



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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category

Subcategory

- DOMESTIC
- DOMESTIC
- AGRICULTURE

- single dwelling
- secondary structure
- storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category

Subcategory

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Federal
- Greek Revival
- Late Victorian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Stone
- walls Wood
- roof Metal
- other Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- X 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.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1816-ca. 1920

Significant Dates

1816

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
#
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
#

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	561890	4086560	3		17
2	17			4		17

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni  
organization Landmark Preservation Associates date January 31, 2003  
street & number 6 Houston St. telephone (540) 464-5315  
city or town Lexington state VA zip code 24450

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust, Inc. (Contact: Gino W. Williams, Secretary)  
street & number PO Box 545 telephone (540) 745-9345  
city or town Floyd state VA zip code 24091

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Summary

The Phlegar House, located just north of the Town of Floyd in Floyd County, Virginia, is a two-story house incorporating a log dwelling that probably dates to 1816. The house has a metal-sheathed gable roof, weatherboard siding, a stone gable-end chimney, two one-story front porches, and a one-story ell. Early interior features include a hall-parlor plan, batten doors hung on strap and HL hinges, non-original Greek Revival mantels, and a mix of historic and modern wall and ceiling finishes. Near the house stand a v-notched log two-level granary and a deteriorated frame workshop. The house occupies a two-acre parcel surrounded by pre-developed and wooded/marshland set-aside lots of the Floyd Regional Commerce Center. The property stands at an elevation of approximately 2,360 feet above sea level on a small branch that feeds into Oldfield Creek, a tributary of the Little, New, and Mississippi River systems. The property is located approximately 0.3 miles east of Zion Lutheran Church, one of the few sites in Floyd County presently listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

### Inventory

1. Phlegar House. 1816; 3rd quarter 19th c. (ca. 1857?); ca. 1910. Contributing building.
2. Granary. Mid-19th c. Contributing building.
3. Workshop. First half 20th c. Contributing building.

### Exterior

The principal early if not original feature on the exterior of the house is the stone chimney that rises on the east gable end of the south-facing house. The chimney is constructed of at least three different types of stone: what appear to be granite, soapstone, and a dark gray igneous stone. The chimney tapers slightly to sloped shoulders. The stack above the shoulders is parged, except for a soapstone datestone carved with the initials GP (for original owner George Phlegar) and the date 1816. The house foundation is also stone.

Two phases of construction are apparent on the front elevation: the two-story three-bay original log section on the right, and a ca. 1910 two-story one-bay frame extension on the left. Unlike the other elevations, which are weatherboarded (variously early beaded weatherboards and later plain and novelty weatherboards), the front elevation has mostly flush-board sheathing, except for the wall of the addition under the front porch, which is clad in plain weatherboards (see Section 8 architectural notes for discussion). On the front of the original section is an early twentieth century one-story porch with a metal-sheathed hip roof, classical wood columns, and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

**Description (continued)**

beaded matchboard ceiling. On the front of the addition is an inset one-story porch with chamfered posts, sawn brackets, and an orientalist Queen Anne latticed frieze. The first and second-story front doors of the original section are two-panel. The first-story front entry has a manufactured door with multiple panels and an upper pane sandblasted with a lace pattern and a center oval with classically attired figures.

Windows are mostly two-over-two sash, although there are several six-over-six windows with several panes of early crown glass, and the enclosed porch on the west side of the ell has a row of two-light windows. Other exterior features include a brick flue that rises on the inside of the west (addition) gable end, a brick chimney rising from the ell ridge, metal caps on both chimneys and the flue, cornice returns in the west gable, a third-quarter twentieth century one-story bathroom at the northeast corner of the original section, an enclosed porch on the west side of the ell, and a mid-twentieth century screen porch at the northeast corner of the ell that shelters a ca. 1900 door with an upper pane in a reeded frame.

**Interior**

Typical interior features include wood floors (some covered with linoleum or vinyl), nineteenth century and later plaster and lath over log or frame (which in the 1930s had wallpaper that is now gone or painted over), beaded matchboard wall and ceiling sheathings in the kitchen at the north end of the ell, pendant 1920s-1930s electric light fixtures, and modern wall paneling and paper ceiling tiles in some first-floor rooms. The original section is divided on both floors into a larger room ("hall") and a smaller room ("parlor") by a vertical board partition (beaded on the second floor). The first-floor hall has a simple Greek Revival mantel (the room above and the ell dining room have similar mantels). The beaded batten door to the parlor has a delicate Federal molded surround, HL hinges attached with hand-headed nails, and a latch with a spade-form attachment plate. The back door, also constructed of beaded battens, is hung on strap hinges with bulbous ends. The two-panel front door is hung on butt hinges and has a pottery knob. Part of the parlor was made into bathroom in the late twentieth century with a curtain for privacy.

The hall back door leads into a breezeway, probably enclosed in the mid-nineteenth century, that once separated the main part of the house from the ell. In this passage are visible beaded weatherboards attached with cut nails to the rear elevation of the log section. At the east end of the passage is the third-quarter twentieth century bathroom, with light blue tilework, white ceramic fixtures, and a linen closet. At the west end is a batten door with a three-light transom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

Description (continued)

that now opens into the enclosed ell side porch. Next to this door rises an enclosed stair of straight-sawn construction. A batten door opens into a closet under the stair inside of which is visible unpainted beaded weatherboards and the opening of a former doorway into the parlor with its jamb pegged to the log ends.

A door and one step up leads from the enclosed breezeway passage into the ell dining room. The room has vertical flush board sheathing attached with cut nails to the walls, a plywood ceiling, and a concrete hearth inscribed with the initials and date "A.E.G.-8-8-23" and "C.P.S." The kitchen contains the plastered mass of the brick chimney (into which cut nails have been hammered from which to hang items), beaded matchboard walls and ceiling, an early twentieth century sink and shelves, and a tall mop board. Flanking the door from the kitchen into the enclosed ell porch, carved into the formerly exterior weatherboards, are the initials JNP, EAK, and HEK.

The second floor basically repeats the room arrangement of the first with the exception of a small passage formed from the north end of the room above the parlor and accessed from the top of the breezeway stair. The batten door from this passage into the east room has HL hinges attached with hand-headed nails, a latch with a spade-form attachment plate, molded cross boards, a Federal molded surround, and a nineteenth century brown and black paint or varnish scheme. The two-panel exterior door on the front wall of this room has a similar color scheme and a Russell & Erwin lock box manufactured in New Britain, Connecticut, with a pottery knob. The four-panel door from the passage into the small middle room has crude graining and an unglazed transom. Extending under the partition between the passage and small room is L-shaped floor patching that suggests a former boxed stair rose in the northwest corner of the log section. A small step up leads into the second-floor room of the addition, which has a low ceiling (approximately six feet), a bracketed shelf next to a brick flue, simple beveled window surrounds, and a modern plywood closet.

A hatchway at the top of the breezeway stair admits access to the ell attic. The top sections of the walls of the rooms below are partially visible and suggest that the dining room is log (probably V-notched), the dining room and breezeway were constructed at the same time (the two top or plate logs span the entire distance from the main house wall to the end of the dining room), and the kitchen, which may be frame and has hewn plates, is an addition. The kitchen plates are pegged to the log plates of the dining room. The circular-sawn rafters are butted and cut-nailed at the ridge, and the vent in the north gable was formerly fitted with a six-over-six window. The attic over the log section of the main house (partially visible from the passage) has

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

**Description (continued)**

hewn rafters and collars and tightly spaced straight-sawn roof boards with multiple nails suggesting former wood shingle roofing. The collars, which may be attached to every other rafter couple, are joined to the rafters with pegged lap joints. The rafters are pegged at the ridge and are either mortise-and-tenoned or lapped. A cellar with board potato bins exists under the parlor.

**Outbuildings**

The granary is a small v-notched log building with construction features such as cut nails that suggest it was built before 1900, most likely during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. The two-level building has a metal-sheathed gable roof that overhangs the front and a side shed garage addition with vertical board siding and asphalt roll roofing. The batten front door leads into a space fitted out as a granary with exposed log ceiling joists, straight-sawn board grain bins, and whitewashing. A ladder stair on the front exterior--possibly constructed in part with hand-headed nails--rises to a straight-sawn batten door in the front of the loft. The loft has lapped and pegged log pole rafters and flush-board walls and ceiling patched with tin. The tightness of the loft and the bins in the lower level suggest both levels formerly served for the storage of grain, although it is possible the building originally or additionally served as a corncrib. The other surviving outbuilding is a long one-story workshop (probably one of several functions) of circular-sawn wire-nail frame construction with vertical board siding, an asphalt roll gable roof, and interior shelving on which tools are still stored.

**Integrity Statement**

The Phlegar House possesses good integrity from the period of significance. The exterior, especially of the main section, is virtually unchanged from the early twentieth century, and the interior retains its historic room arrangement and character-defining features such as doors, mantels, the stair, most trim, and most wall and ceiling finishes. Compromising the integrity of the interior somewhat is the addition of modern wall and ceiling surfaces in some first-floor front rooms. The property's two surviving outbuildings also retain good integrity, although the workshop is somewhat deteriorated. The integrity of setting is mixed. The farm and woodland formerly associated with the Phlegar House, which was more extensive than the two acres now associated with the house, is being developed as a commercial park with a new access road and cul-de-sacs and large warehouse-type facilities built or anticipated. Some views from the property are of (or will be of) these improvements; others are of wooded or marshland set-aside lots that will probably remain undeveloped. The nominated area's two-acre size and the presence of mature vegetation along some edges help screen surrounding development from view.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

## NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Summary

The Phlegar House is associated with the settlement of Floyd County, Virginia. A chimney inscription dates the original log section of the two-story weatherboarded house to 1816 and is carved with the initials GP for George Phlegar, the original owner and a member of a group of German American settlers who arrived in the county after 1790. The log section features batten doors hung on HL and strap hinges and later Greek Revival mantels. Most outbuildings are gone, but a two-story log granary stands nearby. George Phlegar's grandson William S. Phlegar appears to have made the two-story frame addition to the house shortly after 1900. The property remained in Phlegar family ownership until the 1990s; it is now owned by The Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust, which plans to restore it for interpretive purposes.

### Applicable Criteria

The Phlegar House meets Criterion A and is eligible in the Exploration/Settlement area of significance for its association with the settlement of Floyd County. The settlement period in the county is generally held to extend to the period of the county's establishment in 1831. The property also meets Criterion C and is eligible in the Architecture area of significance as a representative of a settlement-period Floyd County dwelling. The period of significance extends from the probable date of construction in 1816 until ca. 1950, encompassing the first half of the twentieth century during which the house attained its present form and one of the two surviving outbuildings was constructed. The Phlegar House is eligible at the local level of significance. Information in support of eligibility appears throughout the historic context.

### Acknowledgments

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost among these was the owner of the property and the nomination's sponsor, The Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust, Inc., represented by historians Gerald W. Via and Gino W. Williams. The historic context section of the nomination relies in large part on research conducted by architectural historian Kitty Houston. Others who provided assistance included historian and architectural historian Kathleen Ingoldsby; Phlegar family genealogist Melanie D. Crain; Betty Yopp; Ricky Cox, Radford University Appalachian Regional Studies Center; the staff of the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd; and John Kern, Michael Pulice, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

Statement of Significance (continued)

Historic Context

European settlement of the Floyd County area commenced in the late 1740s or 1750s when Francis Eason settled on the Little River. Eason formerly lived on the Roanoke River, and he was followed in the 1760s by other residents from that drainage, specifically the Big Lick area of Roanoke County. Most of these early settlers had British surnames. After the close of the Revolutionary War, especially in the 1790s, settlers with German surnames began to move to the area from Pennsylvania and Maryland. The county's high mountainous topography, relatively lacking in the river bottoms and more level land that made neighboring Montgomery County (of which Floyd was a part until 1831) attractive to agriculturalists, accounted for its relatively late settlement.<sup>1</sup>

In 1791 German American settlers from the vicinity of York, Pennsylvania, began to arrive in the county. All told, eleven extended families emigrated from the York area. These German American settlers were mostly Lutheran, and they were instrumental in organizing the Zion Lutheran congregation in 1813. The present Zion Lutheran Church, located about a third of a mile west of the Phlegar House, was built in 1898, and with its earlier cemetery it was listed as the county's second Virginia Landmarks Register property in 1981. The settlement period in Floyd County is generally held to have extended into the second quarter of the nineteenth century when population growth had become sufficient to support the formation of Floyd County in 1831.<sup>2</sup>

Among the county's German American settlers was the Phlegar family. Hans Georg Pfluger (d. ca. 1754) arrived in Philadelphia in 1731 and soon moved to York. A grandson, George Phlegar (1762-1839), moved to Frederick County, Virginia, by 1787. Members of the family had already settled farther south and west, in Botetourt County, and shortly after 1800 George Phlegar and his wife Mary Magdaline Goodykoontz Phlegar (1768-1850), whom he had married in 1788, moved to Montgomery County (two of George's brothers also moved to Floyd County during

---

<sup>1</sup> Tise, "Early History of Floyd County," 8-9.

<sup>2</sup> Gino Williams, Ricky Cox, and Melanie Crane personal communication; *Floyd County, Virginia Heritage*, 14; Houston, "Phase II Architectural Survey, Phlegar Farm Industrial Park Development," 8; and Loth, *Virginia Landmarks Register*, 169. The Zion Lutheran congregation may have been meeting informally as early as 1809.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

Statement of Significance (continued)

the general period). George Phlegar is believed to have settled in the part of Montgomery that would become Floyd County as early as 1802; court records confirm his presence there by 1806. Deed records suggest he first acquired land in the Pine Creek drainage about a half mile east of his eventual homesite, and that later he shifted his holdings westward to the Oldfield Creek drainage. Phlegar erected a grist mill on Oldfield Creek behind the site of the present Pine Tavern Lodge and Restaurant on US 221, not far from the Phlegar House. George and other Phlegars gave land for Zion Church, and George's brother Abraham Phlegar (1776-1865) donated some of the land for the establishment of the town of Floyd in 1831, including the courthouse site.<sup>3</sup>

According to family tradition, George Phlegar first built a dwelling known as the "Cabin Home," which stood in the meadow south of the present house. According to Phlegar's granddaughter Mattie Brown (b. 1872), "the ancestors lived in [the Cabin Home] while the larger house was being built." This two-story dwelling, which was apparently log and featured three large rooms and a chimney, was dismantled and re-erected in Pulaski County in the 1970s. The present house was built in 1816, if the date stone at the top of the east chimney and family tradition dating back to the 1930s are to be believed, yet tax record research by architectural historian Kitty Houston does not indicate substantial construction on George Phlegar's property until 1824 when a \$142 building valuation is recorded, prompting Houston to suggest a date of construction in 1822 or 1823. However, there are irregularities in the listing of George Phlegar's landholdings during the period, and the policy of listing the value of buildings separately from the value of land was only recently implemented at the time, factors that may account for a failure to note the existence of an 1816 dwelling until 1824. Architectural features of the original log section of the house are consistent with construction in either the 1810s or 1820s.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Melanie Crain personal communication; *Floyd County, Virginia Heritage*, 14; Houston, "Phase II Architectural Survey, Phlegar Farm Industrial Park Development," 11-13; and Wood, *Floyd County*, 152-153. George Phlegar spelled his name "Pflieger" on court documents as late as 1825; the present spelling appears to have become common by the mid-nineteenth century.

<sup>4</sup> Houston, "Phase II Architectural Survey, Phlegar Farm Industrial Park Development," 13, 14, 22; Brown, "Phlegar Farm," 1; and Peters "George Phlegar Home." Genevieve Peters, who interviewed George Phlegar's grandson William Phlegar in 1937 or 1938 for her Virginia Historical Inventory report on the property, gave the home's date as 1816. Mattie Brown claimed the house was built before 1800; however, this would have been before George Phlegar moved

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

After George Phlegar's death in 1839 his widow Mary is assumed to have continued to reside in the log house until her death in 1850. George and Mary's sons Isaac Phlegar (1796-1859) and Benjamin Phlegar (1812-1892) lived in adjacent households, as suggested by the 1840 federal census. Benjamin bought out the other heirs of George Phlegar by 1845 and became sole owner of the home tract, which then contained 371 acres. The first detailed account of the property's agricultural production dates to the period of Benjamin Phlegar's ownership. The 1850 federal census agricultural schedules record a productive farm compared to Benjamin's neighbors, with 140 improved acres devoted to the production of 275 bushels of Indian corn, 250 bushels of oats, and 100 bushels of wheat. Livestock included horses, cattle, milk cows, sheep, and swine. Benjamin Phlegar's farm was valued at \$2,500 in 1850; by 1860 the value had risen to \$6,063. The latter census figure reflects an increase in the value of buildings on Phlegar's property in 1857, from \$300 to \$800 (the value had previously increased twice). Houston suggests the increase may represent additions to or remodelings of the house. Other possibilities include the construction of barns or a new mill, or perhaps an increase in value unrelated to construction.<sup>5</sup>

Benjamin Phlegar married Mary Weddle (ca. 1816-1850) in the 1830s and the couple had ten children. Benjamin's second wife was Sarah Ellen Surface Phlegar (1832-1910), with whom he had an additional ten children. One of these was Mattie Susan Phlegar Brown (b. 1872), who has left a detailed account of the property as it was when she was a girl. Brown enumerated the main house and the aforementioned Cabin Home, a two-level stock and hay barn, a log "old kitchen," a log smokehouse, a shed with a hearth for hog-killing and making sorghum, a springhouse, a woodhouse, a small dryhouse for drying apples and other fruit, a granary, a blacksmith shop, a kitchen garden, and rail fences. By Brown's day the old kitchen was no longer used as such, although its eight-foot-wide fireplace still served for making apple butter, and a loom stood in the building. Brown's account suggests the present kitchen extension to the ell had been made by the mid-1870s. Of the buildings mentioned by Brown only the granary survives; in it wheat was stored after threshing. Brown also mentioned a graveyard for pet

---

to the area. The date 1816 is not known to have any other significance in the history of George Phlegar and his family, and this coupled with the well-established practice of marking historic houses with the building date argues for construction of the log section of the Phlegar House in 1816. Houston also suggests the Cabin Home was built in the early 1820s.

<sup>5</sup> Houston, "Phase II Architectural Survey, Phlegar Farm Industrial Park Development," 14, 15, 18.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

Statement of Significance (continued)

chickens, which the children decorated with flowers and green leaves.<sup>6</sup>

Mattie Brown described the Phlegar grist mill as a "popular center of the community" where corn and hominy were ground on water-powered mill stones by the miller, Alex Gardner. The industrial schedules of the 1870 federal census provide additional information. Benjamin Phlegar's mill was powered by an overshot wheel and was operated three months out of the year for grinding corn, rye, and buckwheat. Phlegar's grist mill was one of forty-seven enumerated in the county in 1870.<sup>7</sup>

As Benjamin and Sarah Phlegar grew older, responsibility for the property shifted to one of their younger sons, William Shirey Phlegar (1869-1953). According to his sister Mattie Brown, "Willie Shirey remained on the farm and took care of his father and mother and gave up his ambition for college." Willie Phlegar married Emma Gay Smith and raised two sons and a daughter in the house. Between 1899 and 1918 Phlegar purchased dower interests in his father's estate from his siblings, and it was apparently during this period that he added the two-story frame addition to the west end of the original log house. The 1938 Peters report refers to this addition as the "new room." For most of the twentieth century the property contained between 160 and 170 acres, and it remained in farm use. After Willie Phlegar's death in 1953 the property was occupied by his children until their respective deaths. According to family tradition, the house was not left vacant a single night in its history until the death of the last of Willie and Emma's children, Sarah Amanda Phlegar, in 1993. The farm was subsequently acquired by Floyd County for development as the Floyd Regional Commerce Center. A parcel of two acres including the house, granary, and workshop was given to The Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust, Inc. The Trust plans to restore the house for use in interpreting early Floyd County history to school groups and others.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 9-10, 18; Melanie Crain personal communication; and Brown, "Phlegar Farm."

<sup>7</sup> Brown, "Phlegar Farm," 1; Houston, "Phase II Architectural Survey, Phlegar Farm Industrial Park Development," 22.

<sup>8</sup> Gerald Via and Gino Williams personal communication; Brown, "Phlegar Farm," 6; Houston, "Phase II Architectural Survey, Phlegar Farm Industrial Park Development," 24; *Floyd County, Virginia Heritage*, 134; and Peters, "George Phlegar Home."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

Statement of Significance (continued)

Architectural Discussion

As originally constructed the Phlegar House was a two-story hall-parlor-plan log dwelling with Federal-style finishes. The use of hand-headed nails in the construction of the original batten doors suggests a date of construction no later than the early nineteenth century, a time frame that is independently supported by the chimney date stone. The 1816 date in the stone is assumed to be the date of construction for the house, although it is not inconceivable that the house originally had a wooden chimney that was replaced (in 1816?) by the present stone one. Another early and notable feature is the rear parlor doorway now covered over by the breezeway stair; the use of pegs to attach its jamb to the log ends may be a consequence of a scarcity of nails in early nineteenth century Floyd County, or perhaps simply a construction technique that was deemed superior to nailing. The innermost section of the ell (the dining room) appears to be log and may be as early as the main house. The mix of stone types and colors in the east chimney suggests the mason meant to achieve an aesthetic effect.

The house appears to have been enlarged and/or remodeled on two or more occasions during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The breezeway between the main house and the dining room, which is coeval with the dining room, was probably enclosed or partly enclosed to create the present stair passage in the mid-nineteenth century. White-painted beaded weatherboards were attached with cut nails to the exterior of the log section about the same time; the breezeway stair, constructed with cut nails and straight-sawn lumber, conceals beaded weatherboards that were apparently never painted. The ell kitchen and the plain Greek Revival mantels and two-panel doors in the original section and dining room may date to the same general period. Census returns show a substantial increase in the value of Benjamin Phlegar's estate during the 1850s--indicating if not construction a level of affluence that would have supported improvements to the house--and tax records suggest building activity in 1856-57, as noted by Houston. Perhaps the above improvements date to ca. 1857, although they might just as likely (from an architectural standpoint) date to the post-bellum period, up through the date of Benjamin Phlegar's death in 1892. The Greek Revival Style remained strong in many parts of Southwest Virginia through the 1880s.

The two-story frame addition is essentially Late Victorian in character, especially in the sawn and chamfered detail of its unusual inset porch. The front door with its sandblasted stenciled design is very similar to doors sold by Sears, Roebuck in the early twentieth century, as illustrated in its 1910 home builder's catalog. The exact design is not featured in the 1910 catalog, however, suggesting either that the door was a discontinued or not yet introduced Sears

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

Statement of Significance (continued)

product line, or that it was produced and marketed by a different company or companies during the period.

One curious feature is the flush-board sheathing across the front of the original section and addition. Front elevation flush-board sheathing was generally reserved for use under porches in the nineteenth century; this combined with the second-story door of the original section suggests the possibility of a former two-tier front porch on the Phlegar House. However, there is little other evidence for a two-tier porch, such as scars left by upper-tier balustrades and other points of attachment. Also, the sheathing extends to the ca. 1910 addition, which appears not to have had a two-tier front porch since such a porch would have hidden the ornamental inset porch. The present front porch on the original section is clearly relatively recent, and it may even date to after 1938 (the Peters report refers to an "old original" porch on the log section). The flush-board sheathing on the front of the Phlegar House may simply represent an unusual decorative treatment not associated with a porch.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> *Sears, Roebuck Home Builder's Catalog*, 15-27; Peters, "George Phlegar Home."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 12

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Brown, Mattie Phlegar. "Phlegar Farm." Report, n.d. (ca. 1950?).

*Floyd County, Virginia Heritage*. Floyd, Va.: The Floyd County Heritage Book Committee, 2001.

Houston, Kitty. "Phase II Architectural Survey, Phlegar Farm Industrial Park Development, Floyd County, Virginia." Report, 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Phlegar Farm." Virginia Department of Historic Resources Survey Form, 1996.

Loth, Calder, ed. *The Virginia Landmarks Register* (fourth edition). Charlottesville, Va., and London, Eng.: The University Press of Virginia, 1999.

McIlhany, Calvert W. "Phlegar Barn Site." Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archaeological Site Inventory Form, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Phlegar Farm Road." Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archaeological Site Inventory Form, 2001.

Moates, Tom. "Groups see a future for a piece of the past." *The Roanoke Times* (New River Edition), June 15, 1996.

Noe, Kenneth W. *Southwest Virginia's Railroad: Modernization and the Sectional Crisis*. Urbana, Il.: University of Illinois Press, 1994.

Peters, Genevieve H. "George Phlegar Home." Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory report, 1938.

*Sears, Roebuck Home Builder's Catalog*. New York, N.Y.: Dover Publications, Inc., 1990 (reprint of 1910 edition).

Tise, Marguerite. "Early History of Floyd County, 1831-1870." *Journal of the New River Historical Society* vol. 8 no. 1 (1995).

Wood, Amos D. *Floyd County: A History of Its People and Places*. Radford, Va.: Commonwealth Press Inc., 1981 (reprint).



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 13

**Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.**

---

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated area is depicted on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination as an exhibits page.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated area embrace the acreage presently associated with the Phlegar House on which the house and surviving associated historic outbuildings stand.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 14

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

---

PHOTOGRAPHS

1.     1. Subject: Phlegar House (same for all photos)  
       2. Location: Floyd Co., Va. (same for all photos)  
       3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)  
       4. Photo date: November 2002 (same for all photos)  
       5. Original negative (VDHR # 20260) archived at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond (same for all photos)  
       6. Description of view: Front (south) elevation of house. View looking northeast.  
       7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos)
2.     6. East and north elevations of house. View looking southwest.
3.     6. North and west elevations of house. View looking southeast.
4.     6. Second-floor east room in original log section of house.
5.     6. Door at back of first-floor east room (hall) in original log section of house.
6.     6. Granary. View looking south.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Exhibit Page 15

Phlegar House  
Floyd Co., Va.

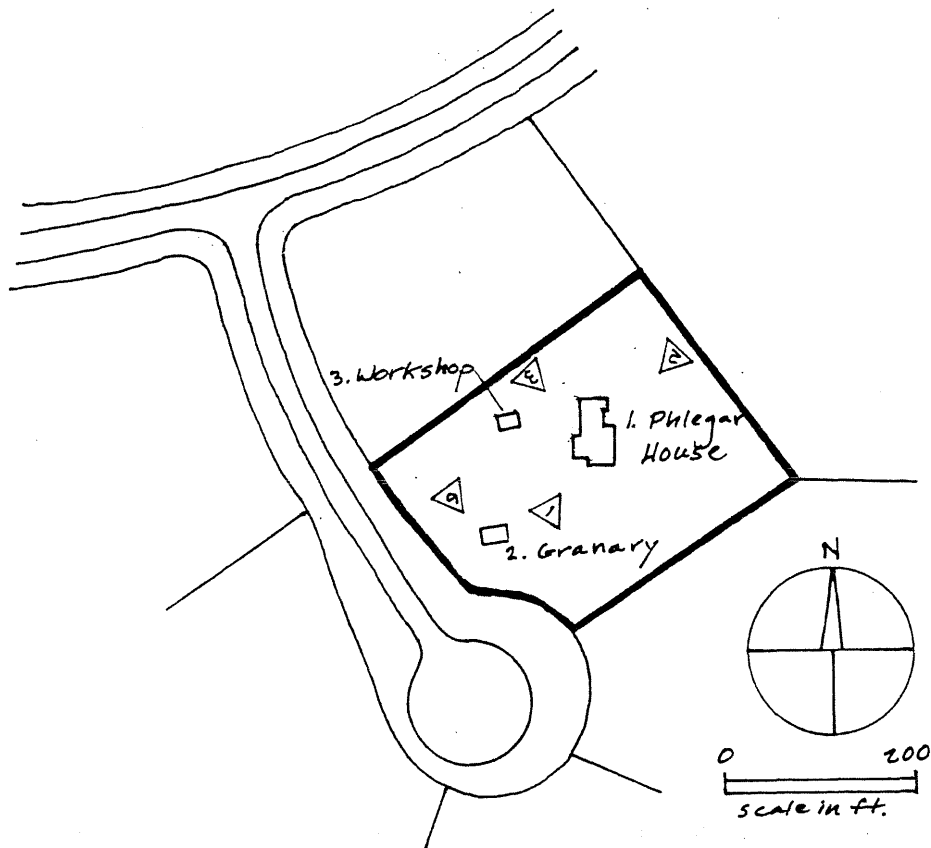


Exhibit A: The Phlegar House nominated area. Scale: 1 inch equals approx. 200 feet. Number and direction of view of exterior photographs indicated by triangular markers.