

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Preparing Your Application:

Please type or use black ink and use paper no larger than 11" x 17" for the required supporting information. Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission (HPC) staff is available to advise you in the preparation of applications.

Filing Your Application:

When completed, the attached application will initiate consideration of a property for designation as a local historic landmark. The application will enable the HPC to determine whether the property qualifies for designation.

Mail the application to Lincoln County HPC, 302 N. Academy St., Lincolnton, NC 28092. Submitted materials become the property of the HPC and will not be returned. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for revision. HPC staff will contact applicants after receiving an application to discuss the next steps of the designation process (see Landmark Designation Q & A for more information). Please feel free to contact HPC with any questions at 704-748-9090, or e-mail at lcmh@bellsouth.net. HPC can be found on the web at www.lincolncountyhistory.com.

Thank you very much for your interest in protecting HPC's historic resources!

**The guidelines developed for this application are based on the evaluation process used by the National Register of Historic Places. National Register evaluation principles regarding criteria, category classifications, and integrity have been adapted for local applications.*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: William A. Graham, Jr. Round Barn

Current Name: William A. Graham, Jr. Round Barn

2. Location

Please include the full street address of the property, including its local planning jurisdiction. HPC Identification (PIN) and Real Estate Identification (REID) Numbers can be found at the Lincoln County GIS property information website at www.lincolncounty.org. Click on "County Government", then "Online Services" then click on "Lincoln County GIS System".

Street Address: 830 Beth Haven Church Road, Iron Station, NC 28080

Planning Jurisdiction: _____ PIN Number: 3683-54-3417 REID: _____

3. Owner Information (If more than one, list primary contact)

Name: Allison Thorne Clark

Address: 7060 Garden Terrace, Charlotte, NC 28210

Phone: (980) 721-1527 Email: atclark1@mac.com

4. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than owner)

Name: Jason L. Harpe, Lincoln County Historical Association

Address: 403 East Main Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092

Phone: (704) 748-9090 Email: lcmh@bellsouth.net

5. Signatures

I have read the general information on landmark designation provided by the Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission and affirm that I support landmark designation of the property defined herein.

Owner: _____ **Date:** _____

Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: Received by: _____	Date: _____
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6. General Date/Site Information

A. Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: ca. 1892

B. Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: The Round Barn is one of the outbuildings on the William A. Graham Farm.

C. Approximate lot size or acreage:

D. Architect, builder, carpenter, and /or mason: William A. Graham, Jr.

E. Original Use: Agriculture/Subsistence – agricultural outbuilding

F. Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence – agricultural outbuilding

G. Significance for Landmark Designation: Architecture. An example of innovative agricultural design.

7. Classification

A. Category (fill in type from below): Building

- **Building** – created principally to shelter any form of human activity (i.e. house, barn/stable, hotel, church, school, theater, etc.)
- **Structure** – constructed usually for purposes other than creating human shelter (i.e. tunnel, bridge, highway, silo, etc.)
- **Object** – constructions that are primarily artistic in nature. Although movable by nature or design, an object is typically associated with a specific setting or environment (i.e. monument, fountain, etc.)
- **Site** – the location of a historic event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value, regardless of the value of any existing structure (i.e. battlefields, cemeteries, designed landscape, etc.)

B. Ownership (check one): Private Public

C. Number of Contributing and non-contributing resources on the property:

A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Non-contributing</u>
Buildings	<u>1</u>	
Structures		
Objects		
Sites		

D. Previous field documentation (when and by whom): 1985, Marvin Brown, comprehensive architectural survey of Lincoln County.

Please contact Jason Harpe at the Historic Properties Commission to determine if the property is included in the Lincoln County survey (704-748-9090).

E. National Register Status and date (listed, eligible, study list): Listed on the National Register in 1977.

Please contact Jason Harpe at the Historic Properties Commission at (704-748-9090).

8. Supporting Documentation (Please type or print and attach to application on separate sheets. Please check box when item complete.)



A. Required Photographs

All photographs are required to be **digital, in JPEG (.jpg) format, and submitted on a recordable CD or DVD.** Please note the following requirements:

- **Minimum Standard: 6.5" x 4.5" at a resolution of 300ppi** (a pixel dimension of **1950 x 1350**)
- **File Size:** There is no maximum or minimum for the file size of an image; however, smaller file sizes may be necessary when emailing images.
- **Proof Sheet:** Proof sheets are still required to show what is on a CD or DVD without having to load to disk. Proofs may be printed in either color or black and white as long as the images are crisp and legible. There should be a minimum of four and a maximum of six proofs per 8.5" x 11" sheet, with no image smaller than 3.25" on its longest side. Proofs should be labeled as they appear on the disk.
- **Naming Images:** Please label image files for the Local Designation Application as follows:
LN_PropertyName_Description.jpg (ex. LN_ABCHouse_front_façade.jpg)

For buildings and structures, include all elevations and at least one (1) photo of all other contributing and non-contributing resources, as well as at least one (1) photo showing the main building or structure within its setting. For objects, include a view of the object within its setting, as well as a variety of representative views. For sites, include overall views and any significant details.



B. Floor Plan (for buildings and structures)

Please include a detailed floor plan showing the original layout, dimensions of all rooms, and any additions (with dates) to the building or structure. Drawings do not have to be professionally produced nor do they need to be to exact scale, but should accurately depict the layout and dimensions of the property.



C. Maps

Include two (2) maps: one (1) clearly indicating the location of the property in relation to the local community, and one (1) showing the boundaries of the property. Tax maps with the boundaries of the property are preferred, but survey or sketch maps are acceptable. Please show street names and numbers and all structures on the property.



D. Historical significance (Applies to all classifications)

Note any significant events, people, and/or families associated with the property. Please clearly define the significance of the property in the commercial, social or political history of Lincoln County or of the local community. Include all major property owners of the property, if known. Include a bibliography of sources consulted.



E. Architectural description, significance and integrity (for buildings, structures and objects)

For **buildings and structures**, describe significant exterior architectural features, additions, remodeling, alterations and any significant outbuildings. For **objects**, describe the physical appearance of the object(s) to be designated in context of the history of the local community or of Lincoln County. For example, a building or structure might be a community's only surviving example of Greek Revival architecture or it may be a unique local interpretation of the Arts and Crafts movement. An object might be a statue designed by a notable sculptor. Include a description of how the building, structure or object currently conveys its historic integrity. For example, does it retain elements of its original design, materials, location, workmanship, setting, historic associations, or feeling, or any combination thereof? Please include a bibliography of sources consulted.



F. Property boundary, significance and integrity (Applies to all classifications)

Describe the land area to be designated, address any prominent landscape features. Clearly explain the significance of the land area proposed for designation and its historical relationship to the **building(s), structure(s) or object(s)** located within the property boundary or, in the case of **sites**, the historical event or events that make the land area significant. For **buildings and structures**, the designated land area may represent part of or the entire original parcel boundaries, or may encompass vegetative buffers or important outbuildings. For **objects**, the designated land area may continue to provide the object's historic context (i.e., a statue's historic park setting). For **sites**, the designated area may encompass a landscape that retains its historic integrity (i.e. a battlefield encompassing undisturbed historic view sheds).

8A. Required Photographs



West Elevation



West Elevation



West Elevation



Eight-sided blind cupola from which a low, polygonal roof extends.



West Elevation. Board-and-batten siding.



North Elevation. Visible is the rock foundation, and board-and-batten siding and small openings to the first floor.



East Elevation. A second large entrance is located at this elevation, directly across from the entrance at the west elevation.



North Elevation, first floor. Small storage rooms are arranged along the north wall.



South Elevation, first floor. Small storage rooms are arranged along the south wall.



East Elevation, first floor. Large supporting beams are hewn and the lesser ones are sawn.



Barn Interior, Cupola.



Barn Interior, Second Floor Loft and Cupola.



Barn, First Floor. Camera facing east.



Barn, First Floor. Camera facing north.

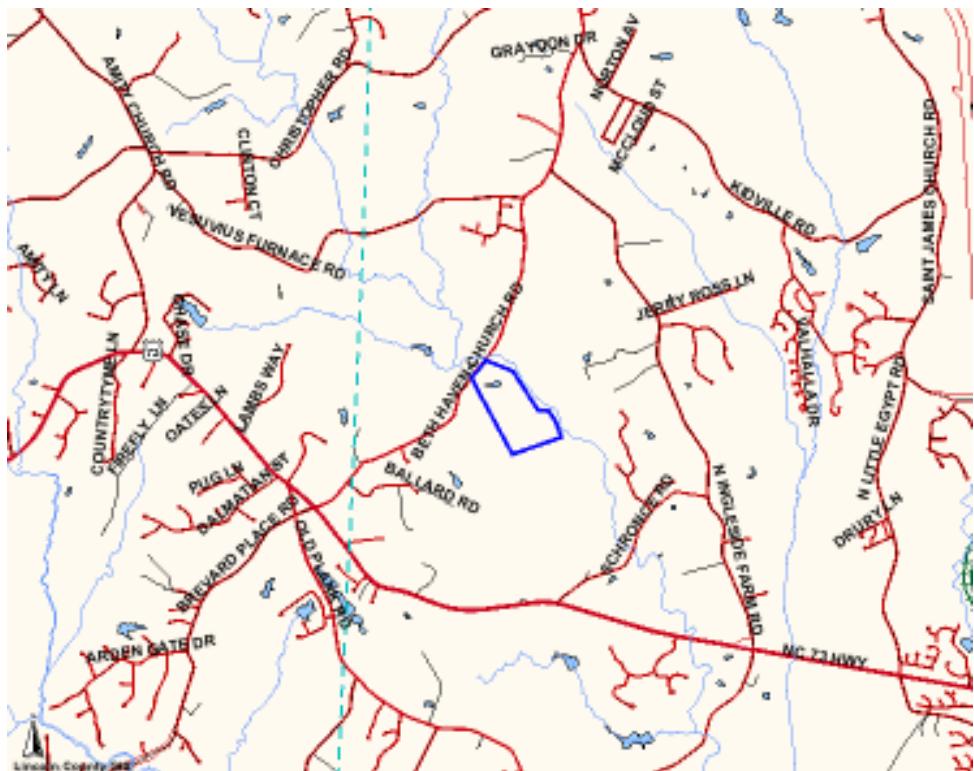


Barn, First Floor. Camera facing south.

8B. Floor Plan

No floor plan provided.

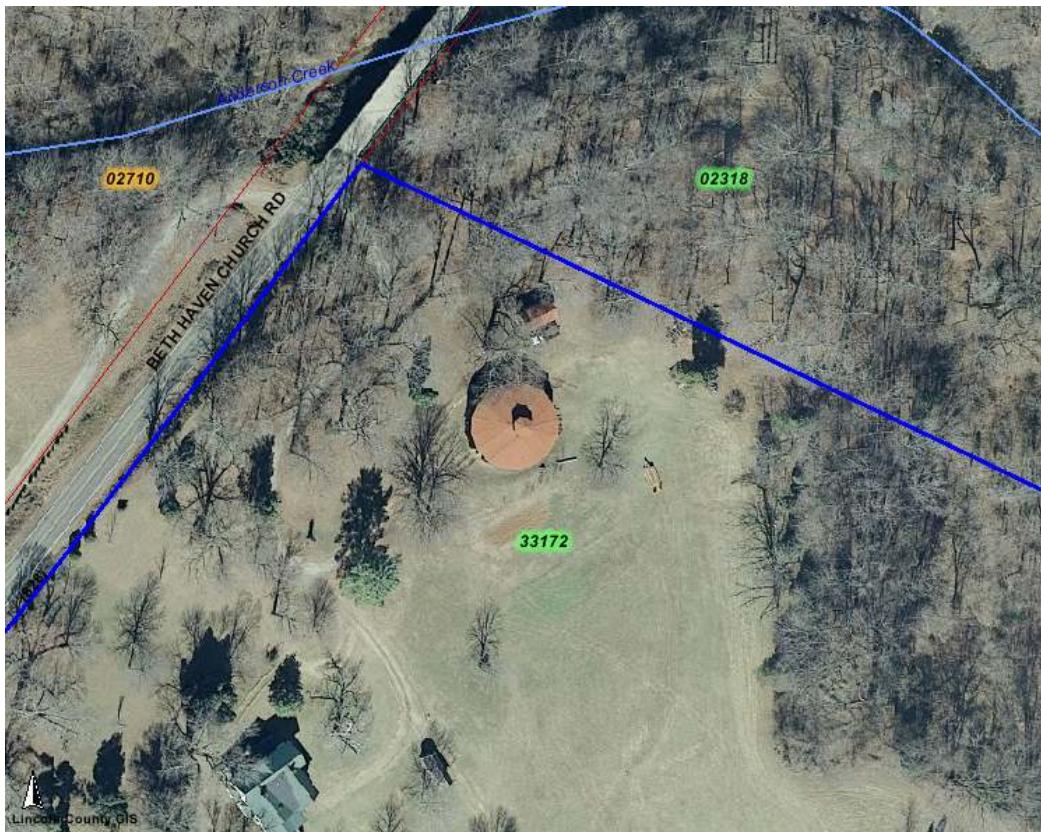
8C. Maps



Landmark Map 1



Landmark Map 2



Landmark Map 3

8D. Historical significance

The William A. Graham, Jr. Round Barn is locally significant in the areas of architecture and because of its association with William A. Graham, Jr., former member of the North Carolina Board of Agriculture and Commissioner of Agriculture from 1908 until 1923. The Graham Round Barn is unprecedented in Lincoln County. Built in ca. 1892, the building has a high level of integrity, and is in excellent condition. The building is located at the northern corner of a 100-acre farm that is currently owned by Allison Clark, a descendant of William A. Graham.

The William A. Graham, Jr. Round Barn is the largest and most significant outbuilding located on the William A. Graham, Jr. farm in Denver, Lincoln County, North Carolina. The Graham Round Barn was listed with the William A. Graham, Jr. house and two outbuildings on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. This imposing frame, two-story, sixteen-sided barn is an unusual and great example of innovative agricultural design. William A. Graham, Jr. built the barn in conjunction with the construction of his

Late Victorian house, small rectangular log outbuilding, and a square, tall smokehouse that is covered with board-and-batten siding. The Round Barn is located to the northeast of the William A. Graham, Jr. House. Graham, the son of governor and statesman William A. Graham, had an avid interest in agriculture and farmers' welfare. He served on the state board of agriculture, and was commissioner of agriculture from 1908 to 1923.

In his will, probated in 1883, William A. Graham, a former governor of North Carolina (1845-1849) and renowned statesman, left to his son, William A. Graham, Jr., a portion of land in Lincoln County. Graham specified that his son was to receive a "tract of land in Lincoln North Carolina on which he now resides comprising around 1614 [acres]...together with all buildings, Machinery which he has erected at his own expense, horses, mules, hogs, wagons, and plantation implements..." It was on this land that the younger Graham built a new house in 1894, after the old Graham house, which had been his grandfather's, had burned. The tract also was the site where, during the 1890s, he completed and maintained a large and successful farm.¹

William A. Graham, Jr. was born in Hillsborough in 1839. He attended the University of North Carolina for three years (1856-1859), but completed his education at Princeton, receiving an A.B. degree there in 1860. Following his graduation, he taught school in Hillsborough for a year until the outbreak of the Civil War. Like his famous father, he initially opposed secession, but at the advent of the sectional conflict, he joined the Confederate Army and was commissioned a lieutenant. In 1862, he was promoted to captain and subsequently wounded at Gettysburg in 1863. He submitted his resignation to his regiment in November 1863, when he was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General of North Carolina with the rank of Major.²

Following the war, Graham settled on his family's property in Lincoln County near the community of Machpelah, and began farming. He was active in state politics and served in the state senate in the 1870s, where he lent his support to North Carolina agriculture.

¹ Joe Mobley, Survey Specialist, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, *William A. Graham, Jr., Farm*, Registration Form, National Register of Historic Places (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1977).

² Ibid.

When the state legislature adjourned in 1875, General D.H. Hill praised Graham's efforts to support farming interests in the past session. He insisted that "the able, efficient, and hardworking Senator" took a leading role in watching over farm legislation. With Graham in state government, Hill declared, "the agricultural interest was protected as it never was before."³

Graham also served on the state board of agriculture from 1899 to 1908 and as Commissioner of Agriculture from 1908 until his death in 1923. In 1908, *The Progressive Farmer* described him as "a farmer who lives upon his farm, actively serves his party in political campaigns, yet when elected acts for the welfare of the whole people." During his years as Commissioner, the total value of North Carolina's crops rose from twenty-third to fifth in the United States.⁴

Steeped in the customs and traditions of the antebellum South, Graham was in all matters—public and private, social and political—a conservative. While at Princeton, he apparently adhered strictly to the wishes and instructions of his parents and made no decision without consulting them. For example, in April, 1859, he wrote to his father from Princeton requesting money and permission to buy more clothes. "It will take more money for me here than at Chapel Hill," he writes, "but as I buy my clothes here I don't think it will be any dearer for a year." He wanted to be in the fashion at Princeton, and he noted that "the boys dress more here than at the Hill." Nevertheless, he would follow his father's advice: "I suppose you are the best judge of what the cost of my clothes should be," he conceded.⁵

At the age of twenty-five, while serving in the Confederate Army, Graham met and fell in love with a young woman, and although he wished to marry her he would not do so without his mother's consent. In 1864, he wrote to his mother requesting her permission:

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

I have come across a young lady over here whom I desire to address but would like to get your permission first. I certainly like her better than anyone I ever saw but would like to get your permission first.⁶

She has a sweet amiable disposition and a splendid character. It is true she is an Episcopalian but then she is low church and goes to all the churches. She went with me to the Baptist Church last Sunday and I believe would be a Baptist before we were married two years. She is a pious good girl. As you have always said I out to marry a girl raised on a farm.

She is quite pretty but does not know it (which ruins beauty of a great many) & has the sweetest disposition imaginable and would make a capital farmer's wife...Please let me hear from you sometime this month, as I do not wish to engage myself to her without your consent and I know you would consent if you only knew her.⁷

The young lady, Miss Julia B. Lane of Virginia, married Graham in 1864. They subsequently had nine daughters and two sons, and their home in Lincoln County was reported to have been “noted for its open-hearted hospitality and welcome – a happy survival of antebellum days.” Julia Graham died in 1909 and was buried in the family cemetery. In his will, Graham requested to be buried beside her.⁸

Besides his allegiance to traditional custom in his private life, Graham was not a man receptive to social or political change, but preferred to cling to the old and tried ways of the past. He was nominated in 1867 to serve as the Confederate candidate to North Carolina’s Reconstruction Convention, and during this period he was strongly opposed to suffrage and civil rights for blacks. He was also an earnest worker for white supremacy in 1900, and although he was a member of the Farmer’s Alliance, he would not support its efforts to gain concessions for farmers through political action in the 1890s.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

He was, however, innovative in his use of agricultural methods and devices at his Lincoln County farm. In fact, he owned the first double footed plow used in the county, the first cotton gin with condenser west of the Catawba River, and the first separator, weeder, and reaper in the county. Local tradition claims that the round barn on his farm was part of his experimental farming effort. He also made some contributions in the writing of North Carolina history, including a history of his Confederate cavalry regiment and his most note work, "General Joseph Graham and his Revolutionary Papers," an account of his ancestor's role in the American Revolution.⁹

When he died in 1923, William Graham, Jr. left "eight hundred acres of land more or less, situated in Lincoln County" and known as his "home place" to his children. The portion of the land containing the "residence...and all buildings of every kind connected or used therewith..." went to his oldest son, William, who was appointed by Governor Morrison to succeed his father as Commissioner of Agriculture in 1923. He served until 1936.¹⁰ In 1943, William A. Graham, III left the "home tract" to his son, Joseph. Joseph sold this property to Hope Spring Farm Company, owned by David Clark (1922-1997), the grandson of Justice Walter Clark, a member of the General Assembly, and a promoter of North Carolina agriculture.¹¹ Hope Springs Farm Company sold the property to David and Kathryn G. Clark on October 4, 1974, and Kathryn G. Clark sold to her son, Allison Thorne Clark, property "being part of and carved out of Tract No. 2."¹² Allison Clark still owns the property.

8E. Architectural description, significance and integrity

The Graham Round Barn is a two-story, sixteen-sided, frame building that rests on a low stone foundation with vertical board walls. The building has an eight-sided blind cupola

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ David Clark received his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University, and served as a bomber pilot in the Pacific during World War II. He earned a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel, and then moved to Lincoln County. He served in the North Carolina State Legislature during the 1950s, and later served in the N.C. Senate. He is credited with leading efforts in Lincoln County during the 1960s to spur economic growth and development. He was responsible for bringing Vermont American to Lincolnton, establishing a radio station, and building the hospital and first shopping center in Lincolnton. His primary business interest was with Clark Properties, Inc., a real estate company he established that held property all over the Southeast.

¹² Lincoln County Deed Book 510, Page 775, and Lincoln County Deed Book 681, Page 357-358. Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincoln County Courthouse, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

from which a low, polygonal roof extends. Large openings that provide access to the interior are located at the building's east and west elevations, directly opposite each other. These openings occupy the entire face of one surface plane of the first level and part of the second on the west side. The other planes of the first level are covered with board-and-batten with one square, open window in each facet on the north side and no windows on the south side. The second level or loft is sheathed with vertical boards with space between each. There are no windows in the loft. The cupola, also vertically-covered, has a narrow, horizontally-louvered air space at its eaves. The interior area beneath the cupola is square in plan and open to the first level. The loft is arranged around this open square area and is raised several feet over the east entrance. It is open over the west entrance and there is a large, square platform resting above the south side of the loft. The first floor has small storage rooms arranged along the wall with a large open area in the center. The large supporting beams are hewn and the lesser ones are sawn.

The Graham Round Barn was listed with the William A. Graham, Jr. House and two other outbuildings on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. The Graham Round Barn is the only round barn in Lincoln County, and is one of the only extant round barns in North Carolina.

8F. Property boundary, significance and integrity

The Graham Round Barn is situated at the northeast corner of 100.5 acres at 830 Beth Haven Church Road in Iron Station, Lincoln County, North Carolina. The Round Barn was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 6, 1977, as a contributing building on the William A. Graham, Jr. Farm, and is the only building on the property being proposed for designation as a local historic landmark. The most recent deed to the Graham Round Barn is listed in the Lincoln County Deed book 681 at page 357. The Parcel ID Number is 33172, and the PIN Number is 3683543417.

The building is in excellent condition, and retains a high level of integrity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Sherrill, William L. *Annals of Lincoln County, North Carolina*. 1937. Reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1972.

Noble, Allen G. and Richard K. Cleek. *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2006.

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