



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

201 Worth Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203 ♦ 336-318-6806 ♦ www.rchlpc.org

Memorandum

July 30, 2026

TO: Michael Burroughs, City Manager, City of Trinity
FROM: Ross Holt, Administrator and Member, Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission
RE: Landmark Designation for Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission was established by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners in 2008 as the county's official body to identify, preserve and protect Randolph County's historic landmarks, and to educate the public about those resources, as well as preservation in general. The commission operates under Chapter 160D, Article 9, Part 4 of the North Carolina General Statutes, which provides for the designation of local historic landmarks.

Through intergovernmental agreements, the Landmark Commission also serves in the same role for each municipality in Randolph County (Trinity entered into its agreement on September 23, 2008). Landmark designations are recommended by the commission, but officially made through an ordinance of the governing board for the jurisdiction in which the proposed site is located.

The process is as follows. The Landmark Commission accepts applications from property owners, or generates applications itself with the agreement of property owners. After a period of study and feedback, the commission considers recommending the site for designation. If the commission votes to recommend a site, the recommendation is forwarded to the governing board of the jurisdiction in which the site is located. After holding a public hearing, the governing board can vote to adopt a local ordinance that officially designates the site as a local historic landmark.

Once a landmark is designated, the designation is recorded in county and municipal records. Changes proposed by the property owner to the landmark that might alter its historic character must be approved by the Landmark Commission. The property owner is entitled to a 50 percent property tax deferral if they so choose, so long as the landmark designation is maintained. The landmark is featured on the commission's website and in travel and tourism information.

The Landmark Commission recently voted to recommend the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847, at 5655 Meadowbrook Drive in Trinity, for designation. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Trinity City Council take up this request.

Accompanying please find a copy of the Randolph County Historic Preservation Ordinance, the Landmark Commission resolution recommending designation of the Harper House, a draft local ordinance, and the landmark designation report.

For detailed information about the commission and the landmarks, visit www.rchlpc.org.

Thank you.



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

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Resolution Recommending Local Historic Landmark Designation Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847

WHEREAS, Chapter 160D, Article 9, Part 4, of the North Carolina General Statutes provides for the designation of local historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners has appointed the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission, having the authority to exercise all powers and duties given it by the Randolph County Historic Preservation Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission has taken into consideration all information contained in the Historic Landmark Designation Application for the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, has been given the opportunity to review the Local Landmark Designation Report and has advised that the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission will have sufficient evidence to prove that the Leach-Morgan House possesses the requisite special character and integrity for designation as a local historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission conducted the required public hearing, having published legal notices; and

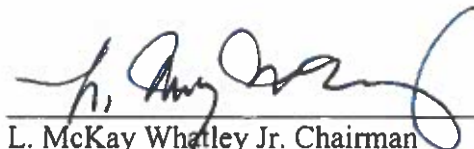
WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission finds that the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847, meets the following specific criteria outlined in the Ordinance establishing the Commission: (1) Critical part of the City of Trinity's heritage by having value as an example of the cultural, historic and social heritage of City of Trinity; (3) Its important architecture as an exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship; and (4) Its distinctive theme, representing an architectural, cultural, economic, historic or other theme expressed through a distinctive building.

WHEREAS, the property is more specifically described as follows:

The Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847, is located at 5655 Meadowbrook Dr., Trinity, N.C., PIN 7707681150, Trinity Township, Randolph County, N.C.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 22nd day of July, 2026, in the 250th Year of American Independence, that the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission approves the application for Local Historic Landmark designation, and recommends to Trinity City Council that the exterior of the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847, and its tract, be designated as a Local Historic Landmark.

Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission



L. McKay Whatley Jr. Chairman





Attest: Amber E. Cole, Clerk

Date: 7/22/26

Ordinance Number _____
Ordinance Designating the Exterior of the Leach-Morgan House
("Melrose"), 1847, as a Local Historic Landmark in Trinity, North Carolina

WHEREAS, Chapter 160D, Article 9, Part 4 of the North Carolina General Statutes provides for the designation of local historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS, the City of Trinity designated the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission as a joint historic preservation commission on September 23, 2008, having the authority to exercise, within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Trinity, all powers and duties given it by the Randolph County Historic Preservation Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission has taken into consideration all information contained in the Historic Landmark Designation Application for the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, has been given the opportunity to review the Local Landmark designation report which contains the historical information necessary for the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission to determine special historical significance and integrity; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission and the Trinity City Council conducted the required public hearings and published legal notices; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission has adopted a unanimous resolution requesting the City of Trinity to designate the exterior of the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847, as a Local Historic Landmark, and

WHEREAS the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission finds that the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847, meets the following specific criteria outlined in the Ordinance establishing the Commission: (1) Critical part of the City of Trinity's heritage by having value as an example of the cultural, historic and social heritage of City of Trinity; (3) Its important architecture as an exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship; and (4) Its distinctive theme, representing an architectural, cultural, economic, historic or other theme expressed through a distinctive building.

WHEREAS, the property is more specifically described as follows:

The Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847, is located on a 21-acre tract at 5655 Meadowbrook Dr., Trinity, N.C., PIN 7707681150, Trinity Township, Randolph County, N.C.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Trinity City Council, North Carolina, that:

- 1: The property known as the exterior of the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847, and its tract, located at 5655 Meadowbrook Dr., Trinity, N.C., within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Trinity, North Carolina, is hereby designated as a Local Historic Landmark pursuant to Chapter 160D, Article 9, Part 4, of the North Carolina General Statutes, and by inter-local agreement approved September 23, 2008, between the City of Trinity and the County of Randolph.
- 2: That the exterior of the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose") may be materially altered, restored, remodeled, or demolished only following issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission.
- 3: That nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent the ordinary maintenance or repair of any architectural feature in or on said property that does not involve a change of design, material or outer appearance thereof, after obtaining the necessary permits and official approval for said stated repair. Nothing herein shall prevent the construction, alteration, restoration, demolition, or removal of such features when a building inspector or similar authorized official certifies to the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission that such action is required for the public safety because of an unsafe condition. Furthermore, nothing shall be construed to prevent the property owner from making any use of this property not prohibited by other statutes, ordinances or regulations.
- 4: That a suitable sign may be posted indicating the designation as a Local Historic Landmark and containing appropriate information.
- 5: That Martha Morgan Stunda, owner of the Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), hereby accepts notice as required by the applicable law of this action, and directs that copies of this Ordinance be filed and indexed in the office of the Trinity City Clerk, the Randolph County Register of Deeds, the Randolph County Tax Department, and both the City and County Planning and Inspections Departments as required by applicable law.

Upon the motion of _____, and a second by _____,
the foregoing ordinance was passed upon its first reading by a vote of _____.

**CITY OF TRINITY
NORTH CAROLINA**

BY: _____
Richard McNabb, Mayor

Adoption Date

ATTEST: _____
Darien Comer, City Clerk



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

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LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

Leach-Morgan House ("Melrose"), 1847



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: "Melrose," Leach-Morgan House

Other Name: Morgan Manor

2. Location

Street Address: 5655 Meadowbrook Dr.

City/Town/Jurisdiction: Trinity, N.C.

Tax Parcel ID Number: 7707681150

3. Owner Information

Name: Martha Morgan Stunda

Address: 5651 Meadowbrook Dr., Trinity, NC

Phone: 336-905-0036 / 336-431-3749

4. Applicant/Contact Person:

Name: Martha Morgan Stunda

Contact: 336-905-0036 / 336-431-3749

General Data/Site Information

A. Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: 1845; kitchen/office/bedroom addition, ca. 1940

B. Number, type and date of construction of out buildings: 4 – Barn, Stable, Meat House, Garage

C. Approximate lot size or acreage: 21 acres

D. Architect, builder, carpenter and/or mason: Unknown; bricks made by Lewis Leach, sons and farmworkers

E. Previous field documentation: L. McKay Whatley Jr., 1978

F. Original Use: Residence; boarding house for students

G. Present Use: Residence (unoccupied)

Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building and tract

Function or Use

Historic Functions: Residence, boarding house for students

Current Functions: Residence (unoccupied)

Description

Architectural Classification: Dwelling

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

Leach-Morgan House (Melrose), 1845

ABSTRACT

The Lewis Morgan Leach House, named "Melrose" by its owner presumably after the abbey that inspired Sir Walter Scott, was the home of a prominent farmer and community leader in northwest Randolph county. Leach (1800-1893) was one of the organizers of Union Institute, which became Normal College and then Trinity College, now Duke University. Leach was a member of the committee overseeing construction of the school building, built about the same time as this house. "Melrose" (there were three other nearby Leach family houses, so that name avoids confusion), was one of just five brick homes built in Randolph County before 1870.

Four of those five were within three miles of Melrose (the Coffin-Makepeace House in Franklinville is the fifth), and all may have had similar connections to the construction of the brick "Old Main" building of Union Institute. The house is architecturally significant as a representation of this rather unusual construction technique in the county. It is also significant in terms of the history of education in the Piedmont. The school was called "union" to recognize the cooperative efforts of local Methodists and Quakers to establish and promote education; after Quakers established New Garden Boarding School in Guilford County the school was affiliated with the Methodist church and took the name "Trinity College." Students boarding at the Institute and Trinity College roomed in private houses all over the Trinity area, and this is one of the few surviving examples of those homes.

It is also one of the few documented properties related to early anti-slavery activism in the Piedmont. Leach was a delegate in 1826 to the North Carolina Abolition Society, and attended meetings of the Manumission Society in 1825 and 1826.

The rural setting of the house and its outbuildings are a well-maintained example of those present in any local farm before World War II; the designation boundary includes the entire 21-acre tract.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

By Dan Warren

By the third quarter of the eighteenth century, four families – the Browns, the Johnsons, the Leaches, and the Mendenhalls (all formerly of Pennsylvania) – had settled what is now the area of Trinity, Randolph County, North Carolina. Bound by common Pennsylvania antecedents, their common North Carolina locale, and common religions, members of the families intermarried, establishing even stronger ties.

For years the children and grandchildren of the community members were taught in their homes. After a few decades Margaret Mendenhall Leach (1800-1870), wife of James T. Leach (1798-1881), had started a school in her home.* As the numbers grew, four of the community fathers combined monies and energies and started Brown's Schoolhouse in the 1830s. When

* James T. Leach should not be confused with James Madison Leach, a U.S. Congress member and member of the Confederate congress, who was a first-cousin-once-removed of Lewis Morgan Leach and James T. Leach.

continued growth necessitated a new building, the Methodists and Quakers of the area joined to form the Union Institute, the name being adopted to denote the partnership of the two denominations. Beginning in 1849, an attempt was made to redevelop the school as a Normal College, a teacher training institution. In 1859, with support from the Methodist Episcopal Church, the school was established as Trinity College. In 1892, it was moved to Durham, and in 1924 it became the nucleus of Duke University.

Lewis Morgan Leach, a prominent farmer, land speculator, and community leader (and brother of James T. Leach) inherited 200 acres of a 300-acre tract his grandfather Hugh Leach had received through a State of North Carolina grant in 1788 around what is now Trinity's Meadowbrook Drive (see Appendix B, Chain of Title). Intimately associated with Brown's Schoolhouse and its various incarnations, Leach was one of the organizers and trustees of the Union Institute. He served on the committee to oversee the construction of a new school building, and later was secretary of the Union Institute Society. He also was assigned to a committee to handle the finances of the new school. Leach continued on the boards of trustees for Normal College and Trinity College. After the Civil War, he was assigned, with others, to lay out and establish a road "to extend from Trinity College to some point on Hoover Road near Col Leach place by way of Welborns and Paynes Mill, Ahi Robins and Hope Well Church" by the Trinity Township Board of Trustees. This road would later become Meadowbrook Drive.

Leach, a Methodist, was a delegate in 1826 to the North Carolina Abolition Society. Along with General Alexander Gray, a neighbor, fellow Methodist and the largest slave owner in Randolph and Guilford counties, Leach attended meetings of the Manumission Society in 1825 at Hopewell Methodist Church (where they were members), and in 1826 at Springfield Friends Meeting (where they were not). Leach is reputed to have been an owner of enslaved people; one instance of ownership – a 28-year-old enslaved female in 1850 – appears in census records from 1830 through 1860.

Leach had married Nancy Elder in 1826. He continued to amass his landholdings, and, in the mid-1840s, he planned and erected the large and commanding brick home named "Melrose" but referred to locally as "the Brick House" or "the Uncle Lewis Leach place." Bricks for the house were hand-made by sons of the Leaches and by their farm workers. Here the Leaches raised their family and boarded students at the nearby College, as did many of their neighbors.

Miss Rose Johnson, a lifelong resident of Trinity and descendant of the founding families of the community, was a local correspondent to the *Charlotte Observer* and to the *Trinity Alumni Register*. In a series of articles, Johnson wrote of her remembrances and descriptions of places in "Old Trinity." To quote, in part, the October 1917 edition of the *Register*, with the permission of the Duke University Archives,

About three quarters of a mile from the College door of Old Trinity, almost due south, stands what is known about here as the Brick House, or, as some still say, the 'Uncle Lewis Leach Place.' This is still, after the lapse of so many years, quite an imposing looking residence. It stands facing the north, a commodious two-story house with large airy rooms opening upon a wide hallway. In the long ago there was the most picturesque little portico or balcony in front with an upper porch as well, which gave this great spacious brick housed rather the appearance of the old-time manor houses....

The portico in front gave a quaint appearance to the house and while it was small did not seem out of proportion, and both porches under and upper were

almost completely covered with the old English honey-suckle. A door from above opened out upon this upper balcony, and from that, one could get a fine view of the country around Trinity for miles. Looking in one direction was Shepherd Mountain, the only hill that could be called a mountain in Randolph, and from this upper porch, appeared to good advantage, way down in southwestern Randolph. One could discern two prongs of the Uwharrie, and where they mingled their waters were starting on their long and winding journey to some greater river.

Visitors came and went at pleasure, all were made welcome. It was quite a treat to be entertained by the family who resided in this house. Like all the places around Trinity in the long ago, this was a boarding house for the college boys, and here boarded boys from all points of the compass, and here they lived and studied and went down into that wonderful basement to dine, and dine they did too, of the best the land afforded.

A few years ago a long piazza was built in front of the brick house, in the place of the little balcony, and then 'Melrose' was changed....

According to Martha Morgan Stunda, the home's current owner, the front porch was remodeled again in the 1930s. Railing was added to the porch in 2004-2005.

Nancy Elder Leach died in 1881, and Lewis Morgan Leach followed in 1893. Both are buried at Hopewell Methodist Church in Trinity. The farm was inherited at their death and was later sold out of the family.

It passed through several owners until John Duckrey "Duck" and Pallie Loftin Morgan bought the property with their son and daughter-in-law Charlie Joseph and Lida Tucker Morgan. They moved in in the Spring of 1931 with no electricity or indoor plumbing and began a complete restoration of the antique structure. Memoirs of Lida tell us that Charlie went to Duke Power with a proposition: if they would run power lines to the house, Charlie would buy a new electric stove. Soon they had power. The floors were replaced, as were the rafters and roof. The brick exterior walls are 25 inches thick.

According to "Students, College Gone; Melrose Home Remains," an article by Braxton Younts in the Sunday, October 29, 1961, edition of the *High Point Enterprise*,

The boarding students, as well as the family of the house, ate in the basement. When built, the floor of the kitchen there was of dirt, and it was after some 50 years of its existence that a portion of this floor was put in, and its concrete surface is still [1961] in use.

Cooking, at least a great portion of it, was done in an open fireplace, with large pots suspended over the flames with cranes or hooks mounted on the chimney. However, in the Morgans' rebuilding, this fireplace was sealed up.

Also in the basement was the dark room or cooling place where the Leaches stored their meat. This space now [1961] houses a modern heating plant for the home. The portion of the basement used for dining purposes is now a den, complete with wood-burning fireplace and comfortable seating, as well as paneled walls.

Heating, in the old days, was from fireplaces in each room.

Morgan said that the brick walls of the house were renovated also. First the original lime and sand mortar was scraped out to a depth of about an inch and fresh cement mortar forced in. To prevent dampness from seeping into the house the new owners painted the exterior with a sealer and then covered this with white paint, making it an outstanding landmark for the community – or rather continuing it as a landmark, as it has been this past century or more.

The interior walls of the home are plastered over the brick, as they were when the house was built. ”

In an article in the March 26, 2006, edition of the *Greensboro News and Record*, the author describes the “huge front door, with its glass interior knob, [that] is original and opens onto a grand staircase, adorned by original artistic scrollwork and medallions, in the center of the house. Mac Whatley, in his *Architectural History of Randolph County, N.C.*, noted several items of historic interest when he reviewed the house for inclusion in his book. He wrote,

...Some two-panel Greek Revival doors survive, as well as two simple post-and-lintel mantels in upstairs bedrooms. The den mantel is a simple yet unusual design with swelling ogee curves resembling furniture in the ‘Empire’ style. The tread ends of the open-string staircase are decorated with brackets and the case itself features raised panels with applied oval shells carved in a sunburst pattern.

Current owner Martha Morgan Stunda is the daughter of Charlie and Lida Morgan. According to Stunda, when her parents and grandparents moved into the house in 1931, the basement constituted a bedroom and sitting room in addition to the kitchen. This was her grandparents’ area; Charlie, Lida, and, later, Martha slept on the second floor. In the 1940s and original eating porch on the back was replaced with a three-room addition: an office, a bedroom, and a breakfast area. Indoor plumbing was added in 1945. For many years this was a working farm, raising tobacco, vegetables, and beef cattle.

Two springs service the farm; but one was dammed in the late 1940s, building a lake. A large barn, other farm outbuildings, and 3 tobacco barns and a pack house contribute to the farm.

After the death of Lida in 2004, Martha Morgan Stunda updated the house further and has opened it as Morgan Manor venue. It advertises 20 acres of quiet suburban land, three bedrooms with baths, formal living and dining rooms, den, office, large kitchen, and a closed-in porch with an informal dining area.

To again quote Rose Johnson,

Visitors came and went at pleasure, all were made welcome, and all considered it quite a treat to be entertained by the family who resided in this house.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

By L. McKay Whatley, Jr.

The 1830s in Randolph County were evidently prosperous enough to see major advances in masonry construction. Despite the plentiful clay available in the county, until that time use of

brick in construction was limited to foundation underpinning, firebox linings or chimney stacks. Masonry work was costly and difficult, since the lack of natural lime in the Piedmont limited brick construction. The first known use of it was by the Moravians in Forsyth County in the 1780s (Bisher and Southern, 29).

The Dempsey Brown House, 5455 Brown House Road in Trinity, appears to have been the first to be built entirely of masonry; a brick beside the entrance door is inscribed "1836." In 1838 the Randolph Manufacturing Company in Franklinville, the county's first brick commercial building, was built using locally-made brick. About the same time the nearby Elisha Coffin House (owner and primary stockholder of the factory) was built using the same size brick, readily identified by the many iron inclusions contaminating the clay. The next year (1839) Randolph County built its first brick courthouse in Asheboro, which remained in use until 1909. The first county historian J.A. Blair in 1890 (Blair, 2) states that the county's first brick Courthouse was built about 1830 ("a small brick house was built, which, in consequence of some defect in the walls, soon became unsafe and was torn down..."), but no reference to this has been found in court records.

"Melrose," 5655 Meadowbrook Drive, Trinity, is said to have been built between 1845 to 1847 by Lewis Morgan Leach, one of the original supporters of public schooling in Trinity. The nearby R.W. Reddick House (now destroyed) also in Trinity, was apparently built about the same time. This timing roughly coincides with the construction of the "Old Main" building of Union Institute (later Trinity College), which began in February 1853 with funds from the state Literary Fund. Union Institute was a 3-story brick building 100 feet long by 50 feet wide, large enough for 300 students; it included a chapel, recitation rooms, society halls, laboratory, library, museum, and living quarters for some students. It was finished in June and dedicated in July 1855 (Chaffin, 12).

The low-bid contractor for the Union Institute building was Thomas Rice (1803-1893) of Franklinville, who built both the frame Island Ford factory in Franklinville and its covered bridge over Deep River. Rice was said to have been the contractor for the Greensboro Methodist Church on Elm Street in 1831, a two-story brick building thirty feet wide and fifty feet long. He may also have been the contractor for the church's next sanctuary, built in 1851 on West Market Street; both were masonry structures. Thomas Rice was the church secretary at the Quarterly conference of Dec. 2, 1837, so he was certainly connected to the first church. (Historical Sketch read at 100th anniversary of founding of West Market Church, 1934). As contractor, Rice acted as chief carpenter and designer, while Robert Gray (1820-1890) of Gray's Chapel, provided the masonry work. Gray had been the mason for the 1839 Franklinville factory as well as the 1848 Cedar Falls factory. He was the mason for the Union Institute in 1853, and for the Glenanna Female Seminary in Thomasville in 1855 (*Historical Gleanings*, 74).

The 1985 Randolph County survey entry on Melrose (Whatley, 52) is in error when it says that the house used "American" masonry bond. The many layers of white paint added since 1931 obscure the brick, but a documentary photograph of vintage 1900 clearly shows that the mason used Flemish bond, very unlike the four other Randolph County brick houses. "Flemish" bond uses brick stretchers and headers laid alternately in a single course- usually for load bearing walls at least two bricks thick. Interestingly, close inspection of the two existing documentary photographs of the Union Institute building seems to indicate that it also featured Flemish bond brickwork. That building is less than a mile north of this house; the bricks used are said to have been made and fired on the Leach property, and are 3 inches tall by four inches wide by 8-1/2 inches long.

The house is also unusual in that it features a raised basement not usually found among Randolph County antebellum structures. The original kitchen and dining room were housed in the basement which was accessed through a bulkhead door on the west facade down three steps, roughly six feet below ground level. Several small windows set into the walls provide daylight to two rooms divided by a central hall with stairs providing access to the rest of the house. The western room was used as a kitchen, and the eastern room was apparently rented to boarding students from the Institute. The structure of the house visible in the basement ceiling is made of rough-hewn lumber with visible adze marks.

The house is designed as three symmetrical bays, with windows on each side of the entrance door. It is about 30 by 50 feet in plan and the entrance facade faces due north. A 15-foot-wide porch provides access to the entrance door about three feet above ground level. A documentary photo shows that the second floor originally had a door onto the porch roof, a plan similar to that of the Coffin-Makepeace House in Franklinville. That second floor veranda entrance is now closed and converted into a bathroom. The north facade windows are 36 inches wide by 80 inches tall, and feature 9 over 9 sash. The window and door lintels are of wood, as were those in the Reddick House in Trinity (those in the Coffin-Makepeace house are of granite).

Interestingly, the side elevations are not symmetrical; both have centrally placed exterior chimney stacks, but the western facade has windows on each side on the second level but no windows are found on the first level. On the east side the bay north of the chimney is blank on both first and second floor, and the south bay has windows on both levels. A brick shed occupies the first floor level entirely across the south side; this appears to be integrated with the two-story house but the layers of paint make it difficult to be certain. Posing a question is the fact that the floor level of this shed wing is a foot or more lower than the first floor of the primary house, and the owner thinks that it originally had a dirt floor. This wing now houses a modern kitchen and dining room, and the original fenestration has been enlarged and modernized.

The front originally featured double-leaf entrance, with two doors under a transom; now replaced by a single modern door, this was probably two-panel Greek Revival doors similar to those still remaining in the rooms upstairs. The ten-foot-wide center hallway just inside exhibits the most elaborate millwork in the house. The open-string stair has a flight to a landing and then a short flight to the second floor level; its rail has plain square balusters and ends in a simple slide. Each step is supported on a bracket with a simple scroll design. Below this are five raised panels decorated with 4x8-inch oval carved sunburst medallions. A two-panel door set under the first landing provides access to the basement. These scrolls and medallions are normally features of architectural styles much earlier than 1847; features such as these are found in the William Coltrane House (c. 1785-1800) and the Jeduthan Harper House (c. 1800-1815), both located in northwestern Randolph County.

The eastern room, used as a den, has no historic trim. The fireplace is faced with modern brick added by the owner's father about 1930. The western room has a ponderous wooden mantel with swelling ogee curves resembling furniture in the 'Empire' style favored by Thomas Day of Milton in the 1850s. The firebox is apparently faced with soapstone which at some point was marbleized in a brown and gold pattern. Both bedrooms upstairs feature two-panel doors and simple post-and-lintel mantels. The only other notable millwork in the house involves the window cases; the chunky apron under the stool of each window is made of a square block with cove molding and a rounded base nosing.

The house is sited on the crest of a hill descending toward a pond at the southwest base of the hill; Interstate-85 channels traffic around the property behind a grove of trees. It is still surrounded by the outbuildings of the former farm, including well house, wash house, smoke house, hired man's house, corn crib, tractor shed, double garage and gambrel-roofed barn. Much of the original acreage has been sold off for nearby subdivisions, but enough property remains to preserve its original rural setting.

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APPENDIX B: LEACH-MORGAN HOUSE CHAIN OF TITLE

1788	66/368 Land Pat. Bk.	State to Hugh Leach, 300 acres.
1800	8/170 RC Deed Bk.	Hugh Leach to John Leach, 200 acres.
1825		Death of John Leach. Intestate; no record of real property disposition.
1850	28/202	D/T, Lewis Leach to Jesse Harper et. al., 203 acres "on which Lewis M. Leach now resides."
1876	54/360	Branson Coltrane, Commissioner for the lands and improvements of Lewis M. Leach, at public sale to J. Frank Leach, 203 acres, "a parcel of real estate which was the property of Lewis M. Leach... the tract of land on which L.M. Leach did then reside."
1876	39/36	M/D, J.F. Leach to D.M. Payne, 203 acres "on which said Lewis M. Leach now lives.
1902	39/36	Margin notation: "This mortgage is satisfied in full this day by the payment of judgement no 215 Civil Docket 10 Page 89 This June 5 th 1902. D.M. Payne Mortgagee."
1910	263/81	N.C. English, Commissioner, under a judgement of the Superior Court of said County, in the special proceedings entitled J. Frank Leach and Lewis Leach, by their next friend N.C. English, to J.R. Riddick (at public sale), 107.5 acres.
1912	150/288	J.R. Reddick and wife Sarah Reddick to Eula E. Wagstaff, 80.32 acres.
1918	180/97	O.L. Wagstaff and wife Eula E. Wagstaff to T.J. Steed, 62.23 acres less 16.2 acres (all of the original O.L. Wagstaff tract with the exception of 16.2 acres lying to the south of the aforesaid described tract).
1919	186/254	T.J. Steed and wife Martha Steed to A.M. Heilig, 62.23 acres less 16.2 acres (all of the original O.L. Wagstaff tract with the exception of 16.2 acres lying to the south of the aforesaid described tract).
1929	239/557	A.M. Heilig and wife Zula Heilig to J.W. Matlock and wife Ossie Ethel Matlock, 62.23 acres less 16.2 acres (all of the original O.L. Wagstaff tract with the exception of 16.2 acres lying to the south of the aforesaid described tract).
1931	250/126	J.W. Matlock and wife Ossie Ethel Matlock to J.D. Morgan and C.J. Morgan, 62.32 acres less 16.2 acres.
1952	473/328	J.D. Morgan and wife Pallie Morgan to C. J. Morgan and wife Lida Morgan, 62.32 Acres less 16.2 acres.
2008	2104/717	Martha Morgan Stunda (sole heir and Executor of the Estate of Lida T. Morgan) to Martha Morgan Stunda, 62.23 less 16.2 acres.

APPENDIX A: LEACH-MORGAN HOUSE DESIGNATION BOUNDARY



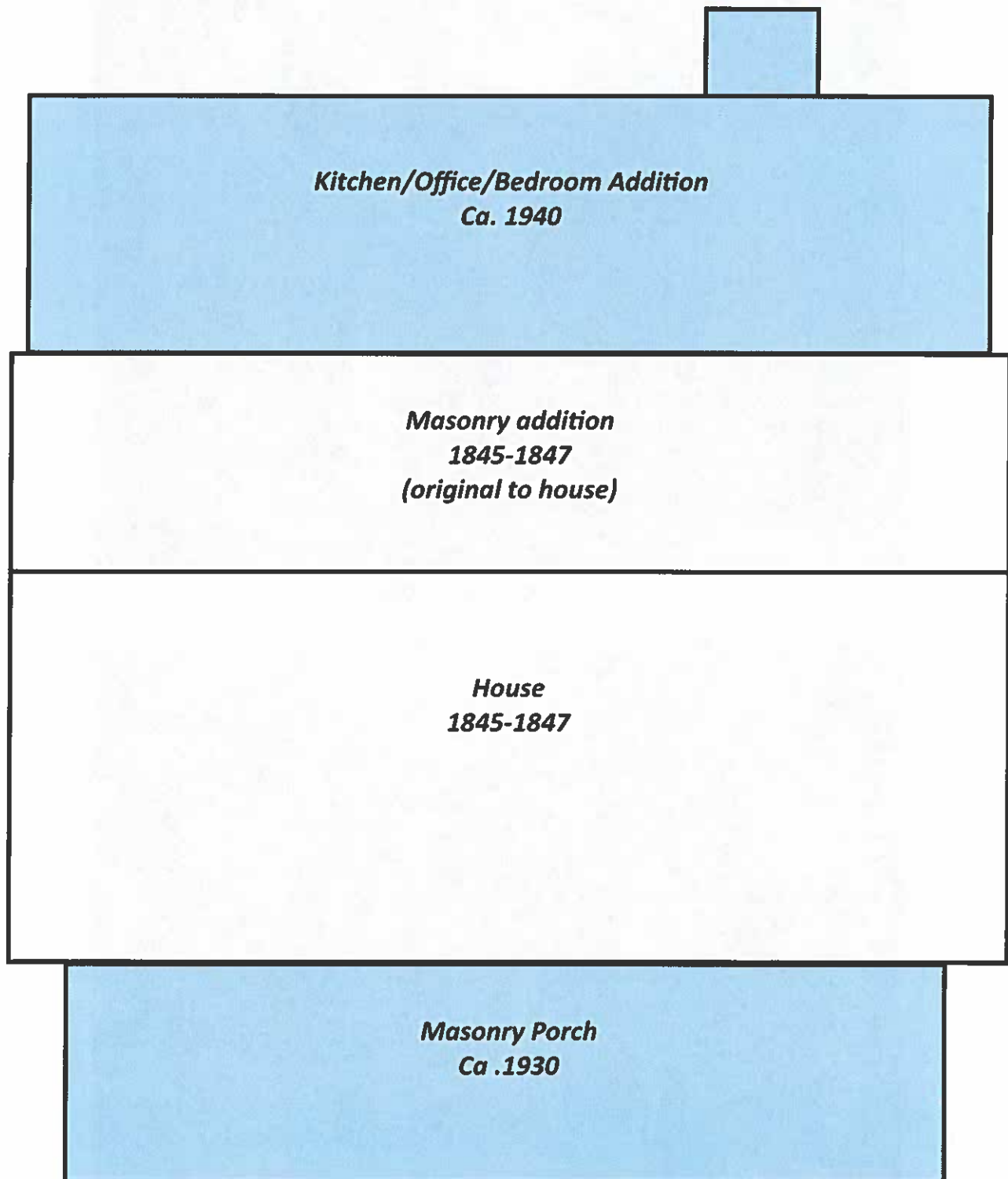
REID	20297	OWNER ADDRESS2	
PIN	7707681150	OWNER CITY	TRINITY
TAXED ACREAGE	20.89	OWNER STATE	NC
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	MEADOWBROOK RD;W	OWNER ZIP	27370
DEED BOOK & PAGE	002104/00717	LOCATION ADDRESS	5655 MEADOWBROOK DR
PLAT BOOK & PAGE		LOCATION ZIP	TRINITY,27370
OWNER	STUNDA, MARTHA MORGAN	DATA REFRESHED	5/17/2026
OWNER ADDRESS	P O BOX 49		



Disclaimer: This map was compiled from recorded deeds, plats, and other public records and data. Users of this data are hereby notified that the aforementioned public information sources should be consulted for verification of the information. Randolph County, its agents and employees make no warranty as to the accuracy of the information on this map.

Map Scale
1 inch = 415 feet
5/21/2026

APPENDIX C: FLOOR PLAN



Leach-Morgan House (Melrose), 1847



Front view from north



Front/side view from northeast

Leach-Morgan House (Melrose), 1847



Front and side view from northwest



Rear view from south/southeast

Leach-Morgan House (Melrose), 1847

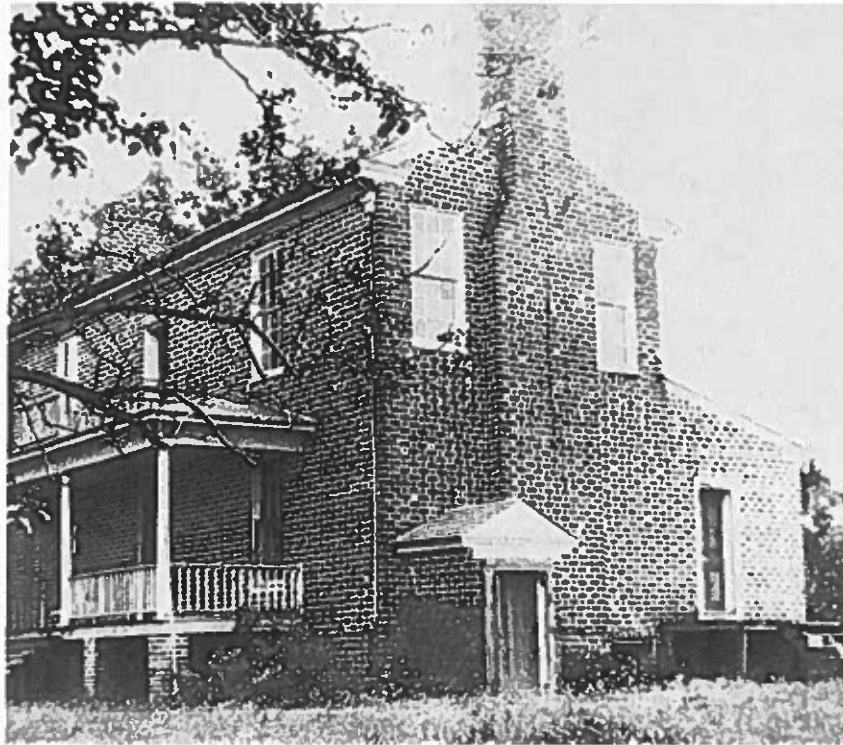


Side view from east



Front view ca. 1910

Leach-Morgan House (Melrose), 1847



Front and side view from northwest

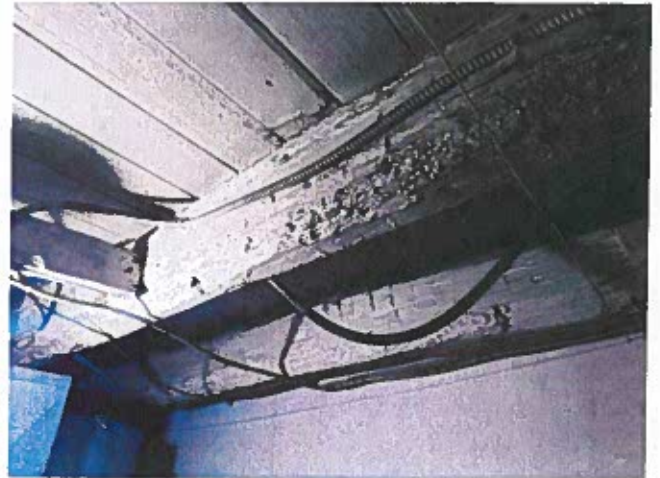


Aerial view from northeast

Leach-Morgan House (Melrose), 1847



Eave return detail



Joist detail



Staircase detail



Mantle detail



Two-panel door detail



Sill and base moulding detail

Leach-Morgan House (Melrose), 1847



Outbuilding



Outbuilding



Outbuilding



Outbuilding



Lewis Morgan Leach



Nancy Elder Leach



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

201 Worth Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203 ♦ 336-318-6806 ♦ www.rchlpc.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION COUNTY OF RANDOLPH, N.C.

The public is advised that on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 6 p.m., the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission will conduct a public hearing in the **Meeting Room of the Asheboro Public Library**, 201 Worth Street, Asheboro, N.C., to consider Local Historic Landmark designation for the following properties:

**LEACH-MORGAN HOUSE ("MELROSE")
5655 Meadowbrook Dr.
Trinity, N.C. 27370**

Historical data may be obtained by contacting the Randolph County Public Library, 201 Worth Street, Asheboro, N.C. Recommendations from the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission will be forwarded at a later date to the appropriate governing board. Interested citizens are invited to attend this public hearing and will be given the opportunity to provide comment.

L. McKay Whatley Jr., Chairman
Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission