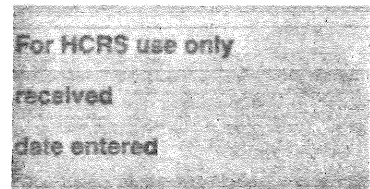


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic "Melrose," The Williamson House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number N.W. side of N.C. 62, 0.7 miles N.E. of jct. with SR 1594 not for publication

city, town Yanceyville Township  vicinity of Yanceyville congressional district

state North Carolina code 037 county Caswell code 033

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   | N/A   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. James H. Coman, III

street & number Route 1, Box 136

city, town Blanche  vicinity of state N.C. 27212

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Caswell County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Yanceyville state North Carolina

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

An Inventory of Historic Architecture: Caswell County, N.C.  
title by Ruth Little-Stokes, conducted 1972, published 1979 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, N.C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

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## 7. Description

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|   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Set at the end of a long drive lined by tall oaks, the Caswell County house known as Melrose is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a large plantation residence in North Carolina piedmont's bright leaf tobacco belt along the Virginia border. The house comprises two frame single-pile blocks, each an excellent representative of its period. Historical and architectural evidence suggests that the original section, which displays mostly Federal style details, dates from the end of the eighteenth century, and that the second block, which is predominantly Greek Revival in character, was added to the front of the house about 1840. Both blocks are two stories high, and they are joined by a one-and-a-half-story breezeway.

The original section of Melrose, which is covered with beaded weatherboards and a side gable roof, rests on a mortared stone foundation. There is a shallow cellar which is reached by an exterior stone stair on the northeast (right) gable end. The front and rear windows on both floors, and the first story windows on the side elevations, are tall, narrow openings with 9/9 sash set in three-part molded surrounds; the second floor windows on the side elevations are shorter and have 6/6 sash in similar surrounds. The front facade may have had a three-bay division on both floors with a central entrance, but due to the construction of the connecting wing between the two blocks the original arrangement is no longer visible. Two exterior end chimneys provide fireplaces for the four principal rooms; the chimneys are laid up in Flemish bond, have double-paved shoulders, free-standing stacks, and corbelled caps. Along with the chimneys, the most notable exterior feature of the house's earlier section are the cornices, boxed and set flush with the gable ends, which feature modillion blocks with recessed guttae.

A diminutive, one-story, one-room ell, which appears to have been built at the same time or shortly after the original main block, adjoins the house at the northeast (right) end of the rear elevation. Like the main block, it is sheathed in beaded weatherboards and rests on a stone foundation. It has an exterior, gable-end chimney with a single pair of paved shoulders and an unusually tall, free-standing stack. The ell's two windows have 9/9 and 9/6 sash. According to the present owner, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Williams had the ell enlarged to its present configuration during the 1930s. It now engages a pantry and the screened porch which carries across the ell's northeast elevation and along the northeast gable end of the main block to the chimney.

Like the exterior, the interior of the original main block has received careful maintenance and little alteration. The ground floor follows a hall-and-parlor plan and has a restrained, well-detailed Federal style finish. The southwest (left) first floor room has the most elaborate detailing found in the house's earlier section. The walls are finished in plaster over a beaded baseboard and a flat wainscot; the notable wainscot cap resembles a frieze with alternating reeded triglyphs and plain metopes. The centerpiece of the room is the handsome mantel, which is illustrated in Johnston and Waterman's classic The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Paneled pilasters with simple capitals rise to small sunburst ornaments and a three-part frieze, framed by dentil courses, with three elliptical sunbursts. A delicately molded, three-part shelf crowns the mantel, and a rope molding surrounds the fire opening. With the exception of a rear, five-panel door that was apparently installed at the turn of the present century, all doors in this room have six raised panels and are set in three-part surrounds.

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The stair is reached through a door at a corner of the southwest room, and rises forward in a single run. The boxing, however, which is carefully finished with flush boards, a baseboard, and chair rail, occupies the northeast room on the opposite side of the center partition wall. Beneath the boxing is a closet with a distinctive door framed by a reeded surround and reeded corner blocks; the four panels on the door are raised and have concave, cut-out corners. The rest of the finish in the northeast room is similar to that in the other first floor rooms but omits the showier details. The wainscot cap is simply molded, and reeding replaces the sunbursts and raised panels on the mantel.

The second floor, which retains nearly all of its original, simple, Federal style finish, consists of two primary rooms separated by a narrow stair hall. A small nursery was partitioned from the larger southwest room during the early nineteenth century. In the two primary rooms, plastered walls are punctuated by simple molded baseboards and chair rails; doors with six flat panels are set in plain, two-part surrounds. Both rooms have handsome, two-part mantels with reeded pilasters, broad reeded friezes, and molded shelves. The small nursery room is plastered but otherwise unfinished. Early nineteenth century box locks may be seen on doors throughout the original section of the house.

Thomas Tileston Waterman described the second main block of Melrose, which was probably erected about 1840 by George Williamson, as "a quiet Classic-Revival house."<sup>1</sup> This later section, which presents the principal facade of the residence to passersby, follows the two-story, single-pile form with end chimneys that had become traditional by the early nineteenth century, and its vertical proportions recall the Federal style. However, the house's Doric entrance portico, and its interior finish, give it a predominantly Greek Revival character.

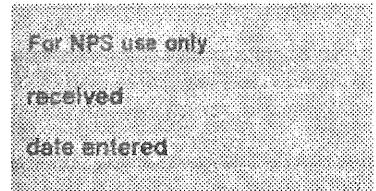
The house rests on a high brick foundation; behind the chimney on the northeast (right) side of the house, a small shed of brick construction provides access to the cellar. Each chimney is laid up in common bond without header courses, and has a corbelled cap and pair of concave shoulders. The house is covered with plain weatherboards, finished at each end with corner boards, and a gable roof, which terminates in a boxed cornice. All of the windows have 6/9 sash set in thin, molded surrounds and flanked by louvered shutters with iron tiebacks.

The facade follows a symmetrical, three-bay arrangement on the second story, and symmetrically placed windows flank the central entrance portico on the ground floor. Underneath the portico, however, the entrance was oddly placed left of center. The portico is supported by four unfluted Doric columns and two pilasters which rise to plain frieze and low, broad pediment. The entrance, set in flush sheathing and framed by a fluted surround with corner blocks, consists of latticed sidelights over panels, a latticed transom, and a two-leaf door with an unusual six-panel configuration seen throughout this section of the house.

Behind the entrance, the second main block follows a center stair hall plan on both floors (the front portion of the second floor hall has been enclosed for a bathroom). The stair, which rises to a rear landing and then forward, is composed of square

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balusters and a rounded and ramped handrail which terminates in a volute over the newel. Delicate sawn brackets embellish the open stringers. The hallway is finished in plaster over a deep, three-part baseboard.

The two principal first floor rooms display the most elaborate detailing in this section of the house. Both have symmetrically molded window and door surrounds with roundel corner blocks, paneled aprons under the windows, plaster ceiling moldings, and handsome plaster ceiling medallions which share a robust foliate design. The rooms are distinguished from each other by their mantels and wall treatments. The southwest (left) room has a mantel with free-standing Doric colonnettes, and its walls are plastered over a deep, multi-part baseboard. The mantel in the northeast (right) room has simple pilasters rather than Doric colonnettes. The walls in this room are treated with a fluted chair rail, sunken panel wainscot, and a baseboard.

As in the house's earlier section, the second story rooms of the later block are well-detailed but less elaborately finished than those of the first floor. Each room is plastered over a simple baseboard and a distinctive, three-part, fluted chair rail, and has symmetrically molded window surrounds with corner blocks and paneled aprons. Only by the mantels, and by slight differences in the window trim, can one room be distinguished from the other. The mantel in the southwest (left) room closely resembles the facing in the northeast room on the first floor; the mantel in the second floor northeast room is composed of fluted pilasters, a fluted frieze, and plain corner blocks.

The two principal blocks were originally connected by an open breezeway; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Williams rebuilt this passage as an enclosed wing during the 1930s. It consists of a main gable-roofed block pierced by gable-roofed dormers and flanked by sheds on each side. The first floor contains the passage between the two principal blocks and closet space; the second story houses a bathroom.

The landscape features of Melrose add immeasurably to its charm as a place. Reached by a gently winding dirt lane lined with broad oaks, the house itself is framed by more of the mature trees. A picket fence, part of which rests on a rock wall, encloses several acres immediately surrounding the house. A walk lined with billowing English and American boxwoods leads from a gate in the fence to the front entrance.

A dozen outbuildings survive to recall the long history and changing products of the plantation. Within the picket fence surrounding the house are a log peacock house with v-notched corners, and an octagonal, Williamsburg-style pump house with a conical roof located a short distance behind the rear ell. Outside the fence, the major cluster of buildings, located several hundred feet north of the house, includes a weatherboarded, center-passage log barn with diamond-notched corners; a lamb-fattening shed with surrounding fenced pen erected by the present owner; and a frame utility building dating from the 1940s. Scattered a short distance northeast of this cluster are a log smokehouse with square notches; a small frame dwelling said to have been built for the Williams' maid during the 1930s; and a frame chicken house. Near the northeast corner of the fenced area surrounding the house is a small

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well dating from the 1930s , and a log sheep shelter with diamond notches , which originally served as a tobacco barn but was remodeled for use as a garage during the 1930s. Two log structures stand on the opposite side of the picket fence from the peacock house: a log granary with diamond-notched corners, and a square-notched log shed rebuilt from a tobacco barn.

Although Melrose depended upon slave labor for its operations during the antebellum period, no slave quarters survive on the property. Numerous markers of slave graves, however, may be found in the Williamson family cemetery , located several hundred feet southwest of the house. According to the present owner, the cemetery contains at least forty-three slave markers, which are made from rough-cut stone and often uninscribed. The stones marking the graves of the Williamson family members are typical, unpretentious examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century funerary art. The cemetery is surrounded by an ornamental iron fence produced by the James B. Brown Company of Richmond, Virginia.

### Footnote

<sup>1</sup>Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1941), p. 235.

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

# 8. Significance

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900–                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)         |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |  |

**Specific dates** c. 1780, c. 1840      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

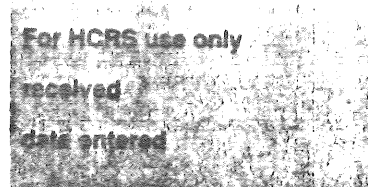
Beautifully situated off North Carolina 62 at the end of a long drive lined by huge oak trees, Melrose, one of Caswell County's best-preserved plantation houses, comprises a pair of two-story frame blocks built at different times and originally connected by a breezeway, which is now enclosed. Both sections of the house are important examples of vernacular architectural design from their respective periods. The earlier, rear section of the house, erected during the late eighteenth century by James Williamson (1752-1806), follows a generous hall-and-parlor plan, displays delicate Federal style detailing, and retains a pair of double-shoulder Flemish bond chimneys with glazed headers. The later front section of the house, probably built after 1840 by Williamson's son George (1788-1856), exemplifies the transition from the Federal idiom to the Greek Revival style that flourished during Caswell County's antebellum boom period. This section of the house is arranged in a center hall plan, displays robust vernacular Greek Revival details, and has a temple-form Doric portico. Twelve log and frame out-buildings, most of which date from late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, stand to the sides and rear of the yard. A short distance southwest of the yard is the Williamson family burying ground. James Williamson served in the North Carolina General Assembly and as Caswell County's sheriff during the 1790s, and owned 666 acres at the time of his death. George Williamson, also politically prominent, added considerably to his father's holdings and was the second largest landowner in Caswell County by 1850. Subsequent owners included Williamson's son James; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Williams, who renovated and modernized the house during the 1930s; and James H. Coman III, the present owner.

**CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:**

- A. Associated with the growth and development of Caswell County during the late eighteenth century and during the antebellum boom period. During the latter period, which lasted from 1840 to 1860, Caswell was one of North Carolina's most wealthy and productive tobacco-growing counties.
- B. Associated with James Williamson (1752-1806), a prominent Caswell planter who served as county sheriff and state legislator during the 1790s, and with Williamson's son George (1788-1856), who held the same political offices as his father and became the county's second largest landowner by 1850.
- C. Both sections of Melrose are important and well-preserved examples of vernacular architectural design from their respective periods. The earlier, rear section of the house is representative of the dominant vernacular Federal idiom seen in large and small houses throughout Caswell County during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries; the later, front section of the house well exemplifies the vigorous Greek Revival vernacular of Caswell's antebellum boom period.

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The Caswell County house known as Melrose is located about two miles northeast of the county seat of Yanceyville. The house actually contains two parts. The first was built around 1780 by James "Scotch Jim" Williamson, while his son George Williamson built the second part around 1840. Both Williamsons were prominent area politicians, and Melrose served as the seat of one of Caswell's largest antebellum plantations.<sup>1</sup>

James Williamson was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, in 1752. He moved to Caswell before the Revolution. He married Ann Edmunds Edwards in 1784. They had eight children. James represented Caswell County in the North Carolina General Assembly as a representative in 1791-1792, and as a senator in 1792-1793. He was Caswell's sheriff from 1797 until 1799. An 1803 tax list credits Williamson with the ownership of 666 acres. He died October 20, 1806, while his wife died in 1833.<sup>2</sup>

George Williamson (1788-1856) was the third of James's eight children. George married Rebecca Slade Lea (1797-1837) in 1818. They had ten children. After her death he married Harriet Henderson Earley, and had four additional children. A third marriage to Eliza Hunt produced no children. George Williamson was also a prominent local politician. He served as Caswell County sheriff from 1815 until 1832, and was a state senator in 1850-1851. He served as a member of the Council of State from 1834 until 1836. Williamson was also a civic leader. He was a charter member of the Bank of Yanceyville in 1852 and was one of the founders of the Dan River Institute in 1847.<sup>3</sup>

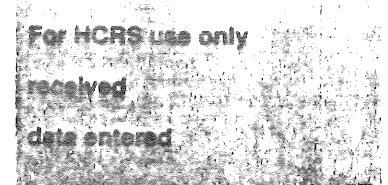
Antebellum Caswell County was one of North Carolina's most productive agricultural counties. Although located in the state's piedmont region the county possessed the large plantations more commonly found in the eastern counties. William S. Powell wrote that Caswell County during this period "was the scene of a flourishing society typical in the popular imagination of the antebellum South. Based on agriculture . . . the economy provided an easy living for many people. There were numerous fine homes with comfortable, even elegant, furnishings."<sup>4</sup> George Williamson's Melrose was one of Caswell's landmarks.

The 1850 census shows that Williamson was farming 1,050 acres with 2,000 acres unimproved. This made him the second largest landowner in Caswell County in that year. The farm was valued at \$18,000. Williamson owned livestock valued at \$3,500, including 168 sheep. He grew 1,200 bushels of wheat, 5,000 bushels of corn, 1,600 bushels of oats. He grew 70,000 pounds of tobacco, making him the largest grower of that crop in Caswell County in 1850. Williamson had \$3,000 invested in his mill, which produced 600 barrels of flour. Williamson was the largest slaveholder in the county with 142. At the time of his death in 1856 he owned 149 slaves, which his executors valued at \$101,000.<sup>5</sup> Melrose was clearly one of Caswell's most extensive and most successful plantations.

With Williamson's death Melrose was broken up into several smaller segments. His son Weldon E. Williamson (1822-1906) inherited the house but kept it only a short time.<sup>6</sup> In 1860 he sold the house and 725 acres to his brother James Camillus Williamson for \$10,000.<sup>7</sup> J. C. Williamson was born in 1821 and was the third of George Williamson's children. He married Mary Hopkins. They had two children, George, who died in 1861 and Mary. Although his farm never reached the size of his father's, J. C. Williamson was considered one of Caswell County's richest men in the period after the Civil War. In 1870 he was the second largest land owner in the Yanceyville District with over 1,300 acres. Although Caswell's plantation economy was ruined by the Civil War and its aftermath it still maintained some large farms such as Williamson's. In 1880 his real estate was valued at \$10,000 and he grew a variety of crops, including 17,000 pounds of tobacco.<sup>8</sup>

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After J. C. Williamson's death in the late 1890s the property was passed to his daughter Mary (Mamie) and Dr. Marshall C. Cameron, who she married in 1882.<sup>9</sup> Following the deaths of the Camerons Melrose changed hands several times in the 1930s before being purchased by Mrs. Marion Noell Williams in 1935.<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Williams paid \$3,625 for the house and 150 acres. She purchased the property from A. C. and N. L. Lindsey, who had purchased the property in June of 1935. Marion Williams was related to the Williamson family. She was the daughter of Charles P. Noell and Laura Williamson Noell, the granddaughter of George Williamson, Jr. and the great granddaughter of George Williamson, Sr. She and her husband John W. Williams renovated and modernized Melrose, which they used for a summer hone. John Williams was an official of the American Tobacco Company, while Marion Williams was a notable patron of the arts.<sup>11</sup> Following Mrs. Williams's death in 1976 the property was purchased by James Coman, III who is descended from a sister of "Scotch Jim" Williamson. Mr. Coman owns 172 acres with the house and farms the land. The property contains 14 outbuildings, mostly from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It is picturesquely surrounded by a grove of white and southern red oak trees.

Melrose is one of Caswell County's oldest houses, but its importance rests on more than just its age. As the seat of one of the area's most important antebellum plantations Melrose is representative of a period in history when Caswell County epitomized the plantation style economy of the South. Although that era has long departed, the house has not been allowed to deteriorate and continues as one of Caswell County's showpieces.

While Melrose possesses considerable historical importance because of its association with the locally prominent Williamson family, and because it reflects Caswell County's antebellum growth and prosperity, the house is also significant because of its architecture. It is worth noting that Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman chose to illustrate elements from both sections of Melrose in their seminal work The Early Architecture of North Carolina, first published in 1941; only three other Caswell houses were illustrated in the book.<sup>13</sup> The authors selected the handsome mantel in the southwest first floor room of the original block as a specimen of fine Federal design, and selected the facade of the later section to exemplify "Classic-Revival" architecture.<sup>14</sup>

More recently, architectural historian Ruth Little-Stokes has provided an assessment of Melrose based on the county-wide survey of Caswell County's historic architecture she conducted with Tony Wrenn in 1972. In her Inventory of Historic Architecture: Caswell County, North Carolina (1979), Little-Stokes describes the original block of Melrose as one of Caswell County's six finest Federal style houses.<sup>15</sup> She considers it to be representative of the dominant vernacular adaptation of the Federal style seen throughout the county, rather than the most elaborate and academic work found in Caswell.<sup>16</sup>

The emphasis of the carpenter-builder was on details rather than overall classical effect, for the pilaster treatment (of the mantels) is not continued into the windows and doors as at Fairview (the Asa Thomas House).

The vernacular character of the original block is most clearly reflected, however, in the two-story, single-pile form with exterior end chimneys that was chosen for the residence.



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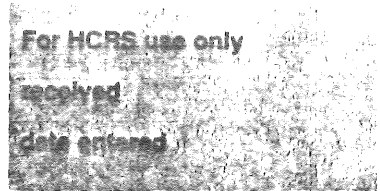
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The later block of Melrose receives less discussion in Little-Stokes' work, perhaps because of the exceptional quantity and quality of Greek Revival design that survives in Caswell County. The later section well exemplifies the transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles that Caswell County witnessed during the 1830s and 1840s. As Little-Stokes points out in her entry on Melrose, the later section combines exterior proportions and fenestration typical of the Federal style with Greek Revival details, including the Doric entrance portico and nearly all of the interior trim.<sup>17</sup> This trim is representative of that found in the county's finer and more substantial Greek Revival houses.

Like the earlier section of Melrose, the later block also reflects the continuing influence of vernacular building practices on the houses of even the wealthiest families in Caswell County. As did the earlier part of the house, the later block follows the traditional one-story, single-pile form with exterior end chimneys which by the third and fourth decades of the nineteenth century was firmly entrenched as the dominant form for substantial houses of the North Carolina piedmont. Considered as a whole, Melrose is significant precisely because it demonstrates, over two generations, the interplay between architectural style, displayed in the decorative details of the residence, and traditional building practices, which can be seen in the common form of the two main blocks.

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## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>According to present owner James Coman the name "Melrose" is derived from Melrose Abbey in Scotland. Mr. Coman feels that "Scotch Jim" Williamson's half of the house may have been built in two parts, with George Williamson's half coming later.

<sup>2</sup>William Bethel Williamson and Elizabeth Williamson Dixon, Williamson, Bethel, and Allied Families of North Carolina (Gastonia: William Gaston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1956), 9-11, hereinafter cited as Williamson and Dixon, Williamson Families; William S. Powell, When the Past Refused to Die: A History of Caswell County, 1777-1977 (Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1977), 544, 549-550, hereinafter cited as Powell, Caswell County; Caswell County Tax List, 1803.

<sup>3</sup>Williamson and Dixon, Williamson Families, 10, 18; Powell, Caswell County, 345, 369, 544, 549.

<sup>4</sup>Powell, Caswell County, 110.

<sup>5</sup>Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Caswell County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Industrial Schedule, Slave Schedule; Caswell County Estates Papers, George Williamson.

<sup>6</sup>Caswell County Will Book R, p. 444. Another son, George Williamson, Jr. also served in the General Assembly. He was a state senator in 1874-1875, and 1879-1880.

<sup>7</sup>Caswell County Deed Book JJ, p. 109.

<sup>8</sup>Williamson and Dixon, Williamson Families, 18, 43, 57; Powell, Caswell County, 487; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Caswell County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.

<sup>9</sup>Caswell County Estates Papers, James C. Williamson; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Caswell County, North Carolina.

<sup>10</sup>Caswell County Will Book C., p. 583; Caswell County Deed Book 79, p. 46; Book 88, p. 317; Book 95, p. 287.

<sup>11</sup>Williamson and Dixon, Williamson Families, 57-58; The State, August 21, 1948, Vol. XVI, No. 12; Durham Morning Herald, September 10, 1976.

<sup>12</sup>Telephone interview with James Coman, July 8, 1981, notes in file.

<sup>13</sup>Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1941). The three other houses illustrated in the book were Rose Hill, Dongola, and the Poteat House. The latter is located a short distance from Melrose on NC 62.

<sup>14</sup>The mantel is illustrated in Johnston and Waterman on page 224; the facade of the later block on page 235.

United States Department of the Interior  
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Significance

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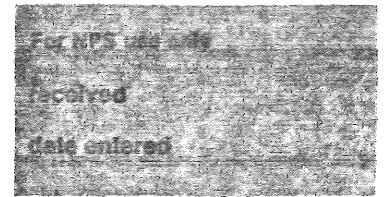
<sup>15</sup>Ruth Little-Stokes, An Inventory of Historic Architecture: Caswell County, North Carolina (Yanceyville: Caswell County Historical Association, 1979), p. 27.

<sup>16</sup>Little-Stokes, p. 27.

<sup>17</sup>Little-Stokes, p. 111.

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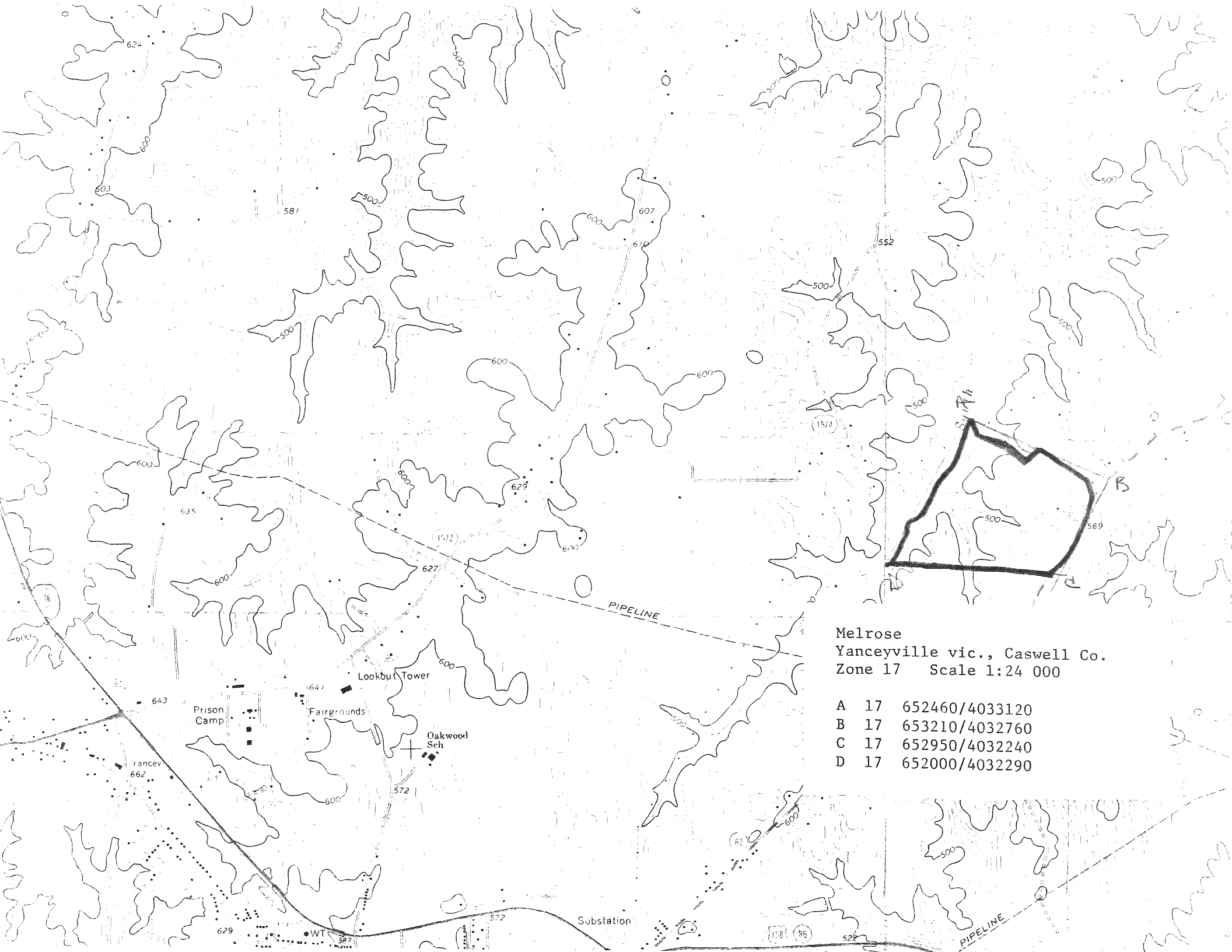
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Melrose  
Yanceyville vic., Caswell Co.  
Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000

- A 17 652460/4033120
- B 17 653210/4032760
- C 17 652950/4032240
- D 17 652000/4032290

