

(Rev. 10-90)

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 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 Smathers, Frank, House

other names/site number The Evergreens

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 724 Smathers Street (510 Smathers) not for publication N/A
city or town Waynesville vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Haywood code 087 zip code 28786

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPO
Signature of certifying official

5/19/98
Date

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

name of property Smathers, Frank, House

county and state Haywood Co., NC

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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
=====

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
<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

name of property Smathers, Frank, House county and state Haywood Co., NC

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC bed-and-breakfast inn

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Eclectic

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone
roof ASPHALT
walls WOOD: weatherboard
other BRICK; WOOD

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

See 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.
- 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.

name of property Smathers, Frank, House

county and state Haywood Co., NC

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8. Statement of Significance, Cont'd.
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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 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 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1926

Significant Dates 1926

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Smathers, Frank

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder DeGarmo, Richard

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

See Continuation Sheets

name of property Smathers, Frank, House

county and state Haywood Co., NC

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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) N/A

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: Buncombe County Library

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 2.650 Acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>320340</u>	<u>3930830</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
___	See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Megan D. Eades

organization _____

street & number 927 Hampton, #8

city or town Shelby state NC

date July 15, 1997

telephone 704/ 480-1669

zip code 28152

name of property Smathers, Frank, House

county and state Haywood Co., NC

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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
=====

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

name Frank and Ellen Childers

street & number 724 Smathers Street (510 Smathers) telephone (704) 452-0848

city or town Waynesville state NC zip code 28786
=====

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.

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VII. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Frank Smathers House is a one and a half-story frame house with an eclectic blend of Gothic and Colonial Revival elements and represents a synthesis of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century architectural patterns. Designed by Florida architect Richard de Garmo, the house was built as a summer home and family cottage for the Frank Smathers family, who owned the home from 1926 until 1988. Since the house was not a permanent, year-round residence, the exterior and interior features are largely intact, and very few alterations occurred with subsequent owners.

The dwelling is located on a two and one-half acre tract of land at 510 Smathers Street, approximately two and one-half miles northwest of the downtown commercial district of Waynesville, North Carolina. Other properties adjacent to the Smathers house predate the dwelling by one or two decades, but more contemporary buildings are located on the southern end of Smathers Street. The Smathers property faces south on Smathers Street, and is north of Richland Creek. Boyd Avenue, which bridges the creek, originally provided the only access to the house until circa 1930. "Smathers Hill" is the name given to the property by local residents, and refers to the gently rolling setting surrounding the house. The acreage behind the house, toward the north boundary of the parcel, is partially shaded by large fir trees but becomes increasingly steep at the far north edge of the property. Smathers Street intersects the southern edge of the property as it descends toward Richland Creek, and the sloping hillside is cut not only by the road, but also by a stone retaining wall which borders the sidewalk in front of the dwelling.

The house is located on the same property that previously contained the house owned by Frank Smathers' father, Benjamin Franklin Smathers, who was one of the early residents in Waynesville. Benjamin Smathers conveyed ownership of his property, which included three dwellings as well as surrounding acreage, to his children upon his death in 1924. Frank Smathers received the property containing the original family homestead, but since the house was old and not suitable for the type of entertaining anticipated by Frank Smathers and his family, he elected to demolish the existing dwelling and to build a new house. Most of the salvageable wood from the older building was put to new use in the form of a two-story gable roof barn which is located behind the present house.

Smathers commissioned the construction of the new residence in 1925 and the house was completed in 1926. He contracted with the a Miami architect

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Richard Degarmo to design the house and supervise the construction, but Smathers used local contractors and builders to complete the project. In keeping with the eclectic designs typical of the 1920s, the new Smathers house, often called the "The Evergreens," embodied distinctive features associated with several different architectural classifications. The house was designed as a summer residence for the Smathers family but Smathers intended it to be an impressive vacation site for many distinguished friends and business associates. Entertaining was a primary consideration, therefore modern amenities accompanied the spacious plan of the house.

The Frank Smathers house is characterized by its steeply pitched, cross gable roof which features imbricated fish-scale asphalt shingles, brick interior slope chimneys, projecting eaves, and exposed rafters. Decorative elements include wood vergeboards, scroll sawn pendants, and projecting dormers. Weatherboard cladding covers the exterior walls above the partially exposed basement with stone foundation. All windows have wood sills and narrow wood lintels.

The dwelling has an H-shaped plan consisting of a side-gabled center section flanked by two projecting end-gabled ells. The unusual plan allows for the distinctive recessed patio area at the entrance of the house as well as the courtyard located at the rear of the building, both of which provide partial shelter for outdoor entertaining. The beautifully landscaped grounds include towering evergreen trees which shade the house during the summer, and smaller trees, including dogwoods and rhododendron, line the facade. A stone retaining wall borders the southern edge of the property along the sidewalk and runs parallel to Smathers Street. A gravel driveway is located on the east side of the house and provides access not only to the dwelling, but also to the barn located at the rear of the house.

The facade, or south elevation, faces south on Smathers Street and serves as the primary entrance to the house. The one and one-half story, three-bay facade is composed of a side-gabled center section flanked by two gable-end ells. Each bay contains a variety of decorative architectural features which present an eclectic view of the house from the street. The gable-front ell located on the west end of the center section features a steeply pitched gable roof with projecting eaves and exposed rafters. Wide verge boards meet at the apex of the gable and are joined by a decorative sawn

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pendant. This bay contains two six-over-six sash windows with wood sills and lintels on the first floor level and a Palladian window, also with the six-over-six configuration, on the second story. A small ventilator with wood framing and slats is located directly above the Palladian window in the uppermost section of the gable end.

The center bay features a steeply pitched side gable roof pierced by three gable dormers, each with decorative vergeboards and pendants that correspond with the east gable-end bay. Each dormer contains a single six-over-six sash window with wood lintels and sills. The first level contains a center door flanked on either side by two six-over-six sash windows with wood lintels and sills. The door features an unusual variation on the half-glass and paneled wood styles popular with early twentieth-century houses and features a diamond-shaped pane surrounded by four larger, more rectangular sections of glass divided by narrow wood muntins. The lower portion of the door has a recessed panel that matches the width of the upper glass section of the door.

The paneled wood and glass door is framed by a wide, crenelated lintel and paneled door jambs with carved corner blocks. This entrance is enhanced by an elongated portico supported by two square columns with tapered capitals. The portico roof is slightly arched with exposed rafters, vergeboards, and pendant. A delicate wrought iron railing flanks the center portico and frames the concrete and stone patio. Two sets of stone abutments with concrete caps flank the concrete steps down from the patio. A concrete walkway extends from the steps toward the sidewalk and stone retaining walls.

The third bay, or east wing of the H-plan of the facade, has a hip-on-gable roof with an interior ridge chimney. The projecting eaves and exposed rafters of the roofline are framed by wide vergeboards, but the gable end does not feature the decorative pendant motif found in the other two bays. A single six-over-six sash window is located directly above four grouped windows with the same six-over-six sash configuration.

A long driveway borders the east elevation of the Smathers house and provides access to the rear of the dwelling. Like the facade, the east elevation is characterized by the weatherboard cladding, exposed stone foundation, and steeply pitched roofline with asphalt fish-scale shingles. The side gable roof is broken by a centered cross gable with vergeboards

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and projecting eaves and a single gabled dormer. An interior slope chimney is located on the eave wall on the north side of the dormer. The three-bay fenestration is composed of triple six-over-six sash windows followed by five six-over-six sash windows. A single six-over-six sash window in the upper section of the cross gable is enhanced by a small half-round window above the lintel. A single six-over-six sash window is located in the one-story bay of the rear porch addition, which extends beyond the east elevation of the main house.

The H-plan is most visible from the south elevation, or rear of the dwelling, because the two side wings extend far beyond the depth of the center section, forming a center courtyard or patio. The west gable end wing is fronted by the one-story, hipped roof rear addition which rests upon the stone foundation wall of the exposed cellar. A single door and six-light casement window are located directly below the partial porch of the rear addition. Two slender wood columns support the hipped roof and a single band of flat wood railing borders the south side of the porch. Stone steps provide access to the addition, which contains a half-glass and paneled wood door and six-light casement window. Directly above the hipped roof of the addition are two six-over-six sash windows and a single gable vent.

The central patio was originally designed as a courtyard, but was adapted for use as a deck patio by previous owners. A raised floor with railing and wood steps completely fills the recessed area created by the house's unusual H-plan. The east wall of the east wing contains a single casement window with six lights, a multi-paned double-casement door, paired six-over-six sash windows, and a gabled dormer with a single six-over-six sash window. The side gable center section of the house is dominated by the large exterior end brick chimney. A single six-over-six sash window and half-glass and paneled wood door are located on either side of the chimney at the lower level, and two gable dormers with six-over-six sash windows flank the chimney on the upper story. The half-glass and paneled wood door is identical to the door located at the facade entrance. The west side of the recessed patio contains three six-over-six sash windows and a large gable dormer with triple six-over-six sash windows. The north gable end of the west wing also contains two six-over-six sash windows below paired windows with the same configuration.

The west elevation features a steeply pitched side gable roof pierced by three gable dormers with slightly flared eaves, wide vergeboards, and single six-over-six sash windows. Two sets of paired six-over-six sash

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windows, followed by a single sash window and three single sash windows with the same light configuration, are located on the lower level of the east elevation. An interior slope chimney is located at the northeast end of the eave wall.

As with the house exterior, the interior of the Smathers house is remarkably intact. The spacious rooms complement the restrained ornamentation and clean lines of the interior woodwork and are well-suited to the eclectic design of the exterior. All floors are the original hardwood strip flooring or ceramic tile, and the molded woodwork remains unaltered. Interior walls are plaster, as are all ceilings. Although the original plaster was damaged and the existing wall finish is new, the type of plaster and the method of application is comparable the circa 1926 cladding. Original fixtures, including ceiling lights, bath fixtures, and hardware on doors, cabinets, and windows, are largely intact. Fireplaces retain their original tile hearths and carved wood and marble mantles. Many of the interior doors repeat the unusual diamond patterned half-glass doors, but other door styles include multi-paned French doors and paneled wood doors.

The interior plan is designed around a large central room which opens to both wings as well as the front and rear of the dwelling. The east wing contains the kitchen, dining room, and study, while the east wing contains three bedrooms and two bathrooms on the first floor. The primary staircase is located in a narrow hallway adjacent to the front living room and the wing bedrooms. A small closet is located in the spandrel directly below the L-shaped open-string staircase. A second set of stairs, much smaller and more narrow than the formal staircase, is located at the rear of the east wing. Four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a large family room, and small office are located on the second floor of the house.

The formal living room, contained within the center section of the H-plan, is a large, spacious room that connects to both wings. A large fireplace with projecting chimney breast, tiled hearth, and carved mantelpiece is centered on the north wall of the living room directly across from the front entrance. Exposed beams along the ceiling and wide cornices contrast with the plaster walls and painted woodwork of the baseboards, window frames, and door frames. Astragal picture moldings are located approximately twelve inches below the cornices. A built-in bookcase with carved cornice and paneled cabinets is located on the southeast wall directly adjacent to the arched cased opening to the west hall.

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The dining room is located at the northeast corner of the living room and is accessible from the living room via double half-glass doors with the same diamond pattern as the exterior doors. Smooth plaster walls and ceilings are enhanced by wide baseboards and molded picture railings. The dining room also features a centrally located fireplace with projecting chimney breast, decorative scroll-sawn wood mantel, and ceramic tile hearth and firebox. A single-paneled wood door connects the dining room to the large butler's pantry which contains full-height built-in wood cabinets and shelves. A multi-paned glass door at the southwest corner of the dining room leads to a small study, located in the northeast corner of the house. Like the other public rooms, the study has plaster walls and ceilings, painted woodwork, and hardwood floors. The study shares the same chimney flue as the dining room and the fireplace also boasts a decorative carved mantle. Natural sunlight floods the room from five windows, and a single half-glass and paneled wood door provides access from the study to the front patio of the facade.

Guest bedrooms are located in the west wing of the house and are also accessible from the central living room. A large bedroom with adjoining bathroom occupies the southwest corner of the house and opens directly into the living room. The front bedroom also features decorative detailing such as molded wood window and door frames and astragal picture railing. A smaller coal-burning fireplace is located on the south wall of the bedroom and it also features a tiled hearth and carved wood mantel. The bathroom features all the original ceramic tilework and bath fixtures, all of which are in very good condition.

Adjacent to the southwest bedroom is a smaller bedroom which opens to the west hall. This bedroom and the bedroom located in the northwest corner are somewhat smaller than the front bedroom but have similar characteristics such as hardwood floors, painted plaster walls, and wide wood molding around the window and door frames. A second bathroom is located at the end of the west hallway, directly adjacent to the rear bedroom. The large bathroom retains its original decorative tilework typical of early 20th-century designs, and the brightly colored tiles are in very good condition. The bath also includes a combination bathtub and shower, toilet, and pedestal lavatory.

The primary staircase is also located in the west hallway. The L-shaped staircase has wood treads with painted risers, delicate painted balusters, and a hardwood banister which extends the full height of the stairs. The

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newel post is a squared column with modified cornice and capital. A small closet was built into the spandrel, or triangular space underneath the staircase, for use as a telephone closet. Stained glass windows line the upper section of the first floor wall on the east side of the staircase, and provide additional lighting and decorative elements to the overall hallway design.

Two bedrooms and a bath are contained within the second floor west wing. The bedrooms have sloping ceilings that correspond with the steeply pitched roofline giving the rooms a triangular shape. Although the second floor rooms and hall do not have the decorative picture molding, the wide baseboards are similar to the first floor rooms. All upstairs doors are solid wood with five raised horizontal panels. The original narrow strip flooring is in excellent condition and is visible around the borders of the area rugs. The deeply recessed windows of the exterior gable dormers add depth and contrast to the rooms.

The west wing hall is a narrow corridor with a slightly arched effect created by the peaked ceilings of gabled roofline. The hall connects the two bedrooms and opens on the west wall to an upstairs bath. A large bathroom is located between the two bedrooms on the west side of the wing and features the same sloped ceilings as the bedrooms. Like the other baths, this room features decorative tile, done in a blue and white checkerboard pattern.

The center section of the H-plan on the second floor was originally used as a dormitory style bedroom for the Smathers cousins and visiting children. The rectangular room is long and narrow with three dormer windows providing recessed lighting. Two dormer windows with built-in window seats are located opposite the three facade windows. The exterior roofline creates sloping ceilings on either side of the room, giving the space an unusual tent-like effect. The room also serves as a corridor between the west wing hall and the east wing bedrooms.

A single horizontal paneled wood door is located on the east end of the center room and provides access to the east wing. The doorway opens into a combination bedroom and sitting room, which also connects with the rear hallway and secondary stairs. Another bedroom located in the southeast corner of the house connects to this room through a single-paneled door. Both rooms are small but provide ample space for sleeping or sitting room

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A small bath is adjacent to the sitting room and is characterized by the black and white "Art Deco" style tilework. A stained glass transom window located on the connecting wall between the bath and sitting rooms provides ventilation and additional lighting.

To the north of the sitting room is a short hall leading to another bathroom and bedroom. The bathroom is characterized by the sloping ceiling and original tilework found in the west wing second floor bath, but also retains the original claw-foot tub. The remaining bedroom is the smallest of the sleeping quarters and was originally designed for a maid or other servant. The hall also contains the secondary staircase, which is much narrower and more compact than the primary, or formal staircase. Originally designed for use by servants and family members, this staircase was not commonly used by guests. The narrow L-shaped staircase features a plain banister and unpainted wood treads typical of back staircase plans for early twentieth-century residences.

The kitchen is located in the northeast corner of the second floor of the dwelling and is the only room in the house to undergo significant alterations. As is typical in many historic homes, the kitchen was originally designed as a small, compact room that was probably used only for the preparation of food. Contemporary lifestyles adapt more easily to large kitchens with integrated eating space, so the room was enlarged and expanded circa 1987 by previous owners. The overall space is still intact, although the existing kitchen was created by absorbing the original porch. Sliding glass doors were also added to the west wall of the kitchen to provide easy access to the rear patio.

The room retains few of the original materials, but the kitchen expansion does not in any way diminish the overall architectural integrity of the home or its interior design. One of the intact historic features is a small staircase to the basement, which is accessible through a single paneled wood door on the east side of the kitchen. The basement staircase is located directly beneath the secondary staircase leading up to the second floor.

The basement is also accessible from the exterior of the house. A single door located beneath the rear porch opens directly into the cellar, or basement space. One of the interesting features is the exposed stone walls

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VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Narrative Summary:

The 1926 Frank Smathers Sr. House is a two-story eclectic dwelling that embodies characteristics commonly associated with Gothic and Colonial Revival styles of architecture. The house is one of the largest and most impressive residential buildings located on Smathers Street, which was named after the prolific Smathers family that settled in Waynesville in the mid-nineteenth century. Frank Smathers built his house on the same lot previously occupied by his father, Benjamin Franklin Smathers', house, which was demolished in 1925 to accommodate the construction of the new dwelling. Among the most unusual residential designs in Waynesville, this fine example of early twentieth-century eclecticism in Haywood County was primarily used as a summer residence, and thus reflects the trend toward the construction of seasonal residences and is indicative of Waynesville's popularity as a summer resort during the first half of the twentieth century.

Designed by Florida architect Richard De Garmo for Frank Smathers, Sr., the house reflects his status as a prominent jurist, businessman, author, and politician. Although Smathers spent most of his adult life in New Jersey and Florida, he considered Waynesville his home and always returned to the town for summer vacations and family gatherings. Smathers served as an Atlantic City district court judge for fifteen years before retiring to Miami, Florida to begin a second career as a lawyer and businessman. Politics was a great interest to Smathers in his later years: he was extremely active in his son George's campaign for U.S. Senator and provided consultation during his term in office.

The 1926 Frank Smathers Sr. House is locally significant under Criterion C as an unusual representation of an eclectic blend of several early twentieth-century architectural styles popular during the period 1925 to 1940, and is also significant as one of the few architect-designed, high-style residential buildings in Waynesville. While the majority of early to mid-twentieth-century residences represent more common, vernacular adaptations of the Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, and Queen Anne styles, the Smathers house represents the work of Florida architect Richard DeGarmo, who designed the home to utilize elements associated with popular Florida residential styles of the era. Among these hallmark

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architectural elements are the unusual H-plan that is conducive to both indoor and outdoor entertaining and DeGarmo's successful blending of popular residential forms with a striking selection of eclectic revival details. The result is a stylish summer house that stands among the best examples of seasonal dwellings in Haywood County.

Historical Background:

The Smathers family is quite large and consists of several different lines, all descended from French Huguenots who sought refuge first in Germany then migrated to the United States in the mid-eighteenth century. John and Mary Agner Smathers are among the first recorded Smathers to settle in North Carolina prior to the American Revolution, and they finally moved into Buncombe County and settled at Turnpike in 1815.¹ John and Mary Smathers had several children who went on to produce large families of their own. Their second son, George, passed the family name on to his son John Charles Smathers, who married Lucilla Johnson in 1848. John C. Smathers was a self-proclaimed entrepreneur, and held a variety of occupations during his ninety-two years in Turnpike. Some of his undertakings included owning and operating a general store, a sawmill, a flour mill, a boarding house, a farm, and a livery stable.² The marriage yielded thirteen children, including Benjamin Franklin Smathers, who eventually moved to Waynesville in Haywood County.³ Frank's father, Benjamin Franklin Smathers, worked along with his brother, George, in many of the businesses before choosing medicine as his primary vocation. Although his dental practice produced reliable income, Benjamin engaged in many less successful business ventures that put him in financial jeopardy, but he was always credited by his family and peers as a superb dentist, as well as a good hunter, fisherman, and farmer.⁴

Frank Smathers, Sr. was born in Waynesville, North Carolina in 1881 to Benjamin Franklin Smathers and his wife, Laura Howell Smathers. Frank grew up in a rural setting along Richland Creek, just northwest of Waynesville.

¹ Haywood County, A History of Haywood County, Waynesville, 1982, 383.

² Smathers, Frank. A Few of the Amazing Exploits and Dangerous Experiences of a Smoky Mountain Fisherman and Bear Hunter. (Raleigh, NC: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1970), 1.

³ Ibid., 384.

⁴ Ibid., 12.

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Known as "Smathers Hill" by family and long-time Waynesville residents, the farm was purchased by Benjamin Franklin Smathers sometime prior to Frank's birth in 1881. There are no available deeds to provide the exact date Benjamin purchased the property, and the first available record dates to 1920, when Benjamin and Laura conveyed a large portion of the property to Frank Sr.⁵ The parcel conveyed to Frank Sr. consisted of 2.650 acres and extended to the bridge over Richland Creek, and the nominated property retains the same boundaries and acreage. According to local residents, the first house on the property given to Frank Sr. was the boarding house owned by John C. Smathers, which Benjamin moved from Turnpike to his property in Waynesville.⁶ Rather than building a new house, Benjamin renovated the boarding house for his family. Many of Frank's boyhood memories are recorded in the books he wrote during his long struggle with arthritis.

Smathers coped with his physical ailments through writing, and his article on living with arthritis, *It's Wonderful to Live Again*, was published by Reader's Digest in 1958. Other books were published by a Raleigh, North Carolina company, including *Look Back Grandpa; The Last Pioneer; and A Few of the Amazing Exploits and Dangerous Experiences of a Smoky Mountain Fisherman and Bear Hunter*. The books provide an interesting perspective on life in western North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century through the lives of Smathers, his father, and grandfather. Writing the books also occupied Frank's time after he fully retired from his law practice in 1937, although he did not publish his manuscripts until many years later.

Prior to developing debilitating arthritis, Frank Smathers was a prominent figure in Waynesville, as well as an important attorney in New Jersey, where he served as a district court judge. Frank also served as campaign manager for Woodrow Wilson's gubernatorial campaign in New Jersey and was instrumental in Wilson's presidential campaign in southern New Jersey. After a successful law career in Miami, Smathers became indirectly involved in national politics through his son, Senator George Smathers, and even had international political exposure through his other son, Frank Jr., during a diplomatic excursion to the Soviet Union.

⁵ Register of Deeds for Haywood County, Book No. 55, Page 557. September 28, 1920.

⁶ Charles Hamilton, Waynesville resident. Interview by author, September 15, 1997.

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Frank Smathers, Sr. was introduced to politics at an early age through his uncle George Henry Smathers, a prominent Waynesville and Asheville lawyer and state senator. Through George's connections, Frank served as a senate page in 1896 and later became a chief page and then Special Messenger of the Senate. The experience contributed to Frank's desire to study law during his education at the University of North Carolina, where he admits that during the first two years he "was a better athlete than scholar."⁸ He succeeded in athletics (baseball and football) as well as law, and graduated in 1903 with the intent of becoming a junior partner at his uncle George Smathers' firm.

A college friend from New Jersey encouraged Smathers to make a name for himself without family influence, so Frank moved to Atlantic City to practice law, working as a night clerk at a hotel until he met the three-year residency requirement for licensing.⁹ Smathers also studied public speaking and coached high school football until he was hired by one of the most prominent Atlantic City firms, Thompson & Cole. Cole was impressed by the young Smathers, and even encouraged him to run for state senate in 1909.¹⁰ Although he did not win the nomination, he did establish an association with Woodrow Wilson, whom he had initially met as a young boy selling apples back in Waynesville. Wilson remembered Frank, and Smathers became an avid supporter of Wilson's gubernatorial campaign.¹¹

Governor Wilson appointed Smathers a district court judge despite his North Carolina origins. Wilson remarked, "I have made up my mind not to appoint any of the five applicants for the Atlantic City District Court Judgeship...I'd like to give that appointment to a young man--like Frank Smathers--not a politician but a good citizen, an able lawyer and a man

⁷ Smathers. A Few of the Amazing Exploits, 3.

⁸ Smathers. Look Back, Grandpa. (Raleigh, NC: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1967), 38.

⁹ Jay Hensley, "The Judge Keeps Eyes on the Future," Asheville Citizen Times, Thursday, August 23, 1966.

¹⁰ Frank Smathers, Look Back Some More, Grandpa. (Raleigh, NC: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1968), 17.

¹¹ Hensley, "The Judge,"

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ready and willing to render public service when needed."¹² Smathers was re-appointed by subsequent governors and served eighteen years on the bench before moving to Florida to relieve some of the pain caused by the arthritis. In December of 1920, he moved his family to Miami where he soon established a thriving law practice.¹³ Even after leaving the bench in 1919, and throughout his years as a prominent attorney in Miami, Frank Smathers Sr. was commonly referred to by friends as "the Judge."¹⁴

Shortly after his move to Miami, one of his clients, Clarence Busch of Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company, advised Smathers to purchase stock in the Fidelity Bank and Trust Company, and through his association with Busch, Frank soon joined the board of directors and served as chief counsel for the banking firm.¹⁵ Now considered a prominent legal advisor, Smathers went on to facilitate the incorporation of Florida Power and Light Company and became lead counsel for Seaboard Railroad Company.¹⁶

It was during the early years of residence in Florida that Smathers commissioned the design and construction of the Waynesville house, which he called the Evergreens. He enjoyed fall hunting trips in the North Carolina mountains and summers in Waynesville, but needed a more contemporary home for his often lengthy visits. The home was also designed for entertaining, since Smathers invited many prominent clients and friends for vacations in Waynesville.¹⁷ Politicians also visited the Waynesville house, including John Kennedy and Richard Nixon.¹⁸

In his later years, after he retired completely from his law practice in 1937, Frank continued his involvement in law and politics in a more indirect way. He turned his expertise in law and his public speaking skills into coaching efforts that provided his son George with strong

¹² Smathers, Look Back Some More, 18.

¹³ Smathers, Its Wonderful To Live Again, 27.

¹⁴ Ibid., 34.

¹⁵ Smathers, Look Back Some More, 23.

¹⁶ Ibid., 25.

¹⁷ Frank Smathers, Jr. Interview with Ellen Childers, August 20, 1997.

¹⁸ "A Favorite Son Dies," Waynesville Journal, Monday, July 1969.

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foundations for his political career. George Armistead Smathers was part of the "Freshman Class of '46" in the House of Representatives, along with John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. In 1950, George was elected U.S. Senator but only served a single term before retiring to his private law practice in Miami. During George's campaign for senator, Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, authored a campaign pamphlet titled "The Better Story is Frank Smathers," in which he states that "the finest thing about Smathers (George) [is] --his father."¹⁹ McGill elaborates by recounting Frank's method of raising children, including emphasis on athletics, reading, recitation, and debate, as key elements in his children's success. Frank also provided a great deal of advice during George's campaign and edited all his speeches.²⁰

Frank's behind-the-scenes political involvement did not end with George's senatorial term. In the late 1950s, Frank participated in a diplomatic visit to the Soviet Union, along with his son, Frank Jr., and other delegates representing various fields of American commerce. During the course of the visit, which included economic debates at the Kremlin, Frank Sr. engaged Krushchev in a long dialog in the Kremlin gardens in which they discussed differences in American and Soviet law and business. The two parted as friends, and Smathers was credited by the other delegates with fostering good relations among the Soviet and American representatives.²¹ Frank Smathers, Sr. enjoyed a long and prosperous career which he acknowledged in his books by listing his vocations -- Attorney - Jurist - Author -- beneath his name.

The Frank Smathers Sr. House remained under family ownership until 1988. While Frank Sr. was still living in Miami, he and his wife Lura deeded the property to their three children, Frank Jr., George, and Virginia.²² Despite the transfer of ownership, Frank Sr. continued to use the house for entertaining and family gatherings.²³ In 1976 the property was deeded to

¹⁹ Ralph McGill, "The Better Story is Frank Smathers," May 4, 1950.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Frank Smathers, Interview with Ellen Childers, 1997.

²² Haywood County Register of Deeds, Book No. 86, Page 302, November 20, 1931.

²³ Frank Smathers, Jr. Phone Interview with author, August 3, 1997.

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Frank Sr.'s grandchildren, Pamela Smathers McCorquodale, Lila Ann Smathers, Bruce A. Smathers, and John Townley Smathers. Finally, in 1986, the ownership was consolidated when the other three heirs granted their portions to Bruce Smathers.²⁴ Bruce Smathers sold the house and surrounding acreage to Frank and Helen Keasler in 1988, and after the Keaslars purchased the home they made minor renovations including enlarging the kitchen and adding the rear deck.²⁵ In 1996, Frank and Ellen Childers purchased the property for use as a bed and breakfast and family home.

Architectural Context:

The Frank Smathers Sr. House is an eclectic design which embodies distinctive features associated with the Colonial Revival and Gothic Revival architectural styles. The one and a half-story frame house was built in 1926 on the property originally occupied by his father, Benjamin Franklin Smathers. Frank Smathers, Sr. inherited his father's land, including the old "boarding house" occupied by Benjamin Smather's family, which was demolished in 1922.²⁶ Unfortunately, very little is known about the architect who designed the house, but according to Frank Smathers, Jr., his father employed Richard DeGarmo to create the house plans because he liked the houses in the Miami area, many of which DeGarmo designed or assisted in designing. There are no available records or plans for the house, so it is difficult to ascertain how closely DeGarmo followed the construction of the house, for although Frank commissioned the designs in Miami, Smathers employed local builders for the house construction.²⁷ Frank Smathers, Jr. indicated that the completed dwelling bears a good likeness to the original plans, and is similar to the Miami houses favored by his father.²⁸

The Frank Smathers Sr. House is a fine example of early- twentieth-century eclectic architecture and corresponds with the period of increased tourism

²⁴ Haywood County Register of Deeds, Book 375, page 295, November 21, 1986.

²⁵ Frank and Ellen Childers, Interview with author, August 1997.

²⁶ Hamilton, Interview by author, September 1997.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Smathers, Phone interview with author, September 1997.

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and resort activities in Waynesville. During the period 1913 to 1929, many vacation homes were constructed near Lake Junaluska, along with impressive inns. The new construction introduced more sophisticated architectural styles, including the Colonial Revival, English Gothic, and Craftsman Bungalow.²⁹ While summer cottages and inns became increasingly popular, many out-of-state residents built summer homes in the Waynesville area and enhanced the stylistic diversity by including examples of Dutch Colonial Revival, Shingle style, Georgian Revival, and Tudor Revival architecture.³⁰ The residential buildings along Smathers Street correspond with Waynesville's residential pattern during the first half of the 20th century and consist of large homes intermingled with small bungalows and cottages.³¹ Since the Smathers property is flanked by parcels originally deeded to other members of the Smathers family, the immediate area is little changed, and the two houses adjacent to the Frank Smathers Sr. property are also historic. More contemporary dwellings, dating to the 1940s through 1970s are located to the east and west ends of Smathers Street.

Waynesville's architecture remained relatively simple until the arrival of the railroad in the 1880s, which provided the materials, tools, and pattern books necessary for constructing more elaborate residential and public buildings.³² Pre-railroad architecture in Waynesville was typically simple in both design and ornamentation. Although the homes were generally well-crafted, they lacked many of the decorative features that became both cost-effective and affordable after the turn-of-the century. Increased mobility also provided increased exposure to popular national styles, and in the early 1900s, Waynesville architecture followed national models. Classical design elements such as symmetrical facades and restrained ornamentation co-existed with whimsical, picturesque styles.

The Frank Smathers, Sr. House reflects the combination of classical elements with picturesque features in its unusual animated design.

²⁹ "The Built Environment of Haywood County," 23.

³⁰ Ibid., 22.

³¹ Mattson, Alexander, & Associates. "Final Report: Town of Waynesville, Architectural Survey. (October 1996), 9.

³² Ibid., 11.

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The dominant elements are reminiscent of the Gothic Revival style popularized by architect A.J. Downing published in his book, *The Architecture of Country Houses* in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Characteristic features of this particular style include steeply pitched gable roofs, gable pinnacles, decorative gable trim (vergeboards), and arched window or door openings. The Gothic Revival style became one of the early pattern-book styles of architecture, but very few Gothic Revival residences post-date 1900.³³ Downing's objective in his designs was to create a domestic retreat for the working man and his plans were best suited to rural, non-urban settings. The Gothic Revival style shared popularity with the Italianate and Greek Revival styles, but was not resurrected during the early to mid-twentieth century as were the defining elements of Colonial, Greek, and Tudor styles.³⁴ Architectural historian Alan Noble discusses the rarity of twentieth-century Gothic Revival residential designs and notes that aside from churches and university buildings, Gothic architecture primarily exists as elements within a collection of architectural features, particularly in post-Victorian designs.³⁵ Some of the elements, however, are also common in Folk-Victorian and Queen Anne designs, which were popular in the early twentieth century.³⁶

The dominant features of the Frank Smathers Sr. House reflect the influence of the Gothic Revival style but the house also embodies classical elements such as the Palladian window, classically-entablatured door with paneled pilasters, and the diamond-shaped paned windows. Such features are commonly linked with the Colonial Revival style of architecture and are consistent with the date of construction for the Smathers house. It is unclear why Frank Sr. chose the house designs, but according to neighbor Charles Hamilton, Frank liked the open H-plan of the house because it was popular in Miami, and the picturesque qualities appealed to him as well.³⁷

³³ Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986), 200.

³⁴ Clifford Clark, The American Family Home, 1800-1960. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 48-49.

³⁵ Alan Gowans, The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930. (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1986), 184.

³⁶ McAlester, A Field Guide, 200.

³⁷ Hamilton, Interview.

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The house form differs from the traditional and widely popular L- and T-plans which offered variety from common cube and I-house forms. The H-plan provided shelter for the rear courtyard (later a deck) and front patio.

The Frank Smathers, Sr. House represents a collection of stylistic features which designate it as a very eclectic, individualistic home and one of Haywood County's most unusual residences. Many of Waynesville's more prominent homes were constructed during the last decade of the nineteenth century and during the first decade of the twentieth century. The revival of classicism and merging of several architectural styles is evident in several other local residences, including the Barber House on Love Lane, which features classical columns with a wrap porch and octagonal corner turret which is more reminiscent of the Queen Anne style.³⁸ The Dr. J. Howell Way house and the Charles Ray house are also noteworthy for their highly decorative architecture and combination of classical and revival features.

The Frank Smathers Sr. House differs in that it was one of the few prominent dwellings built during the mid-1920s and is the only building in Waynesville to embody definite Gothic Revival features. The dwelling also reflects the sophistication in building techniques in the early twentieth century as well as the national trend toward architect-designed homes among upper middle class homeowners. The Smathers family's use of the house as a summer residence also corresponds with Waynesville's increased tourism and the prominence of resort cottages and hotels during the early 1900s. Today, the house is an outstanding architectural resource among the many Tudor, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman Bungalows found throughout Waynesville and Haywood County.

³⁸ Mattson, et.al. "Final Report," 13.

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name of property Smathers, Frank, House

county and state Haywood Co., NC

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0019

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X. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is outlined on the accompanying map as Tract 2 and contains 2.650 acres.

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes all property historically associated with the Frank Smathers Sr. House.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Smathers, Frank Sr., House
Waynesville, Haywood Co., NC

Photos By: Megan D. Eades
927 Hampton #8
Shelby, NC 28152

Negatives: North Carolina Department of Archives and History
Western Office
1 Village Lane, Suite 3
Biltmore Village
Asheville, NC 28803-2677

Date: July 1997

South Facade, looking north
1 of 6

name of property Smathers, Frank, House

county and state Haywood Co., NC

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

GMS No. 1024-0018

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North Elevation, looking south
2 of 6

Interior view of Dining Room, looking southwest
3 of 6

Interior view of Living Room, looking southwest
4 of 6

Interior view of first floor bathroom, looking north
5 of 6

Interior view of primary staircase and hall, looking south
6 of 6

streets, sewers, water lines, alleys, walks, paths, and other sites to public or private use as noted. Further, I(We) certify the land as shown hereon is within the platting jurisdiction of the Town of Hayneville, North Carolina.

DATE _____ OWNER _____

BURTON GREEN
D.B. 295 PG. 719

TAX MAP
Frank Smathers House
Haywood County

S 56° 31' 55" E
433.95'

TRACT 1
3.564 AC.

DEED
DB 295
NORTH
PG. 719

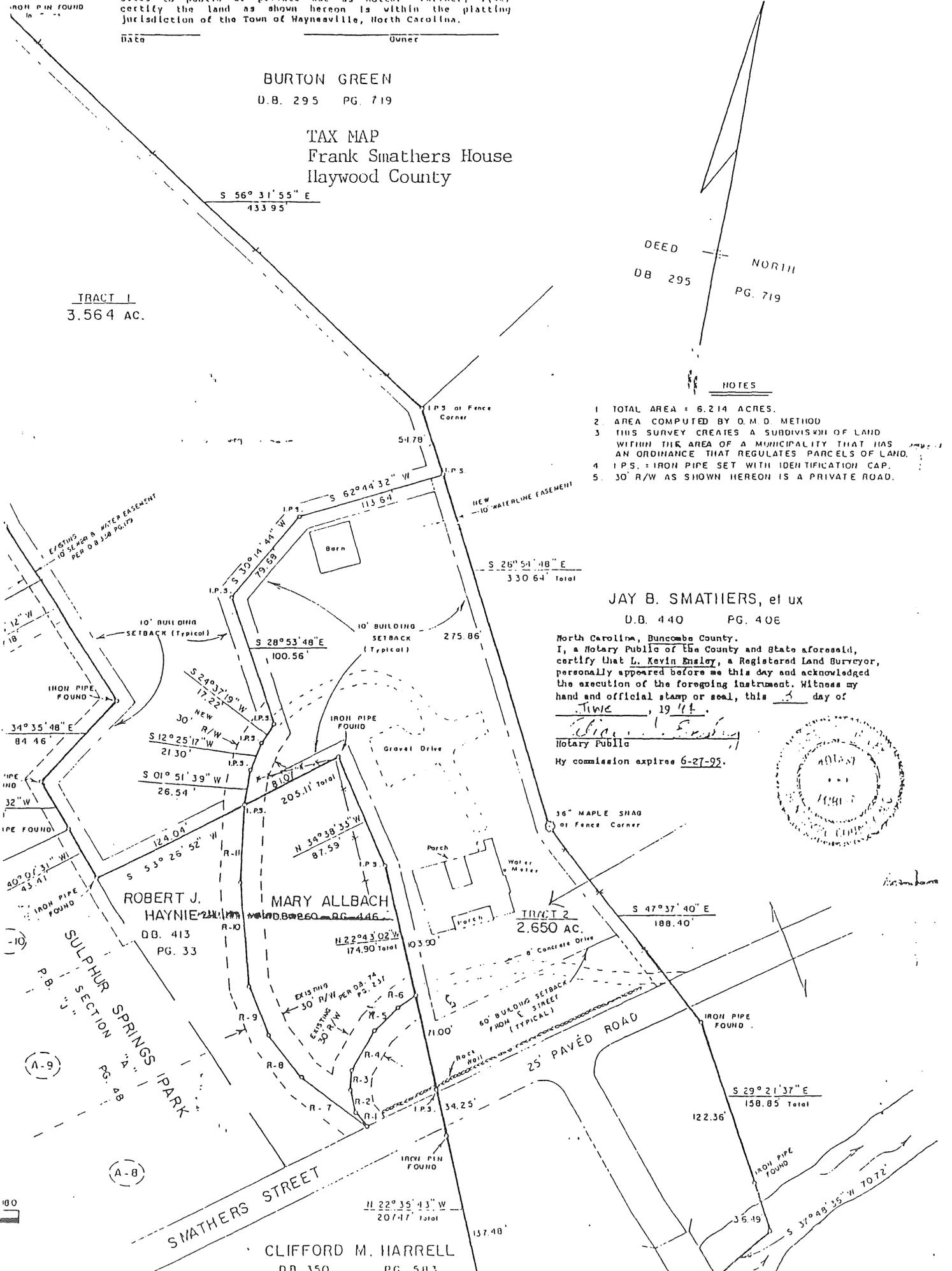
NOTES

1. TOTAL AREA = 6.214 ACRES.
2. AREA COMPUTED BY D.M.D. METHOD
3. THIS SURVEY CREATES A SUBDIVISION OF LAND WITHIN THE AREA OF A MUNICIPALITY THAT HAS AN ORDINANCE THAT REGULATES PARCELS OF LAND.
4. I.P.S. = IRON PIPE SET WITH IDENTIFICATION CAP.
5. 30' R/W AS SHOWN HEREON IS A PRIVATE ROAD.

JAY B. SMATHERS, et ux
D.B. 440 PG. 406

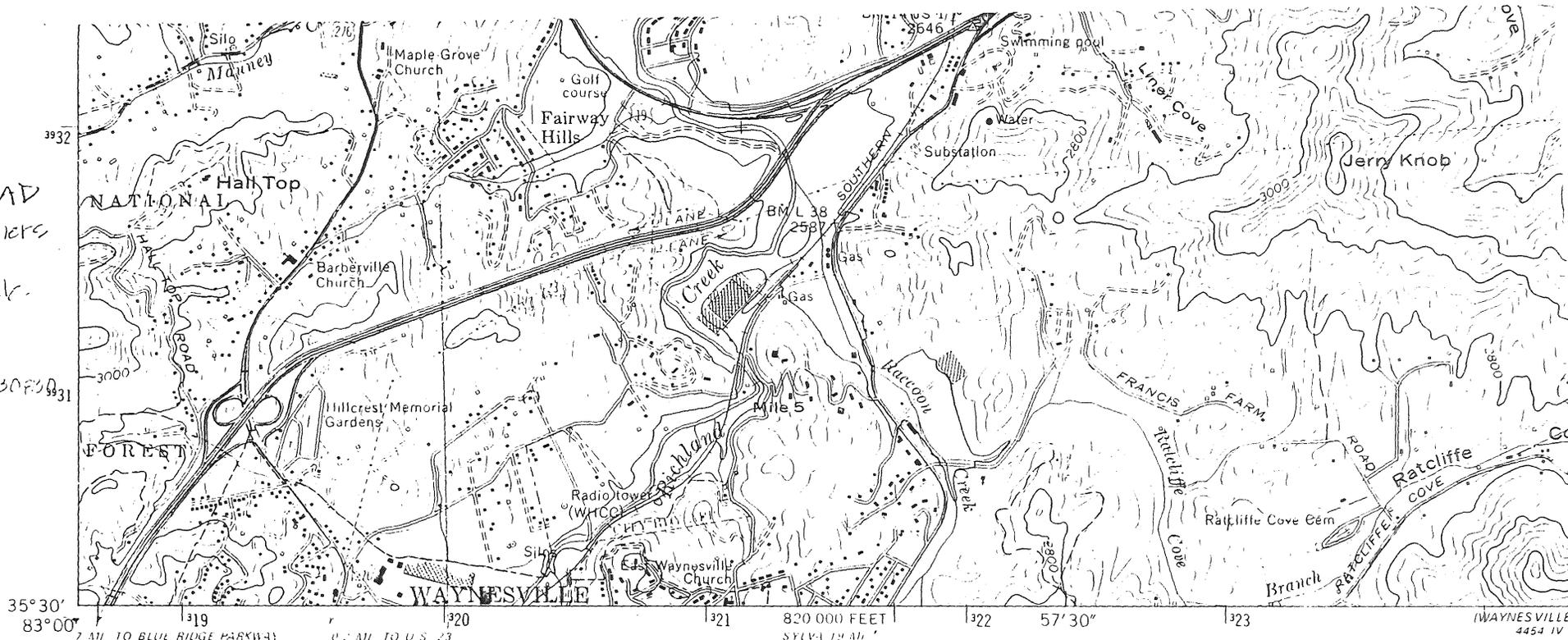
North Carolina, Buncombe County.
I, a Notary Public of the County and State aforesaid, certify that L. Kevin Enslay, a Registered Land Surveyor, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument. Witness my hand and official stamp or seal, this 3 day of June, 1994.

L. Kevin Enslay
Notary Public
My commission expires 6-27-95.



CLIFFORD M. HARRELL
D.B. 350 PG. 583

LYDE ROAD
 Frank Smathers
 House
 Waynesville, N.C.
 SHEET 17
 220310 N 5730830



HAZELWOOD 175 (NE)
 2254 1 (NE)

Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority
 Published by the Geological Survey

Control by NOS, NOAA, USGS, and TVA

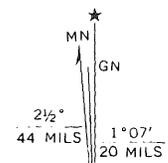
Revised by TVA in 1967 by photogrammetric methods using
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and by reference to TVA-USGS
 quadrangle dated 1941. Map field checked by TVA, 1967

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on North Carolina
 rectangular coordinate system
 1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator Grid ticks,
 Zone 17, shown in blue

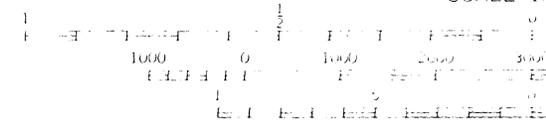
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
 visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
 the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple and recompilation of woodland
 areas compiled by the Tennessee Valley Authority from aerial
 photographs taken 1976. This information not field checked.
 Map edited 1978



UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR
 AND U.S. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND

