

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Dillard and Georgia Sewell House

Penrose vicinity, Henderson County, HN1262, Listed 4/15/2015

Nomination by Clay Griffith and Alex Cole

Photographs by Clay Griffith, May 2014



Façade view



Rear view

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Sewell, Dillard B. and Georgia, House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 64 Clipper Lane

City or town: Penrose State: NC County: Henderson/Transylvania

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B XC ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Rustic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Stone
Wood/shake
Wood/shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Built around 1924, the Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House is a one-and-a-half-story Rustic Revival-style stone dwelling with a wood shake roof, an engaged full-width porch, and a stone patio. The house occupies a wooded site at the top of Jeter Mountain in western Henderson County, on its border with Transylvania County. The area around the house is cleared and planted with mature trees and landscaping elements while the outer perimeter of the property is heavily wooded with a rhododendron-lined driveway approaching the house from the northeast. Built as a summer house for Dillard and Georgia Sewell of Charleston, South Carolina, the little-altered house and its rustic mountain setting retain a high degree of integrity.

Narrative Description

The Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House occupies a wooded site at the top of Jeter Mountain in the western portion of Henderson County. The property is composed of two parcels totaling nearly nine acres containing the house, associated structures, and the unpaved approach drive. The line between Henderson and Transylvania counties passes through the property. The house and majority of the land are located in Henderson County, but approximately one and a half acres to the southwest are within Transylvania County. The property contains mature

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hemlock, spruce, and approximately twelve large American Holly trees. An unpaved carriage path, within a dense understory of rhododendron, encircles the grassy knoll at the center of the property. Near the house, portions of the yard are planted with boxwoods, azaleas, and dogwoods. Stone paths lead out from a raised stone terrace on the northeast side of the house, extending into the yard to the northeast and southeast toward the driveway. Two wooden arbors are located to the north and south of the house, with the long arbor to the south sheltering the stone pathway.

House, ca. 1924, 1998

Contributing building

Built by Dillard and Georgia Sewell of Charleston, South Carolina, the house is a one-and-a-half-story side-gable Rustic Revival-style stone dwelling that sits on a stone foundation and is capped by a cedar shake roof. The house is constructed of randomly-coursed stone masonry with articulated flat-arch lintels above the door and window openings. An engaged full-width porch shelters the five bay façade, which is oriented to the west. The porch is carried on peeled locust posts that support a log header and sapling rafters; the two-bar wood railing is a later addition. The porch ceiling is board-and-batten with decorative boxed beams. A thin concrete slab forms the porch floor. The central entrance contains a single-leaf solid wood Dutch door with iron strap hinges and hammered-iron hardware. Windows are six-over-six double-hung sash with concrete sills. An interior stone chimney rises from the ridgeline of the roof.

The north and south side elevations feature cantilevered wood balconies at the second story and wood shingles on the ends of the porch roof. The balconies appear to consist of replacement materials. The north elevation contains a central pair of windows beneath the balcony and a single window set to the east. On the second story, a central single-leaf multi-light door opens onto the balcony and is flanked by six-light wood-frame casement windows. The south elevation has a single window positioned beneath the balcony and a pair of windows set to the east. A single-leaf multi-light door opens onto the balcony with a six-over-six double-hung sash window located to the west of the door. A single-leaf wood batten door in the foundation provides access to the small basement of the house, which may have originally functioned as a root cellar. A well-defined approach to the basement door is lined by tall, stone retaining walls with curving stone steps leading to the basement walkway from both the north and south sides. A wooden footbridge with log railings spans the basement walkway and allows circulation around the house at grade.

The rear (east) elevation consists of four bays located around a central exterior stone chimney and a broad, shed-roof wall dormer. The sides of the dormer are covered with wood shingles. Two single-leaf wood batten doors flank the chimney on the first story. The north end bay on the first story contains a single six-over-six window, and the south end bay has a single-leaf door that enters the kitchen. A raised, curving, stone terrace carries across the rear elevation with two large boxwoods flanking a stone walkway and steps to the terrace. Additional steps are located at the north and south ends of the terrace. Four pairs of six-light wood frame casement windows are located on the second story.

The interior of the house is dominated by a central, two-story great room with an open stair rising along the south wall and a balcony continuing from the top of the stair around the east

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and north sides of the room. The stair and balcony have square newel posts and a simple hand rail with sawn, flat balusters. Decorative half-log poplar beams face the outer edge of the stair run and balcony and continue around the interior between floors, at the top of the stone walls. The first-story walls and the second-story east and west walls are exposed stone with board-and-batten covering the remaining second-story walls and vaulted ceiling. Board-and-batten covers the underside of the stairs and balcony, with vertical board sheathing on the side of the stairs covering a small built-in bookcase located beneath the stair. The wood sheathing consists of hemlock boards. Decorative half-log poplar beams are located on the ceiling. A single, hammered-iron light fixture hangs from the ceiling. A stone fireplace with an arched opening is located on the east side of the room and has a wood mantel shelf with exposed bark on its outer edge. The hardwood floors throughout the house were milled locally at the Biltmore Lumber Company in Pisgah Forest. Trim around the doors and windows consists of flat boards.

Two single-leaf board doors on the north side of the great room lead to a first-story bedroom and bathroom, which exhibit plaster ceilings and sheetrock or plaster interior walls. Two similar doors on the north end of the second story also provide access to a bedroom and bathroom. A single-leaf door on the first story near the base of the stairs enters into the kitchen and dining room, which are separated by a stone chimney rising through the space. A small fireplace on the dining room side (west) has a mantel shelf composed of a half log supported on corbelled stone brackets. The dining room features a board-and-batten ceiling, while the kitchen ceiling is plaster. The kitchen on the east side of the chimney was updated in 1998 with paneled wood cabinets that blend with the character of the house. The second-story bedroom located above the kitchen is accessed from a single-leaf door positioned at the top of the stairs and has sheetrock or plaster walls and ceiling. The stone chimney stack rises through the long, narrow room.

Playhouse, ca. 2000

Non-contributing building

Located in the woods along the old carriage path to the southwest of the main house, the playhouse was constructed for the children of the current owners. It was built on the stone foundations of an earlier outbuilding. The one-story side-gable frame playhouse has wood shingle siding, a wood shake roof, an engaged porch, concrete foundation, square window openings, and a single-leaf entry door.

Well, ca. 2000

Non-contributing structure

Located to the southwest of the house at the edge of the woods, the well is enclosed within a wooden base constructed of landscape timbers. Two vertical posts support a bracketed gable roof covered with wood shakes.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1924

Significant Dates

Ca. 1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Constructed around 1924, the Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House is located at 64 Clipper Lane, off Jeter Mountain Road, approximately thirteen miles southwest of Hendersonville, North Carolina, along the line between Henderson and Transylvania counties. Situated on nearly nine acres, the property consists of the house, two non-contributing outbuildings, and mature landscaped grounds. Dillard B. and Georgia M. Sewell of Charleston, South Carolina, originally built the one-and-a-half-story Rustic Revival-style stone dwelling as a summer house, but later resided here full time. The Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House meets National Register Criterion C for its distinctive and finely crafted Rustic Revival-style architecture. The house incorporates local stone, native woods, and design elements that harmonize the dwelling with its forested, mountain-top setting. Organized around a central, two-story great room, the interior is that of a rustic lodge with a prominent fireplace, open stair, exposed stone and logs, and dark stained woodwork. The engaged porch, second-story balconies, and stone patio serve to unite the interior and exterior realms of the property. The period of significance is 1924, the date of construction for the house.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Background

Located along the border with South Carolina, Henderson and Transylvania counties are situated on the southeastern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains in western North Carolina. In the nineteenth century the region became a popular summer tourist destination for those escaping the sultry heat of the South Carolina Low Country, as well as a retreat for those suffering from respiratory ailments. As the southern entrance to the Blue Ridge, Henderson County became a prime location for second homes built by prominent Charleston families, who were attracted to the area for its idyllic beauty and amenable mountain air.

The Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House, located along the border of the two counties on Jeter Mountain, was built in a somewhat remote section on land that once belonged to Revolutionary War veteran William Sentell (1756-1837) and his wife, Elizabeth Stevens (1760-1847).¹ Dillard and Georgia Sewell, of Charleston, South Carolina, erected the dwelling as a summer house around 1924. According to local tradition Mrs. Sewell did not want to build in nearby Flat Rock, a popular summer resort among Charleston families. According to U. S.

¹ Terry Ruscin, *Hidden History of Henderson County, North Carolina* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2013), 102-103.

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Census and insurance almanac records, Dillard Sewell (1889-1948) was active as a director, secretary-treasurer, and vice-president of the Southern Home Insurance Company in Charleston. Organized by Oscar E. Johnson, Southern Home Insurance Company provided fire insurance and served all of South Carolina. The directors and officers of the company included members of the Pringle and Smythe families, who had long associations with Flat Rock.²

The son of a minister, Dillard Sewell worked his way up through the Southern Home Insurance Company from the 1910s to the late 1920s. Sewell had been appointed president of the company by 1928, and become involved in other businesses, including Savannah Fire Insurance Company and Southern Insuranshares Corporation. Around 1930, the couple briefly relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, where Mr. Sewell continued to work in the insurance business, although he no longer worked for the Southern Home Insurance Company. The family was recorded during the 1930 U. S. Census as residents of Henderson County, but Dillard and Georgia Sewell appear to have spent much of the 1930s living in Atlanta, Georgia, where Dillard Sewell worked as an insurance executive. Following World War II, the couple appears to have returned to their home on Jeter Mountain. In the late 1940s, Dillard Sewell formed a small firm as an insurance adjuster, with an office in Asheville. Though he rented an apartment in Asheville, the Sewells maintained their Penrose address during this time. The couple's younger son, Dillard M. "Jack" Sewell, worked with his father as an adjuster and investigator. Dillard B. Sewell died in 1948 and Georgia Sewell continued to live in Penrose until 1950.

Dillard Sewell purchased 106 acres of land on Jeter Mountain from W. M. Hill in 1924 (Deed 129/63).³ They acquired additional acreage around them, and the property eventually grew to several hundred acres.⁴ The Sewells lost the house and original tract from 1932 to 1934, after defaulting on their mortgage. They were able to buy back the property from the South Carolina National Bank of Charleston in November 1934 (Deeds 210/221 and 199/214).

During the 1930s, while Dillard and Georgia Sewell were living in Atlanta, their sons may have resided in the Jeter Mountain house. Although it is unclear whether the Sewell's oldest son, Richard (Dick) Fitz-Randolph, formally took over ownership of the property, Henderson County deeds show significant acreage exchanged between the two generations. The Sewells sold 128 acres to Dick and his wife, Blanche Todd Sewell, in 1938 (Deed 223/149). Blanche Sewell worked nearby at Camp Eagle's Nest on Everett Road, while Dick operated the

² United States Census and city directory information accessed through Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com; retrieved November 2014). A.M. Best, *Best's Insurance Reports: Fire and Marine* (www.americanterm.com/history/ambest-2/ambest_0206.htm; accessed August 12, 2014).

³ W. M. Hill and Ruth Bayne had purchased the land at auction on the courthouse steps in 1922. The previous owner, A. B. and Mary J. Corn of Transylvania County, had acquired the 106 acres from the Sentell family in 1914, before defaulting on the mortgage (Deeds 116/9 and 85/270).

⁴ Henderson County Register of Deeds. The Sewells added 63 acres in 1925 (Deed 150/125), 23 acres in 1926 (Deed 151/442), and 142 acres in 1937 (Deed 220/83).

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Tuckasegee Beagle Club on the premises of their farm.⁵ The Sewells sold a ninety-one-acre tract adjoining their property on the west to Dillard M. and Thalia K. Sewell in 1939 (Deed 225/315).

Following the death of Dillard B. Sewell in 1948, Georgia Sewell continued to reside on Jeter Mountain until 1950, when she sold the house and original tract to Robert W. and Isa M. Sharon in October 1950 (Deed 306/91). Alexander and Edith Thomas acquired the property from the Sharons in April 1960 (Deed 383/549). Local restaurant owners James (Jim) and Lillian (Jo) Franklin of Hendersonville purchased the house and land in 1969 (Deed 468/65).⁶

Jim and Jo Franklin retained ownership of house through the 1980s, but later sold small parcels out of the original tract. The Franklins sold a three-acre tract containing the stone house to Alexander E. and Barbara Czarnecki in June 1986 (Deed 679/87). They sold a second, adjoining tract of 2.57 acres to the Czarneckis in 1987 (Deed 832/747). After her husband's death, Barbara Czarnecki transferred the two combined tracts, which form the present tax parcel containing the Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House, to the current owners, Charles and Anne Ferree of Charlotte, North Carolina (Deed 944/69). After purchasing the home tract in 1998, the Ferrees acquired a contiguous three-acre wooded tract from the Price family in 1999 (Deed 982/542).

Architectural Context

Settlement in Transylvania County, which was formed from the western portion of Henderson County in 1861, remained sparse, and predominantly rural, until the late nineteenth century, when rail travel was initiated between Hendersonville and Brevard. After the completion of the new rail line in 1895, tourism boomed and the pace of development in the area quickened dramatically. At the turn of the twentieth century, well-heeled visitors from near and far were flocking to Hendersonville, Flat Rock, Brevard, and points west to enjoy the idyllic beauty of the surrounding mountains and to relax at one of the area's premier summer resorts.

One of the area's most distinctive architectural characteristics is the frequent use of local stone for construction during the twentieth century. A group of talented local stonemasons employed the readily-available materials on a number of outstanding buildings, including the Godfrey-Barnette House (NR, 1993), which was built around 1918 in an English Manorial style, and the Tudor Revival-style Charles E. Orr House (NR, 2006) built in 1926. Much of the impressive stone work in the area is attributed to the six sons of James Wright, who were active from the 1920s through the 1950s. Three of the Wright brothers worked in Hendersonville, and the other three—William Benjamin Franklin “Doc” Wright (1870-1936), James Robert Wright (1895-1959), and Joseph Few Wright—moved to Brevard around 1919. In Brevard a one-armed

⁵ Ruscin, 102.

⁶ WHKP Hendersonville, North Carolina News (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WHKPNews/conversations/topics/611>; accessed August 13, 2014).

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black stonemason, Fred Mills (1892-1981), learned the craft from the Wrights and worked for them in the 1920s and 1930s. Mills went on to work individually and in partnership with Avery Benjamin, another African American stonemason.⁷

The Rustic Revival style in North Carolina owes a debt to the natural and rustic style of construction and engineering work developed from the National Park Service's design standards for national parks, which emphasized a close harmony of built structures and the natural environment. The style was manifest in low, horizontal buildings constructed using native stone or rock, massive logs, and heavy timbers. Developed in the early twentieth century and instituted as policy in the 1920s, the Park Service's rustic architecture was heavily promoted through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. The CCC, a federal relief program, worked extensively in western North Carolina constructing buildings, structures, trails, and roads in the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Rustic Revival style, which combined traditional building methods and natural materials with modern functionality, found widespread acceptance in the forested and mountainous region and aided the tourist-driven economies of small towns along the Blue Ridge.⁸

The use of the Rustic Revival style was not uncommon for private houses, especially seasonal residences that would allow the owners a sense of escape to the mountains without completely forgoing modern conveniences. While architectural trends reflected nationally popular styles and influences, specific conditions such as the availability of building materials and skilled craftsmen also dictated a number of regional distinctions. In particular, the wealthy visitors and seasonal residents, who were largely responsible for the area's growing tourist economy, fashioned much of the new architecture with romantic notions about mountain lifestyles. Comfort and luxury overwhelmed the vague notion of "roughing it." Architects and skilled craftsmen, who were often brought in to work on various projects, coexisted with local builders and craftspeople and together introduced rustic interpretations of architectural styles that were suited to the mountain landscape and climate.

The Grove Park Inn in Asheville, built in 1913 in the manner of the great lodges of Yellowstone National Park, is one of the best known regional examples of the Rustic Revival style. Also influenced by the intentional rusticism of the Arts and Crafts movement in the early twentieth century, the designers sought to emphasize natural materials and simple forms to complement its mountain setting. The massive building is constructed with uncut granite boulders gathered from the mountain and the stepped forms are capped by a gently undulating red tile roof. On the interior, the dark-stained woodwork is complemented by the heavy Arts and Crafts furnishings and lamps crafted by the Roycrofters of New York. The focus on the natural character of local materials influenced a regional architectural character that was expressed "in a

⁷ Laura A. W. Phillips and Deborah Thompson, *Transylvania: The Architectural History of a Mountain County* (Brevard, NC: The Transylvania County Joint Historic Preservation Commission, 1998), 79-80.

⁸ William C. Tweed, et al, *Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942* (National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977).

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preference for picturesque, romantic, and rustic designs and natural materials, most often displayed in resorts and residences.”⁹

Two prominent regional architects, who worked in a variety of popular styles, executed a number of buildings in, or influenced by, the Rustic Revival style. Following his work as supervising architect at Biltmore, the English-born Richard Sharp Smith (1852-1924) developed a distinctive personal style that combined elements of English vernacular, Arts and Crafts, and Tudor Revival-style architecture. For his own house, built in 1902 in the Chunns Cove section of Asheville, Smith designed an Arts and Crafts-influenced dwelling constructed of uncoursed, dry-stacked stone. The efficient plan and finely crafted interior materials are typical of Smith’s design sensibility, although the house is more rustic in its overall character than most of his other residential designs.¹⁰

Prominent Hendersonville architect Erle Stillwell (1885-1978) also worked in a variety of architectural styles and was especially gifted in the period revival styles of the 1920s and 1930s. In the early years of his practice, which began in Hendersonville around 1913, Stillwell designed a number of modest Craftsman bungalows. In 1924, he designed a rustic cottage for Malcolm D. McNaughton in the Fruitland section of Henderson County. The one-and-a-half-story stone and frame house has irregularly-coursed stone on the first story and patterned weatherboards on the second story. Capped by a clipped side-gable roof, the house features an exterior stone chimney, front shed dormers, and wood-frame casement windows. A central second-story porch cantilevers over the main entrance and is supported on triangular brackets. The porch has a clipped front-gable roof, square posts, and a simple wood balustrade.¹¹

The Royal and Louise Morrow House, constructed in 1915, may be the oldest stone house in Brevard. Built in the Craftsman style, the house was built using reclaimed stone from the pre-Civil War Hume Hotel, which had burned in the nineteenth century. The Morrow House, following a design based on House Plan No. 69, “Craftsman Stone House,” from Gustav Stickley’s *The Craftsman* magazine, is a one-and-a-half-story residence with a side-gable roof and a three-bay shed dormer that projects from the front and rear of the house. The use of uncoursed stone and the rustic design of the house are indicative of Royal Morrow’s interest in the natural environment. An engineer by trade, Morrow designed several summer camps in the area and also worked with the U. S. Forest Service.¹²

⁹ Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 59 and 282-283.

¹⁰ Clay Griffith, “Richard Sharp Smith House” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Office of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, 2009.

¹¹ William Mitchell, *Buildings As History, The Architecture of Erle Stillwell* (Hendersonville, NC: William Mitchell and Henderson County Public Library, 2006), 29. Although the Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House contains elements that resemble the work of both Stillwell and Smith, it does not appear to be the work of either. Drawing indexes for both architects were searched and no connection to the Sewell House was discovered.

¹² Laura A. W. Phillips, “Royal and Louise Morrow House” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Office of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, 2006.

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The Max and Clare Brombacher House on East Main Street in Brevard remains an important example of Rustic Revival-style domestic architecture in Transylvania County. Built around 1940, the Brombacher House is a one-story dwelling constructed of uncoursed rock. The Wright brothers, who were contractors for the Charles E. Orr House and St. Philip's Episcopal Church (NR, 1997) in Brevard, were hired to construct the Brombacher residence. It is one of the most unusual examples of stone construction in the county, as the stones are stacked without visible mortar, similar to the stonework at the Grove Park Inn, in Asheville.¹³ Max Brombacher, who served as general manager for the Breakers Hotel in West Palm Beach, Florida, was familiar with the Grove Park Inn, and the design for the house was likely inspired by the inn's rustic architecture.¹⁴

The Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House, built in the 1920s, exhibits the characteristics of the Rustic Revival style popular in the early to mid-twentieth century in Henderson and Transylvania counties. Built by the Sewells as a summer house and later used as a more permanent residence, the house occupies a wooded, mountain-top site. Landscape elements, such as the carriage path and rhododendron canopy that surround the grassy knoll of the main house and mature trees and plantings, not only lend the house a more formal quality, but also help to harmonize the house with its setting. Constructed of irregularly-coursed local stone, the house displays wood shingle, board-and-batten, and log details that are exposed and typically unpainted. The use of native woods—poplar, hemlock, and locust—contributes to the rustic character of the finishes and emphasizes the connection with its natural setting. The house is laid out around the two-story great room, with its open stair and balcony, which evokes the architecture of the grand lodges found in western national parks. The Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House embodies the characteristics of the Rustic Revival style to the extent that the house and its landscape incorporate naturalistic materials and organic forms to create a comfortable, rustic mountain retreat.

¹³ Phillips and Thompson, 82.

¹⁴ Amanda Blosser, "Max and Clare Brombacher House" National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Office of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, 2001.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Phillips, Laura A.W. and Deborah Thompson. *Transylvania: The Architectural History of a Mountain County*. Brevard, NC: The Transylvania County Joint Historic Preservation Commission, 1998.

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Tweed, William C., Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law. *Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942*. National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977.

Sewell, Dillard B. and Georgia, House
Name of Property

Henderson/Transylvania County, NC
County and State

United States City Directories, 1821-1989 (www.ancestry.com; accessed August 14, 2014).

WHKP Hendersonville, North Carolina News
(<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WHKPNews/conversations/topics/611>; accessed August 13, 2014).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Henderson County Public Library, Hendersonville, NC

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HN 1262

Sewell, Dillard B. and Georgia, House
Name of Property

Henderson/Transylvania County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 8.84 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 354030 | Northing: 3902760 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property for the Sewell House contains the full extent of Henderson County tax parcels 9960908 (PIN 9526481901) and 9941740 (PIN 9526483682), and Transylvania County tax parcel PIN 9526381730.99, containing approximately 8.84 acres located in both Henderson and Transylvania counties. The boundary is shown by a heavy solid line on the accompanying tax map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nominated property includes the residual acreage historically associated with the Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House.

Sewell, Dillard B. and Georgia, House
Name of Property

Henderson/Transylvania County, NC
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Clay Griffith and Alex Cole
organization: Acme Preservation Services, LLC
street & number: 825 C Merrimon Avenue, #345
city or town: Asheville state: NC zip code: 28804
e-mail cgriffith.acme@gmail.com
telephone: (828) 281-3852
date: November 26, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Sewell, Dillard B. and Georgia, House
Name of Property

Henderson/Transylvania County, NC
County and State

Photographs

The following information pertains to each of the photographs:

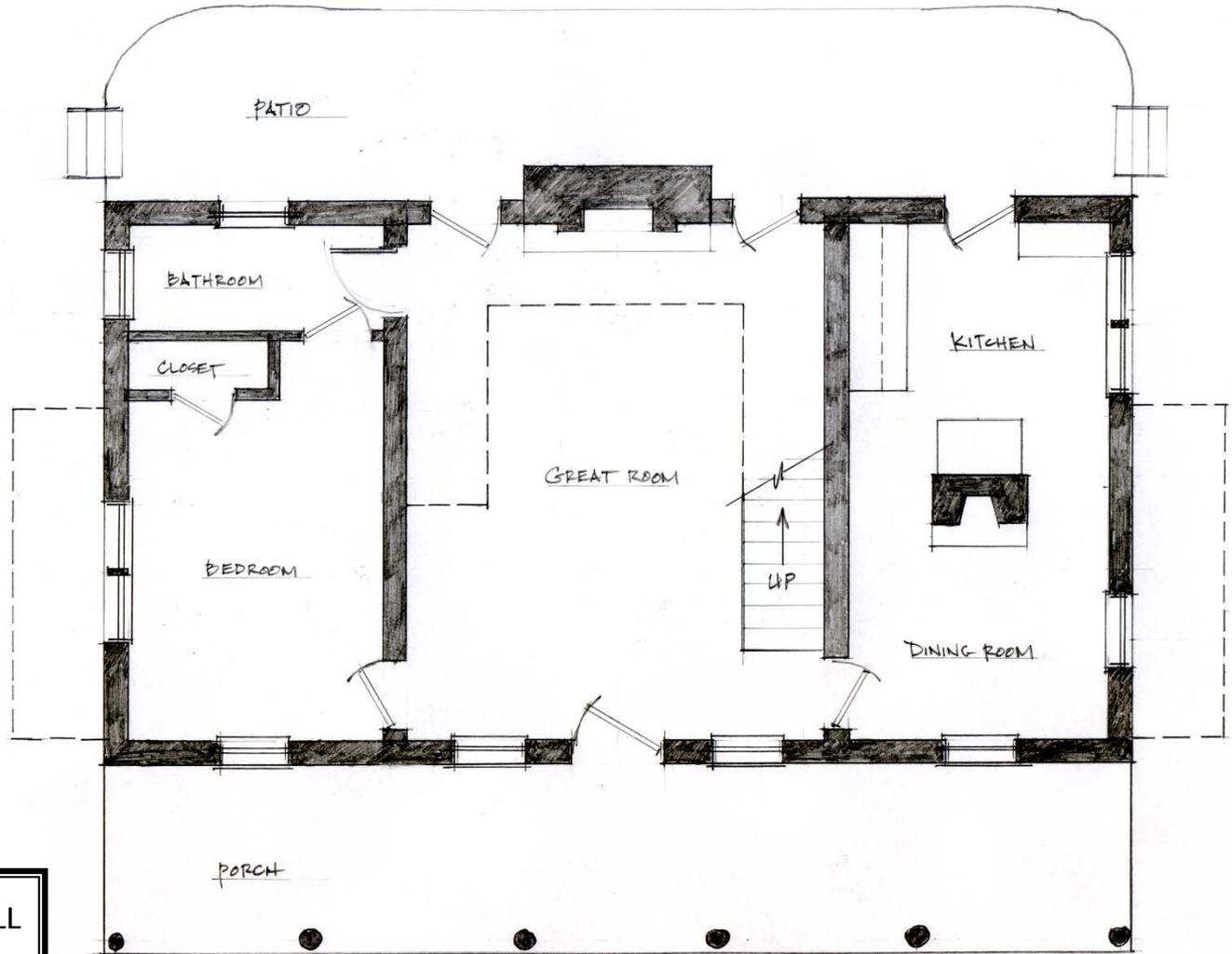
Name of Property: Dillard B. and Georgia Sewell House
Location: 64 Clipper Lane, Penrose vic., North Carolina
County: Henderson and Transylvania
Name of Photographer: Clay Griffith / Acme Preservation Services
Date of Photographs: May 9, 2014
Location of Digital Master: Historic Preservation Office
North Carolina Division of Archives and History
109 E. Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2807

Photographs:

1. House, façade, view to northeast
2. Front entrance, view to northeast
3. House, north elevation, view to south
4. House, rear elevation, view to southwest
5. House, south elevation, oblique view to northeast
6. House, basement approach and entrance, view to east
7. House, great room, view to southeast
8. House, great room, balcony detail, view to northeast
9. House, great room, fireplace, view to east
10. Playhouse, view to southwest, *non-contributing resource*
11. Well, view to southwest, *non-contributing resource*

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



**DILLARD B. and GEORGIA SEWELL
HOUSE**
64 Clipper Lane
Penrose vic., Henderson & Transylvania
Counties, NC

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
(Not to scale)



DILLARD B. and GEORGIA SEWELL HOUSE
 64 Clipper Lane
 Penrose vic., Henderson & Transylvania Counties, NC

SITE PLAN
 (Not to scale)

Key:
 C Contributing resource
 NC Noncontributing resource