PROPOSAL OF
THE 1850 SMYRE-PASOUR HOUSE, DALLAS, N.C.
TO THE GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTIES REGISTER
APRIL 21, 1980

GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

Mrs. Richard Penegar, Chrmn.
Mr. Robert Carpenter
Mrs. W.N. Craig
Mr. J.C. Stewart
Mr. Robert Whitt
Mrs. H.O. Williams

CONTENTS

1. Name and location of the property. The property known as the Smyre-Pasour House is located on the Dallas court square at North Holland Street, Gaston County, North Carolina.

2. Name and address of the present owner of the property.
   Miss Jonnie Detter
   216 West Trade Street
   Dallas, N.C. 28034

3. Representative photographs of the property. Photographs are included with this report.

4. A map depicting the location of the property. This report contains a tax office map and a copy of the original plat for the court square locating the property.

5. Current deed reference of the property. This report contains a chain of title of the property.

6. Historical sketch of the property. This report contains a brief historical sketch prepared by Mrs. H.O. Williams of this Historical Properties Commission.

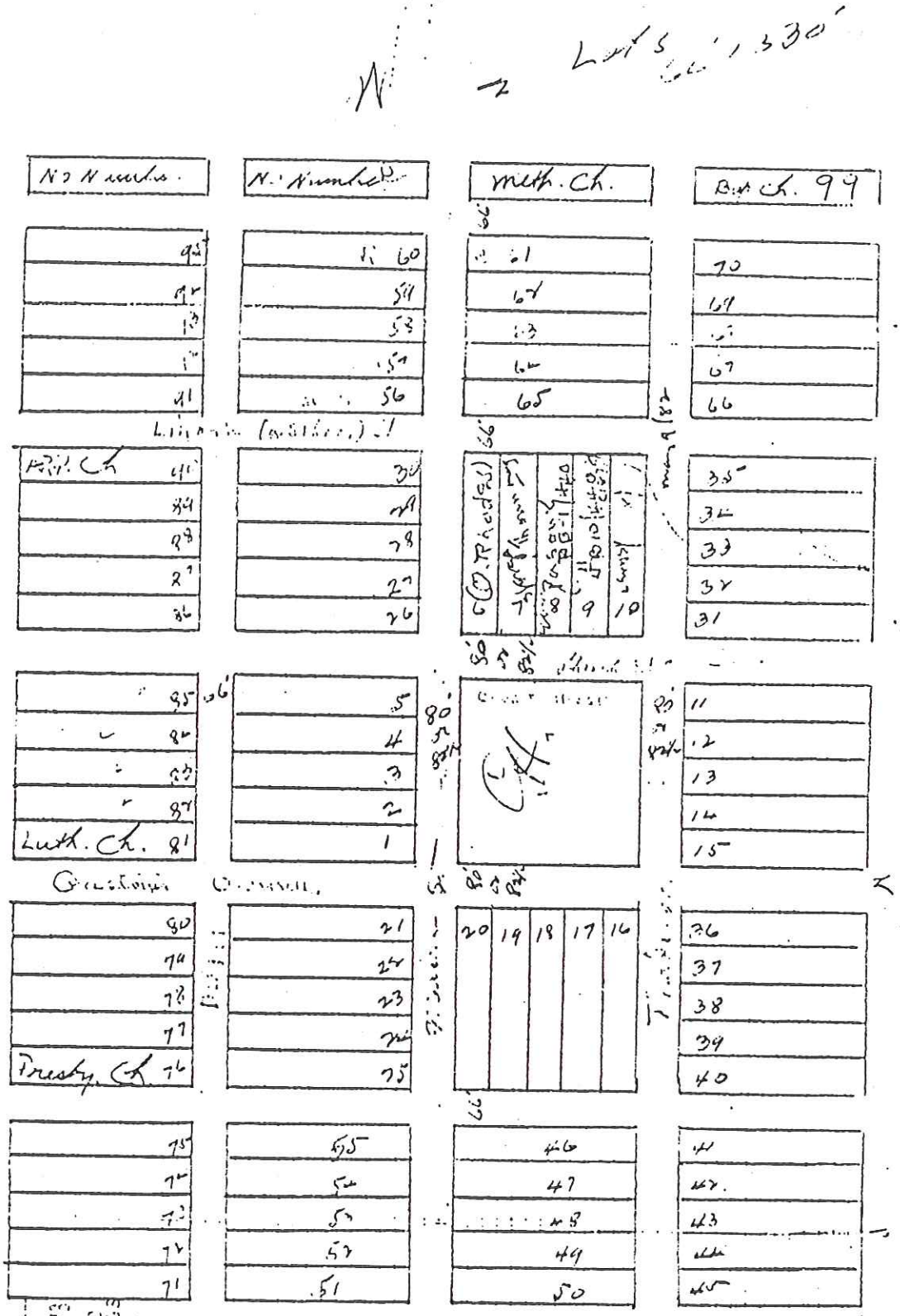
7. Architectural description of the property. This report contains a brief architectural description of the property prepared by Mr. Alvin Cain, architectural consultant.

8. Documentation of why and in what ways the property is of historical importance to the county. The Commission believes that the Smyre-Pasour House is significant to the history of Gaston County for many reasons:

   Architecturally, it is a sound, good example of clapboard side, row housing, similar in design to some found in Williamsburg.

   Historically it is an important part of the original county seat, being one of the first lots sold on the square complex, and having provided children an education as a private school during the early life of the county.

   Educationally, it is highlighted by the Gaston County Art & History Museum's walking tour of the historic square and adds to the overall picture of what life was like in the original county seat. It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the house along with the other seven buildings listed have the potential of being a regional attraction.



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PLAT BOOK 28 PAGE 70

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR THE SMYRE-PASOUR HOUSE, DALLAS, N.C.

1. On February 20, 1847, Jessie Holland deeded a 75 acre tract to the County Court of Gaston County. The purchase price was fifty dollars ($50.00). Land for the courthouse was laid out and the remainder was divided into half-acre lots for sale as homesites. Proceeds from these sales were applied to building fund for the court house, jail, and stocks. See Deed Book 1, Page 19.

2. On August 22, 1849, Isaac Holland, Chrmn. of County Court of Gaston, deeded Lot #8 on the court square to J.F. Smyre for the sum of one hundred and eighty seven dollars ($187.). See Deed Book 1, Page 274. (At this time J.F. Smyre built the three room southern portion of the house.)

3. On July 16, 1851, E. Pasour purchased Lot #8 on the court square of Dallas, N.C. for the sum of six hundred and fifty dollars ($650.00). See Deed Book 1, Page 440.

4. On October 20, 1871, J.F. Smyre sold to Eli Pasour Lot #9 on the court square for the sum of one hundred dollars ($100.) also granting permission "to move the lumber house on the line." See Deed Book 10, Page 440.

5. On April 26, 1901, Eli Pasour deeded Lots # 7,8,& 9 on the court square to Catherine Pasour and daughters Annie & Alethea Pasour "for, and in consideration of, the premise and natural love and affection and for the further consideration of the sum of ($1.00) one dollar. (This included the home place and Lot #7 which lies on the South that was purchased from the Morris's. Lot #7 was sold on October 19, 1906, to C.R. Pasour and wife Julia M. for the sum of two hundred dollars.) For 1901 transaction see Deed Book 44, Page 514.

6. On August 9, 1944, Alethea F. Pasour (unmarried) deeded the Eastern half of Lots # 8 & 9 including the homeplace to Miss Jonnie Detter for the sum of one dollar. Alethea Pasour received a life estate in the house. See Deed Book 450, Page 319.

7. Susan + James E. Ferguson

HISTORICAL SKETCH FOR SMYRE*PASOUR HOUSE 1850

The Smyre-Pasour house was built in 1850 by Dr. J.F. Smyre who sold it to Eli Pasour in July of 1851.

One of the oldest homes built within the town of Dallas, it stands on Lots 8 and 9 on the West side of the old Gaston County Courthouse. Originally it was three rooms with a separate building for the kitchen and dining room.

Sometime after Eli Pasour purchased the house, five rooms were added including a dining room and kitchen.

A crane for cooking over the fire is in the kitchen fireplace.

The only remaining upping block in town sits in front of the house. (An upping block was used for ease in mounting horses or boarding a carriage.)

Eli Pasour's oldest daughter, Hersilia, tutored a private class of young boys in the later northern section of her father's home.

The home was occupied for 93 years by Eli Pasour's family. It is presently owned by a granddaughter, Miss Jonnie Detter.

Eli Pasour (March 7, 1828 - July 7, 1912) was the first Mayor of Dallas; served in the State Legislature; the House of Representatives 1881; was one of the earliest Postmasters of Dallas; and was elected County Examiner of Public Schools Aug. 14, 1869. He was married to Catherine Rhodes, daughter of Christian Rhodes, II, March 20, 1851.

Architectural Description of the Smyre-Pasour House

Upon entering the Smyre-Pasour House one has the feeling that the house was built many years prior to its construction c. 1850. The original three rooms are quite similar in arrangement to the William Penn Plan, a house plan promoted in 1684 by William Penn, proprietor of Pennsylvania. Penn's plan called for the houses to be built with two rooms at one end and one room at the other end with a fireplace at the other end. Since many settlers of early Gaston County came from the Pennsylvania area, this style of building may have influenced the design and floor plan of the Smyre-Pasour House.

The dwelling is a one-storey, frame house which was originally built as a five-bay structure and later received a three-bay addition (c. 1870). This addition has the same finish as the original part; giving the present structure the appearance of being row housing. Each section contains an entry door which is panelled with four panels. Over each door is a transom of four panes. Windows on the facade are nine over nine sash-type. The eaves are boxed and a brick exterior chimney is found at each end of the original five-bay part of the house.

Due to later alterations and several additions, it is difficult to determine the original floor plan of the Smyre-Pasour House. The floors are of wide, heart-of-pine boards. Most of the walls in the original portion of the house are horizontal plank paneling. The wall on the right of the

main entrance is of vertical paneling and may be an alteration of a later date than 1850. Walls of the c.1870 addition were covered with gypsum-type board and superficial examination did not reveal any older material underneath.

The southern most room in the original part of the house has a fireplace with simple mantel of two flat pilasters supporting a frieze containing two molded panels. Mantels in the other front rooms of the house are even simpler.

Interior doors of the original part are simple, six-panel (Christian) doors. It is interesting to note that the panels on the hall side of the doors are trimmed in moldings while the room side of the doors are plain panels without decorative trims.

Steps to the house are made of granite slabs laid one on top of another without mortar. The granite mounting block is still found in front of the house near the street.

Information from Mr. Alvin Cain and taken from the National Register of Historic Places inventory form.