Form 10-300 (Rov. 5-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:
North Carolina
COUNTY:
Caswell
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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The Garland-Buford House represents the height of sawnwork inventiveness in the county during the mid-nineteenth century boom era of tobacco prosperity. The large two-story rectangular house, three bays wide and two deep, is set on a full raised basement of fieldstone and brick. Plain lapped siding covers the house, with flush sheathing beneath the front and rear porches. Two large interior brick chimneys with round-headed panels and molded caps rise from the standing-seam tin hip roof. Exuberant sawnwork articulates the doors, windows, eaves and porches.

The main entrance, in the center bay of the main (northwest) facade, consists of a double door with oval flat panels surrounded by an irregularly paned transom and sidelights. Beneath the sidelights on each side is a single flat panel. Flanking the door and sidelights are fluted tapering pilasters with curved sawn capitals extending between the transom panes to support a wide scalloped lintel. The second story entrance is similar but lacks a transom, and the flanking pilasters are accented with lozenge ornament At the rear is a similar central double door entrance, and in the bay to the east of this entrance is a single door with simpler trim. Large, nearly floor-length six-over-six sash windows illuminate the house. Each window has sawnwork scalloped horizontal muntins and is set within a fluted surround with plain corner blocks, a pointed-arched lintel, and louvered shutters. The eaves form a wide overhang over the plain frieze board and are punctuated by paired pendant brackets.

The richest ornament, derived from a trefoil motif, is concentrated on the front and rear porches of the house. The front three-bay two-story pedimented porch is set on brick piers with segmentally-arched opanings infilled with latticed brick. Flat-paneled posts support both levels. The sawnwork porch balustrades and the frieze ornament between the upper porch posts at both levels are identical, the rectangular design in each bay consisting of tapering boards extending from four directions, each terminating in a trefoil shape at the center. At the top of the balustrades and at the bottom of the upper porch ornament is a scalloped and trefoliated border. From the molded cornice between the two porch levels, a drip course identical to these borders is suspended. The cornice treatment of the main block is continued around the facade porch. The flush-sheathed tympanum is accented by an elaborate snowflake-shaped sawnwork vent. A one-story porch extends the entire length of the rear elevation. The site slopes at the rear, and high brick piers support the porch. The shed roof, with cornice treatment identical to the main cornice, is supported by plain Doric posts, and an identical balustrade and upper porch ornament enclose this porch.

Beneath the main rear entrance is the basement entrance, a double flatpaneled door with a plain architrave. Six-pane casement windows, protected on the exterior by horizontal diagonally set slats, illuminate the basement. A granite drainage trough surrounds the front three sides of the house.

The house has a center hall plan two rooms deep, with an unusually wide center hall at both levels. The wide stair with curvilinear brackets ornamenting the open string rises in two flights against the northeast hall wall. Beneath the stair, a single flight descends to the basement. The

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Caswell	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

stair railing and all the mantels were taken from the house, although the outline of the mantels, which matches that of the scalloped and trefoliated drip courses of the porches, is visible. The remainder of the original interior finish is intact, and is equal in inventiveness, charm and high quality to the exterior ornament. Throughout the house are high molded baseboards, vertically paneled doors, pilasters supporting entablatures at each door and window, and doors, niches, or closets flanking the fireplace in each room. The openings are surrounded by plain, scalloped or symmetrically molded pilasters which support serpentine entablatures, arched entablatures, or entablatures containing the same trefoliated design which spans the porch bays. This trim is consistent within each room, but different from room to room with the exception of the two rooms southwest of the hall, which have identical trim. These are the only fully connecting rooms, for on each side of the chimney are three openings—a ceiling—height opening on each side and a shorter double door surmounted by a colored glass transom in the partition wall.

The second floor was never finished. The rear room on the northeast side is unplastered, the hall contains only one thin coat of plaster, and the woodwork never received a finish coat. The center ceiling joist of the hall is exposed, and scalloped ornament similar to the pilaster trim is applied to the three visible faces. On each side of the chimney in each of the four bedchambers on this floor is a closet with a double door. Panels beneath the closet doors and the windows match the architraves in each room.

The basement is also unfinished, with bare stone and brick walls, unplastered partition walls, and dirt floors. A room is partitioned off in each rear corner, and the remainder of the basement is unpartitioned. Several of the door frames have symmetrically molded architraves. At the front and rear of each chimney, constructed of fields one to the first floor level, is a small fireplace with a large granite lintel.

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SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🗓 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicabl	e and Known) 1877		
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The fact that the house was never completely finished on the interior raises unanswered questions about the events surrounding its construction. According to a local tradition, the house was constructed for the builder's fiancee, who cancelled the marriage plans, and the house was never completed. Dr. John T. Garland, a wealthy Caswell County physician, owned the land on which the house stands from 1835 to his death in 1873, the period during which the house was built. However, Garland inhabited a large residence in Milton, and is not known to have lived in this house. Garland owned ninety slaves by 1863, and it is probable that he farmed this Hyco Creek tract.

Deeds are the only known documents relating to the history of the house. The house had been erected by 1877, for in that year it appears on a subdivision plat map contained in a deed and is mentioned in the deed itself. V. C. Neblett, daughter of Dr. Garland, inherited the 1,250 acre Hyco tract from her father and in this deed gave her daughter Belle P. Epes and her husband Thomas G. Epes 451 8/100 acres of the tract, including the dwelling house and outbuildings. In 1903, following the death of Thomas Epes and Belle's remarriage, she sold the house and land, described as "originally known as part of the Garland Tract upon which the late Thomas G. Epes lived," to Preston Buford. Following Buford's death in the 1920s a succession of short-term owners possessed the farm, and it was finally sold in 1960 to the Burruss Land and Lumber Company. In the late 1960s the farm was sold to the Carolina Power and Light Company, and it was bought in 1972 by Mr. and Mrs. O. Guy Hill of Gastonia. The house, which had been uninhabited for a number of years, is now being restored.

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2. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION		-	N A	TIONAL	REGISTE	RVERIF	ICATION	
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Publi 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for incin the National Register and certify that it has evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedu	ic Law clusion been	11	I hereby o National	_	at this pro	operty is	included	in the
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National State Local Local			Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation					ation
1		I	Date					
Name H. C. Jones		F	ATTEST:					
Title Director, Division of Archi and History	ves			Keeper	of The Na	ational Re	egister	
Date 24 October 1973		r	ate					
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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

