

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Valentine – Wilder House

Spring Hope vicinity, Nash County, NS0906, Listed 12/31/2013

Nomination by Jennifer Martin Mitchell

Photographs by Jennifer Martin Mitchell, March 2013



Front view



Rear view

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *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 an 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 Valentine-Wilder House

other names/site number Gourd Hollow

2. Location

street & number 8194 Webb's Mill Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Spring Hope

vicinity

state North Carolina

code NC

county Nash

code 127

zip code 27882

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Valentine-Wilder House
Name of Property

Nash County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

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

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Rustic Revival

foundation Stone
walls Log
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

Valentine-Wilder House
Name of Property

Nash 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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1925

Significant Dates

Ca. 1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

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:

Valentine-Wilder House
Name of Property

Nash County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 5.64 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 758660 3980800
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
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 Jennifer Martin Mitchell
organization MdM Historical Consultants Inc. date August 9, 2013
street & number Post Office Box 1399 telephone 919/368-1602
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Jeffrey Childers
street & number 1028 Cowper Drive telephone _____
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27608

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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Valentine-Wilder House
Nash County, North Carolina

Description

The Valentine-Wilder House at 8194 Webb's Mill Road near the town of Spring Hope, Nash County, North Carolina, is a circa 1925, one-and-half-story, saddle-notched, side-gabled, Arts and Crafts-influenced, Rustic Revival-style log house built from trees cut on the property. The 5.67-acre parcel containing the house, which faces south, is mostly level and heavily wooded and landscaped with large oaks, pines, azaleas, and other shrubbery. A semi-circular dirt driveway fronts the house with each end providing access to Webb's Mill Road (North Carolina SR 1331).

The Valentine-Wilder House is a little over one mile to the west-southwest of the town of Spring Hope. The capital city of Raleigh lies thirty-seven miles to the west. The house is located in North Carolina's coastal plain, which is characterized by flat to slightly rolling topography. Soil is sandy and well-suited to growing tobacco, the twentieth-century's principal cash crop for this area.

Three outbuildings accompany the house: a circa 1925, saddle-notched, front-gabled log smokehouse with an attached wire-fenced dog pen; a circa 1940 frame chicken house; and a circa 1940 frame garage. The buildings stand in a linear row behind the house and to the northwest. According to members of the Wilder family, the smokehouse was converted for use as an office for Roy Wilder Jr.

Valentine-Wilder House Circa 1925 Contributing Building

The one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled log dwelling resting on stone piers and in some places, a solid stone foundation, retains original finishes and features, including wood single and double six-light casement windows with flat, stained surrounds. When built, the logs were stained a dark brown that contrasts with the white concrete chinking. Three large exterior gable end stone chimneys, one on the west elevation and two on the east elevation, protrude through the asphalt shingle roof. Round log rafter tails and purlins grace the deep eaves on each elevation.

The symmetrical façade faces south toward Webb's Mill Road. A three-bay, shed-roofed wall dormer, also with log rafter tails, is centered. A partial-width, shed-roofed, one-story porch shelters three center bays: a single-leaf, wood batten door with iron strap hinges and a pair of flanking windows. Four natural log posts support the porch. Round-log support beams extend from the interior of the house to the exterior where they are exposed beneath the porch ceiling and along the facade. Large stones act as stairs leading to the wooden porch.

An original one-story, shed-roofed, west elevation wing is stepped back from the plane of the façade and encompasses the stone chimney. The log wing displays a door flanked by single casement windows that pierces the south (front) elevation, while banks of double-casement windows span the west and north (rear) elevations.

A shed-roofed dormer containing three bays rests on the roof slope on the north (rear) elevation. A one-story, shed-roof extension spans the rear elevation. A little over half of the western side is enclosed with board-and-batten below

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and screen panels above; this was likely an open porch originally. The elevation's eastern third is an original log section. A small shed roofed bulkhead accessing the crawl space is sheathed in vertical wood resting on concrete blocks and occupies the east side of the rear elevation log section.

A shed-roofed circa 1930 garage addition with double-leaf doors on its façade occupies the east elevation. An asphalt-shingle pent roof shelters the front bay. Lattice fills the space around the front bay and on the upper half of the vertical board walls. A later lattice and board-and-batten shed-roofed addition is on the rear of the garage.

The intact interior follows an irregular plan that is two rooms deep and two rooms wide with the north-running stair occupying the northwest corner of the living room. Exposed log walls and ceilings, as well as original wood floors characterize the interior. Without exception, all finishes and fixtures remain intact and well preserved.

The first floor contains the living room, dining room, sunroom, kitchen, library, a bedroom, and a bathroom. A hallway leads from the living room north to an east-west running hall to which the kitchen, library, and bathroom connect. Several rooms on the first level, including the kitchen, dining room, and library, contain built-in wood cabinets and shelving that likely date to the late 1940s or early 1950s. Interior doors, with their original hardware and rustic wood surrounds, remain intact; the same surrounds are found around the windows. Doors are batten, vertical wood, or wood paneled.

The living room contains the stair, which remains the dwelling's focal point. It features a balustrade composed of balusters crafted from slender, cypress logs, a pine log handrail, and newel posts of more substantial cedar trunks trimmed to fit their purpose, but otherwise left unaltered. A large stone fireplace occupies the east end of the living room. Stones in the header are set at an angle with a crude stone keystone at the center. A half-log mantelshelf secured with wrought iron braces spans the space above the header. A batten door and wood shelving are to the left of the fireplace. Double-leaf doors with divided lights on their upper halves and one large panel in each lower half, with a bracketed shelf above, lead from the living room into the dining room.

In the dining room, which is to the west of the living room, a built-in cabinet with shelving above is on the west wall. A built-in corner hutch is in the southeast corner of the room. A stone fireplace with a stone header and wood mantelshelf occupies the northwest corner.

A door on the west wall of the dining room leads to the sunroom. The sunroom features the exposed west side of the stone chimney. The header of this fireplace resembles that of the living room but has a thick stone mantelshelf above.

Portions of the log walls and ceiling, as well as the stone chimney in the kitchen have been painted white. The kitchen contains cabinets built of shipping crates, according to members of the Wilder family. Two pantries are located in the northeast corner of the kitchen.

The library includes a stone fireplace on its west wall and built-in cabinetry on the south and east walls. The projecting lower section forms a shelf above the firebox.

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The four bedrooms and bathroom upstairs have the same finishes as the downstairs. The stone chimneys on the east side of the house do not have openings, but instead have stove holes with half-log mantelshelves above. The stone chimney in the northwest bedroom has been painted white, as have the room's walls and ceilings. In this room, a closet is to the left of the chimney and built-in shelving is to the right. The southwest bedroom includes a stone fireplace with a small fireplace opening and a triangular-shaped stone hearth.

A ladder set on a diagonal wooden board provides a ramp to the attic. The attic features exposed log walls and the interior side of the rear, east elevation stone chimney (with no opening). Peeled round logs serve as vertical braces and ceiling joists in the space.

Smokehouse/Office
Ca. 1920
Contributing Building

The outbuilding nearest the house, the smokehouse takes its cues from the rustic style of the main dwelling. The front-gabled, concrete-chinked, saddle-notched, log building on a stone foundation and with an asphalt shingle roof features a center-façade batten door sheltered by an overhanging gable supported by exposed log rafter tails and purlins along the eaves. Inside, the floor is poured concrete and an exposed log serve as ceiling joists. The interior is sheathed in wood paneling and a small horizontal window pierces the rear wall.

Chicken House
Ca. 1940
Noncontributing Building

The chicken house stands just west of the smokehouse. The long, frame, flushed-board sheathed, shed-roofed building with exposed rafter tails and large openings above the half wall and along its coop section is typical of the period. A 5v metal roof tops the building. The expanse of openings and high roof on its façade provided necessary light for the fowl roosting inside. An original, small, enclosed shed sheathed in narrow horizontal wood with a door made of narrow vertical wood occupies the west end of the chicken house. The 1945 farm census report is the first one to record chickens on the property. The owner plans to stabilize and repair the building.

Garage
Ca. 1940
Noncontributing Building

Farther west stands the garage, a wood-frame building with two large façade bays sheltered by the overhang of the front-gable roof. It features heavy square post supports with braces, vertical board sheathing, a metal roof, and exposed rafters. The owner plans to stabilize and repair the building.

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Valentine-Wilder House
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A General Statement Regarding Archaeological Potential

The structures are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, privies, wells, and other structural remains that may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the contributing structures. Information concerning land-use patterns agricultural practices, social standing, and social mobility, as well as structural details, is often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of structures. At this time, no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any developments of the property.

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Valentine-Wilder House
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Summary

The Valentine-Wilder House, located just over a mile southwest of the town of Spring Hope in Nash County, North Carolina, meets National Register Criterion C as a remarkably intact example of an Arts and Crafts-influenced, Rustic Revival-style log house from the mid-1920s. Built for the family of Itimous Thaddeus (I. T.) Valentine Sr., an attorney and associate justice for the North Carolina Supreme Court, the house exudes the unadorned rustic aesthetic popular in the log revival movement of the pre-Depression era. Its saddle-notched construction, naturalized interior finishes, and the extensive and honestly executed use of wood and stone exemplifies the idiom and makes the Valentine-Wilder House an outstanding example of its style and a rarity in Nash County. Built to harmonize with its heavily landscaped setting, the house displays peeled and dark-stained log walls, log rafter tails and purlins, stone chimneys and a stone foundation, and organic interior finishes, such as the Adirondack-style stair balustrade built of cypress and pine branches in their natural forms and anchored by a newel post crafted from a cedar tree trunk. In 1934, the Valentines sold the house to Roy Wilder Sr., who passed the house to his son, newspaper writer, author, and political consultant Roy Wilder Jr., who lived here until his death in 2012. The Wilders named the house Gourd Hollow for the gourds they grew on the property. The Valentine-Wilder House is locally significant with a period of significance of ca. 1925, its date of construction.

Historical Background

On May 2, 1924, Itimous T. Valentine and his wife Hazel Valentine purchased five acres in Mannings Township from his parents, James M. and Susan Valentine.¹ Itimous Thaddeus Valentine Sr. (1887-1970) was born in Nash County and graduated from Guilford College and Wake Forest College Law School. He married Hazel Armstrong Valentine (1895-1997), a native of Martin County.² I. T. Valentine practiced law in Nash County, served in World Wars I and II, and was an associate justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. During World War II, he rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service in the India-Burma theater.³

The Valentines likely built the house in or around 1925. The farm census compiled by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture for 1925 does not indicate that the house was standing, but does provide information about the farm products from the family's five-acre parcel. According to the report, a tenant worked the five acres and grew only corn.⁴ By 1930, the house was present and occupied by Hazel and Itimous Valentine, their three young children, and Hazel's sister, twenty-three-year-old Mary H. Armstrong.⁵

¹ Nash County Register of Deeds, deed book 389, page 105, January 18, 1935.

² North Carolina Birth Indexes, Raleigh, North Carolina: North Carolina State Archives, Microfilm.

³ Itimous T. Valentine Sr. biographical information at East Carolina University, Joyner Library, <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/special/ead/findingaids/0066>, accessed March 28, 2013.

⁴ 1925 Farm Census for North Carolina, Mannings Township, Nash County, North Carolina, State Archives, Raleigh.

⁵ 1930 Census of the Population, Mannings Township, Nash County, North Carolina Roll 1709; Page 14B; Enumeration District 17, Ancestry.com, accessed on March 28, 2013.

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The 1935 farm census report, which provides information about the Valentine's agricultural production before they sold the house in late 1934, indicates they were growing a ½ acre of corn, a ¾ acre of cotton, and a ¾ acre of truck crops. They had four fruit trees. Valentine farmed two acres himself and the other three acres were non-crop land. He had one horse or mule and two milk cows.⁶

In December 1934, Ivey Lane and Roy E. Wilder (1888-1977) purchased the property from the Valentines, who moved to nearby Nashville. In 1930, the census of the population indicates that Roy Wilder was a bookkeeper for a supply store and that the family lived on Nash Street in Spring Hope. The Wilder household included sons, Roy E. Wilder Jr. and Frank, a daughter named Ivey, and Mrs. Wilder's sister, Berdie Lane, who worked as a nurse.⁷

The Wilder's five acres appear in the farm census for 1945, but lists the farm under the ownership of Mrs. Roy E. Wilder. The census lists Roy E. Wilder as the owner of thirty-six adjacent or nearby acres and reports the products of both farms together. Tenants worked six of the Wilder's combined forty-one acres and grew corn, hay, Irish potatoes and twelve fruit trees. Cows, pigs, and chickens comprised the family's livestock.⁸ By the 1940 population census, the Wilders were living in the house they purchased from the Valentines and Roy E. Wilder Sr. was listed as a farmer and his wife worked as a social worker for a county relief agency. Magnolia Whitaker, an African American cook, lived with the Wilders and their thirteen-year-old daughter, Ivey.⁹

Roy E. Wilder Jr. (1914-2012) lived most of his later years at the Valentine-Wilder House. He attended the University of North Carolina and in 1940 was living in a boarding house on West 79th Street in New York City and working as a newspaper writer.¹⁰ According to his obituary, he wrote for the *New York Herald Tribune* and later worked as a war correspondent for the U. S. Army Cavalry as a First Lieutenant. He covered the Battle of Normandy and the French invasion. After his return to North Carolina, and during the time he lived at the Valentine-Wilder House, he worked as a consultant to the gubernatorial campaigns of Kerr Scott in the 1940s and Terry Sanford in 1960.¹¹

After Roy E. Wilder Jr. died on March 15, 2012, his heirs sold the property through Preservation North Carolina to the current owner, Jeffrey Childers, who plans to restore the house.

⁶ 1935 Farm Census for North Carolina, Mannings Township, Nash County, North Carolina, State Archives, Raleigh.

⁷ 1930 Census of the Population, Spring Hope, North Carolina; Roll 1709; Page 9A; Enumeration District: 15, Ancestry.com, accessed on March 28, 2013.

⁸ 1945 Farm Census for North Carolina, Mannings Township, Nash County, North Carolina, State Archives, Raleigh.

⁹ 1940 Census of the Population, Mannings, Nash County, North Carolina; Roll T627_2948; Page: 21B, Ancestry.com, accessed on March 28, 2013.

¹⁰ 1940 Census of the Population, New York, New York; Roll T627_2636; Page 4B; Enumeration District: 31-557, Ancestry.com, accessed on March 28, 2013.

¹¹ Obituary for Roy E. Wilder Jr., *News and Observer* (Raleigh), March 28, 2012.

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Valentine-Wilder House
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Architecture Context

Log construction, a building form evocative of the country's frontier period, enjoyed a renewed popularity in North Carolina in the early twentieth century. This revival of what many saw as a traditional building form was nearly always executed in dwellings and other buildings constructed of peeled pine trees that were frequently treated with a dark stain and daubed with concrete. While early log buildings were built of hewn members joined by tight dovetail notching, the twentieth-century versions were predominantly saddle-notched at their corners.

The impetus for building in log in the twentieth century originated in the early nineteenth century with the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing who espoused the idea of harmonizing structures into their settings by using building material in its natural form. In his 1841 publication, *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*, he advocated for the use of rustic construction from tree trunks and tree branches in their intrinsic, unpeeled, and sometimes twisted forms. According to historian National Park Service historian Linda Flint McClelland, "Downing established the link between a structure's material and its setting and set the precedent for the use of native materials in naturalistic forms as a technique for harmonizing built structures with a natural setting."¹²

Downing greatly influenced builders and architects in the Adirondack Mountains of New York in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who designed lakeside resorts known as the Great Camps. Taking cues from the Shingle Style, log building traditions, and European country homes, the Great Camps utilized wood in its natural form to erect log structures set on stone foundations and with large stone chimneys. Rustic Adirondack buildings appeared frequently in magazines in the early twentieth century including *American Architect and Building News* and *House and Garden*, which featured photographs and drawings of the Great Camps.¹³ Oral tradition holds that I. T. Valentine Sr. saw a photograph of a log house in *National Geographic* that inspired the design for the Valentine-Wilder House.

Another magazine of the period, *The Craftsman*, which promoted the philosophy of the English Arts and Crafts movement in the United States, featured rustic log buildings with a Craftsman influence. Its editor, Gustav Stickley (1858-1942), was the leader in advancing the Arts and Crafts movement in the United States. He heavily promoted the American Craftsman style, an extension of the British Arts and Crafts movement, which advocated a back-to-nature philosophy of building and garden design. Through his magazine, Stickley endorsed a philosophy of building in harmony with the environment by using natural and local materials, including log. He believed that industrialization had led to poor design and endorsed a return to a simple vernacular aesthetic that displayed the pure and natural beauty of building materials and that showcased the skills of craftsmen. In the November 1911 edition of *The Craftsman* author Natalie Curtis wrote, "There are elements of intrinsic beauty in the simplification of a house built on the log cabin idea. First, there is the bare beauty of the logs themselves with their long lines and firm curves. Then there is the open charm felt of the structural features which are not hidden under plaster and ornament, but are

¹² Linda Flint McClelland, *Building the National Parks* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 23.

¹³ McClelland, 94, 100.

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clearly revealed, a charm felt in Japanese architecture.... The quiet rhythmic monotone of the wall of logs fills one with the rustic peace of a secluded nook in the woods."¹⁴

According to historian Linda McLelland, designers of National Park buildings derived much of their inspiration from Adirondack architecture, but it is likely that Gustav Stickley also had an impact on the appearance of parks in the early twentieth century. By 1920, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Yosemite national parks included hotels, lodges, and other rustic style buildings. The idiom, which incorporated native timber and stone and exposed log rafters and trusses, continued to be constructed in the National Parks into the 1930s.¹⁵

Twentieth Century Log Building in Nash County and Eastern North Carolina

In Nash County, most log buildings from the first half of the twentieth century are outbuildings, such as the two saddle-notched tobacco barns on the Black Jack Plantation that date to just before World War II.¹⁶ Throughout the county, farms contain saddle-notched log corncribs and barns. Although they were quite common in the nineteenth century, V-notched or dovetail-notched log buildings constructed in the twentieth century are a rarity. The Tom Strum Tenant House is a crudely built log dogtrot house supposedly built in 1929, although its form and method of construction indicate a nineteenth-century date.¹⁷

The building in the county most comparable to the Valentine-Wilder House is the Red Oak Community House (NR, 2006) in Red Oak. It is a rustic log building constructed in 1935 by the Emergency Relief Administration featuring saddle-notched corners and substantial stone chimneys. Like the Valentine-Wilder House, it retains its interior of exposed logs and natural finishes.

The circa 1925 Rufus Brown House in Brunswick County is a front-gable, log bungalow-inspired dwelling with saddle-notched corners. Round, peeled logs extend to form rafter tails along the eaves of the main block and hip-roofed porch. Truncated logs are used for the porch balustrade, while full-height peeled logs serve as porch posts.

Farther west, at least three early twentieth-century log houses stand in Forsyth County. The circa 1930 Henderson Dull House is a log dwelling located in the rural western part of the county. The Judge Erastus Beverly Jones Lodge was built around 1920 on Valley Road southwest of Bethabra. A saddle-notched log house was built on Olivet Church Road southwest of Pfafftown in 1934. In Rockingham County, the Reuben Wallace McCollum House (NR, 2003) is a small one-story Rustic-style log dwelling erected in the mid-1920s. It stands on a mortared quarry stone foundation and is built of skinned round logs chinked with concrete and joined with saddle notching.

¹⁴ Natalie Curtis, "The New Log House at Craftsman Farms: An Architectural Development of the Log Cabin," *The Craftsman*, Vol. XXI, Number 2, November 1911, <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.d/DLDecArts.hdv21n02>, accessed March 28, 2013.

¹⁵ McLelland, 103.

¹⁶ Richard L. Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina* (Nashville: Nash County Planning Department, 1987), 11.

¹⁷ Richard L. Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina* (Nashville: Nash County Planning Department, 1987), 14.

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Valentine-Wilder House
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The Valentine-Wilder House is the only known pre-Depression, saddle-notched log house in Nash County. The well-preserved dwelling epitomizes the rustic idiom that grew out of the Adirondack style and Arts and Crafts movements of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Built to harmonize with its heavily landscaped setting, the Valentine-Wilder House displays peeled and dark-stained log walls that were left exposed on the interior; log rafter tails and purlins along the overhanging eaves; natural logs as porch posts; and a stone foundation and chimneys. The interior displays natural finishes, such as rustic door and window surrounds; an Adirondack-style stair balustrade built of cypress and pine branches in their natural forms and anchored by a newel post crafted from a cedar tree trunk; and a sunroom which melds the interior with the outdoors.

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Bibliography

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Valentine-Wilder House
Nash County, North Carolina

Verbal Boundary Description

The legal boundary is shown on enclosed plat map 12, book 37 from the Nash County Register of Deeds. The PIN for the parcel is 275900687083.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass the Valentine-Wilder House, its three outbuildings, and the 5.64 acres historically associated with the buildings.

