

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Eure-Roberts House**

Gatesville, Gates County, GA0374, Listed 9/20/2006  
Nomination by Nancy Van Dolsen  
Photographs by Nancy Van Dolsen, May 2006



Façade view



Rear view with smokehouse

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
Eure-Roberts House  
Gates County, North Carolina

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Eure-Roberts House**  
other names/site number **N/A**

2. Location

street & number **212 West Main Street** not for publication **N/A** city or town **Gatesville** vicinity **N/A** state **North Carolina** code **NC** county **Gates** code **073** zip code **27938**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
5. Classification  
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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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register **N/A**

Name of related multiple property listing **N/A**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:       **Domestic**       Sub:   **Single Dwelling**  
              **Domestic**               **Secondary Structure**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:       **Business**       Sub:   **Office Building**  
              **Vacant/not in use**

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

**Other: Side Passage Double-Pile Plan House**  
**Late Victorian/Queen Anne**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation       **BRICK**  
roof               **ASPHALT**  
walls              **WOOD/weatherboard**  
other

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)

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**ARCHITECTURE**

Period of Significance       **ca. 1850, ca. 1901**  
Significant Dates            **N/A**  
Significant Person           **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.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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

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

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

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property **0.55 acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting		Northing		Zone Easting		Northing	
1	<b>18 4030020</b>	<b>342820</b>	3	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title **Nancy Van Dolsen** date **25 April 2006**  
street & number **1601 Highland Drive**  
city or town **Wilson** state **NC** zip code **27893**

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Additional Documentation

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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)

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Property Owner

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

name

**Brian Innes**

street & number **P.O. Box 116, 136 Pat's Way** city or town **Barco** state **NC** zip code **27919**

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**Narrative Description**

The Eure-Roberts House, a large two-story, side-gable frame dwelling, sits on a 0.55-acre parcel at 212 West Main Street in Gatesville, Gates County, North Carolina. Gatesville, the county seat, is a small town of four primary streets: Main, Church, Court, and High streets. The Eure-Roberts House faces east, on Main Street, with the parcel running the full depth between Main and Church streets. A low brick wall separates the house lot from the concrete sidewalk. The parcel is mostly lawn, with a few pecan trees behind the residence. A gravel drive runs to the south of the house and leads to a parking area to the rear of the building. A contributing frame smokehouse stands approximately twenty-five feet to the west of the house.

**House, ca. 1850, ca. 1901, contributing**

The Eure-Roberts House is a three-bay, two-story, double-pile, side-gable heavy timber frame house constructed ca. 1850. About 1901, the end of the passage was extended to the south and a separate room was created, a new wraparound porch was constructed on the east and south walls, and a gable added to the front of the house. A separate, one-story kitchen constructed in the early twentieth century stood to the rear (west) of the house and was connected to the house by a full-width one-story porch about 1940. By the 1980s, a portion of the rear porch between the house and kitchen had been enclosed. At the end of the twentieth century, the east wall of the kitchen was removed to expand the building and link it to the house.

The entire house is sheathed in wood weatherboards from circa 1850 featuring a beaded edge. Wood shingles decorate the front gable added during the Victorian remodeling. The roof of the main house is covered in asphalt shingles, and the two porches and rear kitchen are covered with a metal roof. The house stands on a continuous brick foundation and features a heavy braced timber frame with down corner braces. The joists are round logs hewn on the top to carry the floor boards. The building features paired summer beams.

Two original ca. 1850 exterior, single-shouldered, end chimneys run up the north side of the house; the chimneys are constructed with a one-to-seven brick bond ratio. A ca. 1901 bracketed cornice decorates the wraparound porch, the house, and the central gable on the façade. With the exception of the ca. 1901 addition where the windows contain two-over-two sash, the first-floor windows are nine-over-nine wood sash, and the second-floor windows contain six-over-six wood sash. The ca. 1850 three-panel (two vertical panels over one horizontal panel) front door is topped with a three-light transom. A single-light transom tops the door on the east elevation (off the porch) into the ca. 1901 addition. A triangular window in the front gable echoes the form of the gable.

The one-story wraparound porch dates to ca. 1901 and features turned balusters, turned posts, pierced spandrels with drop finials, and scroll brackets. The porch on the rear elevation has similar balusters and posts. A modern handicapped access ramp is located on the west elevation of the rear porch.

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The first floor of the house retains its original side-passage, double-parlor plan. The passage was reduced in length ca. 1901 when the back of the passage was partitioned and the house enlarged to the south to make a new room. The original stair was moved forward (to the east), intact, to accommodate the new interior wall. The ca. 1850 stair features open risers, straight balusters, a round newel and handrail. The stair passage has a simple, paneled wainscot and plaster walls. Each of the two parlors features a fireplace flanked by large windows. The rooms have a molded chair-rail and simple mantels featuring a panel above the firebox. The mantels include a shelf supported by graduated molding. The doors are two vertical panels over one horizontal panel, and have reeded surrounds and plain corner blocks. The ca. 1901 room has a manufactured beaded board wainscot, and rosette corner blocks on the window and door surrounds.

The kitchen, now attached with a partial enclosure of the porch, has sheetrocked walls and a vinyl floor. The kitchen, which at the west end also features a bath room and a laundry room, dates to the early twentieth century and has a light timber frame. The trim in the kitchen dates to 2004 and 2005.

The second floor of the house has a transverse hall, three offices and a bath. The floor plan dates to ca. 1901, as do the trim and finishes. The door and window surrounds are simple boards, and the baseboard is a plain board capped with a simple molding. The doors are four-panel doors. The walls are sheetrock.

**Smokehouse, ca. 1850, contributing**

The one-story, side-gable heavy braced-frame smoke house with boxed cornice stands to the rear of the house. The building is sheathed with beaded weatherboards on two elevations and is covered with flush sheathing on the other two elevations and the gable ends, which also feature tapered rake boards. The smokehouse is covered with a metal roof. A plank door is centered on the east elevation. The building stands on a poured concrete foundation and has a dirt floor. The sill has been replaced.

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### Summary

The Eure-Roberts House meets National Register Criterion C for local architectural significance for its two major building campaigns: its initial construction ca. 1850 as a side-passage, double-pile plan late Federal and Greek Revival style house by Henry L. and Martha J. Lovett Eure, and its subsequent remodeling with late Victorian elements ca. 1901 by Edward R. and Annie Elizabeth Cowper Roberts.

In Gates County, only three side-passage double-pile plan houses survive: the Eure-Roberts House (ca. 1850), the Riddick-Whedbee House (ca. 1836), and Elmwood (ca. 1832). The Eure-Roberts House exemplifies a simple, vernacular interpretation of the more common Federal-style renditions of the side-passage, double-pile house. The house retains its paneled mantels, stair, and reeded door and window surrounds with plain corner blocks and combines the aesthetics of both the elegant Federal era and the more stocky form of the Greek Revival style. The house fits its town location in form and finish.

Gatesville experienced somewhat of a “boom” in construction during the late nineteenth century and opening decades of the twentieth century due to increasing economic prosperity resulting from the arrival of the railroad in the 1880s. A number of fine late Victorian-era, two-story, frame houses were constructed with elaborate scrollwork, lacy porches, and bracketed cornices, in the town. Not surprisingly, some of the town’s older houses, including the Eure-Roberts House, were updated to keep-up with the styles exemplified in these new, more elaborately finished buildings. The Eure-Roberts House had an elaborate wraparound porch, bracketed cornice, and shingled front gable added to its exterior.

### Historical Background

Gates County, located in northeastern North Carolina at the Virginia State line, was formed in 1778. The county was then, and continues to be, sparsely settled due to its relatively isolated location and the vast areas of swampland included within its borders. The town of Gatesville, not incorporated until 1830, formed around the Gates County Courthouse. Gatesville grew slowly, and had a population of about 300 at the end of the nineteenth century; it supported six general stores, a furniture store, two confectioneries, a drugstore, and several hotels.<sup>1</sup> At the close of the twentieth century, Gatesville had experienced a slight decline in population from the end of the previous century, with just 281 people living within its one-half square mile boundaries.

Four major streets comprise the town plan of Gatesville: Court, Main, High, and Church. The oldest surviving house in town is the Lemuel P. Hayes House on Main Street which appears to

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas R. Butchko, *Forgotten Gates: The Historical Architecture of a Rural North Carolina County* (Gatesville, N.C.: The Gates County Historical Society, 1991) 42.

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date to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The (former) county courthouse, on Court Street, is a large and imposing brick building constructed in 1835-1836, and is also one of the earliest extant buildings.

The Eure-Roberts House, constructed ca. 1850 on Main Street, is among the earliest standing buildings in Gatesville. Henry L. Eure (ca. 1816-1876) married Martha J. Lovett (ca. 1827-1877) in December 1850, and completed building the house around that time. Henry does not appear in the 1850 census taken in July of that year, but by 1860 lived on Main Street, with his wife and their two sons, Henry C. Eure (age eight) and J. C. O. Eure (age five), and a male boarder or servant, George Allen. No occupation was provided for Henry Eure, but public records indicate that he was the Clerk of Court for Gates County beginning in the mid-1850s through the 1860s.<sup>2</sup> Although the Eures lived at 212 West Main Street in 1860, Henry had sold it two years earlier to a relative, Mills H. Eure, a lawyer and sheriff for the county, along with all of his other real and personal property.<sup>3</sup> According to the deed, Henry Eure, sold “my [house] and land in Gatesville on Main St. . . . also my household & kitchen furniture and all other property.”

After Henry L. Eure’s death in 1876, Mills H. Eure sold the house and property to Mary L. Riddick.<sup>4</sup> Mary L. Riddick lived in the house until her death in 1901, when her children sold the house “and town lot between Main Street and Church” to Edward R. Roberts for \$750.<sup>5</sup>

Edward R. Roberts (1865-1935) and his wife Annie Elizabeth Cowper (1872-1966), remodeled the house, and lived there with their family. In 1910, Roberts worked as a self-employed lumberman and supported his wife, and two children, R.W. and Elizabeth C. By 1920, Roberts was listed in the census as a druggist. It is possible that Roberts operated a drugstore in the room added to the house ca. 1901. This room has its own entrance from the wraparound porch. A branch of the Roberts Drug Company gave the Gates County town of Roduco its name.<sup>6</sup>

The house remained in the Roberts family through the end of the twentieth century. It has been used as a rental property since the late 1960s.

**Architecture Context: Side Passage, late Federal/Greek Revival Houses and Late Victorian Remodeling, Gates County, North Carolina**

When constructed ca. 1850 by Henry Eure, the Eure-Roberts House was a large, well-finished, side-passage, double-pile house. The stair passage ran the depth of the house, with a door on the street

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<sup>2</sup> For example, Henry L. Eure signs off as the Clerk of Court from May 1854 through 1861 on the certificates for work transcribed in Raymond Parker Fouts, *Registration of Slaves to Work in the Great Dismal Swamp, Gates County, North Carolina 1847-186*. (Cocoa, Fl.: GenRec Books, 1995).

<sup>3</sup> Gates County Deed Book 22:142-145. Gates County Court House, Gatesville, NC. Mills H. Eure is also listed as the sheriff in the Fouts book.

<sup>4</sup> Gates County Deed Book 28:370.

<sup>5</sup> Gates County Deed Book 52:229.

<sup>6</sup> Butchko, 78.

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side and one at the rear of the house that led to the work yard behind. There was no kitchen in the dwelling, but most likely one stood directly behind the building (the surviving kitchen structure dates to the early twentieth century). The smokehouse was an essential building on both town and rural properties of the well-to-do during the late eighteenth through the late nineteenth centuries. The one on the Eure-Roberts property is a very well-finished building with beaded weatherboards and flush sheathing, and a boxed cornice. Most likely, a stable and other small buildings stood on the lot in the 1850s; none of these other buildings survive.

Two well-finished parlors--with simple mantels surrounding the fireboxes, chair rails, and reeded door surrounds--occupied the first floor. The second floor most likely had an identical floor plan to the first, with perhaps a small room occupying the rear portion of the passage. Although the first floor plan remained almost completely intact after the ca. 1901 remodeling (with the exception of reducing the size of the passage to create another room) the second floor was reworked to create a transverse passage, a bath, and three rooms.

The two-story, side-passage double-pile form began to appear in North Carolina during the 1790s. In England, the basic concept of a side passage plan house had become a traditional feature in town houses by the end of the seventeenth century. In Williamsburg, Virginia, the basic side-passage double-pile plan was a prevalent form by 1750 and according to architectural historian Peter B. Sandbeck, thus "evidencing its early popularity as an urban-type plan in a small but growing southern town."<sup>7</sup> This plan type became the most popular house form for residences in New Bern, North Carolina, from the 1790s through 1850.

In Gates County, only three side-passage double-pile plan houses survive: the Eure-Roberts House (ca. 1850), the Riddick-Whedbee House (ca. 1836), and Elmwood (ca. 1832). Architectural historian Thomas R. Butchko believes that these Gates County examples "relate to the large spacious dwellings erected for ambitious planters in neighboring Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Chowan counties."<sup>8</sup> In Chowan County, side-passage, double-pile plan houses were built in its county seat, Edenton, and in rural areas. In Edenton, two surviving examples include the Bennett House (ca. 1802; NRHD 1973) and the Skinner-Paxton House (ca. 1820-1830; NRHD 1973) on West King Street, both substantial, two-story frame houses with exterior end chimneys. Mulberry Hill (ca. 1810; NR 1976) in Chowan County is a much more elaborate brick side-passage double-pile plan house that evokes comparisons with the brick houses of similar form and date in New Bern.<sup>9</sup> These three side-passage double-pile plan houses in Chowan County appear to be more closely related to the popularity of the form in urban areas.

Of the three Gates County examples, only the Eure-Roberts House is located in town. The Riddick-Whedbee House, ca. 1836, is located in Gatesville Township. The house also features two exterior

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<sup>7</sup> Peter B. Sandbeck, *The Historic Architecture of New Bern and Craven County, North Carolina* (New Bern, N.C.: The Tryon Palace Commission, 1988).

<sup>8</sup> Butchko, 24.

<sup>9</sup> Elizabeth Vann Moore, *Guidebook Historic Edenton and Chowan County* (Edenton, N.C.: Edenton's Woman's Club, 1989).

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end brick chimneys, and a side-passage plan with twin parlors. The woodwork in this house is more ornate and more Federal-style in appearance, including scroll brackets on the open-stringer stair. Like the Eure-Roberts House, this house was remodeled in the early twentieth century, and also features a wraparound porch. The other side-passage double-pile plan house in the county is Elmwood (ca. 1832) in Hunters Mill Township. Elmwood also has a pair of single-shoulder exterior end chimneys but has elegant Federal-era style woodwork much more elaborate than the simpler Eure-Roberts House, including scroll brackets on the stair ends, flush-sheathed wainscot, elegant mantels, and an unusually large and elaborate attic fanlight on the north elevation. This house also has a two-story wing, unlike the other two houses in the county.

The Eure-Roberts House exemplifies a simpler, more vernacular interpretation of the earlier Federal-style renditions of the side-passage, double-pile house and was constructed almost twenty years later. The house retains its paneled mantels, stair with turned newel and square balusters, and reeded door and window surrounds with plain corner blocks that combine the aesthetics of both the elegant Federal era and the more stocky form of the Greek Revival style. The house fits its town location in form and finish.

Within the town of Gatesville, few Federal or Greek Revival buildings still stand. The earliest surviving house in Gatesville is the Lemeul P. Hayes House on Main Street which dates to ca. 1820 and retains its mitered door surrounds, flush gable ends with pattern boards, beaded weatherboards, and the lower portion of its Flemish bond exterior-end brick chimney. Slightly later, but extensively remodeled, the Riddick-Willey-Williams House dates to ca. 1829 but its exterior and interior is more indicative of the early twentieth century. The Gates County Courthouse is a late Federal building and dates to 1835-1846. The Worrell-Cowper House on Main Street appears to date to ca. 1850 but little of the antebellum house remains due to an extensive early twentieth century remodeling.

Gatesville experienced somewhat of a “boom” in construction during the late nineteenth century and opening decades of the twentieth century, coinciding with the arrival of the railroad in the 1880s. A number of fine late Victorian-era, two-story, frame houses were constructed with elaborate scrollwork, lacy porches, and bracketed cornices, including the Richard H. Williams House (ca. 1885) and the William T. Cross House (1898) on Main Street; the Lycurgus Hofler House (ca. 1895) on High Street, and the Eason-Sawyer House (ca. 1885) on Church Street. During the early twentieth century, the (former) Gatesville Baptist Church on Court Street was built in the Queen Anne style (1908) and the Adolphus P. Godwin House, a Queen Anne style house with Colonial Revival details was constructed on High Street with plans and materials from the Sears, Roebuck and Company in 1911.<sup>10</sup>

Not surprisingly, some of the town’s older houses were updated to keep up with the styles exemplified in these new, more elaborately finished buildings. When the Robertses purchased their ca. 1850 house, they updated it with an ornate wraparound porch, put brackets on the cornice, and topped the house with a shingled front gable. They also created a room with an exterior entrance off

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<sup>10</sup> Butchko, 63-83.

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the porch which Mr. Roberts may have used as his drugstore, and altered the second floor plan. At least two other houses in Gatesville that underwent a similar transformation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century include the Worrell-Cowper House on Main Street (ca. 1850, ca. 1890) and the General and William P. Roberts House (ca. 1850, ca. 1900, burned 1915).<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Butchko, 74-75, 79-80.

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**Bibliography**

Bishir, Catherine. *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990.

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

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The historic boundary is shown on the accompanying survey map at the scale 1" = 50' for the parcel transferred by Gates County Deed Book 212, page 616..

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the house, smokehouse and lot associated with the property since the construction of the buildings ca. 1850.