

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Thomas Grant Harbison House

Highlands, Macon County, MA0588, Listed 4/30/2008
Nomination by Davyd Foard Hood
Photographs by Davyd Foard Hood, April 2005



Façade view



South (street) elevation

**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 Harbison, Thomas Grant, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2930 Walhalla Road _____ not for publication N/A

city or town Highlands _____ vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county Macon code 113 zip code 28741

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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 X statewide _____ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
_____ 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): _____	_____	_____

Harbison, Thomas Grant, House
Name of Property

Macon County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stucco over concrete
roof metal
walls shingle
wood
other stone
wood

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

Harbison, Thomas Grant, House
Name of Property

Macon County, North Carolina
County and State

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 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

Education

Science

Period of Significance

1921-1936

Significant Dates

1921

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Harbison, Thomas Grant

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cleaveland, William Monroe - builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: North Carolina Division of Archives and History

Harbison, Thomas Grant, House
Name of Property

Macon County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 3.29 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 299915 3878240
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____
____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Davyd Foard Hood

organization _____ date 31 January 2007

street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-1847

city or town Vale state NC zip code 28168

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name James Edmond and Karen L. Lee

street & number 109 Lakecrest Drive telephone 478/453-3787

city or town Milledgeville state GA zip code 31061

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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Macon County, North Carolina

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Grant Harbison House, a well-preserved two-story with attic, gable-front, frame dwelling sheathed with wood shingles, and incorporates features of the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. It was completed in 1921 and served unaltered as a residence of Mr. Harbison's descendants until ca. 1985. The house stood unoccupied, but weather tight with some Harbison family furnishings inside, until 2000, when it was set apart on a residual, wooded lot of 3.29 acres and sold to James Edmond and Karen L. Lee of Milledgeville, Georgia, the present owners. The Lees restored and renovated the house, and they occupied it as a seasonal residence in August 2001. The house stands at 2930 Walhalla Road, a short distance south of Highlands, and outside the town limits. The house is built on a north-south axis, with the north gable front, which faces Satulah Mountain, treated as the front of the house. The south elevation, with a rebuilt two-tier porch, overlooks a vast, scenic landscape in which the borders of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia meet. The following entry for the grounds (#1) of the Thomas Grant Harbison House, a contributing site, describes the setting of the house and the character of the nominated acreage. The description of the house (#2) follows thereafter.

1. Grounds
ca. 1921 to the present
Contributing site

The grounds of the Thomas Grant Harbison House, the acreage included in this nomination, is a tract of 3.29 acres that was set apart in January 2000 from the residual family holding as the house's site and setting. The definition of this tract was made concurrent with the sale of the house on 11 January 2000 by Mr. Harbison's three granddaughters to the present owners, who subsequently undertook the restoration and rehabilitation of the house as a seasonal residence. The longest boundary of the tract is the curving path of Walhalla Road (NC 28) which encloses the grounds on the west, south, and east sides of the parcel. The northern boundary of the tract are two straight lines of near equal length (281.48 and 282.35 feet), which have a relaxed "V" shape, with the foot of the vee being on general axis with the midpoint in the curve of the road. The house stands near the southwest edge of this tract and on a rise above the path of the Walhalla Road. The grounds comprise a gently sloping terrain on the north side of Walhalla Road, at an elevation of about 3,300 feet, in the mountainous area where the borders of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia meet. The property is located about three miles south of Highlands, and the house enjoys a singular location here on the south slope of Satulah Mountain,

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which has an elevation of 4,543 feet at its summit and is the highest of the mountains surrounding Highlands

The gravel-covered driveway for the house, leading off the east side of today's Walhalla Road, incorporates a part of the old Walhalla Road that carried here on the north side of the Harbison House, between it and Satulah Mountain, until the present Walhalla Road was rerouted in the mid twentieth century. The eastern half of the road's path on the grounds has the appearance of a farm road in the woodland floor and continues further into lands retained by Mr. Harbison's heirs. Since the path of NC 28 that forms the west, south and east boundary of the house tract is believed to lie atop another part of the old Walhalla Road, the Harbison House grounds were originally enclosed entirely by a narrow, twisting, unpaved mountain road except for a short distance on the northeast.

The woodland character of the Harbison House grounds, with natural plant, leaf, and pine needle cover and no mown grass, dates to ca. 1921 when Mr. Harbison and his family occupied their newly-built house. According to local tradition, the Harbison House occupies the site of the former Martha Teague house. Given the agreeableness of the site, the protection of Satulah Mountain at its back, and the splendid expansive views from the house's two-tier south porch over the landscape of three states, the siting of the Harbison House has few equals in Highlands. While the location of the house might be pre-ordained, Mr. Harbison's decision to maintain the woodland character of his grounds was conscious and in sympathy with his long career as a botanist.

The historic grounds of the Harbison House reflect three periods. The first, dating from ca. 1921 until Mr. Harbison's death in 1936, is associated with his work as a botanist. Some significant portion of the open aged grove of hemlock, white pine, and oak trees that forms the towering canopy of the property date to his years here. The group of six *Torreya taxifolia* that stands to the east/southeast of the house is known to have been planted by Mr. Harbison. These mid-height trees are native to Florida and are listed on the Federal Endangered Species List. The trees were probably gathered by Mr. Harbison on one of his collecting expeditions for the Arnold Arboretum. This group and some dozen or so on the Biltmore Estate in the Azalea Garden, which probably all (save perhaps one) date to a late 1930s planting by Chauncey Beadle, are the only examples in Western North Carolina. They continue to attract visits by professional botanists at Clemson University and others in the field on a periodic basis. The informal, natural understory of native dogwoods, mountain laurel and rhododendrons growing alone and in clusters throughout the acreage, and the introduced azaleas date in some part to the 1920s and 1930s and, as is likely, some are the natural offspring of plants here in Mr. Harbison's day.

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For the longest period in the house's history, from Thomas Grant Harbison's death in January 1936 until ca. 1985 when his last-surviving child departed the house for a smaller family-owned residence, the grounds lay in the stewardship of his widow, until 1954, and his three daughters. During these years Mrs. Harbison and her eldest daughter Margaret, who stayed home and kept house while her sisters worked at the Hudson Library, likely had the most active horticultural hand. It is possible that some of the surviving bulbs and perennials, and perhaps the few boxwoods on the downward eastern slope of the grounds, date to their gardening efforts. Here white and purple wood hyacinths, narcissus, daffodils, lilies of the valley, and white and purple violets, along with native ferns and periwinkle, sparkle on the woodland floor near hydrangeas, laurel and deutzia. This concentration of plants suggests the existence of a focused gardening effort here; however, any outline of a plan has long been erased by the natural sprawl that has occurred. In the last fifteen or so years of the Harbison ownership from, ca. 1985 to 2000, the grounds of the Harbison House received little attention.

In 2002, after occupying the Harbison House, Dr. and Mrs. Lee made certain improvements to the landscape of the house utilizing the skills of Milledgeville landscape architect Charles Miller. The architectural features were crafted of regional stone. Simple stone piers were added to either side of the gravel-covered driveway off Walhalla Road, which expands to a shallow parking area for visitors on axis with the house's north gable end, then continues in a gentle arc on the east side of the house to service parking off its east wing. The parking area on the north is defined along its south edge by a low stone wall, with piers at its east and west ends, which flank the flagstone walk leading up to the north porch. It and a secondary flagstone walk carrying east to the service parking are lined with boxwood. This axial walk and its parallel boxwood plantings are the only "formal" feature added to the landscape and it complements the symmetry of the north elevation, which is the effective façade of the house. On the south, a shallow demilune terrace was laid at the foot of the wood steps leading up to the porch. Its flagstone paving is complemented by low stone piers, planted with vines, set in the curved outer rim that carries a simple metal railing. On the east side of the house a quarter-round stone terrace was fitted into the angle formed by the house and its perpendicular east wing. It, too, is enclosed by a low stone wall whose flat top effectively doubles as a bench for seating. This terrace is used both for entertaining and as a service access to the cellar storage area.

The Lees have added plantings of a complementing character in the areas adjoining both terraces, which merge with the natural, informal shrubberies dating to the Harbison period. Their additions include hydrangeas, holly, mahonia, hosta, liriope, together with boxwood at the base of the south porch and a screen of hemlocks between the south terrace and Walhalla Road to

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muffle the sound of vehicles. These plantings complement the earlier Harbison period landscape and preserve the natural woodland character of the grounds. To the southeast of the house and downgrade, they have installed a traditional, reproduction three-tier fountain whose basin is set in a river-rock surround.

2. Thomas Grant Harbison House
1921; restored and rehabilitated in 2000-01
Contributing building

The Thomas Grant Harbison House, a two-story with attic gable-front dwelling erected by William Monroe Cleaveland in 1921 for Mr. Harbison, stands at 2930 Walhalla Road on a residual lot of 3.29 acres. The present appearance of the house, and its well-preserved fabric and character, reflect the fact that it was built for a family who occupied it from 1921 until ca. 1985 and made virtually no changes, and that the house was sensitively restored and rehabilitated by the present owners who purchased it in 2000 and occupied it as a seasonal residence in August 2001. The character of the house, reflecting both the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles, is effectively defined by the framed symmetry of its elevations and their sheathing with unpainted, brown wood shingles. Their rich, rustic brown color is offset by white paint which protects the sill boards, corner posts, doors, windows, and their surrounds, and the deep eaves, as well as the front and back porches. The north and south elevations, about forty-and-one-half feet in width, are identical in their appearance except that the south gable end is enhanced with a two-tier shed-roof porch while the similar porch on the north elevation is one-story in height. This north porch, facing the south side of Satulah Mountain, served the family, and was a point of welcome for visitors coming out from Highlands, while the double-tier south porch afforded the family and chosen guests a place of leisure from which to enjoy the splendid, panoramic views across the mountain landscape of three states. The Harbison House's side elevations measure about thirty-five-and-one-half feet in depth and have generally symmetrical fenestration. A one-story wing, positioned in the north end of the east elevation, is original to the house and contained a wood room and utility space.

The exterior appearance of the Harbison House reflects its original and long-maintained appearance except for the following changes made by Dr. and Mrs. Lee during their restoration and rehabilitation project. Its low stone piers, at grade on the north side, were replaced by a perimeter foundation of concrete block that was finished with a coat of stucco. This was done to protect the water pipes and mechanical systems installed in the cellar in 2000-01. Until then, the house had no interior plumbing except for the hand pump/faucet in the kitchen. The much deteriorated flooring and supports on the north and south porches were replaced in kind under

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the original shed roofs on both elevations. A door opening from the north porch into the kitchen was refitted as a window and the vandalized partially-glazed door opening into the hall was fitted with a solid wood four-panel door. On the east elevation a stone chimney was erected in the south third of the elevation to provide a flue and firebox for the fireplace installed in the dining room. The chimney laid up by a Brevard mason occupies the south bay of the three-bay elevation that formerly held windows at each level. Here, also, a simple set of replacement wood steps leading up to the open doorway in the east wing was replaced by the Lees with a low stoop and steps that descend to the east and the service parking. The open doorway was fitted with a four-panel door and a sidelight on its east side that replicates those on the north and south gable ends. The doorway in the east gable end of the wing, opening directly into the original wood room for unloading cord wood, was partially closed and fitted with a two-over-two sash window. In 2003, the 5-V sheet metal roof was replaced in kind. When built, the house was covered with wood shingles.

The north elevation of the Harbison House, having the same appearance today as in 1921, except for the refitting of doors, is used by the Lees as its front entrance. Here the center entrance and its flanking bays, on a five-bay first-story, are protected by a one-story shed roof porch with a wood floor, square-in-plan supports, and a plain railing. The porch stands on low stone piers. The four-panel doors and a screened door are flanked by two-pane sidelights above blind panels. It is set in a plain board surround with a shallow drip cap. The original two-over-two sash windows here and throughout the house, are also framed by plain boards with a shallow drip cap. The second story has a complementing three-bay arrangement while a single window is positioned at the attic level in the upper gable end. The eaves of the front-gable roof are flush-sheathed and have exposed purlins and rafters. The north elevation of the wing is sheathed except for an original lattice-work panel that was backed by glazing when the wood room was converted to an interior utility room. The south elevation of the Harbison House is essentially identical except that the porch of like dimensions and finish is two-tier with the original door opening from the second-story hall onto the upper porch.

The west and east side elevations of the Harbison House are nearly identical and have a general symmetry on each level. On the west elevation the first story is three bays wide with an offset center window reflecting the greater depth of the living room, in the southwest corner, and the placement of the stone interior chimney providing a fireplace for the living room. On the second story, single windows flank a larger opening holding paired two-over-two sash illuminating the center bedroom on the house's west side. This pattern is followed on the east elevation except for the location of the one-story east wing, in the north third of the elevation, and the construction of

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the stone chimney in the southern-most bay formerly occupied by windows on each level. A door opening into the cellar is located in the foundation here between the chimney and the stoop.

The interior of the Harbison House is arranged on a center, stair-hall plan with rooms arranged on either side. The original finish of the interior is generally consistent on both floors and includes the maple floors, molded top chestnut baseboards, door and window surrounds, and treads and risers on the stair, and painted four-panel doors with mostly original white porcelain knobs. Documentary photographs, made in September 1999, represent this original fabric and the unusual, deteriorated canvas-like wall and ceiling covering which was applied on sheathed lath.

During the restoration and renovation of the house, the walls and ceilings were overlaid with wallboard and painted in all the rooms except the kitchen where the walls were flush sheathed with vertical pine boards. During the Harbison occupancy the combination kitchen and dining room occupied the space on the east side of the hall as now. The only "divider" was an awkward, partially half-height pantry enclosure, off-center on the west wall. The kitchen fittings were extremely simple. The Lees added built-in cabinetry on the room's west, north, and east walls, an island in the center of the kitchen area in the north half of the space, and a fireplace in the east wall of the dining area in the south half. During the period the house was unoccupied the first-story newel and railing rising to the second story were lost. They were replaced on the model of the second story newels and railing that remained in place. On the second story the Lees added bathroom fittings in the small room at the north end of the hall that was possibly intended for a bathroom but had not been outfitted. They also partitioned the small room in the northeast corner of the house into two smaller spaces to provide a walk-in closet and bathroom for the master bedroom in the center room of the three aligned on the east side of the second-story hall. Here an original doorway connecting the two rooms was utilized for the closet in the extreme northeast corner of the house and a new doorway was opened to provide access to the master bathroom positioned between the closet and the hall bathroom.

In the first-story hall, the doors and flanking side-lights at the north and south ends of the hall are identical and two doorways on each side of the hall open into the respective rooms. Immediately inside the south door, pendant openings in the east and west walls, open into the dining room and the living room, respectively. The finish of the dining room has been described above except for the transitional Federal/Greek Revival-style Georgia mantel installed on the new fireplace. A door in the north end of the room's east wall opens into the east wing which has been fitted as a utility room with shelving and space for a washing machine and dryer.

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The living room in the southwest corner of the house also retains two important original features. A five-part bookcase, with seven shelves per section, occupies most of the east wall. In the 1999 documentary photographs, books comprising a part of Mr. Harbison's legendary library were still on the shelves. The fireplace, centered in the room's north wall, has a full-height exposed stone chimney breast that incorporates the firebox and a simple stone shelf. Thomas Grant Harbison used the smaller room in the northwest corner of the first story as his study. Here, in recesses flanking the stone chimney are closets that contained his herbarium, files, and papers. Each of the closets was fitted with paired, two-tier board-and-rail doors that remain in place. This room is now used as a bathroom.

The stair to the second story rises to the north on the east side of the hall; its square-in-plan pine newel, handrail, and railing replicates the original chestnut newels and railing which survive in place on the second story. A closet is enclosed under the stair. On the second story of the Harbison House, each side of the hall was partitioned into tiers of three rooms. This plan, which also remains intact, provided six bedrooms for the family and guests. Today the three rooms on the west side of the hall, which communicate only with the hall and not each other, are used as bedrooms for family and friends. On the east side of the hall the center room, which was also Mr. and Mrs. Harbison's bedroom, is used by Dr. and Mrs. Lee as their bedroom. The room in the southeast corner, occupied by Mrs. Harbison as a widow, is also a family/guest bedroom. Here, in this room's southwest corner, a steep staircase, with an enclosed closet under its flight, rises to the west to the attic. The opening in the attic floor is fitted with a hatch door of beaded tongue and groove chestnut. The axial center of the attic is floored and used for storage; the rest of the attic is not floored.

Integrity Assessment

The general form, plan, finishes, fabric, and appearance of the Harbison House, which survived intact from 1921 until 2000, have not been significantly altered by the renovation of the house by the Lees for use as a seasonal residence, with the exception of the new chimney on the east side. Its effect on the appearance of the Harbison House is mitigated by its location on the least visible elevation of the dwelling, its sympathetic material, and its partial screening by the one-story east wing. Inside the house, the plan, fabric, and finish were preserved except for the deteriorated canvas-like wall and ceiling coverings, which were overlaid with wallboard, and the fitting up with necessary kitchen and bathroom facilities. In 2000, when the Lees acquired the house, the kitchen and dining area occupied the east side of the first-story hall, with a small lavatory, containing a commode and sink, partitioned along the west, hall side of the large room. This lavatory was the only toilet and bathing facility in the house. The original, surviving kitchen

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facilities were rudimentary. In the renovation the Lees retained the use of this space as a kitchen and dining area. The room in the northwest corner of the first story, used by Dr. Harbison as his office, was simply adapted for use as a bathroom with fixtures that do not compromise the earlier fabric of the space. On the second story two bathrooms were installed sympathetically to serve its five bedrooms.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Thomas Grant Harbison House, erected in 1921 by Highlands building contractor William Monroe Cleaveland for Mr. Harbison and the home of the pioneering North Carolina botanist and plant collector, occupies an important place in the history and natural history of North Carolina. Standing on the south slope of Satulah Mountain, south of Highlands, on the east side of Walhalla Road, the house satisfies National Register Criteria B and C, holds statewide significance in the area of science, and local significance in the areas of architecture and education. The period of significance begins in 1921 with the Harbison family's occupation of the house and ends in 1936 with the death of Mr. Harbison in Chapel Hill.

Thomas Grant Harbison (1862-1936), a native of Union County, Pennsylvania, came to Highlands in 1886 on a botanizing trip. He returned later that year to serve as principal and teacher at the Highlands Normal College that he reorganized as the Highlands Academy. There, with the advice of Dr. Andrew Jackson Rickoff, the co-author of *Appleton's School Readers* who visited Highlands and Mr. Harbison's classroom in fall 1886, he introduced and oversaw a planned, pioneering seven-year course of study. In 1893 he undertook a year-long European study trip, focused on education, including courses at the University of Norway and at Leipzig. After another period in Highlands, Mr. Harbison was principal of a school in Waynesville in 1896-97, where he advanced a further developed course of study and added high school grades, influenced by the European models he had observed, which became arguably the first graded school in the state west of Asheville.

In 1897 Thomas Grant Harbison began his professional career as a botanist that continued through the remainder of his life. From 1897 to 1903 he was employed as a plant collector and botanist for the Biltmore Herbarium, developed as a part of the large horticultural and agricultural operations carried out for George Washington Vanderbilt. From 1905 to 1926 Mr. Harbison traveled throughout the American South and Southwest as a plant collector for the Arnold Arboretum under the direction of Dr. Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927). His work was critical to Dr. Sargent's production of the second edition of his landmark *Manual of the Trees of North America* published in 1922. The third and final stage in Mr. Harbison's career as a botanist followed on the death of his long-time friend and colleague, William Willard Ashe, in 1932. Mr. Harbison cooperated with Mrs. Ashe and Dr. William Chambers Coker, founder of the University Herbarium at the University of North Carolina and a professor of botany, to secure

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the important Ashe Herbarium for the University Herbarium. In 1934 Mr. Harbison was appointed curator of the University Herbarium and died in that post on 12 January 1936. The Harbison House remained a residence of his family until ca. 1985, and in the ownership of the family until January 2000, when it was acquired and restored by the present owners. Mr. Harbison's residence is one carrier of his memory, and his important roles as a botanist and educator are honored in other ways. Today, eight plants carry Mr. Harbison's name, including *Crataegus harbisonii*, which was named for him by Chauncey Beadle and published in Dr. Sargent's first, 1905 edition of his *Manual of the Trees of North America*. In fall 2003 a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker was erected in Highlands honoring his work as a botanist and educator.

The local architectural significance of the Thomas Grant Harbison House is twofold. Reflecting important features of both the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles, the Harbison House is associated with a small but impressive group of such houses in Highlands, and other summer resorts, such as Cashiers and Blowing Rock, including Wolf Ridge, the Ravenel family summer house, that date from the opening decades of the twentieth century. The house is also associated with the career of William Monroe Cleaveland (1886-1936), a locally prominent builder whose career extended from ca. 1908 through at least 1931, when he completed construction of the Sam T. Weyman Memorial Laboratory, an early International Style landmark in the United States, for the Highlands Museum and Biological Laboratory.

Historical Background and Education and Science Significance

Thomas Grant Harbison (1862-1936) was born on 23 April 1862 in Union County, Pennsylvania, a then largely rural county in east central Pennsylvania, which lies due north of Harrisburg, the state capital. He was the son of Thomas V. Harbison. Mr. Harbison showed a remarkable initiative early in his life, combining formal education in local schools with study at Bucknell University, located in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and one of two colleges in his native Union County. This college study, focusing on botany, was conducted while he also served as a teacher in Pennsylvania, beginning at the young age of seventeen. Mr. Harbison continued this parallel work, educating others while undertaking his own self-education, after he came to Highlands. Except for the lectures he attended at Bucknell, his study was conducted through correspondence with a degree of self-imposed rigor. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the City of New York and a doctoral degree in philosophy, with his thesis in botany, in 1888 from the National University in Chicago (which no longer exists).¹

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It was at Bucknell University that Mr. Harbison formed a friendship with Elmer E. Magee. In early April 1886 the two undertook a botanizing walking trip that took them to Maryland, Virginia, and into North Carolina to Highlands whence they set out on their return to Pennsylvania. Thomas Harbison responded to the landscape and flora of Western North Carolina and, more particularly, that of Highlands in the same fashion that drew and held many others in the later nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The climate and plant diversity had earlier appealed to the botanist Samuel Truman Kelsey (1832-1921), a co-founder of Highlands in 1875, who established nursery operations here that were continued by his son Harlan Page Kelsey. While in Highlands, Mr. Harbison was offered the position of principal and teacher in the newly organized Highlands school by Samuel Truman Kelsey. Mr. Harbison was back in Pennsylvania in early July, and he shortly returned to Highlands where "I opened school . . . in August of 1886" ("Auto-Biographical Sketch of Dr. T. G. Harbison, A. M., Ph.D," 2)

Thomas Grant Harbison's celebrated seven-year tenure as principal of the Highlands Academy is remembered in fact and fiction. He, himself, gave over a page and a half of his "Auto-Biographical Sketch" to an account of his years in the school and his methods of instruction. During fall 1886, shortly after Mr. Harbison's first class in Highlands opened, Dr. Andrew Jackson Rickoff (1824-1899), a well-known Ohio educator and textbook author, visited Highlands and Mr. Harbison's classroom. Dr. Rickoff had served as superintendent of schools in both Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio, and he was the co-author with William Torrey Harris of the *Appleton's School Readers*, a standard nineteenth-century text published in a series of five readers in 1877-1879 by the American Book Company. The curriculum that Mr. Harbison devised for a seven-year course of study with the guidance of Dr. Rickoff resulted in Highlands Academy becoming a western North Carolina nursery for the public graded schools introduced in Wilmington in 1868 and opened in Greensboro, Raleigh, Charlotte, and Fayetteville in the 1870s, and in Wilson and Goldsboro in 1881 (Leloudis, 22).

Mr. Harbison recounted the experience.

I finished the seven year experiment. I had a dozen or more children who took the course from seven to fourteen. To do this I had to furnish free books and free tuition. During the seven years I averaged twenty-four children who did not pay any tuition and had the best of books free. Those were the happiest and most satisfactory years of my life. No record of the experiment was ever made. A lady who began to write a small volume giving the methods and results passed away before the work was completed and I did not have time to do the work ("Auto-Biographical Sketch," 3).

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Through this period Mr. Harbison was at work on a thesis, "The Ideal Elementary School." In fall 1893 Thomas Grant Harbison undertook an extended European tour visiting schools and interviewing educators in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. He wrote that he "took a short course at the University of Norway and also one at Leipsic" where he read his thesis on elementary education to members of the faculty. On his return to North Carolina he appears to have spent some time, possibly a year or more, in Highlands. (Obvious discrepancies appear in the accounts for the period of 1894 to 1896 in Mr. Harbison's autobiographical sketch, the 1936 memorial, and a 1973 memoir by his youngest daughter Dorothea Harbison.) Whatever the case, Mr. Harbison's account is primary. "On my return from Europe, I bought the Waynesville school building and opened a private school there. This was before graded schools had spread farther west than Asheville. I saw that graded schools would soon supplant private schools and to illustrate to the people of Waynesville just what a first class graded school is, I organized a private school including the high school grades" ("Auto-Biographical Sketch", 6).

The Asheville graded school program was developed by Philander Priestly Claxton (1862-1957), a prominent late-nineteenth century North Carolina educator who was head of the Asheville schools from 1887 to 1893 (*Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, 1/384-85). Meanwhile, by 1896, Mr. Harbison had begun selling and shipping plants from Highlands. These sales, initially effected with the assistance of his students as a part of their botany studies, are recorded in ledgers covering sales up to 1919.

Mr. Harbison's work in Waynesville was his final term as a classroom educator. In 1897 he began the professional work as a botanist and plant collector that would occupy him until his death in 1936. Thomas Grant Harbison's career as a pioneering botanist in North Carolina from 1897 to 1936 has three distinct periods: 1897 to 1903, when he was engaged on the Biltmore Herbarium; 1905 to 1926, when he was a Southern agent for the Arnold Arboretum; and 1933 to 1936, when he was engaged with the Ashe Herbarium and its addition to the University Herbarium at the University of North Carolina.

Thomas Grant Harbison's employment at the Biltmore Estate of George Washington Vanderbilt coincided with the apogee of Mr. Vanderbilt's life at his Southern estate. He worked under Chauncey Delos Beadle (1866-1950), who came to the estate in 1890 at the instruction of Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) to manage the nursery operations on the estate, and who remained a critical figure in the development and survival of Biltmore until his retirement in 1945. The Biltmore Herbarium was conceived as a part of the extensive nursery and agricultural operations that began in 1889 and expanded as the construction of the great house and development of its grounds proceeded through the early 1890s to the celebrated opening of the

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house at Christmas 1895 and the effective completion of the mansion in 1896. While the arboretum proposed by Mr. Olmsted was discouraged by Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927), head of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, the extensive forest conservation practices carried out on Biltmore's 100,000-plus acres by Gifford Pinchot and his successor Carl Alwin Schenck (1868-1955) are renowned in American forest history. So, too, is the School of Forestry that Mr. Schenck conducted on the estate from fall 1898 to summer 1909. The herbarium at Biltmore and a companion horticultural library were part of the nursery operations, that both provided plants for the estate and for sale through a short-lived catalog sales venture. The nursery operated in buildings and grounds on the north side of the Swannanoa River. These facilities were greatly damaged in the 1916 flood which effectively ended the nursery operation. Mr. Harbison came to the estate in 1897 as a plant collector and, as such, traveled through much of the United States. "The spring and early summer of 1898 he spent in studying and making collections of the plants in the eastern part of our state; the late summer and fall he spent in similar work in the Rockies, the Cascades, and the western Coast Ranges. He continued in such work, studying and collecting plants, mostly in our southern states, until the discontinuance of the herbarium at Biltmore in 1903" (Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Society, 52 /142). During this period Mr. Harbison contributed two articles to the *Biltmore Botanical Studies*, another casualty of retrenchment that appeared only in 1901-1902 as two numbers of volume one. For all or a portion of his employment at Biltmore, Mr. Harbison had Frank E. Boynton, another Highlands resident, as a colleague in his work.²

At this distance and lacking documentary records, it is unclear whether Mrs. Harbison joined Mr. Harbison in Asheville or on his travels during this period, or whether, more likely, she remained in Highlands. Mr. Harbison had purchased a tract of just over fifty-five acres in 1888 but whether he lived on the property is unclear but unlikely (Macon Deeds, Y/414-15). The description of the tract is vaguely worded, and its ownership does not appear to figure in his later life. In about 1893, Mr. Harbison acquired the house on east Main Street, just east of Fifth Street, which Samuel Truman Kelsey (1832-1922), the founder of Highlands, built and occupied with his family in 1875. In May 1895 Mr. Harbison purchased a five-acre tract adjoining the Kelsey house (Macon Deeds, DD/561-62). Mr. Harbison is believed to have been living in the Kelsey house in 1897 when he married Miss Cobb, and she probably resided there with the couple's first child. Margaret Harbison (1899-1976) was born on 12 July 1899. The couple's second child, Gertrude Harbison (1903-1980), was born on 8 November 1903, probably after Mr. Harbison had left Mr. Vanderbilt's employment as a plant collector.

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It was also in May 1895 that Mr. Harbison acquired an interest in property here on the south side of Satulah Mountain on which this house would be built in 1921. On 11 May 1895 he and Hugh A. Elliott acquired a tract of unspecified acreage "lying on the waters of Clear Creek and on South slope of Satulah Mountain" from Samuel Truman Kelsey, Jr. and his wife for \$500 (Macon Deeds, DD/559-60). On 13 February 1906 Mr. Harbison acquired Mr. Elliott's undivided one-half interest in the property for \$250 (Macon Deeds, UU/65-67). Mr. Elliott was then a single man residing in Braddock, Alleghany County, Pennsylvania. Three years later, on 20 October 1909, Mr. Harbison enlarged his holding here with the purchase of another, adjoining tract of unspecified acreage from the Macon County Land Company (Macon Deeds, Q-3/141-43). This holding appears to have remained intact to 1993 when Mr. Harbison's last surviving child, Dorothea, conveyed it to her three nieces (Macon Deeds, B-20/717-18).

Meanwhile, in 1899, Mr. Harbison bought a house that would be his family's home, from the sale of the Kelsey house in about 1909 until this house was completed in 1921, near the end of his work for Dr. Sargent and probably with the profits of that work. Standing in the shade of Sunset Rock, Glencroft was the second known house built in Highlands by Monroe Skinner (18__ - 1891) who came to the resort in 1878. Thomas Grant Harbison is said to have doubled the size of the ca. 1883 frame house and added an expansive porch (Shaffner, 68-9, Macon Deeds, MM/317). The Harbisons sold that house in 1921 to the Harris siblings who renamed it Trillium Lodge. The house, at 895 Wilson Road, retains that name; however, successions of owners have made improvements in the house over the eighty-six years since the Harbisons vacated it. In about 1937 it was operated as Camp Sequoia, a summer camp for boys and girls (Shaffner, 515).

The matter of when Thomas Grant Harbison first met Charles Sprague Sargent, the founding director of the Arnold Arboretum at Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and the foremost authority on trees in late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century America, remains to be confirmed. However, he would have known of Dr. Sargent, his study of trees, and the development of the Arnold Arboretum, by the early 1880s, before he came to Highlands in spring 1886 and then returned that summer. In Highlands he would have learned of Dr. Sargent's first (known) visit to the Highlands area, and possibly the resort itself, in September 1885 from Frank E. Boynton, who served as a guide for the botanist. On that visit Mr. Boynton and Dr. Sargent rediscovered *Shortia galacifolia* growing "on the southern slopes of the Blue Ridge near the head waters of the Keowee river," along the North Carolina/South Carolina border. Whether the find was made in today's Transylvania County, North Carolina, or Oconee County, South Carolina, is unclear. Mr. Boynton found the famed "Oconee Bells" in fall 1886 "growing in great abundance in

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another cove on the same slope . . . called Bear Camp" in the region where the plant was discovered by Andre Michaux in 1787 (*The Highlander*, 12 November 1886).

Frank Boynton, a Highlands resident, was one link between the two men, Messrs. Harbison and Sargent. The other was Chauncey Delos Beadle, his supervisor in the work for the Biltmore Herbarium. Mr. Beadle was a professional colleague of Dr. Sargent's, and both were greatly interested in the species *Crataegus* and both had substantial plantings of hawthorns at Biltmore and the Arnold Arboretum, respectively, dating from about the turn of the twentieth century (Sutton, 288-89). In 1905, when Dr. Sargent's *Manual of the Trees of North America (Exclusive of Mexico)* was published, he included a hawthorn named by Mr. Beadle for Mr. Harbison, *Crataegus Harbisoni* (sic). Apparently this was the first of at least eight known species named for Mr. Harbison.

Thomas Grant Harbison devoted one of the eight pages of his "Auto-Biographical Sketch" to his work for Dr. Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum.

This arboretum aims to grow every species of tree and shrub in the world that will endure that climate. This is a formidable undertaking and will take time and much money. Mr. Vanderbilt volunteered to donate the service of his collectors in the South. In this way I became well acquainted with Sargent. When we had finished our work for Mr. Vanderbilt and I was about to take up educational work again, Sargent took me to task for thinking of abandoning a work for which there was far too few trained men for a work that had plenty of applicants. He persuaded me to continue botanical work and devote my time to trees and shrubs. I did my first work for him in 1905 and the last in 1926. My task was to find all unknown and little known trees and shrubs (sic) and also to trace the distribution of all the known ones. I was to get seeds and cuttings of everything in the southern states not already growing in the arboretum, but my chief work was to study critically every species, keeping in mind the revision of his manual of trees of North America. I visited all parts of the South, and made many corrections and additions for his Manual. Sargent is supposed to be the highest authority on trees in the world. My quarter of a century closely connected with him, including trips with him in the woods I should think, in a measure at least, make up for a term I missed at the University under some professor who learned mostly from books.

The record of Thomas Grant Harbison's work for Dr. Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum survives in the archives of the Arnold Arboretum. The institution holds at least 214 letters, reports, or

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communications that Mr. Harbison sent to Dr. Sargent between 25 June 1906 and 17 August 1922. Dr. Sargent's letterbook for the period includes over 100 letters, requests for plants and information, and advice sent by the senior botanist to his plant collector in Highlands. While these numbers are large and impressive, other correspondence covering the first year of Mr. Harbison's work, 1905, and his final four years, 1922 to 1926, appears to be missing or lost. While the expense of an examination of the letters is beyond the scope of this nomination, the letters were read by S. B. Sutton, the author of *Charles Sprague Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum* published in 1970. She includes two references to Mr. Harbison in the book. The first occurs in a paragraph regarding work in the 1910s. "Wilson was off collecting in Korea and Formosa, and Thomas Grant Harbison and E. J. Palmer made headway with their botanical investigations of the flora of the southern United States under Sargent's direction. While men slaughtered each other in Europe, the Arnold Arboretum successfully maintained its course of vigorous growth. After all, the Arboretum was Sargent's business; the war was not. Consistently, when the war ended there was still no change of tempo" (Sutton, 325).

Thomas Grant Harbison's work for Dr. Sargent was noted again when Ms. Sutton discussed the publication of the second, revised edition of the *Manual of the Trees of North America (Exclusive of Mexico)* in 1922.

The second edition involved a good deal of fresh field work, a little of which he did himself in the southern states, but most of which he had grown too old and lame to accomplish effectively. For the field work, he had five principal collectors: Alfred Rehder made several trips south and eventually helped prepare the new keys; Alice Eastwood, the first great lady botanist and Curator and Head of the Department of Botany of the California Academy of Sciences, collected in California and made special trips to Alaska and New Mexico for Sargent; R. S. Cocks at Tulane tramped the Louisiana forests; E. J. Palmer and T. G. Harbison explored the southeastern states and the Missouri-Texas region respectively. These areas, with emphasis on the South, were the ones Sargent singled out for intensive investigation.

The collectors worked hard, as people who worked for Sargent usually did, but none worked harder than Palmer and Harbison. Following complicated itineraries and directives set by Sargent's needs, they roamed the southern forests, striving to be somewhere in time for the flowering of one species and somewhere else to pick fruits of another. Sargent deluged them with requests, for more specimens, seeds, new collections at old localities, and more detailed descriptions--what, for

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example, was the anther color on that *Crataegus* specimen from Texas? His demands were seemingly endless, his letters never friendly, though not exactly unfriendly, but intensely businesslike. With monumental patience, Harbison and Palmer filled Sargent's orders as well as they could, dutifully replied to his letters, and carefully worked over their collections in winter and between field trips (Sutton, 329-30).

In his preface to the new edition of the *Manual* written at the Arboretum in September 1921, Charles Sprague Sargent acknowledged the work of his plant collectors following an appreciation of Charles Edward Faxon and Mary W. Gill, who produced the illustrations for the work.

It is impossible to name here all the men and women who have in the last sixteen years contributed to this account of American trees, and I will now only mention Mr. T. G. Harbison and Mr. E. J. Palmer, who as agents of the Arboretum have studied for years the trees of the Southeastern States and of the Missouri-Texas region. Professor R. S. Cocks, of Tulane University, who has explored carefully and critically the forests of Louisiana, and Miss Alice Eastwood, head of the Botanical Department of the California Academy of Sciences, who has made special journeys in Alaska and New Mexico in the interest of this *Manual*. Mr. Alfred Rehder, Curator of the Herbarium of the Arboretum, has added to the knowledge of our trees in several Southern journeys; and to him I am especially indebted for assistance and advice in the preparation of the keys to the different groups of plants found in this volume.

The publication of the second edition of the *Manual of the Trees of North America* in 1922 was the effective capstone to Dr. Sargent's career. His great work, the Arnold Arboretum, would forever bear its donor's name, rather than that of its creator. However, Sargent's *Manual of the Trees of North America* of 1905 and 1922, and his fourteen-volume *Silva of North America*, published between 1891 and 1902, remain unexampled and authoritative to the present. Thomas Grant Harbison's work was critical to the 1922 *Manual*.

Mr. Harbison and his family had occupied this house for about a year when Dr. Sargent's new *Manual* was published. According to family tradition it was built in 1921 by William Monroe Cleaveland (1886-1912), a son of William B. Cleaveland (18__-1892) who moved his family from Bridgeport, Connecticut, to Highlands in 1881 (Shaffner, 102-03). Mr. Harbison is said to have built his new house over the foundations of an earlier house occupied by Martha Teague

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(Shaffner, 218). It stands enclosed in a curve of the Walhalla Road (NC 28). With an elevation facing north to Satulah Mountain, the house's double-tier south porch enjoys scenic views to the south across the North Carolina/Georgia border and beyond, across the Georgia/South Carolina border, into Oconee County, where Walhalla is the county seat. Mr. Harbison also had a small barn erected nearby which is long lost but whose foundations survive on the acreage remaining in the Harbison family. The walls of his stone apple house, at further remove, also are in ruin.

Thomas Grant Harbison was in about his sixty-fourth year when his professional association with the Arnold Arboretum came to an end. How he occupied himself between 1926 and 1929 is unclear; however, in the later year he undertook botanical work for the Geological Survey of Mississippi. The extent of this endeavor is unconfirmed.

During the later 1920s Thomas Grant Harbison and his family were involved in a local venture which created one of the important, lasting civic institutions in Highlands. On 10 August 1927, on the initiative of Clark Foreman, a group of ten Highlands' residents met and organized the Highlands Museum Association. The Misses Gertrude and Dorothea Harbison attended the meeting as did Mrs. A. J. Salinas, then a resident of Kalalanta on Bowery Road, and Mr. Foreman who was elected president of the association. Six trustees were elected also, including Thomas Grant Harbison, William Monroe Cleaveland, the Highlands contractor who had built the Harbison residence, and Miss Marguerite Ravenel, who summered at Wolf Ridge³. During the winter of 1927-28 Mr. Cleaveland added a room onto the side of the Hudson Library to house the museum and the collection of Indian artifacts acquired from the Cleaveland family and other natural history objects.

When the bylaws for the organization were drawn up it was named the Highlands Museum of Natural History. Acting on the desire to have a biological laboratory in Highlands for summer research, the museum was incorporated in 1930 as the Highlands Museum and Biological Laboratory. The trustees of the new institution were a group composed largely of academics including Dr. William Chambers Coker of the University of North Carolina. In 1931 Mr. Cleaveland completed the International-style laboratory overlooking Lake Ravenel that, although remodeled by necessity, remains a facility of the institution to the present. In 1933, the Highlands Museum and Biological Laboratory saw to press Thomas Grant Harbison's *A Preliminary Check-List of the Ligneous Flora of the Highlands Region, North Carolina*. It was the last-published of six botanical articles written by Mr. Harbison.

The final chapter in Thomas Grant Harbison's career as a botanist is associated with his long personal and professional friendship with another pioneering North Carolina naturalist. William

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Willard Ashe (1872-1932), unlike Mr. Harbison, was a native of North Carolina, and came of a family distinguished in North Carolina history since the eighteenth century when his ancestor, Samuel Ashe, was governor (1795-98) of the state. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1891, and in 1892 he received a Master of Science degree from Cornell University. That same year Mr. Ashe was appointed forester in the North Carolina Geological Survey, and in that position he undertook a survey of forests in North Carolina, in cooperation with Gifford Pinchot, that was published in 1897 as *Timber Trees and Forests of North Carolina*. This collaboration was especially successful in part because Mr. Pinchot (1865-1946) brought an important academic background to the study together with his experience as George Vanderbilt's forester on the Biltmore estate from 1892 to 1895. In 1905 Mr. Ashe joined the United States Forest Service where he remained until his death in March 1932. Mr. Ashe's work as a forester gained him a high reputation that was augmented by his writings and work as a botanist.⁴

His biographer for the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* also noted that Mr. Ashe "formed extensive herbariums in Raleigh and in Washington, D.C." Mr. Ashe died unexpectedly on 18 March 1932. He had made no plans for the disposition of his vast herbarium and its fate immediately became a matter of concern for his widow, Mr. Harbison, his close friend and professional colleague, and their mutual friend, Dr. William Chambers Coker, a professor of botany at the University of North Carolina and the founder of an herbarium at the school. In the event, the Ashe Herbarium and the University Herbarium were the objects of Mr. Harbison's final work as a botanist in North Carolina.

The negotiations surrounding the eventual acquisition of the complete Ashe Herbarium by the University of North Carolina are extensively treated by Mary Coker Joslin in *Essays on William Chambers Coker, Passionate Botanist* (pp. 56-63). While interest in the collection was evinced by both the United States National Arboretum and the Arnold Arboretum, and other institutions, Mr. Harbison was determined that the Ashe Herbarium should come to North Carolina and particularly to the university. His campaign of letter writing, personal contacts, and meetings, began within a week of Mr. Ashe's death, an event all the more poignant in that Mr. Harbison, unknowing of his friend's death, had sent a shipment of plants to Mr. Ashe on the very day of his funeral (Joslin, 172). Mr. Harbison was in a unique position to influence the fate of his friend's herbarium. Soon after Mr. Ashe's death, Mrs. Ashe asked Mr. Harbison to come to Washington, D.C., to arrange for the sale of her husband's herbarium.

In the event, by the end of 1932, Mrs. Ashe decided to keep the Ashe Herbarium intact, over the expressed desire of other institutions for parts of it, and to sell it to the University of North Carolina. A gift of \$3,000 from Mrs. George Watts Hill, of Durham, secured the purchase, and in

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January 1933 Mr. Harbison accompanied the Washington part of the herbarium in a van to Chapel Hill. With the materials from both Raleigh and Washington secure at the University of North Carolina, Dr. Coker pressed ahead with his plan to engage Mr. Harbison to organize and curate the new acquisition, which was stored in the botany department's rooms in Davie Hall. Here again, the problem was funding for the position, and it was not secured until 1934 with 1 July as the effective employment date. Meanwhile, Mr. Harbison appears to have undertaken some work on the collection on a temporary basis. He also spent two months in Hartsville, South Carolina, 14 February to 18 April 1934, as an on-site advisor on the development of Kalmia Gardens by Mrs. David Robert (May) Coker, Dr. Coker's sister-in-law (see National Register nomination for Thomas E. Hart House and Kalmia Gardens, 1991). It was not until fall 1934 that Thomas Grant Harbison actually began his work on the Ashe collection as curator of the University Herbarium. This work, coming when he was seventy years of age, was welcome; however, failing health in 1935 precluded his sustained work on the Ashe material. In all he is said to have given the work some ten months in what would be the last year and a half of his life (Joslin, 64).

Thomas Grant Harbison died in Chapel Hill on 12 January 1936. His body was returned to Highlands and interred in the Highlands Cemetery. Death was not the end of his association with the university and its herbarium. Dr. Coker soon acquired Mr. Harbison's own herbarium, once housed in the closets that survive in his first-story study, for the University Herbarium where it joined the specimens collected by Mr. Ashe and others.

The death of Mr. Harbison was mourned throughout the small circle of botanists in North Carolina and beyond the state's borders where he was widely known and appreciated. A committee composed of Dr. Coker, Henry Roland Totten, who had been Mr. Harbison's host in Chapel Hill, and H. J. Oosting (1903-1968), professor of botany at Duke University, prepared a long affecting memorial that was published in December 1936 in the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Society*.

As a plant collector he recognized many new species and varieties of plants that he passed on to others for publication and he contributed greatly to the value of many publications through the gifts and loans of specimens and through his accurate memory as to the distribution of plants and the location of the types. His own herbarium is rich in type and co-type sheets.

He was very proud of the fact that he had visited nearly every type tree still living in the southeastern states, and the exact location of every type plant that he had

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ever seen seems to have been stamped indelibly upon his memory. We have been guided by him unerringly and with hardly any hesitation to type trees that he had not seen for thirty years. In recognition of his contribution to science the University of North Carolina chapter of the Sigma Xi elected him to active membership in 1935.

It is difficult to sum up briefly the life and contributions of this remarkable man. His work as a teacher in the schools of Pennsylvania and in the mountains of North Carolina was outstandingly successful and to the day of his death he was known and loved in our mountains as "Professor Harbison." His advocacy and influence helped to establish at Waynesville one of the first public graded schools in the state. In the same quiet way he was quite an influence in the establishment of the Western Carolina State Teacher's College at Cullowhee, N.C. . . . His public spirit was boundless. For a time he was mayor of his town; was for years road supervisor of his township and even took pride in his part in the placement of some of the mountain roads. He was a pioneer in securing national forests for the western part of North Carolina, turned over much of his own land to the government at a very low rate and by his advocacy and example persuaded his neighbors to do the same. . . . Though a lover of timber trees, he also knew and loved all humbler plants too and fully realized their cultural value. He was an early advocate for a great National park in the North Carolina mountains and was an early contributor and played a part in securing the cooperation of the mountain people in what has resulted in the Smoky Mountain National Park. He supervised the laying out and planting of a number of estates and through his knowledge of plants and their requirements, and through an innate sense of fitness and beauty he would open up distant vistas and at the same time preserve the natural beauty of the native vegetation. As an orchardist he found and taught by experiment what varieties would be most successful in that apple region where North Carolina and South Carolina and Georgia meet. On his orchard farm on the southern slope of Mount Satulah he also conducted mountain tests as to the hardiness of new crops tried out or developed by the South Carolina Agricultural College and Experimental Station at Clemson, S. C. For years his family has kept the government weather records as to temperature and rainfall at the Highlands, N.C., station.

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Harbison had a very influential part in the establishment and maintenance of the Highlands Library, the Highlands Museum, the Highlands Biological Laboratory. For years he gave freely his services as guide to practically every botanist and even to those only mildly interested in botany coming into the Highlands section. Up to within a year of his death when he was forced to give up strenuous mountain climbing by a severe attack of influenza that left his heart weakened, he could set a pace up mountain trails that any man half his age would have been proud to maintain. . . . The memory of these mountain hikes and long rides, the botanical excursions through the mountains, the piedmont, the sandhills and coastal region of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, the example of his keen and accurate observation, long talks at evening after the day in the field or herbarium (a memory and active life such as his made him a wonderful conversationalist), the patient help he gave to students makes us realize that in the passing of this cultured gentleman, scientist, we have lost a great teacher and friend. It was quite fitting that Thomas Grant Harbison should have spent his last days in the service of his state, in an honored position in its university. We wish that he could have carried on for years more the very valuable work he was doing and for which he was so well equipped (JEMS, 54/143-45).

At the time of Mr. Harbison's death, this house in Highlands was home to his wife and the couple's four children including Dorothea "Dolly" Harbison (1905-1999) and Thomas Cobb Harbison (1909-1959). Their three daughters remained single and lived at home with their mother until her death in 1954. The elder two of the three lived here with their younger sister Dorothea until their deaths in 1976 and 1980, respectively. Thomas Cobb Harbison married Elizabeth Rice (1906-1979) in 1933 and built a one-story house in 1948 on family land between this house and Satulah Mountain, where he and his wife raised three daughters: Susannah Elizabeth "Ann" Harbison (b. 1938), Christine Catherine Harbison (b. 1942), and Jessie Lynn Harbison (b. 1943).

Thomas Grant Harbison's wife and children played active and important roles in the life of Highlands through the first three-quarters of the twentieth century. Margaret Harbison (1899-1976), the first-born, stayed at home and kept house for her mother and her siblings, allowing them to pursue civic and professional interests. Gertrude Harbison (1903-1980) became librarian at Highlands's Hudson Library in 1926 and served in that position until 1974. Her sister Dorothea "Dolly" Harbison (1905-1999) served as her elder sister's assistant at the library from

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1926 to 1974 and next as acting librarian until Mrs. Anne Ham succeeded Miss Gertrude. For nearly half a century these two women guided the literary interests of Highlands.

Ownership of the house built in 1921 for Thomas Grant Harbison descended in his family to his last surviving child Dorothea Harbison, who was left alone after Gertrude Harbison's death on 17 April 1980. Following the death of Gertrude Harbison, Dorothea Harbison moved, in about 1985, into the smaller house built in 1948 by her brother and lived there into the early 1990s, when she relocated to the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands. She died on 21 June 1999, and her body was buried in the Highlands Cemetery with her parents and sisters. On 1 September 1993, about the time she relocated to the Eckerd Center, she conveyed the family house and the residual Harbison lands surrounding it to her three nieces (Macon Deeds, B-20/717-18).

Meanwhile, the first-story windows and doors of the furnished but unoccupied house had been boarded up. The Harbison siblings, the only descendants of Thomas Grant Harbison, held the family house until 11 January 2000 when Ann Harbison, a resident of Fremont County, Colorado, Christina Harbison Newton, then residing in Clark County, Ohio, and Jessie Harbison Sheldon, a resident of Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, California, sold this house and the surrounding grounds of 3.29 acres in the embrace of the Walhalla Road to Dr. James Edmond Lee and his wife Karen Lee of Milledgeville, Georgia (Macon Deeds, T-23/1134-38).

After acquiring the house Dr. Lee (b. 1936), a practicing veterinarian, and Mrs. Lee then undertook the stabilization and restoration of the house. This was the second important historic house whose restoration Dr. Lee had undertaken. In the 1970s he and his first wife, Adelia Torrance (1936-1986), acquired a dog-trot plan log house in Washington County, Georgia, known as the Buck-Archer House, and moved it to a new site on Lake Sinclair in Baldwin County, Georgia, where they rehabilitated it as a weekend residence. That project was the subject of feature articles in *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine* in 1977 and in both *Colonial Homes* and *Southern Living* in 1982. Following Mrs. Lee's death, Dr. Lee married Karen (Leckie) Holmes (b. 1946) in 1990. The Lake Sinclair log house is now Dr. and Mrs. Lee's primary residence. The restoration and rehabilitation of the Harbison house was undertaken to provide a seasonal residence for the now enlarged Lee/Holmes family. Drawings for the house were prepared by Johnny Johnson, a draftsman resident in Milledgeville, and they were the basis for the rehabilitation plans developed for the Lees by Bonnie C. Dowling, the proprietor of Bonnie C. Dowling Interiors of Macon, Georgia. The contractor was Hampton Construction of Brevard, North Carolina. Work was started on site in February 2000 and essentially completed in August 2001 when the Lees occupied the house. In addition to stabilization and in-kind repairs to the house, bathrooms were installed in the house for the first time and the Harbisons's very

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rudimentary kitchen was refitted with modern kitchen appliances and cabinetry in a sympathetic traditional design (*The Highlander*, 25 June 2002). The south end of the rectangular space, on the east side of the first-story hall, which the Harbisons had used as their dining room, has remained the dining room. A fireplace was introduced here on the room's east wall and fitted with a nineteenth-century mantel. Landscape improvements including the stone paved front walk and its boxwood edging were added in 2002 by Charles Miller, a landscape architect based in Milledgeville, Georgia. That primary work has been supplemented by the addition of bulbs, ground cover, and other plantings in the succeeding years. The house remains a seasonal residence of the Lee family.

In 2002 Dr. Randolph P. Shaffner, author of *Good Reading Material, Mostly Bound and New: The Hudson Library, 1884-1994* and *Heart of the Blue Ridge, Highlands, North Carolina*, submitted a request for a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker honoring Mr. Harbison's role as an educator and botanist. The marker was approved in 2003. In fall 2003 the marker was erected on the west side of US 64 in front of the Highlands Town Hall that occupies the site of the Highlands Academy. The marker was unveiled on 29 October 2003.

The memorial composed by his colleagues, Messrs. Totten, Coke, and Oosting, and published in 1936 in the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Society* honored Thomas Grant Harbison who adopted North Carolina as his home and made important contributions to its study and its history. The North Carolina Highway Historical Marker erected in 2003 also honors his role as an educator and botanist. But Thomas Grant Harbison has been honored as well, and will be in perpetuity, by the plants named in his honor. *Crataegus harbisonii*, the first of the eight, was named in Mr. Harbison's honor by Chauncey Delos Beadle, probably while Mr. Harbison was employed with the Biltmore Herbarium. It was published in Dr. Sargent's 1905 *Manual of the Trees of North America*. Seven others, not in chronological order, are: *Salix harbisonii*, *Viburnum cassinoides* var. *harbisonii*, *Quercus harbisonii*, *Aesculus harbisonii*, *Astragalus harbisonii*, *Vaccinium neglectum* var. *harbisonii*, and *Verbena harbisonii*.

Architectural Significance

The local significance of the Thomas Grant Harbison House in the area of architecture is associated with its survival as an important, intact example of domestic architecture from the 1920s in the resort and is associated with the career of William Monroe Cleaveland, a local, native-born Highlands building contractor and lumber manufacturer. The Harbison House is one of three houses, together with The Fling on Bowery Road, and the builder's own house on Foreman Road, that date from a career spanning the period from ca. 1908 to Mr. Cleaveland's

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death on 12 November 1932. At present only twelve major buildings have been documented and can be attributed to Mr. Cleaveland; however, he and his crew were surely responsible for a large number of buildings in the Highlands townscape that remain unknown. Within this group the former Highlands Jail of 1917-1918, The Fling, and this house retain the highest degree of integrity.

William Monroe Cleaveland (1886-1932) was one of seven known children born to William B. Cleaveland (18__-1892) and his wife Ida Estelle Bailey. Mr. Cleaveland is said to have come to Highlands in 1881 from Bridgeport, Connecticut. He opened and operated a grocery store on the north side of west Main Street. William Monroe Cleaveland was born on 23 February 1886 and two years later the Cleaveland family was living in its newly-built house on the south side of west Main Street, diagonally opposite the grocery, where it still stands offset behind The Stone Lantern gift shop at 309 Main Street. William Monroe Cleaveland grew up in the heart of the small resort village, watched its development through the turn of the century and the opening years of the twentieth century, and made important contributions to its townscape.

The matter of when he undertook a career in building and lumbering remains to be confirmed; however, his first known building project was for Dr. Mary Lapham (1861-1936), Highlands's best-known physician, who specialized in tuberculosis. In 1908 she acquired Marietta Trowbridge's multi-story house on North Fourth Street and engaged Mr. Cleaveland to add wings to the house where she operated her widely-known sanatorium. That building, which contained the administrative, medical, nursing, and dining facilities of her hospital, was destroyed by fire in February 1918 (Shaffner, 299-303). In 1915, when the trustees of the Hudson Library sought bids for the construction of a new library building designed by Huger Elliott, Mr. Cleaveland was underbid by Walter Reese, another Highlands builder, who submitted a bid of \$553 (Shaffner, 271). Two years later, in 1917, Mr. Cleaveland received the contract from the town to erect Highlands' second jail. The small, rectangular concrete block building covered with a hip roof, was completed in 1918 and still stands on Maple Street where it has long since been used for storage (Shaffner, 191-92).

The 1920s was Mr. Cleaveland's busiest decade as a builder, both on the basis of the buildings known to have been erected by him and the building boom that occurred in the resort during that decade. As Dr. Shaffner notes in *Heart of the Blue Ridge*, the town council appeared to anticipate "an upsurge in new construction" and in December 1919 appointed Mr. Cleaveland and John Quincey Pierson (1879-1935), a leading real estate and insurance agent, to draft the first building laws for Highlands (Shaffner, 380). The new ordinance including the issuance of building permits came into force in 1922. Meanwhile, Mr. Cleaveland had completed this house for

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Thomas Grant Harbison. After completing the Harbison House, Mr. Cleaveland turned to the construction of The Fling on Bowery Road for Mary Elliott Moore Evins(1872-1939). In addition to the spacious, elegant Colonial Revival-style house, Mr. Cleaveland probably also built four contemporary outbuildings including the caretaker's house (See Playmore/Bowery Road Historic District, NR, 2002). In 1922 Mr. Cleaveland also built six benches at the request of the Highlands Improvement Society and erected them on Main Street for public use (Shaffner, 388). That same year he also undertook construction of the Highlands Bank, a one-story brick building that housed Highlands' first bank. Completed in 1923, that building remains in commercial use, and stands in altered state at 201 South Fourth Street (Shaffner, 380). In 1925 Mr. Cleaveland was engaged on at least four known projects. He was building a new one-and-a-half story shingle clad house for himself on Foreman Road, which survives in altered condition, and had contracts for three commercial projects at the center of the resort. He built a two-story brick store on South Fourth Street (#219) for Charles J. Anderson who operated, successively, a drug store and variety store in it into the 1950s (Shaffner, 135). The Anderson building remains in commercial use. His second (known) store building project in Highlands occurred on Main Street where George Marett hired him to build a store front addition on the west side of his Highlands Hardware Store in the northwest corner of Main and Fourth streets. That two-story frame addition, which essentially replicated the earlier corner store, is said to have been moved to South Third Street in the 1950s, when both buildings were removed from this prime corner location (Shaffner, 385-86). The third known commercial project in 1925 comprised improvements to the Central House, a nineteenth-century lodging on east Main Street for Minnie Edwards, where he added a two-story wing to the inn and added dormer windows in the attic of the two-story frame lodge. This work has been subsumed in a recent, extensive renovation of the accommodation, since known as the Edwards Inn, in ca. 2003-05. In 1927-28 he erected the one-room museum addition to the Hudson Library in which the Highlands Museum Association first displayed his father's important Native American collection (Sargent, 8). The museum opened on 4 July 1928. It was also in the late 1920s that he moved his saw mill to the woodland south of Highlands which was being partially clear-cut for the construction of the Highlands Country Club and its golf course (Shaffner, 523).

William Monroe Cleaveland's last known building is inarguably one of his most important construction projects. As the Highlands Museum of Natural History evolved into the Highlands Museum and Biological Laboratory, the need for laboratory space and related offices for botanists and biologists, and others in the sciences, to work during the summer in Highlands became pronounced. A site on the south side of Lake Ravenel was acquired and Oskar Gregory Stonorov (1905-1970), a German-born architect based in Philadelphia, was hired to design a

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laboratory building. Mr. Stonorov, who had studied in Italy and Switzerland and came to the United States in 1929, designed a daring International-style building that was erected in 1930-31 by Mr. Cleaveland and his company. Named for Samuel T. Weyman of Atlanta, a principal donor, the building opened in July 1931 and it was published in 1932 in *The International Style*, the ground-breaking book promoting a new architectural idiom written by Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson. While a brilliant design, the building's flat roof proved to be problematic in a locale that enjoyed heavy snowfalls. In 1958 the roof of the building was rebuilt to easily shed water and melting snow.

William Monroe Cleaveland's career as a building contractor in Highlands is representative of those of a small number of known builders in the resort, from its founding in 1875 through the first decades of the twentieth century. Mr. Shaffner makes note of this in his history.

“Many of the homes and public buildings in Highlands were constructed under the supervision of a few prolific builders. Early homes were built by Frank Hill from Horse Cove; John Jay Smith, whose sawmill was capable of putting out 2,000 board feet of lumber a day; and the Boynton brothers, Frank and Charles (both of whom left Highlands for California). Later homes and shops were usually built by Walter Reese, Will Cleaveland, Roy Phillips, or Guy Paul” (Shaffner, 457).

This list should be expanded to include both Barak Wright and John Zeigler Gottwals (1830-1913), whose elaborate ca. 1896 Victorian house stands at 802 North Fourth Street, and the largely anonymous group of stone masons whose chimneys, stone walls, porch supports, and other decorative architectural work contribute to the rich architectural character of the resort. Beginning with his participation in 1925 in the construction of the Baldwin-Coker Cottage (NR, 2003), this list would also include Joe Webb (1881-1950) whose small but highly important group of log houses, including Cabin Ben (NR, 2003), are among the most significant houses ever erected in Highlands. Except for the work of Peggy S. Watkins, the author of the privately-distributed "Webbmont," that of Elaine Luxemburger and Jennifer Martin who identified Joseph Walter Reese as the builder of at least five and probably seven houses in the Satulah Mountain Historic District (NR 1995), and the research of this author, the work of this group of builders largely remains to be documented.

The architectural history and character of the resort is better understood through the research and representation appearing in the National Register nomination for individual properties in Highlands, the two historic districts listed to date (Satulah Mountain and Playmore/Bowery Road historic districts), and the research for the forthcoming Highlands North Historic District. From the founding of Highlands in 1875 into the early twentieth century, resort buildings reflected two

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dominant themes: the local vernacular tradition seen in conventional L-, T-, and I-plan one, one-and-a-half, and two-story frame houses, and the patterns of nationally popular architectural styles including numerous variants of Victorian period design. In Highlands, as in other resorts in Western North Carolina, the arrival of the Arts and Crafts movement at the turn of the twentieth century and a growing interest in rustic design and local materials produced extraordinary individual buildings and encouraged the development of regional architectural vocabularies and the creation of remarkable groups of buildings of which those in the Linville Historic District (NR, 1979), with their chestnut bark siding, and the log cottages erected by Joe Webb in Highlands from 1925 to ca. 1940 are arguably the most accomplished.

In Highlands, as in Asheville, Flat Rock, Blowing Rock, and in other summer colonies, features of the Arts and Crafts, Bungalow/Craftsman, Rustic, and Colonial Revival styles were combined in summer cottages and year-round residences of great appeal and character. These date from the turn of the twentieth century through the 1930s and it is within this tradition that the house erected for Thomas Grant Harbison has its important place among Highlands buildings.

The Craftsman style, the American architectural expression of the Arts and Crafts movement, was most popular from 1900 to 1920. Sheathing of natural materials, asymmetrical facades, wide eaves, exposed rafters, and knee-brackets are common elements.

The Colonial Revival style combines architectural elements from the Georgian and Federal styles, as well as elements of many other styles that precede the Victorian era. Particular features of the Colonial Revival style include symmetrical plans with central entrances, hip or gable-end roofs, full-width porches, and double-hung windows with multiple glass panes.

Given his career as a botanist and his empathy with the natural world, there is no surprise in Mr. Harbison choosing to sheath the elevations and roof of his tall two-story with attic, gable-front house in wood shingles. It was in harmony with the aged trees on his property and the plants he added through the course of ownership. The deep, board-sheathed eaves of the house and its porches have exposed rafters and purlins that reflect both traditional building practice in the region and the influence of the Craftsman style. The centered entrances, on both the south-facing elevation and the porch looking north to Satulah, with their sidelights above blind panels are critical features of the Colonial Revival style that appeared in enriched fashion the next year when Mr. Cleaveland completed The Fling on Bowery Road for the Evins family. Reflecting style, substance, tradition, and suitability to place, the Thomas Grant Harbison House is a landmark in the architectural landscape of Highlands.

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The construction of the Harbison House in 1921 occurred about midway during a period in the early twentieth century in Highlands when an interest in native materials and local craftsman, encouraged by the larger national Arts and Crafts and Rustic movements were combined with elements of the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles to produce a relatively small but impressive group of both permanent and seasonal residences in the resort community. Wood shingles had been used in the nineteenth century here as decorative sheathing on weatherboarded frame houses, including the 1891 Edwards Family House and the ca. 1896 John Zeigler Gottwals House in the forthcoming Highlands North Historic District, and wood shingles were the principal material for roofing. Apparently it was not until the 1910s that wood shingles came to be used to any real extent for the sheathing of elevations, however, earlier, unknown and now lost samples of the usage may have existed here. The first known and most distinguished example of their usage occurred in 1914 at Wolf Ridge, the imposing Craftsman-style two-story house built by the Ravenel family that also incorporated Colonial Revival-style finish, such as symmetrical elevations and sidelights flanking the door under an entry portico. (See Playmore/Bowery Road Historic District.)

A related melding of these favored styles is seen also in the ca. 1915 Elizabeth Lyons House, the 1918 Minnie Warren House, and the ca. 1920 Marie Huger House, where builder Joseph Walter Reese sheathed their elevations with wood shingles (see Satulah Mountain Historic District). The Minnie Warren House is more overtly Colonial Revival in style than these others with its curved-pedimented portico. In 1921, when he completed the Harbison House, William Monroe Cleaveland departed from the model of Wolf Ridge and framed its shingle elevations with painted white sill and corner boards; however, other finish of both houses share similarities.

At this distance it appears likely that this felicitous combination of Craftsman and Colonial Revival styling in Highlands would have enjoyed a widespread vogue, in the 1920s and 1930s. However, the construction of the Baldwin-Coker Cottage in 1925 immediately prompted an alternative use of local materials and native craftsmanship and became the prototype for a distinguished series of log summer cottages built by Joe Webb through the interwar period, including Log Jam (see Playmore/Bowery Road HD) and Cabin Ben (NR, 2003).

Many of the most affluent cottage builders, who otherwise might well have built on the model of Wolf Ridge and the Harbison House quickly responded to the alternative mode and employed Joe Webb to build one of his favored log houses, ornamented with bark-covered woodwork, that are among the most sought-after houses in Highlands to the present.

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The result is that Wolf Ridge and the Thomas Grant Harbison House were among the first and remain the best, most substantial examples in Highlands of the appealing melding of the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles that continued through the interwar period. While a comprehensive architectural inventory of Highlands remains to be undertaken, examples are known, two of which stand in the Highlands North Historic District now being completed by this author. Topside, built ca. 1923-1924, incorporates a shingle-clad exterior with an interior where native woods and a bold stone chimney create an appealing living room. Some fifteen years later, in about 1939, George Marett oversaw the building of a house for his daughter on North Fifth Street, the Marett (Burt)-Reeve Cottage, that is possibly the last built of Highlands's pre-World War II Craftsman-influenced cottages. Instead of the traditional wood shingles, he chose board-and-batten for the cottage's sheathing, as well as that of its contemporary garage, and painted/stained the boards a rich dark green. The white-painted door and window surrounds provide architectural contrast. The cottage's nod to the Colonial Revival style appears in the paired, iconic built-in benches on the front porch.

ENDNOTES

1. The chief biographical sources on Mr. Harbison are an "Auto-Biographical Sketch of Dr. T. G. Harbison, A. M., Ph.D.," an eight-page double-spaced typescript account which Mr. Harbison prepared about 1926, apparently in response to a request for a proposed publication, and a memorial, "Dr. Thomas Grant Harbison," published in the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Society* in December 1936. The memorial was written by Henry Roland Totten, director of the Coker Arboretum at the University of North Carolina, William Chambers Coker, the founder of the arboretum and a well-known, widely-published botanist, and H. J. Oosting, a botanist at Duke University. For Dr. Coker's association with Highlands see the National Register nomination for the Baldwin-Coker Cottage (NR, 2003.)
2. After George Vanderbilt's death in 1914 and the flood of 1916, the surviving part of the Biltmore Herbarium became a part of the United States National Herbarium, founded in 1848, at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. The first of a series of financial difficulties experienced by Mr. Vanderbilt in 1902-1903, called for retrenchment on the estate and in its agricultural and horticultural operations. The closing of the Biltmore School of Forestry in 1909 was another casualty of George Vanderbilt's reduced circumstances.
3. For Mrs. Salinas and Miss Ravenel, and their summer houses, see the National Register nomination for the Playmore/Bowery Road Historic District, 2002.

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4. "His writings include 167 titles in such fields as forest economics, influences, legislation, management, and research; land acquisition for public forest and parks; systematic botany and dendrology; and soil erosion. Ashe published 510 new botanical names, mostly southeastern, in 35 genera, including many new species. Over a dozen species and varieties commemorate his or his wife's name" (DNCR, 1/57-8).

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the enclosed plat of the property prepared by L. Stephen Foster, P. L. S. of Highlands and dated 12 January 2000. It is recorded on card #3040 in the office of the Macon County Register of Deeds, Macon County Court House, Franklin, North Carolina.

Boundary Justification: This boundary comprises a portion of the site and setting historically associated with the Thomas Grant Harbison House, and provides an appropriate setting.

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Schedule of Photographs

1. Name of property: Thomas Grant Harbison House
2. County and State: Macon County, North Carolina
3. Name of photographer: Davyd Foard Hood
4. Date of photographs: 20 April 2005 (exteriors) and 16 October 2006 (interiors).
5. Location of original negatives: Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

List of Photographs

- A. Overall view, looking south onto the north, front elevation of the house.
- B. View of the south elevation and setting beside Walhalla Road, looking north.
- C. Oblique view, looking northwest onto the south and east elevations of the house and its east wing.
- D. View of the house's west elevation, looking south/southeast.
- E. View in the living room, looking northeast, showing the stone chimneybreast and Harbison bookcase, with the staircase newel in the hall visible on right.
- F. View in the kitchen and dining room, looking southeast.
- G. View in Mr. Harbison's study, looking southeast, with doors of one of two storage closets used for his herbarium, etc.
- H. View in second-story stair hall, looking southeast, with original railing, door onto second-story south porch, and into southeast bedroom where the steep stair to the attic is visible.