

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1815 Oak Ridge Road not for publication N/A

city or town Oak Ridge vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081 zip code 27310

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the

National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the

National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House
Name of Property

Guilford County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC
DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling
secondary structures

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC
DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling
secondary structures

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival
Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
roof METAL
walls Weatherboard
LOGS
other BRICK
STUCCO

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1845

ca. 1910

ca. 1930

Significant Dates

ca. 1845

ca. 1910

ca. 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House
Name of Property

Guilford County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 3 1/2 acres (plus .013-acre right-of-way included in National Register Boundary)

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 _____
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____
X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian

organization N/A date August 20, 2026

street & number 59 Park Blvd. telephone 336-727-1968

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27127

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House
Guilford County, North Carolina

7. DESCRIPTION:

SUMMARY:

The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House is located at 1815 Oak Ridge Road approximately one-and-a-half miles southwest of the historic town of Oak Ridge in Guilford County, North Carolina.¹ The property's land is part of a ridge that is at the highest elevation in the county. The nominated property includes approximately 3.3 acres composed of three contiguous county lots—two fronting Oak Ridge Road and the third in the rear—and an additional strip of land connecting the front of the south lots to the edge of the road, totaling approximately 3.5 acres. All three lots are in possession of the current owners of the house, and in earlier years, all had been owned consecutively by members of the Sanders, Graham, and Blaylock families.

The primary feature of the property is the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House, a two-story frame dwelling believed to have been built ca. 1845, a one-story two-room central rear ell that probably dates from around the same period as the main house or earlier, and a ca. 1910, one-story horizontal wing that joins the two older sections of the house. The two-story main body of the house has consistently-applied vernacular Greek Revival-style detailing and ca. 1930 Craftsman-style alterations to the front porch.

Numerous outbuildings of varying dates accompany the house. They include log, frame, and concrete-block buildings and structures, all within a shady setting. The main body of the house has undergone few alterations, and the house and the property as a whole have retained strong historic integrity.

NARRATIVE:

Resource List

Setting (19th-20th centuries), contributing site (not reflected on site map)
Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House (ca. 1845, ca. 1910, ca. 1930), contributing building
Woodshed (1994), noncontributing structure
Well 1 (19th century), contributing structure
Well 2 (1991), noncontributing structure
Log House (first quarter 19th century; 2015-2016), contributing building
Smokehouse (first quarter 19th century; 2016), contributing building

¹ The spelling of the surname fluctuated between Sanders and Saunders. For the sake of consistency, this document uses Sanders.

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Outhouse (ca. 1910 - ca. 1930; 2016), contributing building
Storage Shed 1 (ca. 1950), noncontributing building
Flower House (ca. 1950), noncontributing building
Storage Shed 2 (2024), noncontributing building

Setting: 19th-20th centuries, contributing site

The approximately 3 ½ -acre setting that surrounds the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House and its outbuildings is fairly wooded, with some parts more so than others. A wide variety of trees are found on the property; according to the present owners, in 2021 there were forty-one types of nut, fruit, and other trees, including a pair of century-old Catalpa trees, a massive pecan tree, and spreading maples, along with large boxwoods. Many of these are clustered around the house. A large Red Maple at the southeast corner of the house tract was recognized by Guilford County as a Treasure Tree, meaning it is the largest documented Red Maple in the county. Later, after the Town of Oak Ridge initiated a treasure tree program, the same Red Maple along with the Pecan, Catalpas, and the Boxwoods were designated as the largest of these species in the town. Other old trees on the property include Pear, Mulberry, Cherry, Cedars, Magnolia, Walnut, and Hickory. Perennial gardens present when the current owners purchased the property in 1981 include Lillies of the Valley, Periwinkle, Yarrow, Tansy, Red Hot Poker, and Pampas Grass. At the rear of the main body of the yard is an expansive vegetable and flower garden, begun in the 1980s and an ongoing project by the present owners. Northeast of the garden are woods, always part of the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock property, but now serving largely as a site-protective function. At several places around the rear or west side of the property are neatly stacked piles of wood awaiting use by the owners for fireplaces or bonfires. Also scattered on the property, mostly in locations behind the house, are several works of art created by sculptor Roy Nydorf, one of the current property owners, and others. Near the southeast corner of the property close to the road stands a plaque on a pole proclaiming the Sanders-Blaylock House to have been designated as a Guilford County Historic Landmark in 1990. Drawing on work done in the Craftsman style in the 1930s, a portion of the setting introduces passersby to the house. Almost at the road in front of the house, two rubblestone steps with cushioned mortar joints bordered by rubblestone cheek walls with concrete caps mark the entrance to the house. Set within the front of the west cheek wall is a granite block with the initials T.M.B. inscribed in it. Thomas Marion Blaylock apparently liked having his name associated with the house. At the head of the grass front walk, just south of the front steps to the house, a concrete block flush to the ground with a hole in the center doubtless meant for a hitching block post has an initial on three of the four

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sides: "T," "M," and "B." At the east end of the property, another set of stone and concrete steps with flanking cheek walls leads from the road level to the east side yard.²

Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House: ca. 1845, ca. 1910, ca. 1930, contributing building

Exterior

The main body of the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House is a two-story, heavy-timber frame dwelling that rests on a rubblestone foundation. It is three bays wide and one-room deep and is covered by a broad gable roof with widely overhanging eaves, all covered by Victorian-style metal-shingles. At each gable end, rising within the gable eaves, is a single-shouldered brick chimney covered in stucco.³ The house is weatherboarded with a baseboard around the bottom, and each corner is defined by a plain pilaster with a classical cyma reversa cap. The pilaster supports a wide frieze board with a cyma reversa molding along the top. Above the frieze are the wide eaves with a cyma reversa molding at the edge of the roofing material.

The house has six-over-six sash wood windows with plain surrounds, a window sill, and a drip ledge across the top. The first-floor windows in the front of the house have panes measuring 12 x 18 inches. The second-floor windows and the large windows in the rear ell have panes measuring 12 x 16 inches. Except for those on the rear of the house, each window is bordered by wood louvered shutters. A small wood louvered vent flanks the upper stack of each chimney. Several changes have been made to windows and doors in the two-story section of the house. A ca. 1895 photograph shows that at that time there was a door located on the north side of the west chimney. However, in 1989 the present owners removed the two-panel door, which had been boarded up, and replaced it with a window that matches the other original windows. (The door was later re-used in the rehabilitation of the log house on the property.) A second window alteration is found on the center bay of the second floor of the rear elevation. When the Blaylock family built the one-story addition across the rear of the two-story house ca. 1910, the addition's roof did not allow space for a window the size of the house's other windows. Therefore, that window was removed and boarded over. Wanting a window at that location, the present owners added one in 1989 with six-over-six sash, only smaller than the original window so that it would fit the currently available space. From the interior, it can be seen on the wall above the stair landing. The most significant window/door change of the two-story house relates

² Thomas and Mary Sanders are buried approximately 900 feet east of the homeplace, and their headstones are still intact. However, these burials are not within the boundary of the nominated property.

³ When the chimneys were stuccoed is not known, but photographs show that it had been done by 1977, when McKelden Smith conducted his architectural survey of Guilford County. The present owners of the house believe the stuccoing may have been applied in the 1960s or early 1970s, as a former neighbor, Lloyd C. Tilley, who lived across the road, recalled that an African-American craftsman stuccoed them.

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to the front entrance. Originally, it and the rear doorway were identical, having a pair of two-panel Greek Revival doors, a five-light transom, and three-light sidelights beneath which are solid panels. The rear doorway retains these features. However, the front doorway was modified in two ways around 1930u. While the transom and sidelights remained the same, the doors were replaced with two-panel French doors, each panel having ten panes of glass. Most dramatically, the whole composition was popped forward approximately two feet as part of the Craftsman design alteration of the porch.

The original front porch, or at least the porch that was present in a ca. 1895 photograph, was three bays wide with a hipped roof and simple classical posts. A later photograph made after the Blaylocks added the one-story addition across the rear of the house ca. 1910 shows that a balustrade (later removed) had been added between the front porch posts. According to Blaylock family history, during the Depression around 1930, the porch was remodeled in the then-popular Craftsman style. Verda Blaylock Solomon (1909-1983), daughter of Thomas M. and Goldie Blaylock, who would have been in her twenties at the time, recalled itinerant craftsmen doing the stonework on the porch.⁴ The porch retained its hipped roof, but the center bay acquired a broad front-gable with widely overhanging eaves. The gable, itself, had narrow vertical beaded boards with a wider vertical board at the center. Margaret Stevens, the owner prior to the current owners, removed the added center gable in 1979. The surviving Craftsman porch retains a narrow-board wood floor and distinctive features of the style, including classical wood half-posts set on rubblestone plinths with concrete slab tops—one on the west side with “Thomas” inscribed on it—and rubblestone and concrete-slab steps.

Immediately behind the two-story house, the Blaylock family built a one-story addition ca. 1910 that connects the two-story section with the two-room wing set perpendicular to the front part of the house. The ca. 1910 addition is nearly as wide as the two-story section. It has weatherboard siding with a baseboard matching that of the main body of the house, corner pilasters with simple caps, a frieze board, and overhanging eaves with a molded edge beneath a low hipped roof. At each end of the addition is a pair of nine-over-one sash windows with sills at the bottom and drip ledges at the top.

The last section of the house is perpendicular to the two-story house and is joined to it by the ca. 1910 Blaylock addition. A one-story, two-room, kitchen and dining room (now the sitting room) with a central stone chimney with brick stack, it was originally separate from the main house as was typical of mid-nineteenth-century houses for safety reasons. The central ell has the appearance of having been built around the same time as the house, although it is possible that it was built earlier and remodeled when the main house was constructed. It features weatherboard

⁴ Verda Solomon shared her memory of the itinerant craftsmen with the present owners of the house.

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siding and a north-south gable roof covered with the same style metal shingles (installed in 1989), as used on the two-story front of the house. The east side of the sitting room has an old six-over-six sash window near the south end which the present owners found in the smokehouse and restored and used to replace a modern window at that location. They also replaced a modern door at the center of the east side with a custom-made six-light casement window matching an existing one in the kitchen. Near the south end of the west side is a six-over-six sash window, and near the center of that wall is a French door. Rising from the center of the T wing, between the two rooms, is a brick chimney stack stuccoed prior to the present ownership. The north room—the kitchen—has a six-light casement window within the south half of the east side and a six-over-six sash window near the north end of that side. In the center of the north end is a pair of smaller six-over-six sash windows. Near the center of the east side of the kitchen is a two-panel door, and opposite it on the west side is another two-panel door. The door on the east side opens to a small screened porch that runs from just south of the door to the north end of the kitchen. It rests on a stone pier foundation, has a shed roof, and has weatherboarded half walls beneath screened windows. The present east-side porch is a 1989 replacement made by the present owners closely matching the scale and materials of an earlier porch, only expanded in depth by twelve inches. The earlier porch, possibly dating from the 1940s, was referred to as the “pie porch” by the Blaylock family because that is where pies were placed to cool after baking. On the west side of the kitchen, the two-panel door opens to a long, screened porch that runs from just north of the door southward to the south end of the sitting room abutting the ca. 1910 addition. The west porch features a shed roof, a screened door opening to the outside beyond the kitchen door, and a half weatherboarded wall (replaced by the present owners in 1989) beneath a long band of screened windows. The west porch probably dates from ca. 1910, when the Blaylocks added the addition across the rear of the two-story section of the house. A door once led from the ca. 1910 bedroom of Jack Wanda Blaylock and later Robert “Lannie” Blaylock to the porch, but that door was removed by the present owners in 1989 when they added closets to the bedroom. The French door on the west side of the sitting room opens to the west porch.

At the rear of the house, immediately behind the pair of kitchen windows, is the projecting entrance to the root cellar, replaced by the present owners ca. 1989. It continues the rubblestone foundation of the house, has weatherboard siding, a broad gable roof with molding along the eaves, and a batten door in the center. Steps lead down to walls and shelves of large stones topped with mortar and a dirt floor.

Interior

Main, two-story section

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The interior of the main, two-story section of the house follows a center-hall plan with a single large room on each side of the hall on the first floor. On the second floor, a single large room fills the space east of the hall, while a pair of rooms of equal size make up the space west of the hall. In its detailing, the house exhibits the Greek Revival style, and while it is relatively simple in its presentation, at the same time it is both surprisingly elegant, especially in the stair features, and consistently presented in its doors, windows, mantels, and other features. The walls are plaster over wood lath. The hall floor and those of the east first-floor room (the studio) and those on the second-floor are 5 ½" heart pine; the stairs have 11" heart pine treads and the risers are 6 ½". Within the closet under the stair, it can be seen that the wood of both the stair treads and risers are of the older pit-sawn variety rather than the later circular-sawn type. West of the hall, the parlor floor has been floored over (date unknown) with 2 ¼" red oak. Baseboards throughout the house are approximately 13" tall, although those on each side of the wall dividing the two rooms on the west side of the second floor are 9 ¼" tall. Original doors and door surrounds are heart pine as are the mantels. Both the stair newels and stair banister are black walnut.

Windows have unexpectedly plain surrounds with no stylish features. On the other hand, the doors are strongly reflective of the Greek Revival. As mentioned in discussing the exterior, the front entrance was modified ca. 1930y, but the rear entrance retains its two-panel doors surrounded by sidelights and transom. The other doors in the two-story section of the house are also two-paneled, and they have mitered surrounds that increase their Greek Revival effect. All the doors have white porcelain knobs. Especially impressive are the attached pair of doors that open to the two second-floor rooms on the west side of the hall. Two curious features are associated with the doors at the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House. M. F. Blaylock, who purchased the house in November 1876, signed his name in pencil on the inner side of the closet door beneath the hall stair. Also, on the interior side of the front entrance, above the west sidelights, "Jan 21st, 1876" is written in pencil. Since that date was before Blaylock's purchase, who wrote that date, and why, remains a mystery.

The mantels in the two-story portion of the house are somewhat curious in that they are very consistent in their detailing, but they appear to be different from other Greek Revival-style mantels used in the area. The features are not only different but a little fancier than those that appear elsewhere. The two first-floor mantels are identical. Each is fairly simple, with a heavy mantel shelf, a wide, plain frieze, and pilasters whose caps have mitered undersides and base blocks have a molding across the top. The most notable feature is the ogee molding that runs along the top of the frieze as if supporting the shelf. The second-floor mantels are strongly related to those on the first floor but take a few liberties of design. The east room is the largest, running the full depth of this section of the house, and it has the largest mantel on the second floor. Like the others, it is a post-and-lintel mantel with a plain shelf, a wide frieze, and two side

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pilasters. Like the first-floor mantels, it has an ogee molding running across the top of the frieze as if supporting the shelf. Like the other mantels it, too, has pilaster caps with mitered undersides. However, unlike the first-floor mantels, at the top of its pilaster base block, this one has a “flipped” ogee molding. Most unusual are the two mantels on the west side of the hall. Like all the other mantels, they have a pronounced ogee molding between their frieze and shelf. What makes them so unusual is that because this side of the second floor is divided into two rooms—with a solid wall between the two and a Greek Revival-style door opening into each—what would have been a mantel the size of the one in the east bedroom has been split in half to form two half mantels.

The most outstanding interior feature of the two-story section of the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House is its stair, which rises from south to north along the east wall of the center hall. While the stair is relatively simple, its combination of artistry and engineering results in a design of unusual elegance. Each step has two rectangular balusters—one almost at the rear of the step and the other positioned approximately halfway between the midpoint and front edge of the step. Each baluster rests on an unusual mitered base. The balusters support a graceful, rounded handrail that straightens in a forward direction as it reaches the newel, where it ends with a backward slant atop the newel. The newel, itself, has a four-sided base with the top of each side rising in a slight curve. From there, a tall octagonal post sweeps inward from all sides at the top until it bursts forth in a ball, followed by a short cylinder that connects the newel to the underside of the handrail. On the last step before the landing where the stair changes direction, an identical newel supports a horizontal stretch of the handrail where it readies to change from the sweeping main upward run of the stair from the first floor to the transitional steps to the second-floor level. Immediately past the intermediate newel, the handrail makes a left-angle turn to the west, where at second floor level it combines in a mitered joint with the bottom of a vertical handrail-like stretch of wood that, at its top, combines in another mitered joint to become the handrail for the second-floor balustrade. The second-floor balustrade continues southward and then eastward bordering the stair well until it reaches the east wall of the center hall. The last of the signature newels (totaling three) stands at the southwest corner of the second-floor balustrade.

Ca. 1910 Addition

The rooms of the one-story addition, built ca.1910 during the Blaylock family ownership, have three-inch-wide heart pine flooring and beaded-board walls and ceiling, except for the laundry and bathroom, which have drywall that was likely added during the ownership of Margaret Stevens in 1979. The main entrance to the addition is through the double-leaf door at the rear of the center hall of the main house. The primary exit is through a two-panel door at the center of the north side of the addition's center room. The center room, now used as a personal office, opens by way of a five-horizontal-panel door to a bedroom on its west side. The door, as

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do the other doors in this section of the house, has a plain surround, but its hinges are highly decorative. A pair of nine-over one sash windows on the west wall lights the bedroom. Midway on the south wall, a five-panel door (two tall vertical panels, one narrow horizontal panel, and two shorter vertical panels at the bottom) opens to the parlor. A door once opened from the north wall of the bedroom to the rear side porch, but the current owners removed it when they added built-in wood closets, cabinets, and drawers across the entire north wall. On the east side of the central room (office), a door with five horizontal panels and the same decorative hinges as the door to the bedroom, opens to a narrow north-south laundry and toilet room. East of the laundry room, another door with five horizontal panels opens to a narrow (north-south) full bathroom. Along its east wall are a pair of windows matching those on the west wall of the bedroom at the other end of the ca. 1910 addition. The present owners removed a mid-twentieth-century door and chimney from the bathroom. On the south wall, a five-horizontal-panel door opens to the midpoint of the north wall of the east room (studio) of the main house.

Two-Room "T" Wing—Dining Room (Present Sitting Room) and Kitchen

The sitting room has a plywood subfloor covered with linoleum and carpet. The walls have a plain baseboard above which are wide, hand-planed, unpainted, heart pine flush boards laid horizontally and fastened with square-head cut nails. An added narrow molding encircles the top of the walls, separating them from the lowered sheet-rocked ceiling, which covers the original wide board ceiling. Changes to the floor and ceiling were probably undertaken by owner Margaret Stevens in 1979. The doors and windows in the sitting room are framed by multi-part moldings with mitered upper corner joints, date unknown. The doors to and from this room are two-paneled and have Brown Bennington knobs. The panels on the south side of the door opening to the ca. 1910 addition are hand-planed and raised, while those on the north side are flat. The panels on both sides of the door opening to the kitchen are flat. The focal point of the sitting room is the mantel on the center of the north wall, whose firebox fits within the wing's large interior stone chimney. It is unlike the mantels in the two-story section of the house, but it has classical cyma reversa moldings similar, but not identical, to others in the house. Simple pilasters with plain bases support the focal point of the mantel, the bold upper section between a plain narrow board running across the mantel from one pilaster to the other and the narrow mantel shelf at the top. A heavy molding runs across the mantel beneath the shelf, and a narrower molding carries across the mantel above the lower shelf. Between these horizontal moldings, a paneled frieze runs between two wide vertical boards that look like two short upper pilasters.

The northernmost room of the house, and the northern of the two rooms that make up the T-shaped ell at the rear of the house, is the kitchen, whose focal point is the stone chimney and fireplace that projects from the south wall. The kitchen has 2 ¼"-wide red oak flooring installed

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(date unknown) above wide plank pine flooring. The walls are covered with wide, horizontal, flush-sheathed boards, but unlike in the sitting room, they are painted. Between the walls and the ceiling is a narrow molding, and as in the sitting room, the ceiling has been lowered and sheet rocked. The two-panel door leading into the sitting room has a plain surround, while the two two-panel doors on each side (east and west) of the kitchen each have surrounds with mitered upper corners. The dating of the red-painted brick facing and inner lining of the fireplace as well as the heavy wood beam that serves as the mantel shelf is not known, but was likely undertaken either by Margaret Stevens in 1979 or in the mid-twentieth century by members of the Blaylock family replacing an earlier wood mantel. Within the fireplace, an iron crane used to hold cooking pots stretches from the west corner to the east and is presumed to be considerably older, likely dating from the early years of the fireplace. Extending in front of the fireplace is a hearth composed of dark brown Mexican tiles added by the present owners ca. 1989. On the wall between the east side of the fireplace and the east wall of the kitchen is a wood cabinet. Its lower third has solid cabinet doors and the upper two thirds has a pair of glass-paned doors. Although its date of installation is unknown, its appearance suggests that it was likely added during the Blaylock ownership in the early twentieth century. In 2003, the present owners renovated the north side of the kitchen by adding modern cabinets and appliances.

Woodshed: 1994, noncontributing structure

An open woodshed, meant to hold firewood for the house, stands immediately northwest of the house. Hefty, round, wood posts support each corner of the rectangular structure while smaller round posts stand vertically between the corner posts at each end and along the sides. Much smaller-in-diameter wood poles run horizontally along the two long sides, while two smaller poles run horizontally across the two ends. A slightly sloping 5-V metal roof is supported by thin wood “joists” that rest on slender wood poles on the four outer edges.

Well 1: 19th century, contributing structure

A nearly square concrete-block structure three blocks high topped by a concrete slab inscribed with “MARGARET S 1979,” marks the location near the road of the old well. Beneath the concrete-block structure is a hand-dug, stone-lined well, approximately twenty-five feet deep, that is believed to be an original feature of the property. Margaret Stevens added the present cover during her ownership of the property.⁵

Well 2: 1991, noncontributing structure

⁵ Information on the underground make-up of the well and its believed age in relationship to the house was shared with the nomination consultant through personal correspondence from the current owners of the house, Theresa Hammond and Roy Nydorf, in 2025.

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Northeast of the old well is a 1991 well house designed for a well built in 1983 along with a water filter and pump. It has a concrete foundation, white-painted weatherboard siding, and a metal-shingled gable roof. It measures three feet wide, forty-two inches long, and approximately three feet tall.

Log House: first quarter 19th century; 2015-2016, contributing building

When Roy H. Nydorf purchased the lot on the land which the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House stands in 1981, the deed included within the purchase price the right for Nydorf to move within two years the dilapidated log house that stood on the adjacent lot to the west. With the log house being associated with the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House and being threatened with demolition, in 1984 Roy Nydorf and Theresa Hammond moved it to the rear of their lot behind the main house. By that time, several additions had been built to the log house. These were removed, as was the stone chimney with its brick stack (the chimney materials were retained for when the house was moved back to its original site). In 2013, Nydorf and Hammond purchased the lot to the west of the house lot on which the log house had originally stood and where the smokehouse still stood. In 2015-2016 they moved the log house, constructed primarily of oak logs, back to its original location, where old building specialist Siler Rothrock of Reidsville, North Carolina, proceeded to rehabilitate it. Based on its features, particularly the curved rafter ends, Rothrock believed the house could have been built as early as ca. 1815. The basic house is a one-room structure with V-notched log corner joints, a side-gable roof with weatherboarded gable ends, a door with an adjacent window on each long side, and a small horizontal window on the south end. After being moved back to its original location, set on a rubblestone foundation, and rehabilitated, the basic form of the house remains, but some details have changed. Using the original materials, the stone chimney with its brick stack has been rebuilt on the north end of the house. At the south end, the small three-light window has been enlarged somewhat and given eight lights. A six-over-six sash window has been added to the south gable end. The roof is sheathed with 5-V metal. A porch with three unfinished wood poles supporting a shed roof has been added to the east and west sides of the house. Each porch shelters a two-panel door on each side and an adjacent window. The windows, which were four-over-four wood sash at the time of the building's move, are now six-over-six sash. The door on the west side of the log house is the reused door that stood on the north side of the west chimney of the main house, when that door was replaced with a window in 1989. The door on the east side of the log house is a period door obtained elsewhere (but not from the property). Inside, the log walls are exposed, as are the ceiling joists and rafters.

Smokehouse: first quarter 19th century; 2016, contributing building

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The smokehouse is located north of the log house. It, too, is built of V-notched logs and has a gable roof sheathed in 5-V sheet metal. Typical of smokehouses, its door is on the front (south), weatherboarded gable end and is sheltered by an overhanging gable extension. The building stands on a rubblestone foundation. The most significant feature of the smokehouse is its original vertical-board door with wrought-iron strap hinges with onion-shaped ends and rose-head nails that help suggest an early date of construction for the building. Old building specialist Siler Rothrock believes that, like the adjacent log house, it could have been built as early as ca. 1815. Inside the smokehouse, the joists and rafters are exposed, as was typical. When Si Rothrock was rehabilitating the smokehouse in 2016, he added two four-light windows in the north gable and a frame shed slightly inset on the north (rear) end. The shed has horizontally-laid wood siding on the north and east sides and a double-leaf, vertical-board door on the west side.

Outhouse: ca. 1910-ca. 1930; ca. 2016, contributing building

The outhouse was originally located in the northeastern sliver of the house tract. It was moved to its present location north and slightly east of the smokehouse after an older outhouse collapsed. Around 2016, when he was working on the property's log house and smokehouse, Si Rothrock rehabilitated this outhouse. In the process, he replaced the door with one of the period with narrow vertical boards and replaced the interior seat. The outhouse faces south. It is sheathed with horizontally laid German-sided boards with a vertical board at each corner. The overhanging roof, which is covered with standing-seam metal, is edged by a board about six inches in width. Typical of many outhouses, the roof slopes downward from front to rear.

Storage Shed 1: ca. 1950, noncontributing building

Northwest of the house and northeast of the smokehouse stands the older of two storage sheds on the property. The shed is nine feet wide and ten feet deep. It has concrete-block walls, a metal-shingled gambrel roof with wood-shingled gambrel ends, and a doorway at the south end. In the south gambrel end next to the door is a square window opening.

Flower House: ca. 1950, noncontributing building

West of the smokehouse is the flower house. Like the old storage shed of approximately the same age, it is a concrete-block building. It has a 5-V-metal shed roof that slopes downward from south to north and overhangs in the rear to create additional covered work space. A batten door is on the east end of the rectangular building, and windows are on the front (south) and west side. The front window is a pair of four-light sash, sealed shut now but potentially operable at an earlier time. A plain, square window is at the west end of the building.

Storage Shed 2: 2024, noncontributing building

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The current owners of the property added the most recent outbuilding in 2024, locating it west of the flower house and near the western edge of the property. The rectangular building stands on a base of gravel that extends outward from the building one foot on all sides. To keep “critters” from nesting under it, a wide strip of aluminum window screening has been attached around the bottom edge of the building and buried one-foot deep in the exposed gravel. The building, itself, rests on treated four-by-fours, and the walls are made of a wood product called Bond Board. The side-gable roof is covered by fiberglass shingles, and the gable ends have small fiberglass vents. The east side of the shed has a double-leaf, paneled, fiberglass door with metal hinges and a metal handle. On each side of the seventy-two-inch-wide door is a four-over-four sash window topped by a four-light transom.

INTEGRITY ASSESSMENT

The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House possesses integrity in multiple areas that help illustrate its historic significance and qualify it for listing in the National Register. It retains its original location not far outside the historic town of Oak Ridge in Guilford County, North Carolina. Although it is no longer the seat of a large farm, as it was originally, it maintains a generous rural setting of more than three acres with a collection of outbuildings. All three sections of the house retain their historic materials. The two-story, most prominent section at the front of the house retains its Greek Revival design from the mid-nineteenth century, while the front porch introduces the Craftsman style from ca. 1930 and its associated materials popular at the time and desired by the Blaylock family, who had owned the house since 1876. The workmanship displayed in the Greek Revival section of the house is consistently applied and, especially in terms of the stair, outstanding. At the rear of the house, a two-room “T” shows the kitchen and (probably originally) dining room/now sitting room that reflects some Greek Revival features and was likely original to the house but separated from it for safety reasons as was typical of the period. Between the two earliest sections of the house, a ca. 1910 horizontal section built by members of the Blaylock family added materials and features from the early twentieth century and joined all parts of the house to create a united whole—not only physically but expanding feelings and associations.

Statement of Potential Archeological Significance:

The HPO requested the NC Office of State Archaeology (OSA) review the National Register Nomination for the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House (GF0374), located at 1815 Oak Ridge Road in Oak Ridge, Guilford County. Based on the Office of State Archaeology’s (OSA) current records, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites, surveys, or cemeteries on or

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adjacent to the property or within the immediate vicinity. The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House has undergone few alterations, and the house and the property as a whole have retained strong historic integrity. The property historically included the main dwelling, a log house and smokehouse that may date as early as ca. 1815, a well, outhouse, gardens, and other associated features. The property has high archaeological potential due to its documented long period of occupation and primarily well-drained, gently sloping terrain, which would have provided a suitable setting for past human occupation. The documented recovery of precontact and postcontact artifacts from the property further demonstrates the presence of archaeological materials. Subsurface deposits may provide important information about the property's occupants and activities. Accordingly, I recommend a statement of archaeological potential for this National Register nomination. The potential for buried cultural resources should be considered in any future development of this property.

[Also See Appendix.]

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY:

Located on the north side of Oak Ridge Road (NC Hwy 150) about one-and-a-half miles southwest of the historic town of Oak Ridge in northwestern Guilford County, the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance. It meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture, for within a group of mid-nineteenth-century, Greek Revival-inspired, largely vernacular houses in Guilford County, it stands out as a strong, consistently finished, well-preserved example with a high degree of integrity. Three primary owners all played roles in the Oak Ridge community: wealthy farmer Thomas Sanders (ownership, 1814-1854); farmer, merchant, and entrepreneur Thomas Graham (ownership, 1854-1876); and farmer Marion F. Blaylock and descendants (ownership, 1876-1978). The Blaylocks took care to preserve the overall Greek Revival character of the house but also made two alterations of significance that had a positive effect on the house. Around 1910, they built a one-story, four -room addition that connected the two-story main dwelling to the one-story kitchen and dining room. Around 1930, they converted the classical front porch to one with a fashionable Craftsman design with wood posts set on rubblestone plinths with concrete slab caps and front steps to match. The Period of Significance for the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House spans the years from the pivotal ca. 1845 construction of the two-story main house and the one-story kitchen/dining room ell, the ca. 1910 connecting addition, and the ca. 1930 remodeling of the front porch in the Craftsman style.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House, the seat of what was once a large farm in northwestern Guilford County, is located on the north side of Oak Ridge Road (NC Hwy 150). The road was originally known as the Danville-Salisbury Road for the two large and important towns it linked: Danville to the northeast in Virginia and Salisbury to the southwest in North Carolina. Standing about one-and-a-half miles southwest of the historic community of Oak Ridge added to the desirability of the location of the house and farm. When Executor Jesse Benbow described the farm he was offering for sale after the death of Thomas Sanders in 1854, he noted that, "The lands are well improved, and all well-watered and in a state of high cultivation, and convenient to all the great markets of this, and the adjoining States—and will be still more so in a few years, when our Plank and Rail Roads shall be completed and in full

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operation.”⁶ In addition, Benbow claimed that the farm was “in a moral and industrious community, and in the immediate vicinity of one of the finest Classical Schools to be found in the State.”⁷

Thus was the environment into which the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House was built, but exactly when it was erected is not known. Its Greek Revival architectural styling suggests a date between 1840 and the early 1850s. In advertising the property for sale in 1854, executor Jesse Benbow described it as “the tract of land on which the deceased [Thomas Sanders] resided for many years,” suggesting that it dated from the earlier part of that period (1840s). And when the deed for the property was executed a year later to Thomas Graham, Benbow referred to the sale having taken place on September 21, 1854, “at the late residence of the said Thomas Sanders deceased the home place or tract of land. . . .”⁸ And yet, Sanders family history does not make clear when he built the house.⁹

Thomas Sanders was born on August 18, 1779, in Guilford County to Quakers Joel and Mary Sanders who were members of the Deep River Monthly Meeting.¹⁰ Initially a member of that monthly meeting, Thomas Sanders transferred to the Springfield Monthly Meeting in 1797.¹¹ However, he was not a model Quaker, for at the monthly meeting of December 7, 1799, complaints were lodged against Sanders for committing fornication, and on January 4, 1800, the Springfield Monthly Meeting disowned him. (Around that time, Sanders married Mary Betha (?))

⁶ *Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, NC), September 16, 1854, p. 4. Accessed August 15, 2024.

⁷ *Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, NC), September 16, 1854, p. 4. Accessed August 15, 2024. Jesse Benbow was referring not only to the village of Oak Ridge, but to the Oak Ridge Institute, a preparatory school for young men, which was established in 1851. Information on the Oak Ridge Institute can be found in Sallie W. Stockard, *The History of Guilford County*, 1902, Re-published by The Guilford County Genealogical Society, 1983.

⁸ Guilford County Deed Book 36, p. 521.

⁹ Research by the current property owners provides information on the prominence of the Sanders family in the Oak Ridge community in the early 19th century and the likelihood of Thomas Sanders building a substantial house like this one. Thomas’ father, Joel, purchased the Old Mill of Guilford in 1808 and served as its second miller until his death in 1814. Thomas’ older brother, Jesse, inherited the Mill, and other siblings inherited other real estate in Oak Ridge. Thomas’ older brother, Hezekiah, built Saunders Inn, completed in 1822 farther east on Hwy 150 in Summerfield. Thomas’ younger sister, Mary, married Charles Benbow in 1811. Their brick home (NR, 1984) was completed in 1823 and is a mile east of Thomas’ home. Thomas’ nephew, Dr. John H. Saunders, was a “prominent physician” and served as the first secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Oak Ridge Institute when it was being constructed in 1851.

¹⁰ Ancestry.com. U. S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935. Accessed August 19, 2024.

¹¹ Ancestry.com. U. S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, North Carolina>Guilford>Springfield Monthly Meeting>Men’s Minutes>1790-1820, Vol.1, p. 91. Accessed September 17, 2024.

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Pierce (?)).¹² Furthermore, Quakers frowned on the practice of owning slaves, and by 1800, when he was only twenty-one years old, Thomas Sanders already owned one slave, a number that increased to seven by 1820, and to eight by 1840.¹³

When Joel Sanders died in 1814, he owned a large amount of real and personal property which he bequeathed to his wife, eight children, and others. To his son, Thomas, who was thirty-five years old at the time, he left a third of the Bullock tract near the Haw River and all of his land (about 110 acres) on the Deep River.¹⁴ It was on the land near the Haw River that Thomas Sanders established his large farm. Meanwhile, Thomas and his wife, Mary, already had produced six children, born between 1803-1813. Three more children were added to the family between 1815 and 1822. Where they all lived before the present, two-story house was built is not known. By 1840, one child had died at age twenty-four. Of the remaining eight, five moved away as adults—to Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas. According to the 1850 Census, three remained in their father's household: Ann and Priscilla, both unmarried, and Thomas J. with his wife, Laura (or Flora). Thomas Sanders's wife, Mary, had died in 1841.¹⁵ Although Sanders was seventy-one years old when the 1850 census was recorded (the census reports sixty-nine as his age), he was still listed as a farmer whose real estate, valued at \$2,000, was worth considerably more than the other properties near him. However, while he had eight enslaved people on his large farm, they likely could not have provided nearly as much assistance as one might expect, for of the eight, only two were adults. The remaining six were children ranging in age from two to twelve.¹⁶

In February 1849, Thomas Sanders made an important announcement in the *Greensboro Patriot*. He had decided to move and was offering for sale his plantation on the road leading from Danville to Salisbury, five miles east of the Kernersville crossroads. He bragged that the place had 700 acres, good buildings, good water, good orchards of peaches and apples, and extended to the Haw River. He said he was determined to sell.¹⁷ Nevertheless, Sanders must have

¹² Ancestry.com., U. S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, North Carolina>Guilford>Springfield Monthly Meeting>Men's Minutes>1790-1820, Vol.1, 109-111, Accessed September 17, 2024; *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Vol. 1. Accessed April 22, 2015.

¹³ "North Carolina Quakers and Slavery," library.guilford.edu/c.php?g=111813&p=722874. Accessed April 21, 2025; Ancestry.com. U. S. Federal Census, 1800, 1820, 1840, Accessed August 19, 2024.

¹⁴ Guilford County Will Book A, p. 374.

¹⁵ Prof. T. E. Whitaker, Oak Ridge Institute, "Early Oak Ridge Settlers," *News and Record* (Greensboro, N.C.), November 15, 1925, p. 9. Accessed September 17, 2024. Ancestry.com. U. S. Federal Census, 1850. Accessed August 19, 2024.

¹⁶ Ancestry.com. U. S. Federal Census, General Population and Slave Schedules, 1850. Accessed August 19, 2024;

¹⁷ *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, North Carolina), March 10, 1849. Accessed August 15, 2024.

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changed his mind, for Guilford County deed records do not indicate any substantial sales of his land between the time of his advertisement in 1849 and his death in 1854.¹⁸

In addition to being a prominent area farmer, Thomas Sanders participated in civic activities that had an impact on his community and beyond. Among these were the North Carolina Railroad and the Oak Ridge Military Institute.

Planning for the railroad was ongoing from the 1840s until it opened for traffic between Goldsboro and Charlotte in 1856. It had reached Guilford County by 1851, facilitating shipping and economic growth and thereby serving as a significant boon to farmers and others. At a meeting held in Greensboro on May 16, 1848, Thomas Sanders was chosen to serve as a delegate to a Railroad Convention to be held in Greensboro in June of that year. At another Railroad Convention held in Salisbury in June of the following year, both Sanders and his son, Thomas Sanders, Jr., were named to serve on a committee in their section of Guilford County whose task it was to procure subscriptions to the capital stock in the North Carolina Railroad—an important job if the railroad was to proceed.¹⁹

In 1850, a group of forward-thinking citizens of Oak Ridge and the surrounding area believed that education was important and thus decided to build a school on the main road. They established a group of five trustees to oversee the plan and to gain subscribers to support the building of a school. Among the forty-three original subscribers was Thomas Sanders, who pledged \$10, a middling sum among all the pledged money that totaled \$629. The building was erected in 1851-1852, and the Oak Ridge Institute opened during the academic year of 1852-1853. The first principal was Thomas Sanders' nephew, Dr. John Saunders. The school was a success and survives today as Oak Ridge Military Academy (listed in the NR in 1983 as part of the Oak Ridge Military Academy Historic District).²⁰

In August of 1854, the *Greensboro Patriot* announced the death of Thomas Sanders on August 9th at his residence in Guilford County.²¹ He had prepared his will three days before his death, on August 6, 1854. In his will, Sanders stated that he desired a Christian burial, for his just debts and personal expenses to be paid, and that his Executor should sell all his lands and personal estate for the purpose of raising money to pay his debts and defraying the expenses of settling his estate. The remainder of his estate, including his "Negroes," were to be equally divided between his two single daughters, Ann Sanders and Priscilla Sanders. He noted that all

¹⁸ General Index to Real Estate Conveyances—Guilford County, N. C.—Grantors. Accessed April 23, 2025.

¹⁹ *Carolina Watchman* (Salisbury, N.C.), May 25, 1848, p. 2. Accessed October 4, 2024. *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N. C.), June 30, 1849, p. 2. Accessed October 4, 2024.

²⁰ *Early Years of a Century of Service: Centennial Commencement, May 25-26, 1952*. (Raleigh, N.C.: Edwards and Broughton, 1952), p. 1 and handwritten list of subscribers with amounts. Accessed April 23, 2025.

²¹ *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N.C.), August 26, 1854. Accessed August 26, 2024. Although the paper claimed that Sanders was "aged about 68," he was actually almost 75, having been born on August 18, 1779.

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his other children and grandchildren already had what he intended for them. Lastly, Sanders appointed his nephew, Jesse Benbow, as his Executor.²²

Jesse Benbow proceeded to carry out the wishes expressed in Thomas Sanders's will. After advertising to the public, on September 21, 1854, he held sales, both at Sanders's former residence and farm. Two different sales were held—one for Sanders's real estate—buildings and land—and the other for his personal property, which included a long list of farm-associated items as well as numerous household possessions that gave some sense of his level of wealth.²³

At the estate sale on September 21, 1854, Thomas Graham of Guilford County became the last and highest bidder, at the price of \$2,500, for Thomas Sanders's former residence and tract of land totaling 407 acres. Smaller amounts of land were sold to other buyers, but this, by far, was the bulk of the property. Another buyer, for example, was Thomas J. Benbow (uncle of Jesse Benbow), who purchased 79 acres described as "east of the plantation" for \$305. Thus, the house and its associated farm passed out of the Sanders's family ownership forever.²⁴

The sale of Thomas Sanders's real estate property took place in September 1854, but the sale of his personal property was not held until December 18, 1854, likely because it took more time to organize the numerous items for sale. There were both items related to the farm and items related to the house, and the two do not appear to have been handled separately. At least, in the report prepared after the sale, the two are joined in the same list. The list is organized into three columns, with the purchaser's name in the left column, the item sold in the middle column, and the sale price in the right column. Somewhat curiously, Thomas Graham, purchaser of Sanders's house and a large part of his farm, did not acquire any of Sanders's personal property—either that related to the farm or to the house.²⁵

The farm-related items included a few animals, such as two mares, a horse, and a cow and calf; a wagon, stacks of hay and oats, fodder, and all manner of farm equipment. The long list of household items offered for sale provides a sense of Thomas Sanders's lifestyle and the substantial house he needed to provide a comfortable space for the household furnishings he owned. In addition to various kitchen utensils, there were many furnishings for a dining room and parlor—a large table, three other tables, seven chairs, five plates, six dishes, six cups and saucers, additional glass plates and glasses, two tea pots, and two cupboards. In addition, there was a candle table, a candle stick, a looking glass, frames and portraits, a thermometer, a chest, a clothes press, and four beds, bedsteads, and mattresses. And then there was Thomas Sanders's

²² Thomas Sanders Will. Ancestry.com. Guilford County Wills and Estate Papers, 1663-1978, File No-0103.1. Accessed April 24, 2025.

²³ *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N.C.), September 15, 1854, p. 4. Accessed August 15, 2024.

²⁴ Guilford County Deeds, Book 36, pp. 521-522; Book 358, p. 563.

²⁵ Thomas Sanders Estate Papers, Guilford County Wills and Estate Papers, 1663-1978, pp. 1-8. Ancestry.com. Accessed April 24, 2025.

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library. In addition to a note book and an account book, several books were listed by title. Though hard to read in the Estate Account script, they appear to have been biographical and geographical titles, and a dictionary. Other books were listed only as 2 Books, 1 Book, 4 Books, etc., adding up to twenty-four books. More were grouped as "Lot of Books." Judging by the size of his library, it appears that Sanders was intellectually inclined. No one buyer acquired his library in whole; rather eleven men purchased one or more of Sanders's books.²⁶

Like Thomas Sanders, Thomas Graham played an active role in the Oak Ridge community. He served on the board of trustees at what became the renowned Oak Ridge Institute at its beginning in 1852-1853, and when the school burned to the ground in 1866, he was one of the subscribers who helped fund its rebuilding. In 1856, Graham was one of the delegates appointed to the Democratic State Convention. Graham also served as Postmaster for the town of Oak Ridge in 1859 and 1860. Whether he served additional years is not known.²⁷

On January 22, 1857, Thomas Graham (1821-1894) married Emma G. Williamson of Caswell County.²⁸ He was sixteen years older than she. Like the Sanders, the Grahams produced many children, eight in fact, between 1857 and 1873, though the last two did not live to adulthood. According to the 1860 U. S. Census, a sixteen-year-old enslaved woman was also living with the Grahams at that time. Census records provide other clues to Thomas Graham's life. In 1860, his occupation was listed as both farmer and merchant. There were also substantial values listed for his property, with his real estate listed as \$6,000, and his personal estate listed as \$10,000. By 1870, however, after all the losses resulting from the Civil War, the value of his property had diminished to \$2,000 for his real estate and only \$1,800 for his personal estate. In addition, his occupation was listed as a retired merchant.²⁹

As Thomas Graham retired from being a merchant, his business life followed a different path, one that initially appeared would bring him great success. On May 17, 1870, the stockholders of the North Carolina Central Iron and Manufacturing Company met at the company office in Philadelphia and chose Thomas Graham to serve on the Board of Directors. The same day, the Board met and elected Graham President.³⁰ Two years later, a news report

²⁶ Thomas Sanders Estate Papers, Guilford County Wills and Estate Papers, 1663-1978, pp. 1-8, Ancestry.com. Accessed April 24, 2025.

²⁷ *Early Years of a Century of Service: Centennial Commencement, May 25-26, 1952* (Raleigh, N.C.: Edwards and Broughton, 1952), pp. 7, 22. Accessed April 23, 2025. *The Weekly Standard* (Raleigh, N.C.), April 7, 1856, p. 2. Accessed September 12, 2024. A. Earl Weatherly, *The First Hundred Years of Historic Guilford 1771-1871* (Greensboro, N.C.: Greensboro Printing Company, 1972), p. 89. Accessed April 28, 2025.

²⁸ *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N. C., February 6, 1857), p. 3. Accessed August 16, 2024. The marriage was also announced in newspapers in Raleigh and Fayetteville.

²⁹ U. S. Federal Census, General Population and Slave Schedules, 1860 and 1870. Ancestry.com. Accessed August 19, 2024.

³⁰ *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N. C., June 16, 1870), p. 2. Accessed August 16, 2024.

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noted that Graham had returned from Philadelphia with Prof. J. P. Lesley and planned to put a large force to work in his coal mines in Stokes County immediately as well as in his iron mines near Friendship. These and other mining activities in 1872 were considered by the news to be good indications for the mines in Guilford County.³¹ Despite Graham's promising future, things did not work out as he had anticipated, and on February 6, 1873, he was declared bankrupt.³² By 1880, he, his wife, and five of their children were living in Winston, where he was working as a store clerk.³³

On November 4, 1876, Thomas Graham and his wife, Emma, sold their homestead consisting of 167 acres to Marion F. Blaylock for \$2,500.³⁴ When Thomas Graham had purchased the homestead twenty-two years earlier in 1854, it was also valued at \$2,500, but it included 407 acres, making a difference of 240 acres between the two sales. Because of Graham's near perpetual debt during those decades, he was selling parts of his land frequently. Three known deeds between 1868 and 1871 amounted to 230 and $\frac{1}{4}$ acres. Along with the 167 acres sold to Blaylock and another unknown deed, the total land that Graham sold probably amounted to his original 407 acres.³⁵

Marion Francis Blaylock (1851-1904) and Ann Eliza Garner (1850-1928), both of Guilford County, married on October 31, 1872. Their first two children died in 1877 of diphtheria. Their last three children—Robert Luther, Florence, and Thomas Marion, were all born in the 1880s and lived to adulthood. According to the 1900 U. S. Census, M. F. Blaylock was a farmer who had mortgaged his land.³⁶ Like the two previous owners of his homestead—Thomas Sanders and Thomas Graham, M. F. Blaylock played various roles in his local community. At the end of the century (at least 1899), he served as a justice of the peace, and from 1901 until his death, he was postmaster for the town of Oak Ridge.³⁷

³¹ *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N. C., February 22, 1872), p. 3. Accessed September 12, 2024.

³² *Greensboro North State* (Greensboro, N. C., March 5, 1873), p. 3. Accessed August 16, 2024. Various deeds show that Graham was continuously in debt, and one in 1868 referred to him as living in Philadelphia 1.

³³ U. S. Federal Census, General Population Schedule, 1880. Ancestry.com. Accessed August 19, 2024. Although the census says the Grahams were living in Winston, it also says they were living on Salt Street, which is in Salem.

³⁴ Guilford County Deeds, Book 51, pp. 506-507.

³⁵ Guilford County Deeds, Book 40, pp. 169-173; Book 43, pp. 250-251; Book 44, pp. 402-403.

³⁶ Theresa Hammond, "The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House and Farm," Accessed Summer 2024; Martin Blaylock Family Tree, Ancestry.com. Accessed Summer 2024; *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N.C., Sept 5, 1877, p. 3; Sept. 12, 1877, p. 2) Accessed September 27, 2024. U. S. Federal Census, General Population Schedule, 1880. Ancestry.com. Accessed August 19, 2024. Guilford County Deeds, Book 100, pp. 593-596.

³⁷ *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N. C., November 1, 1899), p. 12, Accessed September 27, 2024; *The Weekly High Point Enterprise* (High Point, N. C., October 9, 1901), p. 2, Accessed September 27, 2024; *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N. C., February 12, 1902), p. 7, Accessed September 27, 2024. Theresa Hammond, "The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House and Farm," Accessed Summer 2024.

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M. F. Blaylock died in 1904, apparently without leaving a will. His oldest son, Robert Luther, was named administrator of his estate.³⁸ Marion Francis Blaylock's father, Robert Allen Blaylock, became owner of his son's property until his own death in 1911. In his will he bequeathed the property that had been occupied by his son, M. F., known as the Graham place (and additional property) to his grandson (and son of M. F.) Thomas Marion "Lanier" Blaylock, and his daughter-in-law Eliza (widow of M. F.).³⁹

Census records show that like his father before him, Thomas M. Blaylock was listed for decades as a farmer. In 1908 he married Goldie Esta Walker, and they had three children: Verda (1909-1983), Thomas Marion "Tom" Jr. (1914-1975), and Jack Wanda (1925-2016). Thomas M. Blaylock's mother, Eliza, continued to live with them in the family home for some years. However, according to her 1928 obituary, at her death "she had made her home for a number of years" with her daughter Florence Crews and her husband, William. Goldie Blaylock (died 1961) and T. M. Blaylock Sr. (died 1966) continued to reside in the Blaylock family homeplace until their deaths.⁴⁰ Thereafter it was rented for some years or was uninhabited.

The Blaylock family occupied the house for nearly a century, during which time they had an impact on its physical appearance. Immediately behind the original two-story house, they built a one-story addition with three rooms, probably ca. 1910, that connects the two-story main house with the one-story, two-room wing set perpendicular to it.⁴¹ The three-room-wide addition (the east room now divided into two rooms for a total of four rooms) stretches east and west nearly as wide as the three-bay-wide two-story main house and is finished with nearly the same exterior features.

The Blaylocks preserved the original features of the interior of the two-story house except for the front entrance, which they modified when they remodeled the front porch in the fashionable Craftsman style ca. 1930. Opening to the porch, the original doors were replaced with French doors while retaining the original sidelights and transom, and the whole composition was extended forward approximately two feet as part of the porch's new Craftsman design. The original full-height Classical porch posts were modified to half posts and set on rubblestone plinths with concrete slab tops (one on the west side having "Thomas" inscribed on it) and rubblestone and concrete-slab steps. Other stonework and the initials "TMB" were included in

³⁸ *The Greensboro Patriot* (Greensboro, N. C., May 11, 1904), p. 8, Accessed September 27, 2024.

³⁹ Guilford County Wills and Estate Papers. Will Book H, pp. 390-391.

⁴⁰ T. M. Blaylock Sr. spent the last 82 days of his life at Butner Hospital in Granville County due to a "chronic brain disease."

⁴¹ The ca. 1910 date for the addition is based on the supposition that it would have been a likely time for Thomas Marion Blaylock and Goldie Walker, who had married in 1908, to make such a practical change, as well as because both the interior and exterior features have the architectural appearance of dating from that time.

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steps by the road and elsewhere.⁴² Verda Blaylock Solomon, daughter of Thomas M. and Goldie Blaylock, who would have been in her twenties at the time, recalled that itinerant craftsmen prepared the work on the porch and steps at that time.⁴³

After the 1975 death of T. M. “Tom” Blaylock Jr., the two surviving children of Thomas M. and Goldie Blaylock—Jack W. Blaylock and wife and Verda Blaylock Solomon (widow)—along with multiple other Blaylock heirs sold 2.23 acres of the homestead property facing Hwy. 150 to Margaret D. Stevens on December 20, 1978.⁴⁴ However, her ownership was brief, for she died the following August. Then owned by the heirs of Margaret Stevens, the 2.23 acres were divided into two lots, and on September 18, 1981, William P. H. Stevens Jr. sold Lot 1, which included the house, to Roy H. Nydorf.⁴⁵ Lot 2, immediately to the west, remained with the Stevens family. On that lot stood the log house and log smokehouse associated with the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House.⁴⁶ The log house was threatened with demolition, but Nydorf’s deed for the house lot had included within the purchase price the stipulation that he could move the dilapidated log house on Lot 2 within two years. In 1984, Nydorf moved the structure to the rear of Lot 1, behind the main house.⁴⁷ On December 27, 2013, Kristina Ann Stevens, an heir of Margaret Stevens, sold Lot 2, the lot adjacent to the house lot on the west, to Roy H. Nydorf and his wife, Theresa N. Hammond.⁴⁸ Two years later, Nydorf and Hammond were able to move the log house back to its original location and had restoration specialist Siler Rothrock of Reidsville rehabilitate both it and the smokehouse.⁴⁹ Meanwhile, in 1992, Nydorf and Hammond had purchased a third lot behind the house lot from Lena Blaylock.⁵⁰ Just over one acre, the wooded

⁴² The Blaylocks seem to have been overly interested in leaving their “marks” on the house. In connection with the porch and related work done in the 1930s, “TMB” for Thomas Marion Blaylock, the owner, was left in two places, while “Thomas,” probably representing T. M. Blaylock’s son, T. M. Blaylock Jr., (1914-1975), was hand inscribed on a concrete slab top of a porch plinth. But from the beginning of the Blaylocks’ period as owners of the house, going back to Marion Francis Blaylock, whose ownership spanned the years from 1876 until his death in 1904, they left their signatures or initials. M. F. Blaylock signed his name in pencil on the inner side of the closet door beneath the hall stair.

⁴³ Verda Solomon shared her memory of the itinerant craftsmen with the present owners of the house.

⁴⁴ Guilford County Deeds, Book 2963, pp. 602-603.

⁴⁵ Guilford County Deeds, Book 3176, p. 428.

⁴⁶ Guilford County Plats, Book 67, p. 142.

⁴⁷ Theresa Hammond, “The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House and Farm,” Accessed Summer 2024.

⁴⁸ Guilford County Deeds, Book R 7562, pp. 966-967.

⁴⁹ Theresa Hammond, “The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House and Farm,” Accessed Summer 2024.

⁵⁰ Guilford County Deeds, Book 3945, pp. 291-292.

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land helps preserve more of the property's original landscape. It is adjacent to land still in the possession of the Blaylock descendants.⁵¹

ARCHITECTURE CONTEXT

Exactly when the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House was built is not known, but given its form and Greek Revival-style features along with references to the house when the property was being auctioned after Sanders's death in August 1854, a date from the 1840s seems likely. That date, extended elsewhere up through the 1850s, corresponds with other Greek Revival-style houses in the county.

The architectural survey that H. McKelden Smith supervised in the mid-1970s and then edited as *Architectural Resources: An Inventory of Historic Architecture: High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford County* was a great source of information in developing an architecture context for understanding the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House. (The city of Greensboro was surveyed and published separately.) Smith divided his view of rural Guilford County into the Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, and Northwest sections of the county. The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House is part of the Northwest section, and while that area was the focus of the study for this nomination, houses in other areas were also reviewed. Survey files for houses in rural Guilford County from the same period as the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House were reviewed at the State Historic Preservation Office. In exploring those files, two factors that had an impact on developing an architecture context were noted. First, four Greek Revival-style houses of interest no longer survive—two in Northwest Guilford County and two in Southwest Guilford. In addition, within the five areas reviewed, a total of seven property files had no interior photographs, rendering them useless for interior comparative purposes. Still, there were fourteen properties that could be considered and, of those, four had various features that were similar to some of the features seen at the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House.

Of the mid-nineteenth-century two-story frame houses considered in developing an architecture context for the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House, all have a center-hall plan typical of the Greek Revival style and subsequent Romantic styles. Two—the Jesse Benbow House II (NR, 1983) in the Northwest section and the Elihu Mendenhall House (NR, 2025) in the Southwest section—stand out for being the only surviving mid-nineteenth-century well-preserved examples with a double-pile plan (two-rooms deep).⁵² Other houses from the period,

⁵¹ On the adjacent property mentioned is a stone-lined spring located close to the property line. Blaylock descendant Joann Williams (1934-2020) recalled that it was her job as a youngster to scrub the stones with sand to keep it clean, as it served as an early refrigerator.

⁵² Information on houses discussed in the Architecture Context section was drawn from survey files used in the File Room at the State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, and from H. McKelden Smith, *Architectural*

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including the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House, are single-pile (one-room deep). The double-pile houses have interior chimneys, while the single-pile houses, including the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House, have gable-end chimneys. The Shubal Coffin House I in Jamestown (part of Jamestown Historic District, NR 1973) is the most ornate Greek Revival-style house in Guilford County with a pedimented temple form Doric entrance portico (another such porch on the side), full entablatures over the windows, and rich detailing on the interior. The Dr. Joseph A. McLean House (NR, 1995) in the Northeast section of the county mimics the front portico of the Shubal Coffin House I, but its detailing is much simpler. The exteriors of the county's other Greek Revival period houses, including the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House, are much more modest in both their exterior form and detail. Typically, they exhibit a three-bay façade, a side-gable roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end chimneys, and a hip-roofed or shed-roofed front porch with simple classical posts. If they are especially refined, like the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House, they have classical corner posts with molded caps and a frieze with decorative moldings across the top and beneath the eaves. While other houses in the county cannot compare with the Shubal Coffin House I in its rich Greek Revival detailing, two houses, in particular—the Jesse Benbow House II and the Elihu Mendenhall House—stand out because of the wealth of painted wood graining and marbling that survive on their interiors. If the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House had similar interior painting, it does not survive.

In terms of interior features, houses built during the mid-nineteenth-century in Guilford County as well as elsewhere in North Carolina's Piedmont region normally exhibit doors with two flat panels and mantels of the post-and-lintel form, both reflecting the Greek Revival style. Some of these doors have plain surrounds (Charles W. Wilson House-Northwest section), heavily molded mitered surrounds (Dr. Shubal Coffin House I), or cornerblock surrounds (Dr. Joseph A. McLean House). Some houses have both two-panel and six-panel doors reflecting two periods, such as the Harper Johnson House (part of Jamestown Historic District, NR 1973) and six-panel doors with cornerblock surrounds (Alexander Strong Martin House-Northwest section). Houses such as the Harper Johnson House that contain doors from two periods have mantels from two periods as well—a grand Federal-style mantel and a more simple but well-built Greek Revival-style post-and-lintel mantel. A wealth of post-and-lintel mantels can be seen in mid-nineteenth-century houses in Guilford County, ranging from stocky examples (Dr. Shubal Coffin House II (part of Jamestown Historic District, NR-1973), Charles H. Wilson House-Northwest section, and Boone House, gone, Northwest section) to those that are more stretched out horizontally or tall and slender: Dr. Joseph A. McLean House, Jesse Benbow House II, and Henry Cobb House-Northeast section). Of particular note is a mantel in the Dr. Shubal Coffin House I, which has fluted pilasters, a two-part frieze, and an ogee molding beneath the mantel

Resources: An Inventory of Historic Architecture: High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford County (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Division of Archives and History et al., 1979).

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shelf. This use of an ogee molding beneath the mantel shelf is a rare example of this form in Guilford County. In the study for this nomination, it was seen otherwise only on the mantels at the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House.

The center-hall stair of a mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival-inspired house is often the focal point of the stylistic character of the house interior. Two houses with examples of simple, tightly positioned stairs with plain features are the Henry Cobb House and the Joyner House (part of Jamestown Historic District, NR-1973). The Henry Cobb House has two balusters per step, a square newel, and a handrail that runs into the newel. The Joyner House stair is steep with only one baluster per step and the handrail runs into a plain, slender, square-in-section newel. The stair in the Harper Johnson House shows slightly more flair in that it has a tall and multi-shaped newel into which the handrail runs. However, the stair “disappears” into the second floor, where a railing borders the opening at that level. As opposed to these rather conservative stairs, several in addition to the stair in the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House are more elaborate and graceful. At the Dr. Shubal Coffin House I, the hall is wide, there is a chair rail along the wall beside the stair, the newel is square-in-section with a peaked cap, and the handrail runs into the newel beneath the cap. The rounded handrail rises to where it ramps upward to a landing, turns right, ramps upward again, and ramps upward and turns again until reaching the second-floor level, where it follows the edge of the stair opening. The Elihu Mendenhall House also has a wide hall, which allows it to have a stair with room for several levels of gentle ramping with its rounded handrail as it goes from one floor to the next to the next. At the bottom of the stair, the handrail runs into the circular top of the newel, which has multiple broad and narrow circular turns. The center hall of the Dr. Joseph A. McLean House does not appear as generously spaced as that in the Elihu Mendenhall and Dr. Shubal Coffin I houses. Nevertheless, it has noteworthy stair features, including sawnwork brackets on the sides of the stair steps, a very slender turned newel, and a rounded handrail that rests atop the newel and ramps upward in a curve at the landing on its way to the second floor. The stair at the Jesse Benbow House II is very similar in feeling to the stair at the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House. Although their newels are not the same, they each exhibit both relative simplicity and fine craftsmanship. In both cases, the rounded handrail extends past the steps at the bottom of the stair, crossing over the top of the newel. At the top of the first flight of steps, in each case the handrail ramps up to the next level of the stair.

Within this group of mid-nineteenth-century, Greek Revival-inspired, largely vernacular, houses in Guilford County, the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House stands as a strong, consistently finished, and well-preserved example. Believed to have been built during the 1840s, it is the two-story, main portion of today’s house that is the primary reflector of the Greek Revival style. The once-separate dining room and kitchen behind the house, which was connected to the main house by an addition built by the Blaylock family ca. 1910, also reflects some Greek Revival features

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in its doors and dining room mantel. The Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House displays the typical exterior form of the mid-nineteenth-century single-pile frame houses in Guilford County with its weatherboard siding, three-bay façade with six-over-six sash windows, side-gable roof with widely overhanging eaves, gable-end brick chimneys (later stuccoed), and hip-roofed front porch. Exterior refinements include corner pilasters with classical cyma reversa caps, a wide frieze with a cyma reversa molding along the top, and a cyma reversa molding along the edge of the roof. Front and rear entrances were identical until ca. 1930, when the front entrance and porch were modernized in the Craftsman style. Both front and rear entrances are strongly Greek Revival in having three sidelights over panels, five-light transoms, and on the rear entrance, a pair of solid two-panel doors. The doors on the front entrance were replaced in the ca. 1930 remodeling with two-panel French doors, each with ten panes of glass, and with the whole doorway popped out approximately two feet. Adding to the fashionable Craftsman appearance of the front porch, the former full-height classical posts were replaced with half-height classical posts set on rubblestone plinths with concrete slab tops.

The interior features of the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House are relatively simple, but at the same time impressive because of the Greek Revival traits that are consistently applied. The doors are two-paneled with mitered surrounds. Especially noteworthy are the side-by-side pair of two-panel doors with mitered surrounds on the west side of the second-floor hall that open into two half-sized bedrooms (one now a bathroom). Nearly identical Greek Revival post-and-lintel mantels can be found in all five rooms, although the two in the first-floor rooms are slightly more refined. All have an ogee molding beneath the mantel shelf. The mantel in the second-floor east room even has an ogee molding at the top of its pilaster base block that has been flipped upside down, a suggestion of extra creativity. A most unusual feature appears with the mantels on the west side of the second floor—the rooms into which the pair of Greek Revival doors enter. What was one large room on the east side is divided by a wall into two rooms on the west side, and what was one large mantel on the east side becomes two half mantels on the west side. Although neither of the west-side half mantels has a flipped ogee molding atop the pilaster base block (these may have been present originally), both sides have an ogee molding beneath the mantel shelf. The most outstanding feature of the interior of the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House is its stair. While it does not have a curving banister like the Shubal Coffin House I and the Elihu Mendenhall House, it demonstrates a combination of artistry and engineering that results in a design of uncommon elegance. An unusual feature, not seen elsewhere, is that each baluster rests on a mitered wood base. The balusters, two per step, support a rounded handrail that straightens in a forward direction as it nears the newel and ends with a backward slant atop the newel. The handrail at the Jesse Benbow House II is treated in the same manner in relationship to its newel. The newel at the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House is a slender combination of a four-sided base, an octagonal post, and a ball at the top beneath the handrail. The newel is repeated twice—once

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near the top of the stair where the first turn to the second floor is made and second, at the southwest corner of the second-floor balustrade. The various moves from the end of the stair's ramped handrail to the full second floor level and its balustrade is angular rather than curving and is similar to the stair landing at the Jesse Benbow House II, only more complicated. It has the appearance of an elegant engineering feat not seen elsewhere in the county.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, cont'd.

Latitude: 36.160283

Longitude: -80.009887

Verbal Boundary Description:

The National Register boundary of the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House is delineated by the heavy white line on the accompanying National Register Boundary Map which defines the property's 3.43 acres, including the three contiguous lots that make up the current tax parcel numbers 165487, 165519, and 165532 along with the right-of-way along the southeast parcel lines and Oak Ridge Road.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property originally was part of the much larger farm acreage associated with the Sanders, Graham, and Blaylock families. Today, the property includes under single ownership only the historic house, related surviving outbuildings, and adjoining land behind the house lot that was part of the original farm.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following photographs are keyed to the nomination floor plans. On the plans, 1→ indicates the number and direction of the photographs, which are listed here.

Laura A. W. Phillips took photos #16, 17, and 20 in August 2024 and photos #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, and 12 in September 2025. Theresa N. Hammond took photos #8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18, and 19 in August 2024.

1. Façade from road, view to N.
2. Façade, view to N.
3. Cornice and eaves moldings, view NW.
4. East elevation, view to W.
5. View of main house, 1910 addition, and ell, view to NW.
6. Ell, 1910 addition, and house, view to SE.
7. Façade and west side, view to NE.
8. Original rear entrance, view to N.
9. Center hall stair, view to NE.
10. Stair newel, view to E.
11. Transition at stair landing, view to SW.
12. Transition at stair landing, view to SE.
13. Pair of Greek Revival doors on second floors, view to SW.
14. Half-mantel in SW room of second floor, view to NW.
15. Mantel in second floor east room, view to E.
16. Parlor mantel in first floor west room, view to W.
17. Detail of parlor mantel with ogee molding beneath shelf, view to W.
18. Dining room (sitting room) in 1-story ell, view to NW.
19. Kitchen fireplace with view to S toward front of house.
20. Smokehouse from rear with view South to log house and rear ell of house to left.

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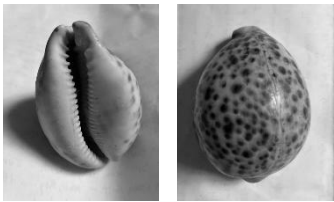
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Appendix: (Theresa Hammond)

Archaeological Finds on the Sanders-Graham-Blaylock Property



1. Large Cowrie shell found in the dirt when we initially moved the log house from its original location. It had been underneath the house. It measures 3-1/4" high x 2-1/4" wide x 1-5/8" deep. We surmise this may have been a treasured object owned by a person enslaved on the property.⁵³
2. A selection of some of the twenty-or so white "rocks" we found in the chinking of the log house chimney and in the dirt in the surrounding area. A local historian, Bob Benbow, told us they were used in milling. Thomas Sanders' father, Joel, purchased



the Old Mill of Guilford in 1808, and left it to his eldest son, Jesse, in his will (1814). Jesse continued to operate it until 1822. Robert Blaylock, the father of Marion Francis, also served as a miller there. After searching the image online, we believe they might be "ceramic-media milling balls."

⁵³ [Cowrie Shells: Cultural and Economic Ties in the 18th-Century Atlantic World](#) accessed 09-09-25

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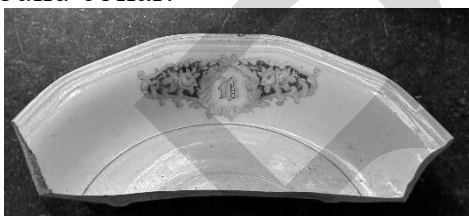
Sanders-Graham-Blaylock House
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3. A 19th century stoneware ginger beer bottle was found in the backyard.



4. A broken, 19th century, 3 gallon stoneware crock with applied handle was also found in the backyard. It shares some traits of 19th c. Randolph Co. pottery by John A. Craven, in terms of its form, handle-type and the incised line around collar.



5. Fragment of a China saucer with transfer-ware floral design and gilt decoration, including a monogrammed "B," presumably for Blaylock.



6. Two shards of transfer-ware ceramic dishes. The left is blue and white; the right is deep pink and white.



7. Mold-made, porcelain doll's head, measuring 1" h. x 1/2" w x 1/2" d.

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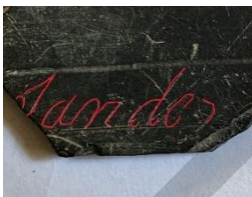
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8. American Indian stone arrowheads and clay gaming ball. Left: Early Savannah River fragment (c. 3000 B.C. to 1900 B.C.); center: Yadkin-earred point (c. 500 A.D.); right: Palmer (10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C.) The land on which we live, and that now forms Guilford County, was “previously cared for and claimed, at various times, by the Keyauwee, Saura, and Saponi Peoples, some of whom such as the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, maintain a strong presence in the area, caring for it still.”⁵⁴



9. A broken piece of slate, found in the west side yard between the log house and smokehouse, inscribed on one side with what looks like the name “Sanders” written between a horizontal line above and a double narrower scored line below; on the verso, a wheel with hub and spokes. (First image edited with red marker to highlight name.)



10. Handmade brick, inscribed with number “1620,” was among the bricks in the log house chimney stack. It was readily visible, but mounted upside down, prior to the house being moved (to prevent demolition) in 1984.

⁵⁴ <https://coda.io/@c-wess-daniels/ugrr-tour-guide/land-acknowledgement-16>, Accessed 9-9-25. While employed at Guilford College, property owner Theresa Hammond was involved with a committee drafting this Land Acknowledgement statement.

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11. Wrought iron fireplace gudgeon from log house chimney was saved in 1984 when the chimney was dismantled and the cabin was moved.⁵⁵



12. Variety of metal nails, including a rosehead nail (2nd from left), a keyhole plate and split cotter pin. We have not yet used a metal detector on the property.

⁵⁵ <https://www.archipedianewengland.org/1767-nantucket-ma-18-india-street-silas-paddock-house/> Accessed 9-9-57 This article documents restoration of the Silas Paddock House in Nantucket, and the last photo shows an original gudgeon damaged in chimney collapse with hand-wrought replacement that looks identical to ours.