

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Chatham County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Luther Clegg House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N side SR 1012 1.3 mi. E of jct w/US 15-501

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Chatham

CODE

37

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Patricia Weaver

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 808

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro,

VICINITY OF North Carolina

STATE

27312

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Chatham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

STATE

North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth Selden-Sturgill

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

March 1, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Archives and History

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing southwest towards the Moncure Road, the Luther Clegg House is a five-bay two-story Greek Revival frame house with a single-pile central-hall plan. The house is surmounted by a low hipped roof and flanked by exterior end chimneys laid up in common bond and constructed with a single paved and tumbled shoulder. A one-story shed roof addition with an early chimney runs along the rear of the house and is said to date from the original construction.

Flanked by panelled pilasters which support a panelled frieze, the facade is crowned by an overhanging flat-block modillion cornice. The main feature of the front is the entrance which is bound by narrow-pane sidelights and lit from above by a transom with similar panes. A Greek Revival architrave with symmetrically channeled moldings frames the design which is secured at the angle by a plain cornerblock surmounted by a filet. The resulting impression of flanking pilasters is reiterated in the architraves of the six-over-six sash windows. There is some deminution of the fenestration. While the present three-bay entrance porch with its shed roof and supporting posts is not original, there is no doubt that a porch of similiar dimensions once existed. The centrally-located second-story door with its two-light transom gave access to the early porch roof and the broad wall space on either side of the front doors supports the notion of a porch of substantial size.

The shed-roof addition extends about three quarters of the way up the rear facade. Only one small centrally-located six-light window breaks through the weather boards of the main house above the addition's roof. This window lights the landing of the stairway. The east side of the addition is marked by the early exterior-end chimney laid up in common bond and built with a single paved and tumbled shoulder. The addition has been altered with modern fenestration.

The interior of the Luther Clegg House is marked by simple but well-proportioned Greek Revival design. Sheathed wainscoting is accompanied by high baseboards and two-panel doors. With no attempt at pretension, the doors are encased with an architrave featuring a plain cornerblock and the mantels are rendered with the most simple post and lintel arrangement.

The provision in the house plan to accommodate regular overnight guests and the remnants of original paint color are perhaps the most remarkable points of the interior. While the main staircase which was built with a half turn and landing serves the west side of the house, an enclosed staircase was built in the east parlor to provide separate access to the chamber, known as the travellers room, above on the second floor. There was originally no door from this chamber to the second floor hall, but a modern door has now been cut. Until recently much of the early paint color had been left untouched. The travellers room in particular maintains a lead grey-colored sheathed wainscot and ochre rails. The interior of the second floor porch door is rendered with a crude graining.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

X

_____ LOCAL

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 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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

Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The last comprehensive Greek Revival design to be built in Pittsboro and the area's purest residential example of the style, the Luther Clegg House was built ca. 1850 by an area farmer who accommodated guests and court visitors in a separate traveller's room.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Luther Clegg House is associated with the town of Pittsboro's second period of growth during the 1850s when such internal improvements as the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company and the plank road movement brought the community increased prosperity.
- B. Built by Luther Clegg, the son of one of Chatham County's important post-Revolutionary landowners, the Luther Clegg House has been owned and maintained by the Clegg family for about one hundred and thirty-two years.
- C. The last comprehensive Greek Revival design to be built in Pittsboro and the area's purest residential example of the style, the Luther Clegg House boasts a separate traveller's chamber with its own enclosed staircase and some original interior paint colors.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Surrounded by an impressive array of nineteenth century farm buildings, which include a double-pen frame kitchen/pantry, a stone and clay potato house and a log granary, the Luther Clegg House was built ca. 1850 by Luther Clegg (1808-1894), a successful farmer and influential early member of Mt. Zion Methodist Church.¹ The son of Thomas A. Clegg (1767-1827) and Bridget Polk who moved to Chatham County from Northampton County, Virginia in 1789, Luther Clegg was one of thirteen children and was probably born on the Clegg homestead near Rocky River about five miles south of Pittsboro.² A distant relative of President James K. Polk, Bridget Clegg retained the home following her husband's death and it was here she lived until 1859.³

In 1842 Luther Clegg married Jane Morrow Thompson in Orange County.⁴ His rapidly growing family, no doubt, prompted Clegg to build the handsome Greek Revival farmhouse, called Edgewood, ca. 1850 near the intersection of the Moncure Road and Camp Branch.⁵ How Luther Clegg acquired the tract of land along Camp Branch is, however, uncertain.⁶ It was also around this time that Mt. Zion Methodist Church was founded in the area.⁷ Like his father Luther Clegg was not only a successful farmer but an active Methodist. A room was, in fact, set aside in the northwest corner of the first floor of the Clegg house for the minister who travelled the Moncure circuit. In addition, a second floor chamber with its separate staircase, now known as the traveller's room, was built to lodge guests or court visitors.⁸ Great misfortune befell Luther Clegg in 1855 when he lost his wife following childbirth in June and when two children died in July.⁹ Three years later Clegg married Flora Ann Brooks (1830-1873) and in 1874 he married Constance (Christina) Matilda Lassiter.¹⁰

Rufus Barringer Clegg (1853-1922), Luther Clegg's only surviving son was the next owner of the house. By profession Rufus Clegg worked as a farmer and also served the county as surveyor. It is Rufus Clegg's 1889 copy of the early town plan of Pittsboro which has provided invaluable historical information about the town.¹¹ In 1878 Rufus Clegg married Lillie Idalette Baynes of Person County and by 1880 the young couple was living on the farm in an old one-and-a-half story house, now demolished, which stood some distance to the east of the Greek Revival house.¹² It was not until 1886 that Luther Clegg deeded his son one hundred acres on the water of Camp Creek, and the following year Rufus Clegg received thirteen and a quarter more acres from his father.¹³ The last transaction indicated that Luther Clegg and his

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chatham County Records. Chatham County Courthouse.
Pittsboro, North Carolina. Subgroup: Deeds, Wills.

Hadley, Wade. Chatham County 1771-1971. Durham: Moore Publishing, Co., 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	666140	3951860
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 4316 Block 19 Map 9750 of Chatham County Property Ownership Map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

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Continuation sheet Luther Clegg House

Item number 8

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wife Christina lived on the original tract as they reserved "a right to the use of the spring with right of way thereto."¹⁴ When Luther Clegg died intestate in 1894, fifty-four acres on Camp Branch were set aside as a dower for Christina M. Clegg.¹⁵

Although not specifically mentioned in either of the two exchanges of property from Luther Clegg to his son, the Luther Clegg House was most probably included. By 1900 Rufus Clegg clearly resided in the house and the deed books show no other exchanges of property between the father and his son.¹⁶ In 1909 Rufus Clegg's two sons died of typhoid fever and following their father's death in 1922, three of Clegg's daughters, Elizabeth Baynes Clegg, Jane Thompson Clegg and Callie Graves Clegg, lived out their lives in the house.¹⁷ The Clegg farm continued to operate during this period. From 1922 until his death in 1948, the farm was run by the Clegg sisters' brother-in-law George L. Bynum who had married Rufus Clegg's daughter Annie Moore Clegg.¹⁸ Since Bynum's death the work has been done by farmers Lee Harmon and Oren Roberson, both of whom owned property adjoining the Cleggs'. The house passed into the hands of the family of Annie Clegg Bynum, in 1962 and in 1974 Mrs. Bynum's granddaughter Patricia Walters Weaver purchased the place from her family.¹⁹

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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1. W. Harold Broughton, ed., The Cleggs of Old Chatham (np; The Clegg Family Association, 1977), p. 347.
2. Ibid, p. 49.
3. Chatham County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, Deed Book AB: 302.
4. Broughton, p. 347.
5. The Clegg family retains an invitation addressed to the Luther Clegg family at Edgewood dating from about 1852 or 1853. Ruth Selden-Sturgill, interview with Eliza Jane Bynum, Pittsboro, April, 1982.
6. It seems highly likely, though not certain, that the land was the 287 acre tract acquired by Luther Clegg from Charles Manly in 1845 (Chatham County Deed Book AG: 204). Although no mention of water courses was made in this early deed, the land "formerly the property of Thomas Thompson" adjoined the property of George Harman. The Harman family also owned land adjacent to the 100 acre tract which was transferred from Luther Clegg to his son Rufus in 1886 (Chatham County Deed Book BR: 386). In fact the sum of the number of acres transferred to Rufus Clegg (113) and the remaining acreage following Luther Cleggs death (162) is 275 acres (Chatham County Deed Books BR: 386; EI: 331; CR: 198). Only twelve acres shy of the 287 acres sold by Manly.
7. Wade H. Hadley, Doris G. Horton and Nell C. Strowd, Chatham County 1771-1971 (Durham: Moore Pub. Co., 1976), p. 245.
8. Eliza J. Bynum interview.
9. Broughton, p. 347.
10. Ibid. p. 347; Chatham County Deed Book CR: 198.
11. Broughton, p. 348; Chatham County Deed Book CB: 601.
12. Broughton, p. 358; Tenth census of the United States, 1880: Chatham County, Population Schedule; Eliza J. Bynum interview.
13. Chatham County Deed Book BR: 386; EI: 331.
14. Chatham County Deed Book EI: 331.
15. Chatham County Deed Book CR: 198.
16. Twelfth census of the United States, 1900: Chatham County, Population Schedule.
17. Broughton, p. 358; Eliza Jane Bynum interview.

8 NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

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18. Eliza J. Bynum interview.
19. Ibid.; Chatham County Deed Book 405: 531.

CENTRAL R.R.W.

COUNTY TRANSMISSION LINE

Luther Clegg House
N side SR 1012 1.3 mi E
jct w/US 15-501
Chatham County Property
Ownership Map
Map 9750 Block 19 Lot 4316

4316
754 A
6116 A)

2145
2900 A
(2892 A)

4559
421 A
(463 A)

3223
2500 A
(2450 A)

2227
1088 A
(1160 A)

4151
26 A
(21 A)

0422
10690 A
(4954 A)

3182
(3360 A)

