

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Bray-Paschal House

Siler City vicinity, Chatham County, CH0425, Listed 12/27/2011

Nomination by Jennifer Martin Mitchell

Photographs by Jennifer Martin Mitchell, January 2011



Ca. 1810 house



Ca. 1860 house, with earlier house to rear on left

**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 an 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 Bray-Paschal House

other names/site number Sheriff Richard Bray Paschal House; Sheriff R. B. Paschal House

2. Location

street & number 2488 Wade Paschal Road N/A not for publication

city or town Siler City vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Chatham code 037 zip code 27344

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
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 certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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: _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

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

Chatham County Multiple Resource Nomination
(Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE /agricultural

Outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE /animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE /agricultural

outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: log dwelling

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

log

roof Metal

other Brick

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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. 1790-1860

Significant Dates

ca. 1790

ca. 1810

1860

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

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:

Wren Memorial Library, Siler City, North Carolina

Bray-Paschal House
Name of Property

Chatham County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 6 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 636820 3949640
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

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 Jennifer Martin Mitchell
organization MdM Historical Consulting, Inc. date September 5, 2011
street & number Post Office Box 1399 telephone 919/368-1602
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Jeff Fisher, The Conservation Consultant, LLC
street & number P.O. Box 3658 telephone _____
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27701

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 listing. 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 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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

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Bray-Paschal House
Chatham County, North Carolina

7. Description

Materials (continued)

Foundation: Brick

Narrative Description

The Bray-Paschal House in Chatham County, North Carolina, represents three construction periods. In ca. 1790, the one-story, single-pen log house (the Bray House) was constructed. Around 1810, a rear shed, engaged front porch and loft were added and weatherboard was put on the exterior to unify the original house and its additions. Inside, the single room was divided to create a hall-parlor plan and Federal-period finishes were added. Finally, in 1860 Sheriff Richard Bray Paschal had a two-story, vernacular Greek Revival-style frame addition built onto the earlier house's southwest corner.

The Bray-Paschal House stands on the south side of Wade Paschal Road in a rural part of Chatham County about three miles southwest of Siler City. Love's Creek, which runs from the northeast to the southwest, is just northeast and southeast of the property. The topography in this part of Chatham County is gently rolling to hilly. The Bray-Paschal House stands at an altitude of about 700 feet above sea level. The dwelling's immediate setting is a grassy lawn dotted with large oak trees. A pair of large magnolia trees stands near the public road and flank the driveway. An old road bed still partially visible by the ruts that remain extends along the west side of the house eventually terminating on the south side of Wade Paschal Road. A large clump of boxwoods stands east of the road bed and west of the house, immediately forward of the portico on the Greek Revival-style addition. It is likely that two linear hedges that lined the path to the front door were allowed to grow untended resulting in the mass of vegetation that now stands. A boxwood stands at the north-northeast corner of the original portion of the dwelling. A stable, built in 1860, and a blacksmith shop, built in 1863, stand east of the house. Also east of the house is a frame smokehouse from 1861 with a front-gabled roof, weatherboard siding, and dirt floor. It lies in a collapsed and ruinous state. A small, low pump house built of concrete block stands near Wade Paschal Road, just north of the blacksmith shop.

The nominated parcel encompasses about six acres and includes the Bray-Paschal House, the pump house, and two outbuildings constructed in the 1860s. In a county where mid-nineteenth century outbuildings are mostly absent, both are rare survivors.

Although they are connected and constitute one dwelling for the purposes of resource count, the two sections of the house will be described separately beginning with the log pen.

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Bray-Paschal House
Chatham County, North Carolina

Bray-Paschal House

ca. 1790, ca. 1810, 1860
Contributing Building

Bray House

ca. 1790, ca. 1810

Exterior

The Bray House, named for the family who built it, is a late eighteenth-century log house that was later enlarged and covered with weatherboard.

The one-and-half-story ca. 1790/ca.1810 house measure 24' wide and 38'6" deep. Its corners are v-notched, the most common type of notching for log houses in the eastern Piedmont of North Carolina. It faces south, although the rear (north) elevation is the visible side upon approach to the property from Wade Paschal Road. A side-gable roof sheathed in standing seam metal crowns the dwelling. The roofs on the front and rear sheds originate just below the principal roof, so that the dwelling is not incorporated under one continuous roofline. The house rests on a coursed stone foundation and features an intact, double-shouldered stone chimney on its west gable end; a smaller single-shouldered, stone chimney with a replacement brick stack occupies the west end of the rear (north) shed addition. Other features include flush gable ends with a raking molded cornice on the east and west gable ends, gable returns, plain cornerboards, and a boxed cornice on the south and north elevations.

A shed-roofed engaged porch extends along the entire façade. Vertical wood posts along the front of the porch support the screening and the metal sheathing that extends along the bottom half of the porch. A door opening occupies the east end of the porch. The porch floor is brick and the ceiling composed of wide flush boards. A door opening at the west end of the porch leads into the Greek Revival-style section of the house.

The symmetrical, three-bay façade (south elevation) of the ca. 1790/ca. 1810 house is finished in wide, flush boards. The center door, a mid-twentieth-century replacement, is composed of six lights on the top half above two horizontally-oriented wood panels below. The flanking windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash.

The east gable end features a six-over-six, double-hung sash centered on the upper level, just above a narrow, four-over-four, double-hung sash window that lights the first floor.

The rear (north) elevation, like the façade, displays symmetry with a single-leaf door flanked by a six-over-six, double-hung sash on each side. The door is composed of six lights on its top half above three horizontally-oriented

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Bray-Paschal House
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wood panels below. This door is fronted with a wood framed screen door. On the ground just forward of the door are a group of nearly-flat stones forming an entrance stoop.

The west elevation is dominated by the monumental double-shouldered, coursed-stone chimney that peaks just above the ridge of the main roofline. A six-over-six, double-hung sash is positioned to its north (left) at the upper level. A smaller four-over-four window pierces the lower level wall, also to the north of the chimney. The smaller single-shouldered stone chimney with a brick flue is centered on the west side of the rear shed.

An examination of the dwelling's underside reveals undressed logs and some hand-hewn timbers serving as floor joists.

Interior

The interior of the Bray House consists of a hall and parlor divided by a single-layer, vertical-board wall likely installed in the early nineteenth century; the rear shed now contains a kitchen and bathroom; a boxed stair in the northeast corner of the hall that leads to the upper level; and two chambers on the upper level connected by a small passage. Unless otherwise noted, floors throughout are crafted of wide flush boards.

The hall, which measures 21 feet wide and 17' 2" deep, is dominated by an expertly-crafted Federal-period mantel with rounded columnette-type pilasters on plain bases holding up squared pilasters that carry a heavily molded crowning shelf. The frieze displays two, horizontal, recessed panels. Elsewhere in the hall, ten-inch boards fashioned into wainscot surmount tall baseboards, except on the east wall, which is sheathed in wallpaper. A simple molded chair rail crowns the wainscot. Modern faux-wood paneling covers the upper walls. A flush-board ceiling is supported by exposed horizontal beams. Window surrounds in this space are heavily molded, but with plain cornerblocks. The window just to the right (north) of the mantelpiece features a segmental-arched molded lintel.

The parlor, which measures 8' 6" across and 17' 2" deep, is separated from the hall by a one-layer wall with a tall baseboard. It is likely that this wall was a later addition, put in during the early nineteenth-century. This room is sheathed with plain, flush boards, but lacks the wainscot of the more formal and public hall. Its ceiling is identical to the hall. The enclosure for the boxed stair occupies the northwest corner of the parlor. Some built-in shelving and cabinetry, appearing to date to the mid-twentieth century, occupies the north wall.

The rear (north side) shed has been divided into two spaces. The kitchen occupies the west side and most of the shed. A smaller Federal-period mantel, similar in form, but lacking the round columnettes, is located on the west wall. Where not obscured by wallpaper or cabinets, walls in the kitchen are sheathed in wide, flush boards. The ceiling is identical to the hall with exposed horizontal beams. Most of the kitchen cabinetry and other finishes, such as the wallpaper, appear to date to the mid-twentieth century. Remnants of linoleum remain over the wide board flooring.

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Bray-Paschal House
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A wood door consisting of wide, vertical boards with battens leads to the bathroom housed in the eastern end of the shed. Mid- to late twentieth-century fixtures occupy this space.

A door with a box lock and built of vertical wood with battens nailed to its rear surface leads from the hall to the boxed stair with winders that occupies the northeast corner of the hall. Walls inside the stair are flush boards set vertically.

The stair terminates in a 7' 3"-long transverse passage that connects the two upper rooms. A small closet is located on the north side of the hallway, abutting the west wall of the boxed stair. The walls of the upper rooms are finished with plaster and have a wooden baseboard. The west room is rectangular and measures 9' 5" across and 16' 5" deep. A closet with a modern louvered door occupies the southeast corner of the room. The room at the east end of the hallway is irregular in shape its widest portion, the south end, measuring 7' across. At the north end, the room measures 5' 3" across.

Sheriff Richard Bray Paschal Addition
1860

Exterior

The two-story, weatherboard, Greek Revival-style, side-gabled addition is attached to the southwest corner of the original house. This portion of the house faces west. It measures 18' 6" deep and 22' 2" wide. Access between the two is through a two-panel, Greek Revival-style door at the west end of the porch on the original house and through a two-panel, Greek Revival door positioned just to the left (or south) of the mantel located on the west wall in the original house's hall.

The house rests on a brick foundation and features an intact, single-shouldered coursed stone chimney with a freestanding brick upper flue on its south gable end. Other features include flush gable ends with a raking molded cornice on the north and south gable ends, plain cornerboards, deep eaves, and a boxed cornice on the west and east (front and rear) elevations.

The façade is symmetrical with two original, six-over-six, double-hung sash on the upper floor and two identical windows directly below on the first floor. The south window on the first level has been temporarily covered with sheet metal. At the lower level, a two-panel, Greek Revival-style door is flanked by four-light truncated sidelights that do not extend to the bottom of the door. The surrounds of the door and sidelights are plain. A pair of square Doric posts supports the front-gabled, pedimented portico with a heavily molded cornice that shelters the entrance. The wood porch floor has deteriorated.

The full-height stone and brick chimney dominates the south elevation. Original six-over-six, double-hung windows flank the chimney on both levels.

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The east (rear) elevation is devoid of windows and abuts the ca. 1790 house. The north elevation lacks windows, but evidence of two windows that were later infilled is visible on the west end at the upper and lower levels. This alteration appears to have taken place early in the house's history.

Interior

Inside, the house contains one room downstairs and one room upstairs each measuring 21' across and 17' feet deep. Wide board flooring is located throughout the dwelling. The downstairs room is sheathed in wide, flush boards. The original and intact two-panel doors and original windows display plain molding and plain, square cornerblocks. The front door retains its box lock. A boxy, Greek Revival-style mantel exhibits pilasters of tiered rectangular blocks—the upper sections of the pilasters on each side containing vertical panels—that support a plain shelf. A pair of horizontal, recessed panels graces the frieze, a feature that mimics the main mantel in the earlier house. The ceiling has been covered with a synthetic material and crowned molding added, but the original wood ceiling remains above.

A linear, open string stair rises from the northeast corner (rear) of the first-floor room to the upper room. It features a plain, square newel, slender balusters, and a handrail with a curved cap. An enclosed storage space accessed by a truncated batten door is located under the stair.

The upper room is finished in plaster walls with baseboards and the same modern ceiling treatment as downstairs. The mantel displays three-part pilasters supporting a molded shelf. The frieze is flat with no panels. Window surrounds are flat and plain. Where the stair rises on the north wall, a balustrade, like the one rising from the first floor, surrounds the opening.

Outbuildings

Blacksmith Shop

1863

Contributing Building

Northeast of the house stands a weatherboard blacksmith shop now used as a garage. A front-gable, metal roof tops the building that rests on a brick foundation. It features a box cornice and flush gable ends. An entrance bay with a double-leaf door is located on the south gable end; a door with three horizontal lights over three horizontal panels fronts the east elevation shed addition. Two windows—both six-over-six, double-hung sash—pierce the east elevation. A single, multi-light window is located on the north elevation. A larger opening fronted with sheet metal is located on the west elevation. The interior features exposed sheathing and framing and a dirt floor. Richard Bray Paschal documented its construction in his diary in January 1863. The blacksmith shop is architectural significant in

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that outbuildings from the mid-nineteenth century rarely survive in Piedmont North Carolina, especially in Chatham County where rapid development has occurred in the last twenty years. In addition, changes in agricultural practice have caused buildings such as the blacksmith shop to fall out of use, creating more potential for abandonment or demolition.

Stable

1860

Contributing Building

East-southeast of the house stands a two-story, side-gabled building with vertical wood siding, a metal roof, and rafter tails along the east and west elevations. A shed-roofed bay is located on the south end. The building contains stalls and spaces for equipment storage. Both the main section and the attached shed include a hay loft. Some interior sheathing is horizontal, while the remaining walls expose the building's framing, which is braced with horizontal supports. Wood poles, likely remnants of a paddock, are attached to the south end. Richard Bray Paschal documented its construction in his diary in October 1860.

Pump House

Ca. 1970

Noncontributing Structure

A small, concrete block pump house with a gable roof stands just north of the blacksmith shop. A low-pitched, standing-seam metal roof covers the structure and a door pierces the south elevation.

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

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8. Statement of Significance

Significant Dates (continued)

1863

Summary

The Bray-Paschal House represents three significant vernacular building traditions in rural Piedmont North Carolina. Its genesis as a single-pen log dwelling with v-notching built ca. 1790 by the Bray family exemplifies the earliest type of buildings that were constructed in the region. In the early nineteenth century, the Bray family transformed it from a one-room house to a one-and-a-half story, hall-parlor-plan house with rear shed rooms and an engaged porch across the façade. The third major building phase—the construction of a frame, two-story, Greek Revival-style dwelling erected in 1860—chronicles the types of improvements that altered numerous houses throughout rural areas in the Piedmont in the mid-nineteenth century as farmers prospered in a market economy. The house—which began as a simple, yet well-built log cabin, but was then transformed into a stylish Federal-era dwelling, and finally a commodious Greek Revival-style house—represents changing attitudes regarding appropriate and desirable housing that occurred in the rural areas of the region during those years. Although little is known of its early history, it is likely that members of the Bray family—either Henry Bray (1741-1812) or James Bray (1766-1842)—constructed the original house. It passed to the Paschal family through Nancy Bray Paschal (1795-?), granddaughter of Henry Bray, who married Richard Paschal (1783-1820). Their son, Richard Bray Paschal (1820-1870), owned the house and added the Greek Revival-style section in 1860. Richard Bray Paschal documented the final stages of construction in the diary he kept during this period. He also documented the building of two surviving outbuildings—a blacksmith shop and stable—in the 1860s. The Bray-Paschal House meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the period ca. 1790 to 1860, the span during which the house was constructed. Historic context for the Paschal House is provided by “Settlement and Growth Development of Chatham County: 1740s-1830s,” pages 8: 2-12; and “Prosperity, War, and Re-building: late 1830s through 1870s,” pages 8: 13-22, in “Chatham County Multiple Resource Nomination” (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties) (MPDF). The house falls under the following property types: “Early Architecture,” pages 7: 5-10 and “Antebellum Architecture,” pages 7: 10-14. Additional context for the Paschal house is provided herein. Houses in Chatham County are significant as reflections of the architectural trends that reach the county and the choices and adaptations that people made in terms of architectural form and style. Individual houses in Chatham County must retain a high level of integrity to be considered eligible under Criterion C according to the registration requirements in the MPDF, page 8: 51.

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Bray-Paschal House
Chatham County, North Carolina

Historical Background

Although little is known of its early history, it is likely that members of the Bray family built the original section of the Bray-Paschal House in ca. 1790. Around 1754, Henry Bray (1705-1791), a native of England, migrated from Maryland to the area of Orange County that would become Chatham County. Bray settled in Piedmont North Carolina with his wife, Mary (1709-1790), and his son, also named Henry Bray (1741-1812).¹ According to Orange and Chatham County deed records, Henry Bray began acquiring land in the 1760s. But, because of a lack of differentiation between father and son in deed records, it is unclear which Henry Bray bought or received land. Regardless, a Henry Bray was purchasing acreage and acquiring large tracts of land through grants in the late eighteenth century. Because his father died in 1791, the Henry Bray acquiring land in the early nineteenth century was most certainly the younger Bray.²

At his death in 1812, the younger Henry Bray bequeathed to his son, James, 820 acres and two slaves.³ James Bray (1763-1857) and Ann Welch Bray (1767-1850) were the parents of Nancy Bray Paschal (1795-?), who married Richard Paschal (1783-1820).

Nancy and Richard Paschal had a son, Richard Bray Paschal (1820-1870), who served as sheriff of Chatham County from 1854 to 1865. Richard Bray Paschal married Matilda Schmidt Paschal (1823-1922) of Randolph County in 1845. In 1847, a Chatham County deed recorded the sale of 125 acres by James Bray to his grandson, Richard B. Paschal. The deed describes the tract as "being on Love's Creek," which is located just east and north of the Bray-Paschal House.⁴ The theory that the house passed from James Bray to Richard Bray Paschal through his mother is further supported by the 1850 census, which indicates that Richard and Matilda's household included their three young children, Richard's grandfather, James Bray, reported as being aged eighty-five, and Richard's mother, Nancy Paschal, aged fifty-four. The 1850 census also shows that the Paschals had three slaves, all female.⁵

In 1860, Matilda and Richard Bray Paschal added the Greek Revival-style portion to the Bray house. Diaries kept by Richard Bray Paschal, who was also a farmer, survive from the period 1860-1861 and 1863-1864, and clearly document the completion of the addition. On April 6, 1860, Paschal wrote, "sent Abel, Edwards, & Green to Stouts after a load of bricks." Ten days later, on April 16, he wrote, "went to Hackney's Store to meet Riley Brown. He came home with me to build the chimney in the new part of my house." Perhaps Riley Brown had an employee who was a relative because on April 14 Paschal wrote, "About home all day. James R. Brown is here building my chimney." On April 17, Paschal, "went to Wm. Carters to get a barrel of lime about my chimney." On April 20,

¹ www.brayfamilyonline.com, accessed April 2, 2011.

² Elizabeth Shaw Bailey, *Land Grant Records of North Carolina, Volume II, 1778-1920* (published by the author, 1991), page 8.

³ Will of Henry Bray, Chatham County Will Book A, page 198, dated January 4, 1812.

⁴ James Bray to Richard B. Paschal, Chatham County deed, April 28, 1847, Chatham County Register of Deeds, accessed on line, April 3, 2011.

⁵ 1850 Census of the Population, Chatham County, N. C., scan of original document accessed on Ancestry.com, April 7, 2011.

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Paschal reported, "Riley Brown is here building my chimney." On April 27, he reports, "James R. Brown finished with my chimney today & I paid him \$16.00." On Monday, October 1, 1860, his entry reads, "we are moving," likely indicating that the family was transitioning to the new portion of the house.⁶

Paschal's diary also describes other buildings constructed on the farm. On Tuesday, October 2, 1860, he writes, "John M. Brooks come here to build my stables." His entry for October 11 reads, "We raised our stables today. J. M. Brooks & Minor [is] the workmen." Finally, on October 20, Paschal reports, "J. M. Brooks Brooks & Minor finished by stables today." Paschal, apparently pleased with Brooks' work, hired him to build a smokehouse in January and February 1861, a fact he also recorded in his diary. In January 1863, he reported, "Raised a blacksmith shop today."⁷

By 1860, Matilda and Richard Paschal's household included six children. Nancy Paschal, now sixty-four, continued to live with her son and his family, according to the census. Over the previous ten-year period their fortunes had grown. They owned eight slaves and one slave house occupied their land. Richard Paschal's personal estate was worth over \$7,000 and his real estate worth \$800. In 1865, he was elected to the North Carolina House of Commons. The next year, Paschal won a seat in the North Carolina Senate.⁸

The 1870 census shows that while the value of Richard Paschal's real estate increased to \$1,000, his personal wealth had fallen to \$1,800. That year, his mother, Nancy, now seventy-four, continued to live with Matilda and Richard, as did four of their children. Two black children, Albert Paschal and Emily Paschal, relationship to the family unknown, were recorded in the census. Later that year, Richard Paschal died.⁹

The house remained in the Paschal family until recently.

Architectural Context and Significance

The Bray-Paschal House is significant as a rare example of three vernacular building traditions of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Chatham County. The ca. 1790 log house with v-notching epitomizes the type of early, yet well-built dwellings of settlers on the Piedmont frontier in the late eighteenth century. During this period, settlers from all backgrounds—Scotch-Irish, Scottish, German, African, and Native American, and English, like the Brays—built solidly-constructed log buildings. In the eastern Piedmont, V-notching, where the top of each log is cut into a triangular form, and half-dovetail notching, where one side of squared log is flared at an angle, were the most popular methods of joining these buildings together at their corners.

⁶ Diaries, 1860-1861, 1863-1864, R. B. Paschal, Shff., transcript at the Wren Memorial Library, Siler City, N. C., pages 7-8, 17, in the collection of the Chatham County Public Library, Siler City, N. C.

⁷ Diaries, 1860-1861, 1863-1864, R. B. Paschal, Shff., transcript at the Wren Memorial Library, Siler City, N. C., pages 17-18, 28-29, 58.

⁸ Obituary for Richard Paschal, *The Biblical Recorder*, June 21, 1871.

⁹ 1870 Census of the Population, Chatham County, N. C., scan of original document accessed on Ancestry.com, April 7, 2011.

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As families grew and fortunes rose, well-finished log houses were not necessarily abandoned, but, as in the case of the Bray house, were improved. In the early nineteenth century, a full-width, engaged front porch, or piazza, was added and a rear shed appended onto the rear elevation. Above, an upper story was added. Finally, the whole building was sheathed in weatherboard to unify the structure aesthetically. On the porch, wide, flush boards sheathed the exterior wall to give the space a formality indicating its role as a location for socializing with those outside the family, essentially an outdoor gathering place. Inside, the former one-room plan became a hall-parlor-plan house with the insertion of a wall that divided the large, main room downstairs. A fashionable mantel was installed in the more formal space of the hall. An enclosed, or boxed, stair was put in to provide access to the upstairs rooms, which served as sleeping chambers. The form that the Bray-Paschal House achieved in the early nineteenth century was not unlike the houses of middling farmers seen up and down the North Carolina coast and into the coastal plain.

In its final phase of construction, a tall, boxy, Greek Revival-style house rose at the southwest corner of the original house and the old structure essentially became a rear wing. The addition had both practical and symbolic meaning: it was needed to accommodate Matilda and Richard Bray Paschal's growing family, which included extended relations, but its grand appearance and form also spoke to his status as county sheriff and a member of the North Carolina House of Commons and state senate. The house follows the regional pattern for Greek Revival-style architecture: a portico of classical order set on a symmetrical façade with a side-gabled roof and a monumental end chimney. While the exterior of the Bray-Paschal House emulates with a regional vernacular interpretation of the nationally popular Greek Revival-style seen in pattern books and grander houses of the period throughout the region, its interior reflects the retention of a much earlier plan: one large, rectangular room occupies each floor. In its truest sense, the Greek Revival-style addition of the Bray-Paschal House is a vernacular representation of a regional style.

The log portion of the Bray-Paschal House is the oldest, intact documented log dwelling in Chatham County. In the early 1980s, a comprehensive architectural survey recorded four early log houses, including the Bray-Paschal House (then identified as the R. B. Paschal house). The other three, the Hatch-Ferrell House (built ca. 1800), the Isaiah Coles House (built ca. 1800), and the Cheek-Estridge House (ca. 1790)—no longer stand. A house of similar form to the Bray-Paschal House is found on the Jimmy Yates farm located at 895 Ferrell Road West near Farrington. A log house built ca. 1830 with half-dovetail notching became an ell when a two-story, Greek Revival-style house was attached to its north gable end.¹⁰ Both sections of the house have been renovated with the addition of semi-circular stairs leading to a brick porch on the façade of the two-story section. The ell, which contains the ca. 1830 log house, has been greatly altered. It was enlarged on its east side so that its rear elevation is nearly flush with the east gable end of the Greek Revival-style house. The stone chimney on the south end of the log ell has been fully parged and a modern deck with a wood railing has been added to the upper story of its south elevation.

¹⁰ Rachel Osborn and Ruth Selden-Sturgill, *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina* (Pittsboro: The Chatham County Historic Architecture Survey Committee, 1991), page 14-15, 340.

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In addition to log houses, the survey recorded several Federal-period weatherboard houses with a hall-parlor plan—the form that the Bray House took in the early nineteenth century. The ca. 1800 Williams house, a one-and-a-half-story, hall-parlor dwelling built in New Hope Township, featured beaded weatherboards and exposed ceiling beams above the vertically sheathed walls. It is no longer standing. The Bynum-Lambeth House in Bynum dates to ca. 1825 and, like the Bray-Paschal House, started as a one-room log cabin that was later transformed into a hall-parlor-plan dwelling with a Federal mantel. It was later covered with synthetic siding. The Thomas Snipes house near Terrells is a ca. 1810 one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, asymmetrical house with a rear shed. Although altered, it retains its boxed cornice, wide stone and brick chimney, and hall-parlor plan with a boxed stair.¹¹

Chatham County is home to numerous two-story Greek Revival-style houses including the John A. Mason house (NR, 1974) and the William Marcom house, both built in the mid-nineteenth century near Farrington. Both are two-story, single-pile houses with symmetrical facades and end chimneys. Like the Mason and Marcom houses, most Greek Revival-style dwellings in the county reflect more refinement and adherence to the style's regional characteristics than the Bray-Paschal House. The Goldston-Fields house near Goldstone is similar to the Bray-Paschal House in that it is a more vernacular interpretation of the style. The 1852 dwelling features a side-gable roof, boxed cornice, end chimneys and double-leaf entrances centered on the first and second levels of the façade. Mantels and other interior finishes are simple executions, similar to the Bray-Paschal House.¹²

¹¹ Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County*, 175, 191, 338

¹² Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County*, 251, 345-346,

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Bray-Paschal House property is shown by the bold, dark line on the accompanying Chatham County map drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Bray-Paschal House includes the house and the surrounding six acres that remains under ownership of the Paschal family. It includes two historic outbuildings associated with the house and provides an appropriate setting.