

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Carrier Houses
other names/site number Carrier-Ward House; Carrier-McBrayer House

2. Location

street & number 415 and 423 North Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Rutherfordton N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Rutherford code 161 zip code 28139

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Finley
Signature of certifying official

4-27-92
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellings

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellings

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Other: transitional Federal

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt shingles

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Carrier Houses occupy two of the three lots on the west side of North Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets. On the corner of North Main Street and Third Street, where once stood a handsome Greek Revival house, a vacant Pure Oil service occupies the third lot. The Carrier Houses face the First Baptist Church of Rutherfordton across North Main Street. To the rear of the Carrier-Ward House is a frame garage and a driveway area leading to Fourth Street. Behind the Carrier-McBrayer House is a small Period-Revival cottage constructed in the 1920s and the two-story brick building of the Rutherford County jail is visible along the western boundary of the Carrier-Ward House and the cottage. Both houses sit several steps up from the sidewalk of North Main Street and are shielded from the street by deciduous trees. Low shrubs hug the foundations of both houses and their porches.

In the 1920s the entire Carrier-McBrayer House was moved to the west about fifteen feet to accommodate the widening of North Main Street. It was then that the brick foundation of the house was built and the brick chimney stacks reconstructed.

The Rutherford County Courthouse occupies the city block just to the south of the block on which the Carrier Houses stand.

The Carrier-Ward House:

The Carrier-Ward House is a two-story, weatherboarded, side-gabled Queen Anne-style house with front projecting wing, built in 1879. The dominant feature of the house is a three-story square tower with pyramidal roof which rises at the junction of the main block and front wing, forming the central bay of a three-bay facade. The entrance door is double-leaf with glass panels with three sided tops above wood panels that is protected by a double-leaf screen door with spindles and cut outs. The tower window in the second story is four-over-one with molded hood and above it, under

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Carrier Houses
Rutherford County, NC

Section number 7 Page 1

the roof of the tower, is a round-headed window with four-over-four panes. These single windows have the original wood blinds. The tower has a wide frieze of vertical boards and molded brackets. On the first story of the facade, in the bay to the north of the entrance, is a double-leaf door with double-leaf screen which leads directly into the parlor. Both main entrance and parlor entrance are covered by a shed-roofed porch with spindle frieze and sawn-work balustrade; the balcony door is double-leaf of glass and wood with double-leaf screen door. At the second story of the facade of the wing is a single four-over-one window with molded hood and wood blinds.

All gables on the two-story portion of the house, including that on a dormer as well as a false gable on the south elevation of the front wing, have elaborate collarbeams with kingposts. Gable ends of the house have plain friezes and boxed cornices. Windows in the gable ends are double, four-over-one with hoods and brackets. The main block contains two interior brick chimneys, and the foundation is brick piers with brick infill.

A one-story wing which contains the dining room and kitchen extends from the north end of the rear elevation of the house and a bedroom wing was added to the south end, creating a U-shaped pattern. The rear wings are gable-roofed and have molded window frames around single four-over-four windows. Each wing has an interior brick chimney with corbelling. About 1920 a gable-end second story containing a bath and bedroom was added across the east end of the south wing. Later the space between the wings was filled with a small shed-roofed room and covered porch along the south side of the north wing.

On the interior of the Carrier-Ward House, the wide central entrance hall contains on the north wall a rather narrow stairway complete with turned balusters and elaborate oak newel. The handrail is molded. The stairway once had a straight run; when the bath was added across the rear of the main block, a landing was provided for the stair and a dogleg stair with short upper run was created. The parlor to the north of the entrance hall and the bedroom in the front wing have small but ornate mantelpieces around fireboxes designed for coal grates. The mantelpiece in the bedroom is detailed with ornate turned work and pairs of elaborate brackets holding the shelf over a molded frieze. Interior door and window surrounds have simple molding and flooring is six-inch wide pine boards. On the second floor are three bedrooms with beadboard walls and ceilings, pine flooring, and plain vernacular mantelpieces. Several second-floor doors have two vertical panels with arched tops.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Carrier Houses
Rutherford County, NC

Section number 7 Page 2

A one-story frame, gable-front garage, c. 1920 with exposed rafter ends and wide doors sits behind the house on the boundary with the Carrier-McBrayer House. It is heavily overgrown and virtually impossible to photograph. A gravel driveway leads from the house to Fourth Street.

The Carrier-McBrayer House:

The Carrier-McBrayer House is a weatherboarded transitional Federal/Greek Revival I-house with two-story ell overlaid with Victorian detailing on the exterior. The foundation of house and porch is brick, as are steps leading from a concrete walkway to the front porch. Roof surfaces are asphalt shingle. The facade is three-bay with central entrance flanked by shallow square paneled bays containing in each a double one-over-one window. The entrance has a double-leaf door with glass panels and raised wood panels and is surrounded by heavy molding and corner blocks. The door surround has fluted molding on the sides topped by a Greek fretwork design. A short transom is bordered with heavy molding. The first story hip-roofed porch, c. 1910, covers the facade and is supported by tapered wood posts. The second story of the facade contains a central door with plain surround which opens to a square porch with gable roof. This decorative second story porch has a sawnwork railing to the front and weatherboarded balustrades to the sides, latticework cut into arches framing the openings, fish scale wood shingles and decorative trussing in the gable. The porch is flanked by tall and narrow windows with one-over-one sash set under attic gablets with fish scale shingles and decorative trussing. The second story facade windows are spaced farther from the porch than the first story double windows are from the main entrance. Each gable end of the main block is faced with flush horizontal boards and contains a boxed and pedimented cornice as well as a central chimney rebuilt of brick, flanked at each floor by tall and narrow windows. A third, interior chimney is near the gable end of the two-story ell.

The two-story weatherboarded ell has a rear-facing gable with boxed cornice and returns. On the north side the ell contains on the first story a double, one-over-one window and on the second story, two tall and narrow one-over-one windows. However, on the south side of the ell, the second story windows are six-over-nine as are one window on the rear elevation of the ell and one at the rear of the main block, above the rear hall door.

At the south end of the rear elevation, a one-story wing containing the dining room was added, probably in 1879. On its south side there is a shallow bay containing a double one-over-one window beneath an attic gablet with decorative trussing. Attached to the rear of this wing is a kitchen with six-over-nine windows and a pantry, both under a rear-facing gable roof. This kitchen wing appears to have been built separate from the house about 1835, and later attached to the dining room wing.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Carrier Houses
Rutherford County, NC

Section number 7 Page 3

The exterior of the Carrier-McBrayer House presents the appearance of a late-Victorian dwelling. Only its tall and narrow windows, some of which retain the six-over-nine sash which may have at one time filled all the windows, indicate its earlier construction. But the interior of the house shows transitional Federal/Greek Revival detailing which has graced the house since 1836.

The entrance door opens to a relatively wide stair hall with a narrow dogleg stairway rising on the north wall. Doors to the parlor at the right, to a bedroom to the left and both front and rear exterior doors have molded surrounds, some with reeded corner blocks. The rear hall door has a wide transom set in heavy molding. The doors themselves have four or six panels, with beaded molding on one side only. The stairway, although decorated with Victorian-era newels, has a plain molded handrail and thin, plain balusters. On the second floor the railing is very low and curved. Both parlor and bedroom on the first floor contain Federal-style, three-part fluted mantels with a crude sunburst at the center panel and with molded shelf. The surrounds at the opening of the bays in parlor and bedroom are plain and more narrow than those of the hall door openings. The door from the parlor to the bedroom in the ell contains wide molding and reeded corner blocks, similar in size to those of the hall. Baseboards on the first floor are ten to twelve inches tall. Flooring is thin oak strips of the 1920s in parlor and front bedroom but six inch pine boards in dining room, kitchen and ell.

The second floor of the Carrier-McBrayer House appears little changed since its construction. The stair rail curves into a wide hall, from which three doors open, one with plain surround leading to the small porch on the facade. This door has glass and wood panels similar to the main entrance door of the first floor, but is a single leaf, not double leaf, door. Two remaining doors open to bedrooms on each side of the hall. The baseboards of these rooms are eighteen inches tall and the flooring is six-inch pine boards. Each room has a mantel with fluted pilasters and frieze connected by corner blocks treated with roundels. The room to the north has a wainscot of wide planks. Doors are four-paneled, with beading on one side only. The bedroom on the second floor of the ell has baseboards twelve inches tall and a plank ceiling. The fireplace in this room is on the rear wall, flanked by closets which run behind the chimney. This room contains an enclosed stairway leading from the back hall that was added about 1910 by the McBrayer family.

All rooms, most of which are plastered, have cornices. The original hardware, consisting of large iron box locks, remains on doors on both floors.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1835; ca. 1879

Significant Dates

ca. 1835

ca. 1879

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carrier, Harvey Dewey, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY

The Carrier Houses are eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for their architecture, which reflects the progression of stylish design into western North Carolina. Harvey Carrier constructed the Carrier-McBrayer House, a frame I-house with transitional Federal/Greek Revival style detailing, for himself and his family about 1835. Carrier was a tin and pewter manufacturer and building contractor who prospered during Rutherford County's antebellum "boom period." The area's economic success occurred when the county was a center of gold mining in southwestern North Carolina and gold from all over the state, then the country's leading gold producer, was sent to the Bechtler Mint in Rutherfordton to be made into legal coin. Carrier's house, today one of the oldest in Rutherfordton, retains a transitional interior, but changes were made to the facade, including the addition of an ornate second story-porch, bay windows, and gables with trusswork, around 1879 when Carrier constructed the Carrier-Ward House next door. The second house is Rutherfordton's most elaborate Queen Anne style dwelling, featuring a three-story tower, collarbeams with kingposts, and a profusion of sawnwork. These features are illustrative of the high-style architecture which marked Rutherford County's second "boom period," initiated by the opening of a cotton yarn mill in 1874 and augmented by the arrival of the first railroad in 1887. The Carrier Houses have had rear additions since their construction and some interior improvements, but remain, architecturally, two of Rutherfordton's most important buildings.

See continuation sheet

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Carrier Houses
Rutherford County, NC

Section number 3 Page 1

Architecture Context: After the turn of the nineteenth century, most North Carolinians continued to build their dwellings along traditional lines established before the Revolution. "The two-story gable-roofed house, usually with exterior end chimneys, became a proud and predominant house form for leading residents of town and plantation." (1) In Rutherford County, a number of two-story, one-room-deep houses remain from the first half of the nineteenth century, including the Webb house, c. 1825, Fox Haven, c. 1823 (NR 1972), Holly Hill, 1830, and the Green River Plantation, c. 1805, (NR 1974). The Carrier-McBrayer House built in Rutherfordton about 1835 by Harvey Carrier was of the traditional style suitable for a leading citizen of a rapidly growing county and represents the home of the prosperous businessman in Rutherfordton's "Golden Age" when gold was being mined and minted in the county. The house shows transitional Federal/Greek Revival style details in its tall, narrow windows; staircase with molded hand rail, thin, square balusters and curved balustrade at the top of the stairwell; reeded corner blocks in the molded door and window surrounds; and fluted mantel detailing.

By 1879 Carrier held a prominent position in a county which was becoming industrialized following the opening of its first cotton mill in 1874. Carrier's second house, the Carrier-Ward House, built next to the Carrier-McBrayer House in 1879, is illustrative of the stylish, distinctive Victorian architecture which indicated financial and commercial success. With its sawnwork balustrades, collarbeams with kingposts, double-leaf doors and especially its three-story tower with round-headed window, the Carrier-Ward House continued into Rutherford County the patternbook designs popular in the eastern section of the state. Even before the railroad arrived in Rutherfordton in 1887 Victorian massing and decorative elements were being introduced to populous areas by a growing number of publications, including The American Architect and Building News, the first architectural magazine. Today the Carrier-Ward house is one of the very few Queen Anne-style houses remaining in Rutherfordton, as well as its most elaborate. Rutherfordton's stock of Queen Anne style houses also includes the Hardin-Powers House, c. 1880, the C. L. Miller House, c. 1883, the Keeter House of c. 1885, the Mark O. Dickerson House of c. 1891, and the Dr. W. A. Thompson House of c. 1897, but none is as robust and intact as the Carrier-Ward House.

No doubt the Carrier-McBrayer house looked very plain when compared to its stylish Victorian neighbor, and the dining room wing and the late Victorian detailing seen on the house today were probably added at the time of the construction of the Carrier-Ward House in 1879. The Carrier-McBrayer House readily lent itself to updating because the newer stylistic features could be easily integrated into and applied to its basic vernacular I-house form, illustrating the adaptability of the I-house which is seen across North Carolina. The "dressing up" included

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Carrier Houses
Rutherford County, NC

Section number 8 Page 2

the one-story dining room wing with gablet, paneled bays on the facade, a central gable and attic gablets with decorative trussing and fish scale shingles, and the square second story porch with sawnwork railings, weatherboarded balustrades, and latticework cut into arches. It is possible that the two-tiered porch of c. 1879 was restricted to the entrance bay at both levels, as Miss Agnes McBrayer remembers that her father enlarged the first story porch about 1910.

Background: Harvey Dewey Carrier's adult life spans the years of the industrial development of Rutherford County, and the two structures which remain of the many which he constructed illustrate the most important eras of those years. Carrier was born in Massachusetts in 1797 to a family whose ancestors had come to Massachusetts in the 1600s. As a youth his health was poor and about 1815 he left Massachusetts for the warmer climate of the South, working as a tinner in Richmond and Wytheville, Virginia, and in Greenville, South Carolina. In 1822, at age twenty-five, he arrived accompanied by a nephew in Rutherfordton, on the threshold of the gold rush in western North Carolina which marked the opening of Rutherfordton's "Golden Age." (2)

The town of Rutherfordton was laid out in 1788 on fifty acres of rolling land marked by several springs and creeks. A post office opened there in 1789. By 1790 the crossroads had a hotel, the Globe (which existed until 1920), and was a stopping place on the way west from the Piedmont towns of Salisbury, Lincoln, Charlotte and Spartanburg. In 1798 Tench Coxe, of Philadelphia, founded the Speculation Land Company which purchased mineral rights to mountain land in the region and by 1810 Rutherfordton had an iron works which handled about forty-five tons of iron a year, twenty-eight cotton gins, three hatter shops, 1,147 home looms, and five tanyards. It was also known for its high number of private distilleries, and the easy life style and the mineral wealth of the area drew citizens from across the Eastern seaboard. (3)

From 1814 to 1845 Rutherford County was the center of gold production for the entire nation, and a mint, opened in 1831 by Christopher and Augustus Bechtler, was allowed to coin money. The first gold dollars minted in the United States were produced at the Bechtler mint, which in its nine years of operation minted a total of \$3,625,840 worth of gold. The town grew in population and in commercial establishments, and in 1836 a new courthouse was constructed on Main Street. (4).

Harvey Carrier took advantage of the commercial success of his town. By 1830 he had acquired two slaves to help with his tin and pewter business, which was located on North Main Street directly opposite the site of his first dwelling. The slaves were sent into the surrounding countryside to sell tin wares and to take orders for additional items. On June 14,

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Carrier Houses
Rutherford County, NC

Section number 8 Page 3

1832, he married Julia Ann Dickerson, daughter of Elizabeth Reavis and Garland Dickerson of Rutherford County. (5) About 1836 he constructed the Carrier-McBrayer House for his bride and growing family.

Carrier rapidly became a financial success and a civic leader. He purchased land in town and county and from 1841 to 1847 was the county "standard keeper" maintaining the weights and measures used at the mint and in trade. (6) By 1860 he owned a personal estate worth \$20,000, real estate worth \$6,000, and "thirty valuable slaves." (7) He is known for the manufacture of tin and pewterware and also as a builder, having constructed the building for the Male Academy in Rutherfordton in 1850. (8)

Carrier's son Joseph died in the Civil War, but the remaining eight children established homes in Rutherford County. In 1870 Carrier owned real estate worth \$3,150 and apparently enough cash to construct the high-style Carrier-Ward House on a part of his lot just to the south of the family home. Carrier built the house for his youngest child, Margaret, possibly as a gift for her marriage in 1879 to Kinchen J. Carpenter. (9) At the time of the construction of the Victorian house, Carrier remodeled the first house, adding a second story porch and a dining room wing, each with Victorian details. In 1882, however, Carrier sold a house and a lot on the opposite side of North Main Street, next to his tin and pewter business, to Margaret and Kinchen Carpenter and the Victorian dwelling reverted to Carrier. (10)

After Carrier's death in 1890, his son Garland Carrier, then living in Spartanburg, purchased the Victorian house from the Carrier estate. (11) After Garland Carrier's death about 1904, the property reverted to Margaret and Kinchen Carpenter, who were the grandparents of the present owner, Mrs. A. V. Ward. (12) The Wards live part of the year in the house.

The Carrier-McBrayer House was sold in 1891 to T. R. Reveley, but a suit between Reveley and the Carrier heirs caused the house to be sold at public auction to Mary J. Long in 1905. She paid \$1,000 for the house. In 1908 Mrs. Long sold the property to Matt McBrayer. (13) McBrayer was born in Rutherford County and practiced law, and was regarded as one of the "shrewdest and most learned attorneys of his generation." (14) He was judge of the recorder's court in the county and active in the social, political and religious affairs of the community. He married Lou Wilkins and they were the parents of five children, including Judge Fred McBrayer, Dr. Matt McBrayer, Jr., and Misses Annie and Agnes McBrayer. Miss Agnes McBrayer is the present owner of the property, which is rented. (15)

Miss Agnes McBrayer remembers that the front porch was enlarged when she was a child, possibly about 1910, and that the house was moved several feet back from the edge of North Main Street in the 1920s, to allow for the widening of the street. (16)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Carrier Houses
Rutherford County, NC

Section number 8 Page 4

FOOTNOTES

1. Bishir, Catherine W., North Carolina Architecture, 1990, p. 101
2. Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, The Heritage of Rutherford County, North Carolina, Vol. 1, 1984, p. 156.
3. Rutherford County Bicentennial Committee, Rutherford County 1979: A People's Bicentennial History, 1979, pp. 655-657.
4. Ibid., pp. 659-661.
5. Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, op. cit., p. 156
6. Griffin, Clarence, The History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties, 1730-1936, 1977, p. 217
7. United States Census for 1860, State of North Carolina
8. Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, op. cit., p. 437
9. Rutherford County Register of Deeds, Book 54, page 319.
10. Rutherford County Register of Deeds, Book 56, page 105.
11. Rutherford County Register of Deeds, Book 63, page 191.
12. Rutherford County Register of Deeds, Book 77, page 596.
13. Rutherford County Register of Deeds, Book 120, page 115.
14. Griffin, op. cit., p. 409.
15. Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, op. cit., p. 437.
16. Rucker, Virginia, "Mrs. McBrayer stayed inside while house was being moved," Forest City Courier, undated.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000681

Date Listed: 6/19/92

Carrier Houses
Property Name

Rutherford
County

NORTH CAROLINA
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patricia Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

6/19/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

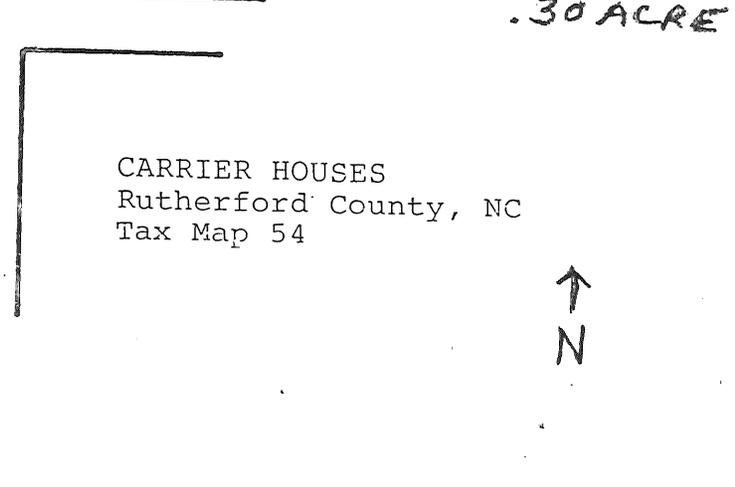
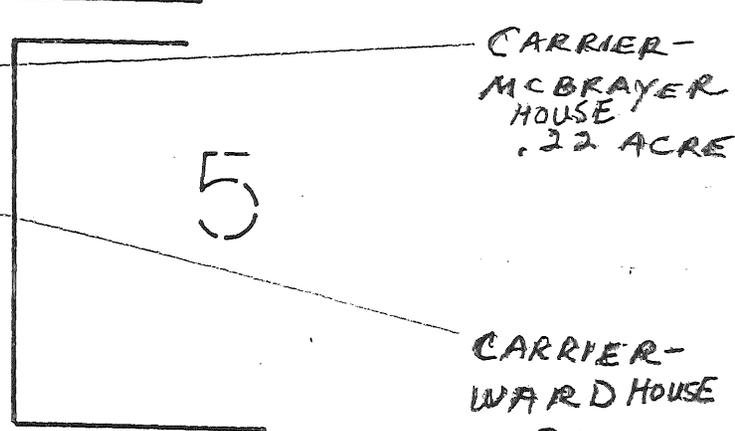
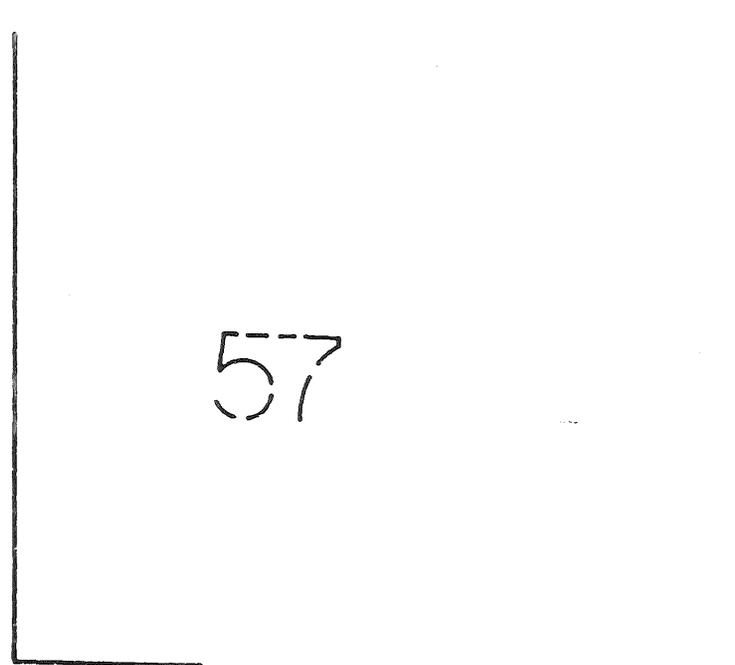
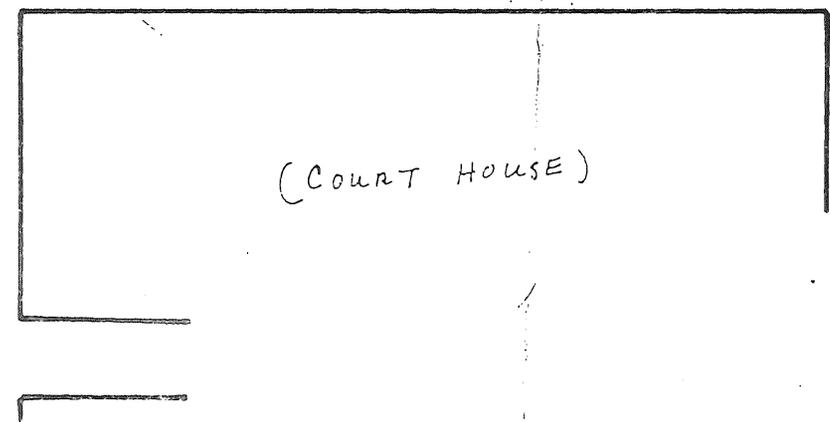
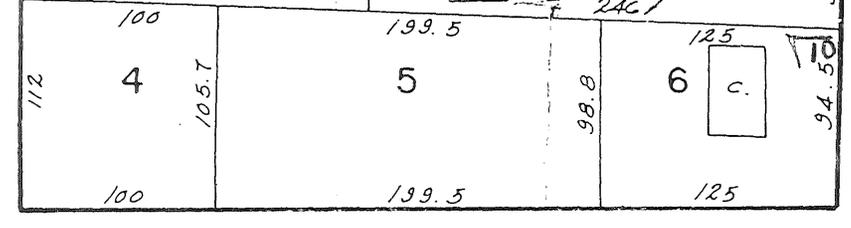
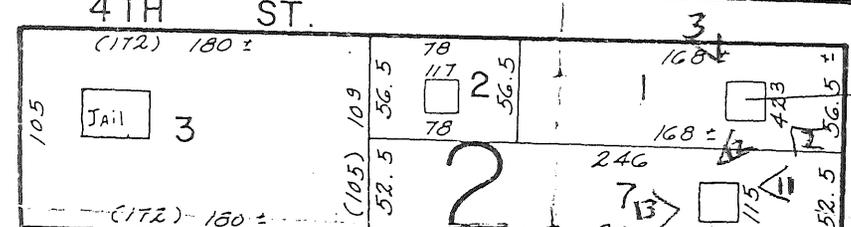
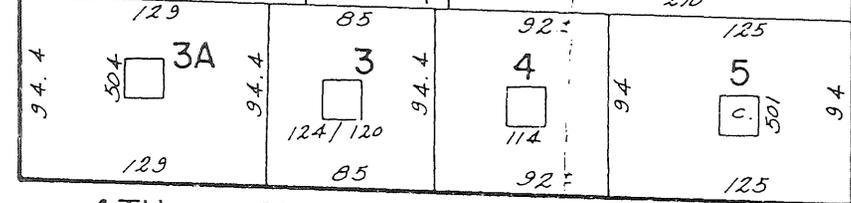
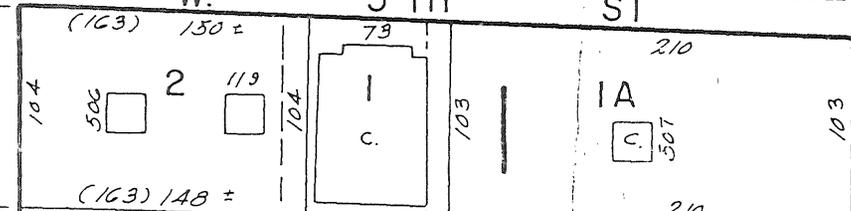
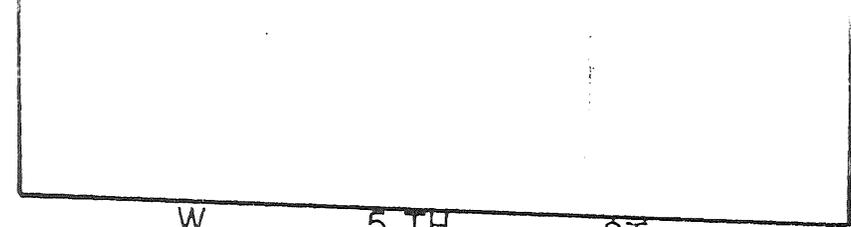
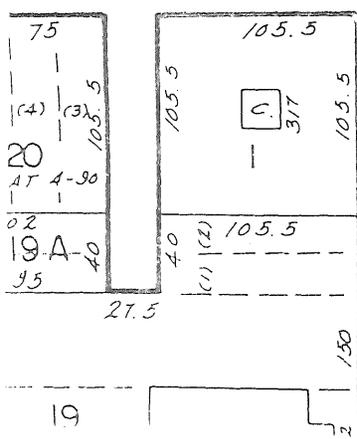
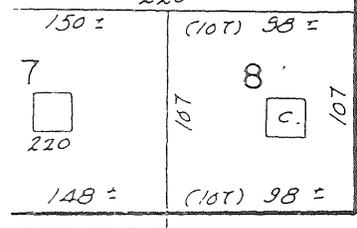
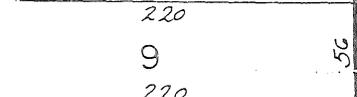
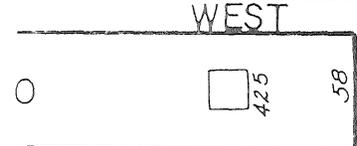
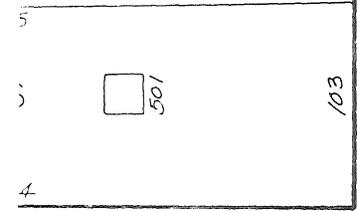
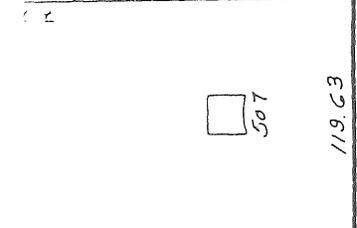
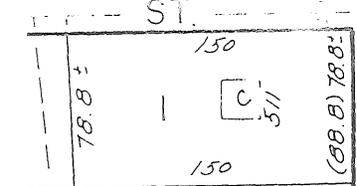
Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to include Criteria Consideration B, since one of the houses was moved back on its lot in the 1920s when the street on which it is located was widened.

This change has been confirmed by phone with the North Carolina SHPO (6/25/92).

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



CARRIER-
MCKRAYER
HOUSE
.22 ACRE

CARRIER-
WARD HOUSE
.30 ACRE

CARRIER HOUSES
Rutherford County, NC
Tax Map 54



CARRIAGE HOUSES
RUTHERFORDTON, NC
RUTHERFORDTON SOUTH QUAD
N: 3914260 E: 413070

