

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCBS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Albert Swain Bryson House

and/or common "Hall in the Pines"

2. Location

street & number west side Pine Lane

not for publication

city, town Franklin

vicinity of

congressional district

Eleventh

state North Carolina

code 37

county

Macon

code

113

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Reva Reneau

street & number

city, town Cherokee

vicinity of

state

North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Macon County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Franklin

state

North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Albert Swain Bryson House sits on a rise facing north toward the Main Street of Franklin in Macon County, North Carolina. Two-hundred feet of gently sloping lawn, shaded by tall conifers separates the house from the busy main street. Pine Lane, a private road, runs from the main street to the west side of the structure. Perhaps the most distinguished home in Franklin, the Bryson House, known locally as "Hall in the Pines," brings a sense of fine country grandeur to its small town setting. Reminiscent of A. J. Downing's cottage homes, the structure is an unusual vernacular blend of Romantic Revival styles displaying both Gothic and Italianate details. The Bryson House is said to have been constructed by an English cabinetmaker and modeled after a residence in Buffalo, New York.

The original form of the building was a double-pile plan, two stories beneath a tall hipped roof with broad gables. A room-deep extension, with details copied exactly from the original, was added across the rear during the 1960s. The lower two stories are of common bond red brick with white wooden trim; the upper portion of the structure, the roof with its large gables, is frame. Two interior chimneys rise from the roof. The windows contain two-over-two sash and display pedimented window heads.

The roof, which is the most striking exterior feature of the house, is hipped with wide full-height gables on all sides. The gables, of flush horizontal sheathing, dominate the exterior appearance. The original rear portion of the roof, which can be seen in the attic, did not have the full gable but merely contained a small dormer. The 1960s extension is covered by a long gable which imitates the facade gable. The corrugated metal roof has a wide overhanging eave with a molded cornice and wide frieze. Elaborate sawnwork brackets support the eave in pairs. Bricks projecting at the building's corners form pilasters which support the broad frieze on molded capitals.

A flat-roofed, two-story porch supported by boxed columns fronts the building. The porch is a 1960s addition replacing an earlier porch which was stylistically similar with narrower columns. The porch has robust cornices across the first and second tiers. Four central columns rise continuously from the five-bay first tier through the three-bay second tier. The upper level exhibits a delicate sawnwork balustrade.

The principal entrance, centered on the facade, consists of double doors with arched panels flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a rectangular transom. The entrance is accentuated by a handsome walnut surround composed of narrow pilasters supporting an entablature. Multi-paned french doors open to the second-story porch from the center hall on the second floor.

Centered in the facade gable is a narrow double window beneath a blind fan. The other gables display the same narrow Romantic Revival windows. Those on the east and west sides are surmounted by pedimented heads, like those on the first- and second-story windows. The 1960s rear gable, however, duplicates the facade's fan.

All the building's shutters have recently been rebuilt. On the east side and in the rear addition, small windows with pedimented heads have been introduced to add light in the bathrooms.

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The west side of the structure displays an elaborate two-story, three-sided bay window with narrow one-over-one sash separated by paired pilasters. Recessed octagonal- and shield-shaped panels ornament the spandrels at each level. The bay window has a fanciful triple-gable roof.

The rear addition includes a flat-roofed single-story porch which runs the length of the building and turns east to where the addition joins the original structure. Boxed pillars, like those on the facade, support the rear porch. Entrances with six-panel doors beneath pedimented heads are present on the east and north sides of the addition.

The interior walnut woodwork of the original structure is exceptional, possibly the legacy of the English cabinetmaker. The ground-floor center hall features a paneled staircase with decorative brackets on its open stringer, turned balusters, and a boxed, paneled newel. The doors on the first floor have six panels; those on the second floor contain four panels. The doors have handsome molded walnut surrounds and are surmounted by three-pane transoms. Each of the eight rooms contains a mantel. The mantels are variations of the post and lintel form with curvilinear Italianate trim. The rooms feature wide molded baseboards and narrow picture rails. The parlor bay window on the west side exhibits fine molded Italianate woodwork and a distinctive coffered ceiling. The dining room, located on the west side beyond the parlor, displays unusual built-in pie cupboards on either side of the mantel. These tall cupboards have decorative tin panels and fine walnut woodwork.

The center-hall, double-pile plan of the house remains unaltered by the 1960s addition, which consists of a two-room, center-hall plan across the rear. A rear door opens from the hall of the original structure back to the addition. On the ground floor of the addition there is a pecan paneled sitting room with an east side entrance. The kitchen is on the west side. The upstairs is divided into an east bedroom, hall and bath. Bathrooms have been added between the two rooms on the east side on both floors of the original portion of the house.

The unfinished full attic has a cathedral effect with exposed rafters and an angular ceiling. The two massive brick chimneys dominate the attic space.

The Albert Swain Bryson House stands as a prominent landmark in the town of Franklin. Architecturally, the use of the Romantic Revival styles in a vernacular brick house is unusual in western North Carolina. Although some changes have occurred, the 1960s extension is an excellent modern adaptation of the earlier style.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates ca. 1875 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in the 1870s, the Albert Swain Bryson House, "Hall in the Pines," stands as a landmark in the town of Franklin, Macon County. Albert Bryson was a prominent citizen of Franklin--town magistrate, contractor, farmer; and his handsome home was representative of his position in the community. Architecturally, the Albert Swain Bryson House is significant as a rare western North Carolina example of a vernacular brick house displaying both Gothic and Italianate stylistic features. The interior woodwork of the house is exceptional, possibly the legacy of the English cabinetmaker tradition holds as its builder. A 1960s addition is an excellent modern adaptation of the earlier style. The Albert Swain Bryson house brings a sense of fine country grandeur to its small town setting.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- C. The Albert Swain Bryson House is a fine vernacular representation of the Romantic Revival styles displaying both Gothic and Italianate features. Perhaps the most distinguished home in the town of Franklin, the house contains walnut woodwork of extremely high quality. A 1960s addition with details copied from the original, blends beautifully with the rest of the structure.

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The Albert Swain Bryson House or "Hall in the Pines" is located in the town of Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina. This two and a half story home is situated on a hill not far from the Little Tennessee River. Tradition states that Bryson built the structure a short time prior to 1872; yet the available records indicate a probable construction date between 1875 and 1878.¹

Bryson reputedly was inspired for the design of his new home by a house seen while visiting a friend in Buffalo, New York.² According to this story, upon returning to Franklin, Bryson contracted a cabinetmaker who had recently immigrated from England to erect the house based on blueprints he had brought back from New York. The Englishman, along with Bryson who was also a contractor, built a kiln on the property and baked their own bricks.³ The finished product was quite an imposing structure.

Bryson was a prominent man in the local community. His occupations included being a merchant, a farmer, and a miner in the mica industry.⁴ He was one of six magistrates selected for Franklin Township in 1884.⁵ Bryson also is said to have been the contractor who built the old Franklin courthouse in 1872.⁶

By 1894, at the age of forty-two, Bryson owned thirty-five acres in and around Franklin with a real value of \$3,600. His total aggregate worth in real and personal property was estimated at \$4,230.⁷

The Bryson home place served as home for others as well as the owner's immediate family. In 1880, a live-in servant and a male boarder resided at the "Hall in the Pines" along with Bryson, his wife Leona, and their children.⁸

Albert Bryson died in 1900. He left his entire estate, valued at \$10,000 to his wife.⁹ In 1920, Leona L. Bryson conveyed the Bryson farm, consisting of 18½ acres to Thomas W. Porter, Sr.¹⁰ Porter was married to Mrs. Bryson's daughter whose name was also Leona. The Porters entered a deed of trust with a Henry Cabe, using the Bryson farm as security in 1929. However, in 1932, there was a default in payment and Henry Cabe caused the property to be put up for public sale at the Macon County Courthouse in 1932. Leona B. Porter, Thomas W. Porter's wife, became the highest bidder at \$3,000, thus keeping the farm in possession of the Bryson family.¹¹

In 1936, Thomas W. and Leona Porter came into full ownership of the remainder of the Bryson estate when the remaining family heirs, having moved to Pima, Arizona, conveyed to the Porters all their interests to Leona Bryson's lands in and around Franklin.¹² During this period Thomas Porter initiated a few alterations to the old home by lowering the ceilings. At least two rooms were also added.¹³

Sometime after 1940, the acreage surrounding the house ceased to be used as farm land. This was due mainly to the construction of a dam and reservoir in the vicinity.¹⁴ In 1961, Thomas W. Porter died, leaving all of the estate and interests to his wife Leona.¹⁵ By 1966, Leona B. Porter, with the counsel of her son, Thomas Porter, Jr., sold the old Bryson home tract comprising of seventeen and a half acres to Lester Arnold and Reva Arnold.¹⁶ Ms. Reva Reneau now owns the property.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Telephone interview with Thomas W. Porter, Jr., January 14 and 21, 1981, hereinafter cited as the Thomas W. Porter, Jr., phone interview; Macon County Deed Books (microfilm), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, Deed Book O, 470, 509, hereinafter cited as Macon County Deed Books; Macon County Tax Lists, 1875 (microfilm), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as Macon County Tax Lists (microfilm).

²Thomas W. Porter, Jr., phone interview, January 14, 1981.

³Thomas W. Porter, Jr., phone interview, January 14, 1981.

⁴Thomas W. Porter, Jr., phone interview, January 21, 1981; Eleventh Census of the United States, 1880: Macon County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 482, hereinafter cited as Macon County Census.

⁵Levi Branson, Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1884 (Raleigh: Levi Branson Office Publisher, Sixth Edition, 1884), 427.

⁶Thomas W. Porter, Jr., phone interview, January 21, 1981.

⁷Macon County Tax Lists (microfilm), 1894.

⁸Macon County Census, Population Schedule, 1880.

⁹Macon County Estates Records, A. S. Bryson, 1900, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina; Macon County Will Books (microfilm), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, Will Book 2, p. 267, hereinafter cited as Macon County Will Books.

¹⁰Macon County Deed Book F-4, p. 329.

¹¹Macon County Deed Book T-4, p. 292.

¹²Macon County Deed Book Z-4, p. 117.

¹³Thomas W. Porter, Jr., phone interview, January 21, 1981.

¹⁴Thomas W. Porter, Jr., phone interview, January 21, 1981.

¹⁵Macon County Will Book 6, p. 536.

¹⁶Thomas W. Porter, Jr., phone interview, January 21, 1981.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.52 acres

Quadrangle name Franklin

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see verbal boundary description in the enclosed deed, April 11, 1966, from Leona B. Porter to Lester Arnold and wife Reva Arnold, Macon County, N. C., Deed Book L, page 335.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Description prepared by Janet Hutchison, Preservation Assistant
Historical Significance prepared by Walter Best, researcher

organization N. C. Department of Cultural Resources
Division of Archives and History date _____

street & number 13 Veterans Drive, telephone 704-298-5024

city or town Asheville, state North Carolina 28805

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Oct. 31, 1984

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date _____

Keeper of the National Register
 date _____

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Branson, Levi. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1884. Raleigh:
Levi Branson Office Publisher, Sixth Edition, 1884.

Macon County Records. Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.
Subgroups: Deeds, Estate Papers, Tax Lists, and Wills.

Telephone interview with Thomas W. Porter, Jr., January 14 and 21, 1981.

United States Office of the Census, Eleventh Census, 1880, Macon County, North Carolina.
Microfilm copies at Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North
Carolina.

