

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
Office of Archives and History  
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Pearce-Stallings-Massey House**

Pilot vicinity, Franklin County, FK0611, Listed 12/30/2020

Nomination by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Hanbury Preservation Consulting

Photographs by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, June and August 2018, August and September 2019



Facade of House, camera facing South



I-House gable end and Kitchen Ell, camera facing Northeast

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Pearce-Stallings-Massey House

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 4430 Old US Highway 64

City or town: Pilot State: NC County: Franklin

Not For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☒ x

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this x 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

     national      statewide   x   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  A     B     x   C   D  



11-16-2020

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ 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.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

##### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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Contributing

1

Noncontributing

1

buildings

0

0

sites

0

1

structures

0

0

objects

1

2

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

### Current Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

LATE VICTORIAN

OTHER: Triple-A I-House

EARLY REPUBLIC

OTHER: Hall-Parlor House

### Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

FOUNDATION: CONCRETE

WALLS: WOOD

ROOF: METAL

OTHER: STONE



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## Summary Paragraph

The Pearce-Stallings-Massey House stands on the east side of old US Highway 64, approximately 1/2 mile southwest of its intersection with Route 39. The surrounding area is largely rural with wooded areas, cultivated fields, and some smaller residential outparcels along the main road. The 6.11 acre parcel containing the house is part of a once larger parcel that has been subdivided among family members. The subject parcel includes the house set close to the road, a c.1950 garage northeast of the house, and a 2019 well shelter. The area immediately southeast of the house is lightly wooded. Beyond, the land is cultivated with crops. South of the house is an unpaved drive which marks the parcel boundary and leads to another parcel. A gravel drive leads to the garage and encircles the house. The frame, evolved house had at least two major building campaigns, one ca. 1820 and the second ca. 1910. One-story gabled wings with stone chimneys stand north and east of a later, two-story, Triple-A I-house. A wraparound porch with jigsaw brackets, and an enclosed breezeway unify the disparate structural elements providing circulation, connections, and visual cohesion. Except as noted, the house is clad in weatherboard. The primary roofs are embossed metal shingle as is that of the wrap-around porch. The shed-roofed addition to the I-house, the porch in the kitchen ell, and the north ell addition all have seamed metal roofing. Much of the foundation of all portions of the house has been replaced with concrete block, however there are some extant stone piers. Windows are wooden, double-hung sash, including two-over-twos, four-over-fours, and six-over-sixes.

## Narrative Description

The Pearce-Stallings-Massey House combines several regional typologies and forms in a single "evolved house" that expanded and changed over the ninety-year timeframe that is its period of significance. The north wing appears to be the oldest section ca. 1820. The kitchen ell may date to this period as well and may have been a separate kitchen building at one point. The southern I-house addition is ca. 1910. A small rear ell on the north wing is ca.1950.

### North Wing and Ell

At the north is what appears to be the oldest section of the house, a ca. 1820, one-story, hall-parlor, frame, side-gabled house with a stone exterior-end chimney. This section of the house is clad in weatherboard. It has a box cornice with cornice returns on the north elevation. Although much of the foundation is not visible, what can be seen is concrete block with some evidence of earlier stone piers. Its facade has four-over-four wooden, double-hung, sash windows flanking a two-light, two-panel door within a wraparound porch. At the south end of its facade is a second door that opens to the breezeway that was likely constructed to provide a protected passage from this building to the kitchen ell. The breezeway encloses the weatherboard exteriors of the north

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wing and the kitchen ell. A frame, cross-gabled, rear ell was added to the north wing of the house ca. 1950, that at one point housed a barber shop. This addition has weatherboard on its north and south elevations, and board and batten on the east, where there are paired windows, one blocked by an exterior brick flue. This later ell has an exterior door on its south elevation, and on its north a window that has been enclosed.

South of the ell, on the main block of the north wing, is a window that is currently boarded over. The north wing has a door to the breezeway, roughly centered on what would have been its south exterior elevation.

The interior of the north wing is divided into two rooms. Both rooms have wide board floors and ceilings. Walls are plaster on lathe with a chair rail and horizontal board wainscot. The broad baseboard is marked by simple projecting trim that matches the chair rail. The windows on the facade are low and use the trim at the top of the baseboard as a stool. The window frames on the west wall, and the interior door surrounds on the west, east, and partition walls have a flat wooden frame with a beveled trim band at the outside, miter-cut at the corners. The door frame to the breezeway and the window frame for the window south of the rear ell are flat boards. There is no strong evidence of an attic or loft, though the interior partition wall does not align with a seam in the attic boards.

The door from the north wing to the rear ell is a four-panel door with two vertical, rectangular raised panels above the center rail, and two below. The door between the two rooms is a five-panel door with four large, raised, horizontal panels and a fifth smaller flat panel at the top of the door. The fireplace on the north wall has been bricked in to accommodate a stove that is no longer extant. The mantel has flat pilasters supporting a flat lintel overlaid with a second panel with an arch; they support a simple molding and a flat shelf.

The rear ell contains a large framing member that is currently exposed. It is likely that the lumber was recycled. This ell is structurally compromised with weakened floors, but a board ceiling and a vertical board door can be seen on the interior from a vantage point within the north wing.

I-House

The I-house portion of the complex sits south and west of the north wing. It is a single-pile, center-hall plan house with a small, one-story, shed-roofed rear addition, formerly a porch and enclosed ca. 1962, housing a vestibule and a bathroom. A shed-roofed, wraparound porch extends across the I-house facade, turns east and then north to span the breezeway entrance and the facade of the north wing. The porch has turned posts with brackets, a pedimented gable with vertical board siding marking the main entrance of the I-house, and a projecting pedimented gable with vertical board siding at the northwest corner of the I-house. The porch physically connects the I-house to the hall-parlor house and through consistent decorative motifs, and creates visual cohesion, as does the consistent use of embossed metal roofing shingles, a material made popular as the result of late nineteenth-century processing technology.

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The I-house has a single-leaf entrance flanked by two-over-two wooden, double-hung, sash windows on the facade, with three, evenly-spaced two-over-two wooden, double-hung, sash windows on the second floor above. The roof's central front cross gable has a diamond-shaped louvered vent centered within it. The south elevation has an exterior end chimney, centered on the gable. The chimney is stone until it reaches the attic level where a set of stone shoulders tapers to a brick stack that is offset from the exterior wall plane and terminates with a corbelled cap. Narrow four-over-four wooden, double-hung, sash windows flank the chimney on the first floor with no fenestration above them. The north elevation of the I-house has an exterior brick flue set west of center. There are windows on each level of the north elevation, centered under the gable, that are currently boarded over. In the attic is a central diamond-shaped louver matching that on the facade.

On the east elevation there is a shed-roofed, one-story addition (porch enclosed ca. 1962), clad in asbestos shingles and offset slightly on the south by a brick flue, and dying into the kitchen ell at the north. The addition has paired six-over-six wooden, double-hung, sash windows, and a single-leaf exterior door under the kitchen ell's porch. On the second floor of the I-house are a southern and a central window; the location where one would expect a north window is enclosed by the attic of the kitchen ell.

On the interior of the I-house, the doors are generally five-panel doors, some with Victorian-era rim locks. An open-string, single-run stair rises east along the north hall wall. The stair has a turned newel post and slender turned balusters. Its steps are narrow, and the treads extend well past the stair carriage. Interior rooms all have a modest baseboard, wooden ceilings, plaster walls and narrow crown molding. Doors to the rooms south of the hall are at the west side of the hall; doors to rooms north of the hall are at the east side.

The first-floor rooms both have fireplaces, though the north room's fireplace is offset to the west of center to service the exterior flue. The mantel in the first-floor south room has engaged columns supporting a panel and brackets, which in turn support a shelf with a panel and molding above it. The north first floor room's fireplace has fluted pilasters supporting an entablature with brackets that in turn support a molded shelf.

Upstairs, the south room has a mantel that mirrors the room below: engaged columns supporting a panel and brackets which in turn support a shelf with a panel and molding above it. The north room has a hole in the wall at the flue but no mantel or stove. A door to the east in this room opens into the attic space of the kitchen ell.

The shed-roofed, one-story, rear addition is accessed from the east end of the central hall. At the addition's south end is a bathroom, at its north end is a doorway into the kitchen ell's west room. On axis with the I-house's central hall is an exterior door to the porch of the kitchen ell.

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Kitchen Ell

The kitchen ell (ca. 1820) extends east from the I-house. It has a stone chimney centered on its exposed gable end. On its south elevation it has a partial width, shed-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts. The porch shelters a three-panel, six-light, single-leaf door to the east and two windows to the west. The windows are divided by an exterior brick flue that pierces the roof at its juncture with the porch. The north elevation of this ell has a single wooden, double-hung sash window to the east. This elevation also has a door that opens into the enclosed breezeway. The ell has two rooms. The room at the east is a kitchen. It has an exterior door to the south, a door to the breezeway to the north, and a door to the western room that abuts the I-house. The western room has suffered some structural damage with compromised floors and is not entirely accessible. It has doors that lead to the kitchen at its east, to the shed-roofed addition of the I-house to its south, and to the I-house's north room at its west.

The kitchen has a fireplace at its east end that is partially blocked but has a surround with flat supports for a broad lintel with two graduated trim bands and a narrow shelf above. The room has sheet vinyl flooring and a ceiling of late twentieth-century paneling supported from below by intersecting framing members. The kitchen's west wall has a framed opening to the western room that is currently blocked by a large piece of plywood. Of note is a scar visible on the south elevation of the exterior where the weatherboard is cut vertically along the entire wall. This break aligns with a break in the plywood subflooring beneath the vinyl, suggesting that perhaps the kitchen ell may have originally consisted of a separate, one-room building. The gable roof that spans the ell is framed consistently through its entire length and may have been built to unite the kitchen, a subsequent room, and the I-house. This conjecture is bolstered by the fact that the exterior weatherboard of the I-house is not painted beneath the gable of the kitchen ell, and the roof of the ell is cut to accommodate the pre-existing box cornice of the I-house.

Further investigation involving removal of current exterior and interior finishes could support the theory of an early detached kitchen. It is not unreasonable to assume that the same impulse to add a unifying wraparound porch was also an impetus for the breezeway and a connecting room from the kitchen to the I-house.

Outbuildings

Northwest of the house is a frame, **front-gabled garage (ca. 1950, noncontributing)** on a concrete block foundation. The western portion is clad in weatherboard. The eastern portion is not entirely intact but the exterior walls that remain are clad in board-and-batten siding. Its roof is metal.

Between the garage and the house is a **concrete block well shelter (2019, noncontributing)** with a flat wooden cover.

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Integrity

The Pearce-Stallings-Massey House has not been moved, thus retains integrity of location. Though the surrounding area has seen some limited residential subdivision and construction, it continues to have large swaths of woodlands and land in agricultural production, thus it retains a high integrity of setting. The house's design, materials, and workmanship are largely unchanged from the period of significance save for the north wing's ell, the rear bathroom addition, and changes made in the kitchen ell to accommodate a modern sink, appliances, and finishes. Board floors and ceilings, plaster walls, and interior trim are all largely intact. The house thus retains a high degree of feeling as an early Franklin County farm house that evolved and grew using vernacular forms. Its integrity of association is strong, bolstered by continuous ownership by the same family and proximity to a family cemetery on a nearby parcel, approximately 200 feet southwest.



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## 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.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

ca.1820-ca.1910

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1820

ca. 1910

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Pearce-Stallings-Massey House is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of types, periods, and methods of construction from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth century in Franklin County, North Carolina through the combination of typologies and forms in a single "evolved house." It is significant at the local level with a period of significance from circa 1820, the estimated date of original construction, to circa 1910 the estimated date of the last major building campaign. The Pearce-Stallings-Massey House, which has remained in the same family since it was built, is a good example of an evolved house including in a single residence a hall-parlor dwelling, a rear kitchen ell, and a Triple-A I-house, all vernacular forms common to the region.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Chronology**

Family lore holds that the land on which the Pearce-Stallings-Massey House stands was passed down through the family, starting in the early 19th century with Stephen Pearce. The North

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Carolina land grant files note that Stephen Pearce (ca. 1756-1837) received Grant 845 for 300 acres on the south side of Mockason (sic) Creek in what was then Wake County. Land tax records from the period show that Pearce's holdings fluctuated between 310 and 776 acres in Franklin County. In June 1823, Pearce registered a will in Wake County that references an "old plantation" of 300 acres on the north side of Moccasin Creek as well as a plantation of 310 acres lying on either side of the south prong of Moccasin Creek (some being in Wake County and some in Franklin County) including the plantation where Pearce then lived, which is the subject property. According to the will, Stephen's wife Elizabeth Pearce was allowed to live on the "old plantation" and was given the loan of three enslaved persons, some livestock, and tangible personal property. Pearce gave Calvin Stallings (1811-1853) and Bryant Wester Stallings (1812-1884) the 310-acre plantation with a life estate for their mother Elizabeth Stallings.

The current owner of the Pearce-Stallings-Massey House, a Stallings descendent, suggests that Stephen Pearce was married to Elizabeth Pearce, but had a second family with Elizabeth Stallings. An 1813 petition to have Calvin and Bryant's surname changed from Stallings to Pearce (which was denied) supports this suggestion. Stephen Pearce's will provides some idea of his wealth, as it enumerates six named enslaved persons (Michael, Quash, Nellie, Champion, Robert, and Rhonda), as well as livestock, including cows, hogs, and sheep; a still and cider casks; oats; a grindstone; and bees.

Calvin Stallings married Armenia Gay in 1835, and together they had six children, including Mary Ann Stallings Massey (1837-1924). Calvin died unexpectedly and intestate in 1853, at which point Armenia sought to exercise her dower right. According to probate filings, Calvin left +/- 492 acres of land in his estate. Maps show that his holdings were contiguous and that approximately 1/3 of them including a dwelling and outbuildings was surveyed and set apart for his widow's use as a life estate. Upon Armenia's death in 1860, her children petitioned the court to partition 496 acres. Mary Ann Stallings Massey was given lot #4, consisting of 93 acres, which was largely a portion of her mother's dower right.

In 1859, the year prior to her mother's death, Mary Ann married Peyton Massey (1839-1864), with whom she had two children, including Jefferson Howard Massey (1862-1954). Peyton Massey died in 1864 at Point Lookout, St. Mary's County, Maryland at the Civil War prisoner of war camp established by the Union Army. Census records show that Mary Ann Massey lived with her son Jefferson and his family after she was widowed.

Jefferson Massey married Laura Ann Greene Massey (1862-1927) in 1887. They had 10 children, including Phillip Franklin Massey (1887-1963). Jefferson likely built the I-house and connecting structures. The 1880 federal census shows his mother Mary Ann as a head of household but in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 federal censuses, Mary Ann is living with Jefferson, now listed as the head of household. By the 1930 census, only Jefferson's daughter Viola is living with him. His son Philip is listed in the 1940 census as a merchant living in nearby Zebulon. Viola Massey inherited the house lot but sold it to her brother Phillip when she moved to Raleigh.

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Phillip Franklin Massey (1887-1963) was married to Louise Maynard Massey (-1973) in 1940 and they had one child, Ann Elizabeth Massey Snell (1925-2013). Ann Snell had four children with her husband Forbes Snell. Her estate was divided per stirpes in four parts. The house lot of 6.113 acres passed to her daughter Joy Snell Murphy, the current owner and direct descendant of the original owner Stephen Pearce.

## Architectural Context

The Pearce-Stallings-Massey House features several vernacular forms common to the region including a hall-parlor plan, a rear kitchen ell, and a Triple-A I-house form, resulting in an evolved dwelling. As an evolved house, the Pearce-Stallings-Massey House is not unique, however in combining these forms and practices, it does embody distinctive characteristics of several types and periods of construction reflecting the changes in local vernacular building traditions in a single property.

The small farm house was the predominant housing type in North Carolina between 1730 and 1830. Architectural historian Catherine Bishir notes that "...small family farms were the basic economic and social unit, for North Carolina was almost exclusively rural, and most of its farmers owned small landholdings and raised crops mainly for their own sustenance."<sup>1</sup> Bishir continues by observing a predisposition to simple architecture: "Perhaps the most pervasive -- and for some the most puzzling-- aspect of North Carolina's emerging architecture was the widespread satisfaction with unpretentious building."<sup>2</sup> This is seen both in the scale of buildings and the avoidance of high style designs. As for early nineteenth-century North Carolina dwellings, "one-story buildings of log or frame were the norm, their gable roofs covered with wood shingles and their walls protected by weatherboards or clapboards. Most houses had one or two main rooms, and the hall-parlor plan continued in common use in all but the grandest dwellings."<sup>3</sup>

Doug Swaim, in his essay on North Carolina folk housing, describes the hall-parlor house. "The plan is basically two rooms: the square 'hall,' entered directly from outdoors with a fireplace centered in the end wall, was where most domestic activities occurred; sleeping, formal entertaining, or both took place in the smaller parlor."<sup>4</sup> This description of a modest, frame, hall-parlor house applies to the north wing of the Pearce-Stallings-Massey House. As such, the oldest portion of the house is a good extant example of the predominant vernacular form in early nineteenth-century North Carolina. A 2018 comprehensive survey of Franklin County lists several contemporary hall-parlor plan houses in its survey report including the Sandling House

<sup>1</sup> Catherine Bishir, et al. *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1990, p. 49.

<sup>2</sup> Bishir, p. 56.

<sup>3</sup> Bishir, p. 54.

<sup>4</sup> Doug Swaim, "North Carolina Folk Housing" in *Carolina Dwelling*. Raleigh: Student Publication of the School of Design, NCSU vol. 26, 1978, p.33.

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(FK0444)<sup>5</sup> and the Wheless House (FK0467)<sup>6</sup> in northwestern Franklin County, and the Wilder House in the central part of the county (FK0470).<sup>7</sup>

The Pearce-Stallings-Massey House's evolution and expansion places the house within the trends of building forms and typology through the early twentieth century. The tradition of adapting older dwellings to new forms and styles is not unusual in Franklin County. T. H. Pearce's 1988 study *Early Architecture of Franklin County II* notes several evolved houses including the Pearce House (FK0426), a federal style house expanded to a bungalow form, and the Hill-Neal House (FK0352) with an added Triple-A dormer and Craftsman-style porch.<sup>8</sup> The Coppedge-Wilder House (FK0327) has a federal hall-parlor house with a Greek Revival I-house added to the front of the original dwelling<sup>9</sup> as does the Mumford House (FK0416).<sup>10</sup> The Oakland Plantation (FK0434) house has a Greek Revival addition to the front of an older, two-story federal section.<sup>11</sup> In nearby Wake County, the Walter Perry house, part of a larger rural complex, appears from photographs to be an evolved house with a one-story Triple-A cottage, though the county survey files do not provide much documentation about the house or its form.<sup>12</sup>

Around 1910, in order to accommodate his family of ten children, Jefferson Massey built a large I-house addition to the original hall-parlor homeplace. Architectural historian Michael Southern notes that this two-story, side-gabled, single-pile house type "has been identified as the dominant folk housing type throughout the Upland South from the late eighteenth century to the early twentieth century, and as a symbol of economic achievement and social respectability in a democratic agrarian society."<sup>13</sup> Doug Swaim likewise notes the location of I-houses on their parcels: "The essence of the I-house is its facade. With rare exception, it was built facing a roadway...."<sup>14</sup> This siting is true of the Pearce-Stallings-Massey house which is a visually prominent landmark along old Route 64 which connects the communities of Zebulon and Spring Hope.

The I-house form, while found throughout large parts of the country, was a particularly effective response to conditions in central North Carolina. Swaim observes that the single pile form "allowed for ample ventilation and well suited the form to this region's summers."<sup>15</sup> Michael Southern in his study of I-houses in the Granville-Franklin-Vance region notes the ubiquity of the form: "After the Civil War the center-hall I-house dominated at least until the turn of the

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<sup>5</sup> Megan Funk, and Jeroen Van Den Hurk, *Comprehensive Architectural Survey of Franklin County, North Carolina*, April 2018, p. 30.

<sup>6</sup> IBID., p. 17.

<sup>7</sup> IBID., p.30.

<sup>8</sup> T. H. Pearce, *Early Architecture of Franklin County II*. Freeman, SD: Pine Hill Press, 1988, p.52.

<sup>9</sup> IBID., p. 106.

<sup>10</sup> IBID., p. 108.

<sup>11</sup> IBID., p. 116.

<sup>12</sup> WA1835 property survey file, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, 1990.

<sup>13</sup> Michael Southern, "The I-House as a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeast Piedmont" in *Carolina Dwelling* Raleigh: Student Publication of the School of Design, NCSU. Vol. 26, 1978, p. 71.

<sup>14</sup> Swaim, p. 39.

<sup>15</sup> IBID.



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[twentieth] century."<sup>16</sup> As with the original hall-parlor dwelling, the central hall I-house was also an extremely typical housing type for its region and period.

Also typical are rear additions to the I-house form, such as the rear kitchen ell. "Almost all of the I-houses of every period received rear additions at some time...usually in the form of a one- or two-story ell."<sup>17</sup> The connection of the kitchen wing to the I-house and the wing's porch are also hallmarks of vernacular building traditions. "In North Carolina central hallway I-houses were commonly built with shed rooms, or, later, with ells added to the rear....The addition of a rear ell allowed another-"back"-porch..."<sup>18</sup> Both Swaim and Bishir note the practice where "[o]ld dwellings were made into wings or outbuildings for new, larger homes"<sup>19</sup> and "the ell was commonly the oldest part of the house-a recycled Old World hall-and-parlor structure, or even...a one -room log family seat."<sup>20</sup> Thus the incorporation of the hall-parlor homestead as well as what may have been an early kitchen to the newer I-house section of the Pearce-Stallings-Massey home reflects regional building norms of its era.

Finally, the Pearce-Stallings-Massey house's "Triple-A" roof on the I-house form also reinforces its regional identity. The Triple-A has "the addition of a third gable placed centrally on the facade...(and) became a regular feature of I-houses...constructed from the decade following the Civil War to the early twentieth century."<sup>21</sup> Southern notes "[t]he gables vary widely in proportion and steepness of pitch, and often were given all sorts of machine-made, sawn, turned, and shingled ornament as the nineteenth century wore on."<sup>22</sup> Southern posits that the Triple-A I-house has subtle differences from earlier I-houses in terms of proportion, fenestration, and trim, with components often machine made and purchased rather than constructed on-site. In contrast with earlier I-houses "[t]he Triple-A I-house is a more democratic house. Its occupant...was more likely a smaller, independent farmer."<sup>23</sup> This certainly comports with the ownership pattern as Pearce's original holdings dwindled when subdivided for heirs in succeeding generations and as the post Civil War economy with higher labor costs reduced farming output.

The Pearce-Stallings-Massey House, through its evolution from a hall-parlor dwelling to a Triple-A I-house, by retaining and incorporating its earlier incarnations, embodies distinctive characteristics of types, periods, and methods of construction from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth century in Franklin County, North Carolina.

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<sup>16</sup> Southern, p. 72.

<sup>17</sup> IBID.

<sup>18</sup> Swaim, p. 39.

<sup>19</sup> Bishir, p. 135.

<sup>20</sup> Swaim, p. 43.

<sup>21</sup> Southern, p. 80.

<sup>22</sup> Southern, p. 81.

<sup>23</sup> Southern, p. 82.

Pearce-Stallings-Massey House  
Name of Property

Franklin County, North  
Carolina  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

Bishir, Catherine, et al. *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1990.

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Franklin County Probate Records.

Funk, Megan and Jeroen Van Den Hurk. *Comprehensive Architectural Survey of Franklin County, North Carolina*. April 2018.

North Carolina Historic Preservation Office survey files.

Pearce, T. H. *Early Architecture of Franklin County II*. Freeman, SD: Pine Hill Press, 1988.

Southern, Michael. "The I-House as a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeast Piedmont" in *Carolina Dwelling*. Raleigh: Student Publication of the School of Design, NCSU, vol. 26, 1978.

Swaim, Doug, ed. *Carolina Dwelling*. Raleigh: Student Publication of the School of Design, NCSU, vol. 26, 1978.

Swaim, Doug. "North Carolina Folk Housing" in *Carolina Dwelling*. Raleigh: Student Publication of the School of Design, NCSU, vol. 26, 1978.

U. S. Federal Census records.

Wake County Will Books, probate records.

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Pearce-Stallings-Massey House

Name of Property

Franklin County, North  
Carolina

County and State

**Primary location of additional data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** FK0611

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 6.11

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.879662°

Longitude: -78.270130°

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property are those of Franklin County parcel #002041.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes all of that property currently associated with the historic house.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Mary Ruffin Hanbury

organization: Hanbury Preservation Consulting

street & number: P.O. Box 6049

city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code: 27628

e-mail: maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com

telephone: (919) 828-1905

date: 15 September 2019

Pearce-Stallings-Massey House

Name of Property

Franklin County, North

Carolina

County and State

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Pearce-Stallings-Massey House

City or Vicinity: Pilot vicinity

County: Franklin

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Mary Ruffin Hanbury

Date Photographed: June 2018, August 2018, and August 2019

Facade of House, camera facing South

Date Photographed: June 29, 2018

1 of 13

Facade of House, North Wing/Hall-Parlor section, camera facing South

Date Photographed: June 29, 2018

2 of 13

Rear ell addition on the North Wing/Hall-Parlor section, camera facing Northwest

Date Photographed: June 29, 2018

3 of 13

Kitchen Ell, camera facing Northwest

Date Photographed: June 29, 2018

4 of 13

Kitchen Ell, camera facing Northeast

Date Photographed: August 31, 2019

5 of 13

I-House gable end and Kitchen Ell, camera facing Northeast

Date Photographed: June 29, 2018

6 of 13

Garage, camera facing Southeast

Date Photographed: August 31, 2019

7 of 13

Pearce-Stallings-Massey House

Name of Property

Franklin County, North  
Carolina  
County and State

Well Cover, camera facing East

Date Photographed: August 31, 2019

8 of 13

Interior North Wing/Hall-Parlor section, camera facing North

Date Photographed: June 29, 2018

9 of 13

Interior I-House section, Second Floor south room, camera facing Southwest

Date Photographed: June 29, 2018

10 of 13

Interior view from Kitchen Ell through breezeway to North Wing/Hall-Parlor section, camera facing North

Date Photographed: September 9, 2019

11 of 13

Interior Kitchen Ell, kitchen, camera facing East

Date Photographed: August 31, 2019

12 of 13

Interior I-House section newel, camera facing North

Date Photographed: August 6, 2018

13 of 13

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).


**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



# Pearce-Stallings-Massey House

National Register Location Map  
4430 Old US Highway 64  
Franklin County, NC

Legend

 35.879662° -78.270130°






# Pearce-Stallings-Massey House

National Register Boundary Map  
4430 Old US Highway 64  
Franklin County, NC

1770

## Legend

 Franklin County Parcel #002041

Old US Hwy 64

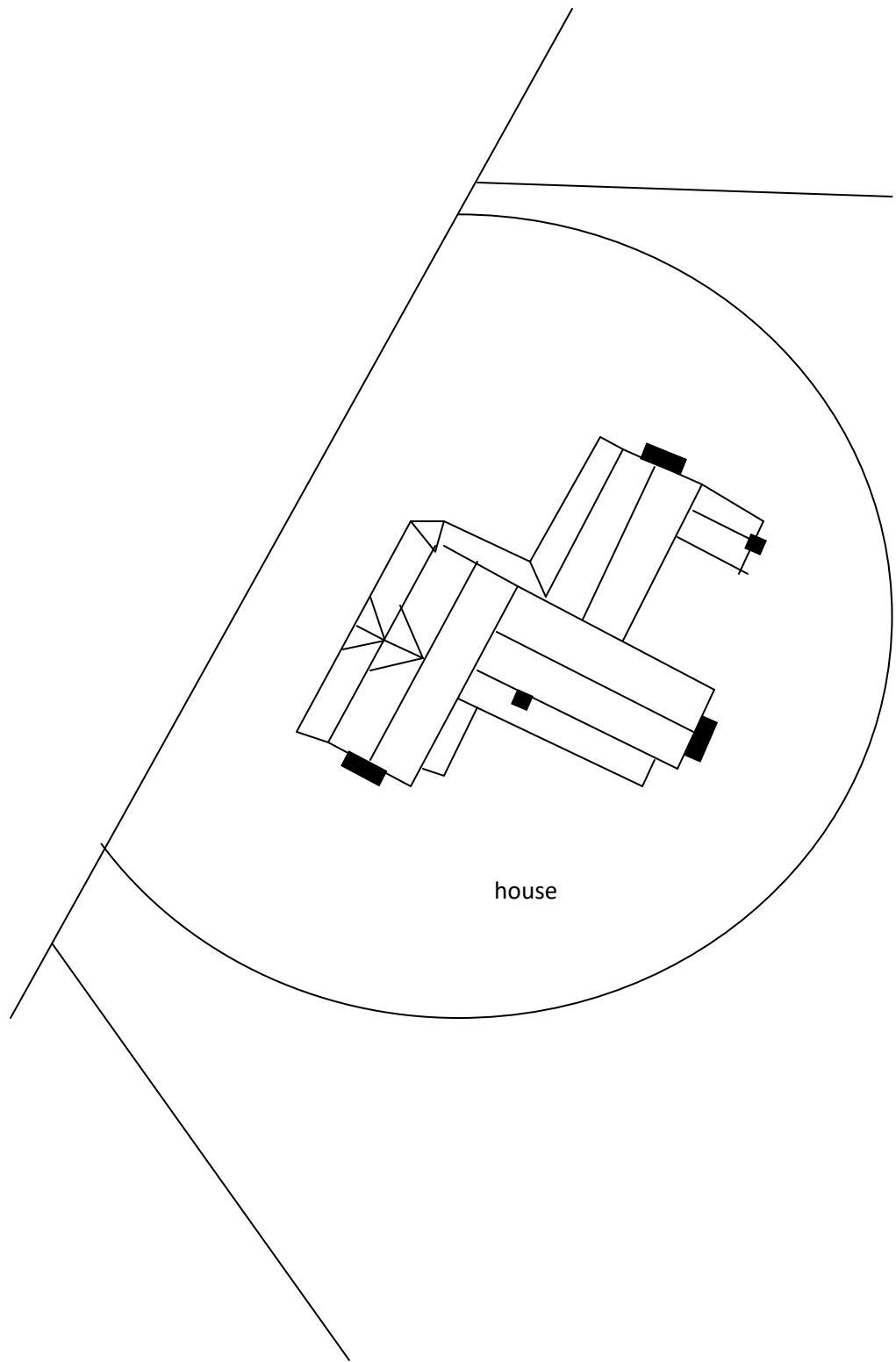
Google Earth

© 2020 Google

N

400 ft



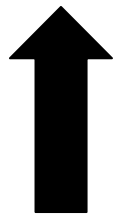


well

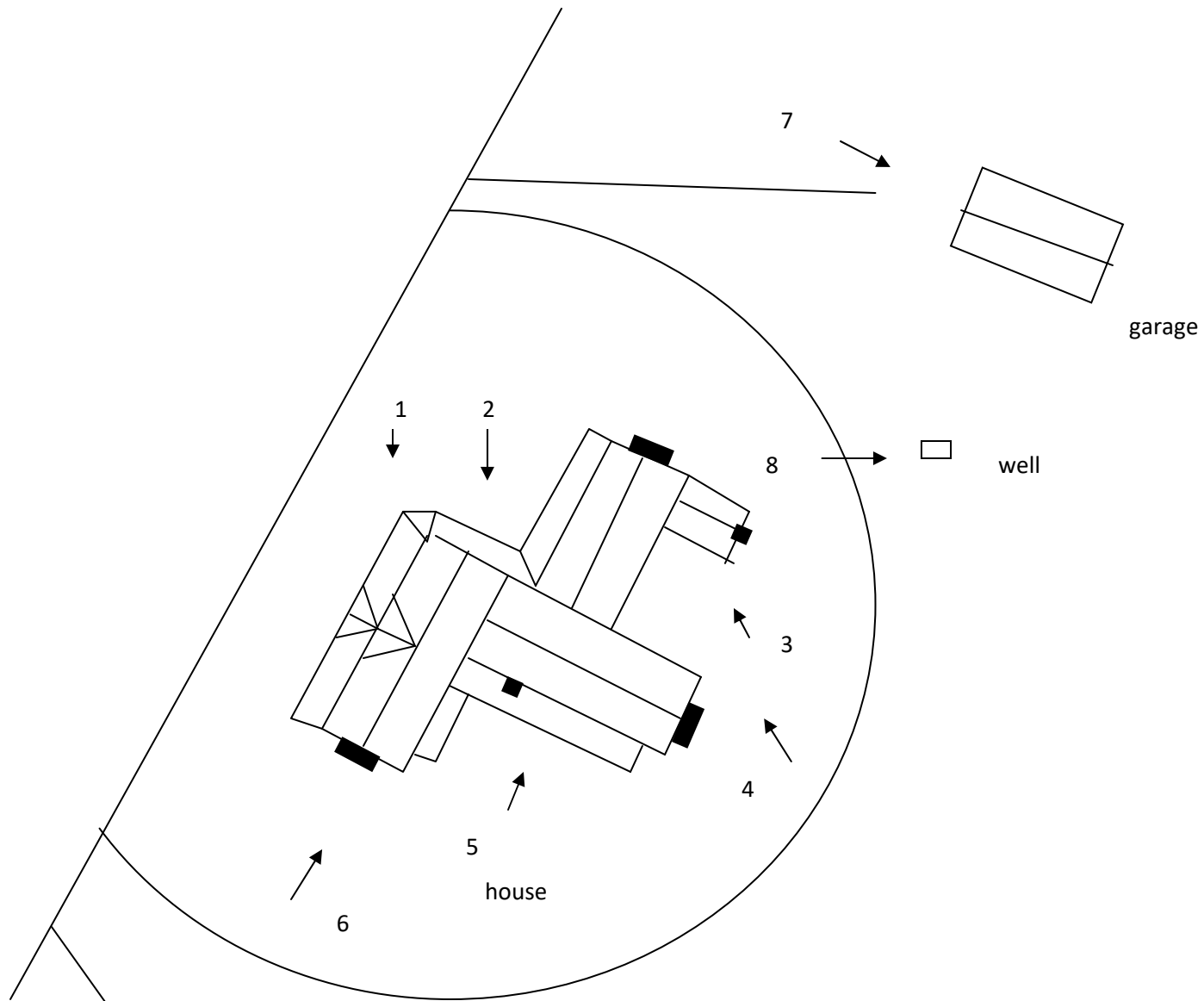
garage

house

Pearce-Stallings-Massey House  
4430 Old US Highway 64  
Franklin County, NC  
Site Plan  
Not to Scale



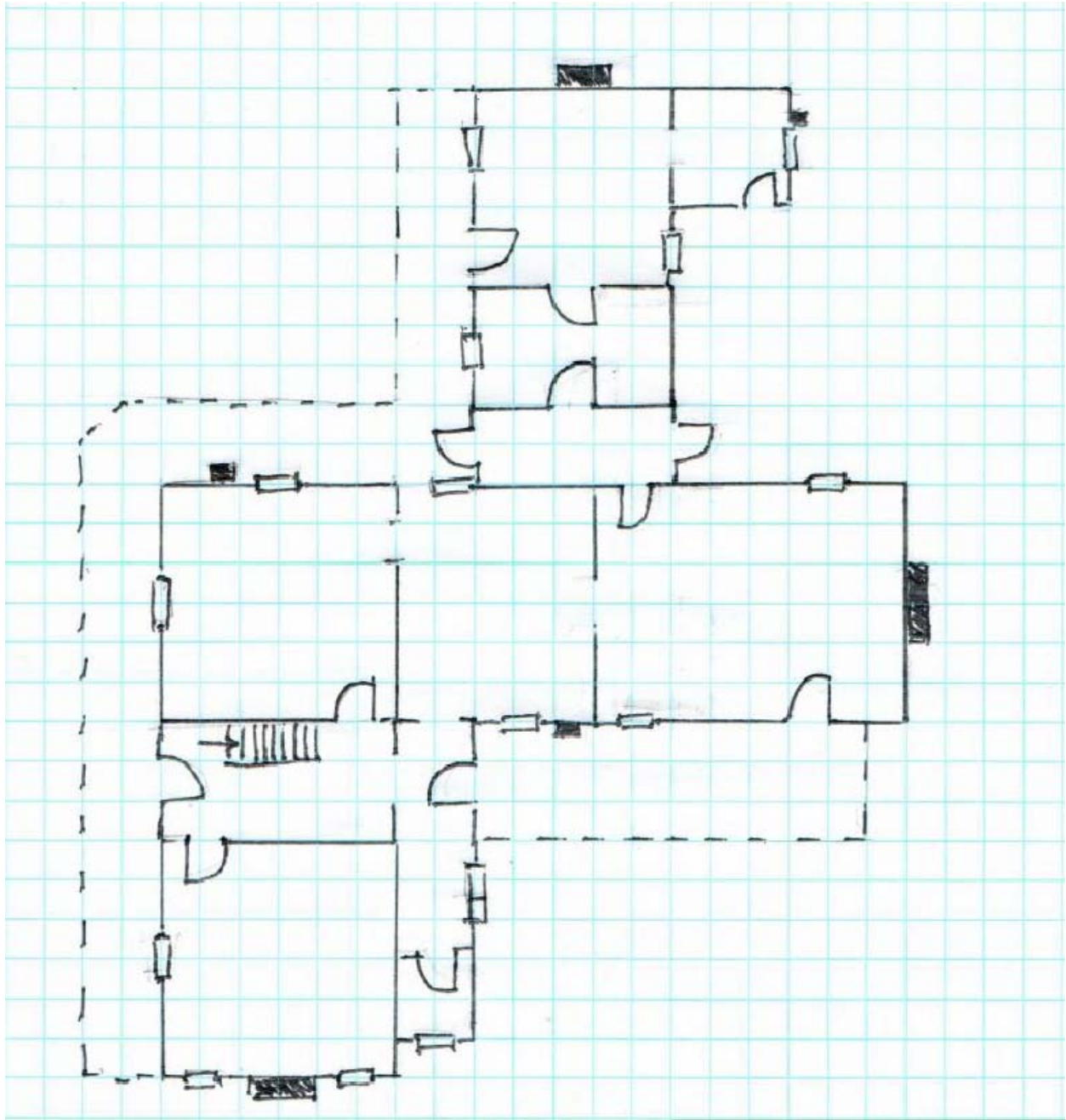
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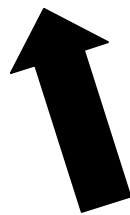
Pearce-Stallings-Massey House  
4430 Old US Highway 64  
Franklin County, NC  
Exterior Photo Key  
Not to Scale



N

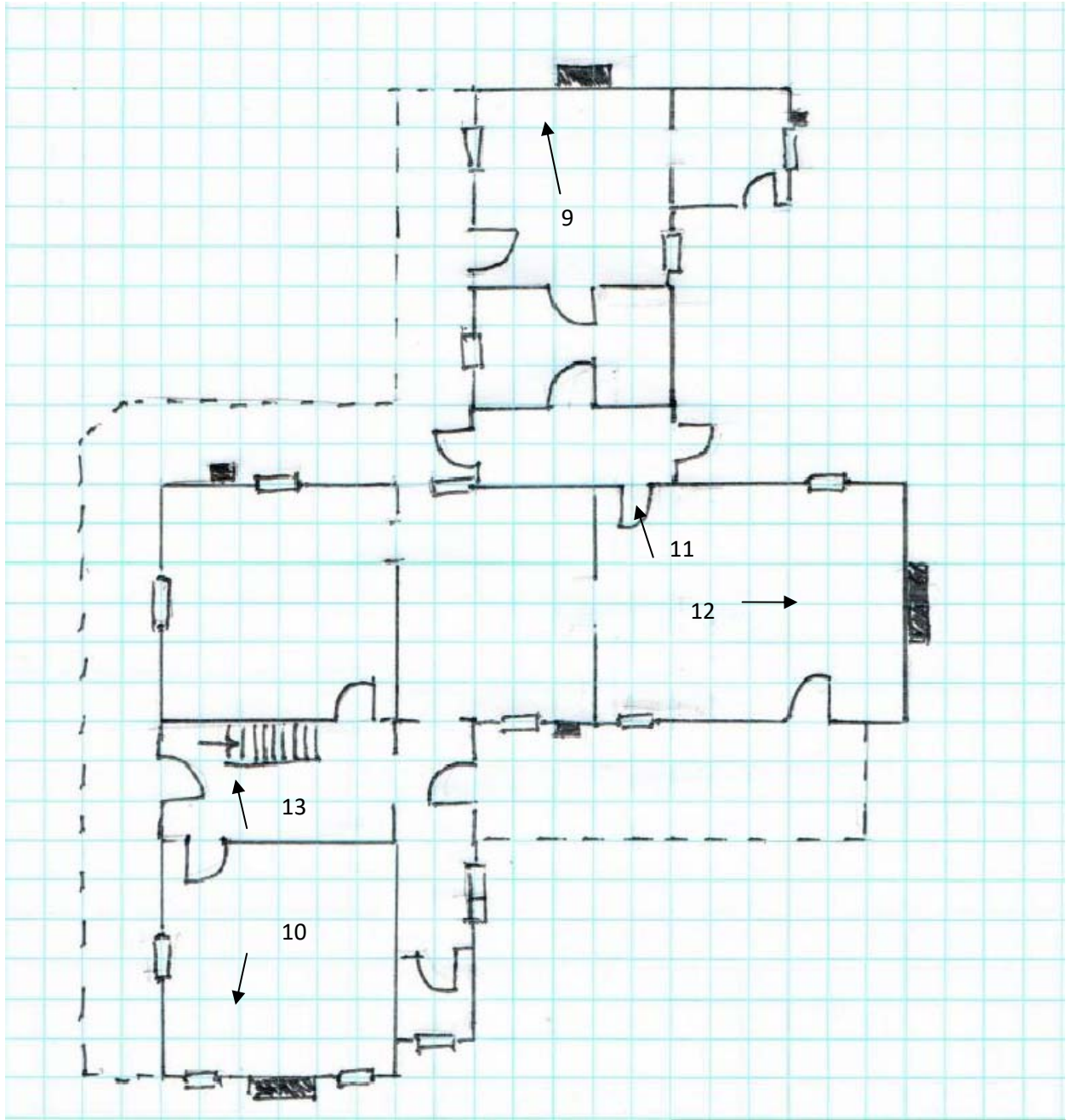


Pearce-Stallings-Massey House  
4430 Old US Highway 64  
Franklin County, NC  
First Floor Plan  
Not to Scale



N





N

Pearce-Stallings-Massey House  
4430 Old US Highway 64  
Franklin County, NC  
Interior Photo Key  
Not to Scale