the rear of the main house is a Flemish bond brick potato house, the most significant outbuilding in the county. There are but remains of only several other brick outbuildings; but this one, though somewhat worn and abused, is intact. Being of Flemish bond makes this all the more unusual.

There are four contributing elements to this nomination: the log house, the Federal and Greek Revival house, the Flemish bond potato house, and the cemetery of the Owen family.
Sarah, died Sept. 5, 1859, aged 64 years, 4 months, 23 days
wife of Rev. John Owen, MD.  (Lauder)

Rev. John Owen, MD., died July 23, 1859, aged 68 years, 7 months, 10 days
stone broken off  (assume Lauder)

Nicholas Parker, died June 21, 1835  76-11-16  (Lauder)
Elizabeth, died Oct. 19, 1842  81-2-9  (Lauder)
wife of Nicholas Parker

Edroin & Narcissa born & died Sept 22, 1820
children of Dr. John & Sarah Owen

Rebecca died Jan. 6, 1856
daughter of E. B. & E. A. Owen

Electa Ann died May 25, 1857  22-7-23  (Lauder)
wife of Mr. Edmund B. Owen

Edmund B. Owen  (Sept. 27, 1828 - June 4, 1890) 61-8-7
The kind husband, indulgent father and public benefactor, is of this world no
more, but gone to join the saints in Heaven.

Mary S.  (Feb. 3, 1839 - Nov. 20, 1915)
wife of Edmond (sic) B. Owen

Algermon Bertus  (Sept. 15, 1877 - Dec. 14, 1891) 14-2-29
son of E. B. & Mary E. Owen
Tread softly for an angel band
Doth guard the silent dust.
And we can safely leave our boy,
Our darling in their trust.

Theodore Owen  (Oct. 11, 1853 - Aug. 3, 1933)

Electa A.  (Feb. 15, 1860- Dec. 28, 1919)
wife of Theodore Owen

J. C., Jr.  (Nov. 11, 1924 - Jan. 1, 1925)
son of J. C. and Hattie Andrews

Catherine W. died July 14, 1853  26-4-7  (Lauder)
wife of Rev. Miles P. Owen

Miles P. Owen  ( 1816 - 1879)

Note: Lauder is the stone cutter, a very prominent guy from Fayetteville.
The three Owen family houses on the site represent three stages of the early architectural development in Sampson County: 1) the earliest, a weatherboarded, one-room log house, apparently dates from around 1800; 2) the rear block of the main house is an early 19th century coastal cottage form; and 3) the front block is a two-room, center-hall house of popular Greek Revival form with prominent gable front porch. Individually, the three are important examples of their style. Collectively, they summarize the successive predominant forms of domestic middle level architecture in Sampson County during the first half of the 19th century. The early history of the house has not been documented. The oldest grave in the cemetery is that of the Rev. John Owen, M.D. (1770-1859); he may well be responsible for the first two blocks. After a Dr. Highsmith acquired the house from the Owen heirs, Henry J. Carr (1903-1976) bought the house about 1940. His son, Dr. Henry Carr currently maintains the house for farm tenants. At the rear of the house is an outstanding and rare Flemish bond brick potato house. Flemish bond is rare in Sampson County; brick outbuildings are even rarer. The lovely house site is shaded by enormous oak trees which have prominent root systems.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. The property is associated with the growth and development of Sampson County's agricultural lifestyle from about 1800 to the mid 19th century.

C. The three different houses, individually and collectively, are important and outstanding examples of the styles and progression of the county's farmhouses in the first half of the 19th century. The Flemish bond brick potato house is one of the most amazing extant 19th century structures in the county.

D. Is likely to yield information valuable to the study of 19th and early 20th century agrarian lifestyle and practices.
The Owen family house is located in the central part of Sampson County, near the community of McDaniel. The house was built by Edmund B. Owen around 1850. It was added onto a house built earlier in the century. Also on the property is a one-room log house built earlier in the nineteenth century and a large family cemetery.

Edmund Owen was born in 1828, one of at least eleven children of the Reverend John Owen and Sarah Owen. John Owen owned considerable land in the McDaniel's area. It is conjectured that either he or other members of the Owen family built the earlier houses. From the 1840s until the early 1850s, Owen gave large tracts of land to his sons Miles, William, Thomas, Benson, John, and Edmund. In 1850, Edmund Owen obtained 902 acres from his father for "natural love and affection." In 1859, he inherited another 100 acres upon his father's death. His first wife, Electa Ann, died in 1857. They had at least one child, Rebecca, who died in 1856. Owen's second wife was Mary S. Owen (1839-1915). They had at least three children.

In 1860, Owen owned 1,002 acres valued at $10,000 and personal estate, including 8 slaves, valued at $8,000. Owen grew corn, sweet potatoes, peas and beans and owned $800 worth of livestock, including 60 swine. "In 1880, he owned 1,203 acres valued at $7,000 and grew basically the same crops he grew before the Civil War."

Owen died in 1890 and his wife in 1915. In this century, the property has been owned by the Highsmith and Carr families respectively. For much of this period, the main house has been rented. The present owner of the house and property is Dr. Henry J. Carr, Jr.

The Owen family cemetery contains approximately fifteen marked graves. Included among these are the burial sites of the Reverend John Owen and his wife Sarah, their sons Edmund and Miles Owen, and Edmund Owen's wives, Electa and Mary.

FOOTNOTES

1. Sampson County Deed Book 29, p. 510; Sampson County Grantor Index; Sampson County Will Book 1, p. 538.


MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEORGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 400±

UTM REFERENCES

Zone 1713 5 51713181631751313

EASTING NORTHING

A [17] [7331773] [3865350]

B [17] [7331750] [38653750]

C [17] [7330000] [3862600]

D [17] [732125] [3865325]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property to be nominated is the tract of land containing 400 acres, more or less, as described in the Sampson County Register of Deeds Office, Book 830, Page 283, dated 1 January 1970. The house site, containing less than one acre, is shown on a site plan. A copy of both the deed and the site plan is attached.
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The 400± acre tract being nominated with the Owen House and Cemetery is part of the 1200+ acres which Edmund Owen amassed during his lifetime. The property consists of the house and cemetery tracts, farmland and woodland, and preserves the rural setting of the house. The land has been associated with the house and family since the early nineteenth century.