

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

17
Wilson COUNTY
Wilson QUAD

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR _____ THEMATIC NOMINATION
Wilson County

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Dr. H. D. Lucas House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
West Side Center Street
CITY, TOWN
Black Creek VICINITY OF 2nd Congressional District CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
North Carolina 037 Wilson 195

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS <u>N/A</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES - RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES - UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Earl Lucas
STREET & NUMBER
1605 Kenan Street
CITY, TOWN STATE
Wilson VICINITY OF North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Wilson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Nash Street
CITY, TOWN STATE
Wilson North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Kate Ohno, Preservation Consultant, August 23, 1982
ORGANIZATION DATE
Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives & History (919)733-6545
STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
109 E. Jones St.
CITY OR TOWN STATE
Raleigh North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>ca 1870</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		(Dr.'s office only)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dr. H. D. Lucas House stands on the west side of Center Street, the main street of the Town of Black Creek, facing the railroad tracks. The Town of Black Creek developed along this section of the railroad line in the mid-nineteenth century and by the time the town was incorporated in 1870, the land-use patterns were well established. The sturdy brick depot, located on the north end of Center Street, was the focal point of the town. Although the depot has been demolished Center Street still stretches south from the depot site on either side of the tracks. A combination of houses and one-story brick commercial buildings line both sides of Center Street for about four blocks. The houses are all built of frame and do not rise above two stories. They are set on large lots, allowing for the presence of gardens and outbuildings similar to those found around farm houses.

The Lucas House is set well back from Center Street and is sheltered by a magnificent shade tree on the south end of the front porch. The Lucas House consists of two distinct sections; the one-story Greek Revival doctor's office and the late-nineteenth century, Victorian cottage which served as Dr. Lucas' residence. The frame doctor's office appears to date circa 1850 and is probably one of the best detailed small Greek Revival buildings in the county. The four-bay facade includes two trabeated doors, a unique treatment. Paired entrance doors are found in several Greek Revival plantation and farmhouses in the county, but the use of a double transom and sidelights is unprecedented. The office is sheltered by a shallow hipped roof and is one room deep. A central chimney serves fireplaces in both rooms. A single door is located at the rear of the east room and large six-over-six light sash windows illuminate the interior. The molded window surrounds are particularly nice and feature a peaked lintel with crosseted corners. The surround flares dramatically toward the sill. The doctor's office has a plain boxed cornice, a broad frieze and flat-panelled corner posts. On the interior a hall-and-parlor plan is followed and the finish is very plain. The window and door surrounds are simple and the mantels are of the post-and-lintel type. A door connects the two rooms on one side of the fireplace.

Dr. Lucas' residence is a classic example of the most popular type of house built in Wilson County between 1870 and 1920 with many farmhouses and townhouses following the same basic plan. This Victorian cottage is a three-bay, single-pile one-story frame house complemented by an attached two-room rear ell housing kitchen and dining facilities. The house is sheltered by a gable roof, and exposed face interior end chimneys are located at the gable ends. This type of chimney treatment is rare in Wilson County, but is most often found in the Town of Black Creek during this period. Thought to have been built in the early 1880s, the Lucas House has a number of Victorian ornaments common to many houses of this period in Wilson County. However, the roof is rather more steeply pitched than was usually the case in such houses, giving the structure a vertical emphasis.

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National Park Service

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A handsome molded cornice is supported by scroll brackets with turnip-shaped drop pendants. The front facade features a hipped-roof porch supported by square posts with Doric-type caps and decorated with lacey sawn work ornament. The latticed balustrade is probably a replacement. The central trabeated door is flanked by tall six-over-six sash windows and opens into the interior's central hall. All interior finish is plain including the mantels and woodwork which are simplified variations of common Victorian patterns.

The Lucas House is not only a fine example of a Greek Revival doctor's office but also one of the best examples of the most popular late-nineteenth-early twentieth century house type in the county.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

The Dr. H. D. Lucas House stands on the main street of Black Creek, Center Street, facing the railroad tracks. Black Creek is the third oldest incorporated town in the county, but the settlement of the area dates back to the late eighteenth century. The second oldest congregation, the Lower Black Creek Primitive Baptist Church, was organized just outside the present corporate limits in 1783. The biggest boost to the area's growth did not occur until 1840, when the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad was completed. By 1858 a depot had been established in what is now Black Creek. The settlement was called Bardin's Depot until it was incorporated as the Town of Black Creek in 1870. Black Creek grew rapidly after 1870 and its greatest period of growth was between 1890 and 1920. Most of the houses in town date from this period. Dr. Lucas' house is one of the oldest in town, dating from the early 1880s.¹

Henry D. Lucas was born circa 1849 in what later became Wilson County.² The name of his father is unknown, for he died before Henry and his brother achieved their majority.³ By 1860 Henry was living with his mother, Polly, and his brother, Bunyan, in Black Creek.⁴ His mother was a farmer with a modest holding. She owned real property valued at \$400 and personal property valued at \$220.⁵ At age seventeen Henry enlisted in the Confederate Army and he served in Company A of the Fifty-fifth Infantry Regiment.⁶ At the end of the war he trained as a doctor and he set up his practice in his native county.⁷ On September 22, 1880, he married Monticello Boyette.⁸ In 1883 Montie Boyette Lucas purchased the site on which the house is now standing from Lawrence D. Bass of Wayne County.⁹ It was probably shortly after this date that the Lucas House was constructed.

The origin of the small hall-and-parlor plan Greek Revival outbuilding attached to the Lucas House by a covered breezeway is more obscure. Local tradition maintains that Dr. Lucas used this building as his medical office. The building, which appears to date circa 1850, is consistent with the development of the town, but it is not mentioned in any of the deeds, so it may be that it was moved from another site. In 1891 Lucas purchased fifteen acres on the opposite side of the railroad tracks from the estate of A. G. Brooks, another local doctor¹⁰ (see Black Creek Rural Historic District), so it is also possible that Lucas purchased Dr. Brooks' former office building. From wherever he

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Connor, R. D. W. History of North Carolina. Vol. 6. Chicago: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1919.
- Wilson County Deeds, Wilson County Courthouse.
- Wilson County Vital Statistics Records, Wilson County Courthouse.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	2 3 4 2 8 0	3 9 4 7 4 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated is outlined in red on the enclosed map.

The property being nominated is the town lot on which the house was built.

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acquired it, it most certainly pre-dates his house.

Dr. Lucas continued to practice medicine and live in Black Creek until 1893 when he moved his family to Charlotte.¹¹ He died shortly after the move and his remains were brought back to Black Creek and were buried in the town cemetery.¹² Apparently the house was rented for some years because Montie Lucas and her son, John Paul, remained in Charlotte after Dr. Lucas' death.¹³ John Paul Lucas became a prominent farmer and journalist in Mecklenburg County and in 1918 he became the executive secretary of the State Food Administration in Raleigh.¹⁴ In 1911 J. P. and Montie Lucas sold the house property to Perry A. and Lumiza B. Davis.¹⁵ The Davises may have lived in the house for a short time, but by 1920 they had completed a handsome house on Central Avenue. Probably the house continued to be used as rental property, but the inhabitants have not been determined. In 1947 Lou Davis Glover, who had remarried after Perry Davis' death, conveyed the property to the present owners, Earl and Mary Lucas¹⁶ (no relation to Dr. Lucas). The Lucases have continued to maintain the property in good order and it is used as rental property.

Footnotes

¹Kate Ohno, Wilson County's Architectural Heritage, Wilson: 1981, 39-40.

²Eighth Census of the United States: 1860, Wilson County, population schedule, hereinafter cited as 1860 census. See also R.D.W. Connor, History of North Carolina, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1919, v.6, 319, hereinafter cited as Connor, North Carolina.

³1860 census, population schedule.

⁴1860 census, population schedule.

⁵1860 census, population schedule.

⁶Connor, North Carolina, v. 6, 391. See also Hugh B. Johnston "Confederate Soldiers from Wilson County", unpublished manuscript available at the Wilson County Public Library.

⁷Connor, North Carolina, v. 6, 319.

⁸Wilson County Vital Statistics records, Wilson County Courthouse, Wilson.

⁹Lawrence D. Bass to Monticello Lucas, 1883, Book 22, 537, Wilson County deeds, Wilson County Courthouse, Wilson.

¹⁰Heirs of A. G. Brooks to H.D. Lucas, 1891, Book 35, 295, Wilson County deeds, Wilson County Courthouse, Wilson.

¹¹Connor, North Carolina, v.6, 319.

¹²Connor, North Carolina, v.6, 319. See also the stone erected to Lucas in the Town of Black Creek cemetery east of town on the Stantonsburg Road.

¹³Connor, North Carolina, v.6, 319.

¹⁴Connor, North Carolina, v.6, 319.

¹⁵J. P. Lucas and Montie Lucas to Perry A. and Lumiza B. Davis,

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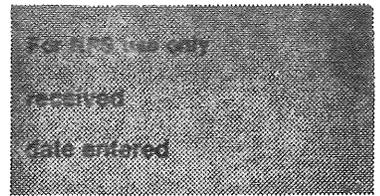
Page 2

January 12, 1911, Book 91, 195, Wilson County deeds, Wilson County Courthouse, Wilson.

¹⁶Lou Davis Glover to Earl and Mary Lucas, November 11, 1947, Book 341, 411, Wilson County deeds, Wilson County Courthouse, Wilson.

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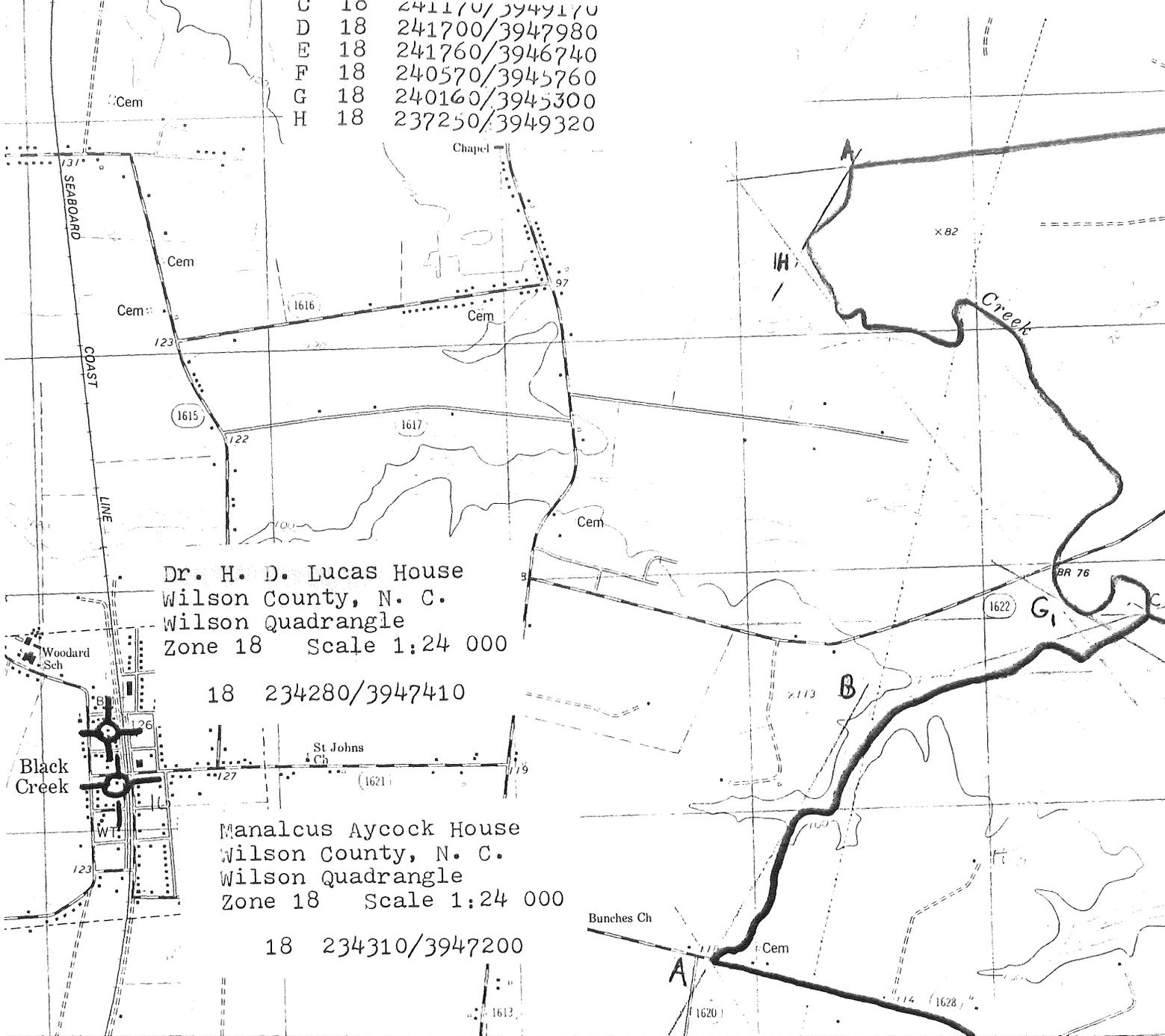


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Photographs

The Dr. H. D. Lucas House was originally recorded and photographed during the 1980 county-wide survey. The site was revisited in 1985 prior to nomination to determine its present state. The house is occupied, well-maintained and accurately depicted in the 1980 photographs.

G 10 241170/3949170
 D 18 241700/3947980
 E 18 241760/3946740
 F 18 240570/3945760
 G 18 240160/3945300
 H 18 237250/3949320



Dr. H. D. Lucas House
 Wilson County, N. C.
 Wilson Quadrangle
 Zone 18 Scale 1:24 000

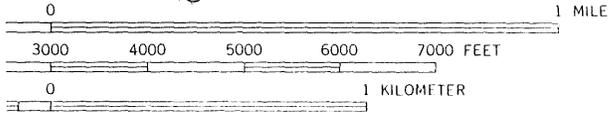
18 234280/3947410

Manalocus Aycock House
 Wilson County, N. C.
 Wilson Quadrangle
 Zone 18 Scale 1:24 000

18 234310/3947200

(FREMONT) 5455 III SW 235 55' 236 237 238

LE 1:24 000 16719



INTERVAL 10 FEET
 C VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIF
 Primary highway, Lig
 hard surface _____ imp
 Secondary highway, Un
 hard surface - - - - -
 Interstate Route U S



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 CAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

