

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Calvin Wray Lawrence House

Raleigh, Wake County, WA1072, Listed 1/22/2008

Nomination by Glenn Perkins

Photographs by Glenn Perkins, March 2007



Façade view



Side 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 Lawrence, Calvin Wray, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 8528 Ragan Rd (SR 1144) NA not for publication
city or town Apex vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27502

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

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I hereby certify that the property is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain.) _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Lawrence, Calvin Wray, House
Name of Property

Wake County, NC
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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historical and Architectural Resources of Wake County,
North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: triple-A I-house

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Metal

other _____

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets.

Lawrence, Calvin Wray, House
Name of Property

Wake County, NC
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** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1890

Significant Dates

Ca. 1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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:

Lawrence, Calvin Wray, House
Name of Property

Wake County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.65

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 686340 3954500
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 Glenn Perkins / consultant
organization _____ date March 26, 2008
street & number 2404 Springwood Drive telephone 336-299-7898
city or town Greensboro state NC zip code 27403

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 William B. Gentry & Kathryn Restivo
street & number 8528 Ragan Road telephone 919-531-1980
city or town Apex state NC zip code 27502

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Lawrence, Calvin Wray, House
Wake County, North Carolina

Narrative Description

The Calvin Wray Lawrence House, built in ca. 1890, sits at the end of Ragan Road in southwest Wake County, approximately five miles from the crossroads community of New Hill. Three early-twentieth-century contributing outbuildings survive: a covered well, a storage shed, and an outhouse. A noncontributing late-twentieth-century horse barn sits at the front of the property. The setting retains much of its original character. The south-facing house and its outbuildings are set at the end of a long gravel road, on a rise above an abandoned railway bed that is now part of the American Tobacco Trail. Original plantings, including boxwood hedges and hardwood trees--cedar, oak, holly--remain. Beyond the large clearing in which the buildings are sited, woods screen the property from most of its neighboring properties, which are single houses, both historic and more recently built, set on large lots with pastures and farmland.

The three-bay, two-story dwelling is built around a center-hall plan. The original one-story ell was converted to a wider full two stories in 1997. The house features a "triple-A" roof, with double-arched vents ornamenting the gables. The house displays late-Victorian woodwork both inside and out, including a full-length front porch with turned, bracketed posts. The interior woodwork is almost entirely intact and retains its decorative painting schemes. The south-facing house is situated at an angle to the driveway, which appears to have been extended closer to the house from an old road running northwest-southeast. The main block contains sitting rooms that flank a center hall downstairs, with a pair of bedchambers on the second floor. A rear ell extension originally included two rooms, a dining room and attached kitchen. A two-story addition, built in 1997, adds two bathrooms. The addition fills in the east-facing ell porch on the first story and rises another story above the whole width above the dining room and new first-floor bath. The house was originally built on low brick piers, but the gaps between them have been filled in with brick. Construction is balloon frame, with plain weatherboard siding on the exterior. Two of the original three chimneys stand--one on the rear of the main block (western end) and one projecting at the gable end of the ell. The triple-A roof, originally shingle, is clad in 5-V tin.

The attached full-width, hip-roof front porch has turned posts and sawn decorative brackets. Windows throughout the building are four-over-four double-hung sash. The windows are simply framed and have a slightly projecting sill. The majority of the glazing appears original.

The front door is embellished with two round-arch windows above two recessed panels that are trimmed with an egg-and-dart pattern. The two-panel screen door at the front is a replacement, but the original is still in the property owners' possession. A set of intact, original, screen double-doors still hangs at the doorway between the kitchen (second ell-room) and the side porch.

The interior chimney on the west side of the main block projects into the dining room (the first room in the rear ell). On the east side of the main block, a flue chimney formerly vented wood stoves. This flue chimney appears to be an original element and not a replacement for a matched main-block chimney. The exterior chimney at the end of the ell is in common bond, made of local variegated brick, thickly jointed. The chimney tops have been repaired and replaced.

The exterior of the house is well, but conservatively, finished with plain friezeboards, cornerboards, and fascia. The boxed roof cornice displays an understated molding and bold cornice returns. The primary decorative features on the exterior are paired round-arch vents with pedimented tops and intact louvers in all three original gables on the main block. The vents mirror the arch design on the front door. The brackets and turned posts and pilasters on the porch provide an additional decorative flourish to the façade, as do the turned elements on the original screen doors.

The interior is finished almost entirely in pine. Floorboards are tongue-in-groove pine of regular five-and-a-half-inch width. The walls and ceiling are clad in horizontal three-and-a-half-inch tongue-and-groove boards, mostly unfinished, with thin rounded moldings marking the cornice and wall corners. The interior walls and ceilings of the dining room and kitchen have been painted. Interior doors are mostly original, with an uncommon five-panel construction (one horizontal panel above two side-by-side vertical panels above two horizontal panels). Many have decorative graining, as do the first-floor door surrounds. Closet doors in the ell are of vertical board construction. Interior window and door surrounds throughout the house are flat boards.

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Lawrence, Calvin Wray, House
Wake County, North Carolina

The center hall is the best-finished room. Siding and ceiling have decorative graining, and a thin chair rail molding separates a lighter-colored "wainscot" from the darker main wall. The stair, running along the east side of the hall from back to front, is very well built. Two winders at the base allow it to fit into the fifteen-foot-deep hall. A multi-tiered, square newel post with a molded cap and a pair of recessed panels on each face serves as a base for the molded rail and plain square banister. The stringer has applied molding all around. Also distinctive are three Victorian mantelpieces. The mantel in the west bedroom, upstairs, is missing. These highly decorative elements have molded pilasters and scroll decoration. The mantelpieces in the west sitting room and dining room maintain their decorative graining; the one in the kitchen is painted white.

The two-story rear addition from 1997 has been designed to complement the house using similar materials, finishes, and ornament, including a copy of the double-arched vent under the new gable. The addition adds a bathroom on the first floor by enclosing part of the original ell porch. The raised second story adds a closet and another bathroom. The current owners also enclosed one section of the shed porch running along the east side of the ell for a pantry and added a deck extending from the rear of the main block to the back edge of the ell. Added French doors provide access to the deck from the east sitting room. The additions do change the shape of the rear of the house, but they do not alter the size or shape of any original rooms, and their location to the rear of the house minimizes the overall impact. The additions, while significant, do minimal harm to the original building fabric and little to alter the feeling of the property.

Three original outbuildings remain. An early-twentieth-century well house stands only eighteen inches off the northeast corner of the main block. Four rough cedar posts stand on rock plinths to support a gable roof. The gable end facing the house has a small painted star. In line with the well house is a long single-bay storage barn with two semi-open shed extensions. This early-twentieth-century structure faces west. Its 5-V tin roof is a likely replacement. It is built of recycled hand-hewn framing and machine-sawn lumber. An early-twentieth-century shed-roofed, two-seat, frame outhouse with clapboard siding stands beyond the barn. It has a corrugated tin replacement roof and is built on rock plinths. The outhouse is clad in weatherboard, with a single door of vertical board. Diamond-shaped vents decorate the door, sides, and rear. An added metal plate covers the lower back part of the structure. The interior shows exposed framing. A late-twentieth-century horse stable (noncontributing) with a shed roof stands in a fenced area across the driveway from the front of the house.

Although the former agricultural fields have become wooded, the area immediately around the house and outbuildings has remained cleared and the landscaping maintains many original elements. Foundation plantings and the boxwood hedge to the front of the house date to before 1920. Hardwood trees shade the property. The site retains a high degree of historic character. Neighboring properties do not encroach on the site, and the trail easement along the abandoned railroad bed below the bluff ensures preservation of much of the setting.

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Section Number 8 Page 3

Lawrence, Calvin Wray, House
Wake County, North Carolina

Statement of Significance

Narrative Summary

The Calvin Wray Lawrence House in the New Hill vicinity of Wake County's Buckhorn Township is of local significance under National Register Criterion C for architecture as a largely intact example of a triple-A I-house with Victorian details and three significant outbuildings, associated with agricultural prosperity in rural Wake County. The house was built around 1890 for Calvin Wray "Callie" Lawrence, a farmer, and his wife, Cathie Ann. Callie Lawrence (1859–1930) farmed his own property, and possibly neighboring parcels owned by his mother, and expanded his own landholdings during the early twentieth century. Lawrence and his family lived on the outskirts of the New Hill community but were associated with it through church and commercial ties. His house's generally plain finish is contrasted with some noticeable decorative elements, such as turned porch posts with sawn brackets and double-arched attic vents. The building's character represents conservative notions of house plan and finish yet with some ornamentation that represents aspects of late Victorian taste.

Context 3, "Populism to Progressivism, 1885–1918", pages E:46-65, and Context 4, "Boom, Bust and Recovery Between the World Wars, 1919–1941", pages E:65-77, in *Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)* (Lally & Johnson, 1993), provide the context for establishing the Calvin Wray Lawrence House's eligibility under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture. The Calvin Wray Lawrence House falls under Property Type 1B, "Farm Complexes between the Civil War and World War I", pages F:124, and 131-135, and Property Type 3B, "Houses Built between the Civil War and World War I", pages F:112-113. Additional context for the Calvin Wray Lawrence House is provided herein. The period of significance for the house is ca. 1890, the date of construction of the house.

Historical Background

Born in 1859, Calvin Wray "Callie" Lawrence apparently lived most of his life in the New Hill vicinity of southeastern Wake County (U.S. Census 1910). His parents, Thomas Ruffin Lawrence (1828-1873) and Narcissa Temperance "Tempie" Ragan Lawrence (1828-1917), had also farmed the area around Beaver Creek. Thomas was the son of William and Lucy Lawrence (Belvin & Riggs 311). Tempie was the daughter of William "Bill" Ragan (1797-1848) and Sarah "Sallie" Womble Ragan (1797-?). The Ragans had put together farm holdings of several hundred acres by the 1830s (Belvin & Riggs 422-23). It was part of their land that eventually became the Calvin Wray Lawrence farm (Wake deeds 27b:581).

Thomas Lawrence is remembered in part for refusing to be drafted into military service during the Civil War. Family stories describe how Thomas hid out in the woods and swamps to avoid Confederate patrols during the war. Tempie reportedly aided her husband in the evasion of the patrols and was even detained by them in the hope that she would give away his whereabouts (Belvin & Riggs 312).

Callie's farm was assessed at \$592 in 1880 (though he may have been working his mother's 112 acres as well, which was appraised at \$500 that year) and seventy-five dollars for thirteen acres in 1891 (Wake tax list; Branson's directory). Census listings between 1870 and 1920 show his occupation as "home farmer," suggesting that the majority of his income must have been from farming. Callie did extend his landholdings with additional purchases in 1901 (Wake deeds 187:436) and 1906 (Wake deeds 202:419) ending with twenty acres in total. A family photograph from ca. 1915 shows Callie and Cathie looking very comfortable and middle class, sitting in front of their fine house with daughters Lessie and Ada. The house in the photograph appears much as it does today.

After Cathie's death in 1933, the children transferred their interest in the house and twenty acres to C. J. Lawrence, the second son. The elder son, Allie, had already established his own farm and home closer to New Hill. (The Allie Lawrence Farm is part of the New Hill National Register District; Keane 7:15). The house and property remained in the family until 1993, when the buildings and 6.65 acres were purchased and restored by its present owners.

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Lawrence, Calvin Wray, House
Wake County, North Carolina

Architectural Context

In the late nineteenth century, most homebuilders in rural Wake County chose plainly finished dwellings similar in form, plan and proportion to those that had predominated in the county since the 1850s. Many who could afford it chose to build what are known as I-houses, two-story, single-pile, side-gabled houses, typically with a center-hall plan. And, when they could, they embellished this conservative I-house form with mass-produced elements, such as turned or sawn porch ornament or decorative gable vents, both of which are prominent on the Calvin Wray Lawrence House (Lally & Johnson F:133). Extended transportation networks, including a rail stop at New Hill established after 1855, made these prefabricated elements more available to rural residents (ibid. F:132; "New Hill" 8:6).

One change in conservative house forms found in the county in the late nineteenth century was the introduction of what is commonly referred to as the "triple-A" roof--in which a central gable is added to the façade of a side-gable house. Lally suggests that the Gothic Revival style, mostly underrepresented in rural Wake, may have played a part in popularizing the form. "Judging from the large number of them on the landscape, one- and two-story triple-A roofed dwellings were the most popular houses among Wake County's residents around the turn of the century" (Lally & Johnson F:134). Additional examples of triple-A-roof I-houses in southern Wake County include the Frank Smith House, Turner Smith House, Penny House, and Turner House (ibid.).

Since the comprehensive survey of rural Wake County completed by architectural historian Kelly Lally in June 1991, rapid development has radically transformed the rural parts of the county. What was once farmland has been redeveloped into tract housing, with once-common late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century farmhouses either suffering demolition or losing all sense of their historical context (Martin 8:5). The Calvin Wray Lawrence House is an intact example of this kind of turn-of-the-century farmhouse retaining its rural character and setting--something that is becoming increasingly rare throughout Wake County.

Also distinguishing the Calvin Wray Lawrence House are its odd bursts of decoration. The intact panel doors demonstrate an unusual configuration, with a horizontal panel above two side-by-side vertical panels above two horizontal panels. The expressive curving arches of the three identical mantelpieces contrast with their flat, molded pilasters. Most remarkable is the decorative graining, in a very vernacular form, which highlights the center hall and stair, as well as the mantelpieces and doors throughout the house. Rarely do decorative finishes from this period remain intact, especially in more modest houses.

The Calvin Wray Lawrence House is a fine example of Victorian-era detailing within a conservative I-house tradition. It is one of the best-preserved houses of its type in the Apex vicinity in southwestern Wake County, and it demonstrates prosperity and taste within a local farming family in the late nineteenth century. Its intact decorative finishes and unusual doors and mantelpieces reflect an interesting tension between the architectural conservatism of the house and the more exuberant decorative urges of the late Victorian period. The home has been well restored with a sensitive modern addition, and its undisturbed setting adds to the integrity of the property.

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National Park Service

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Section Number 9-10 Page 5

Lawrence, Calvin Wray, House
Wake County, North Carolina

Major Bibliographical References

Belvin, Lynne, and Harriette Riggs, eds. *The Heritage of Wake County, North Carolina, 1983*. Winston-Salem, NC: Wake County Genealogical Society and Hunter Publishing, 1983.

Bishir, Catherine, and Michael T. Southern. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Branson's Directory of Raleigh. N.p., 1891. Section for Buckhorn Township abstracted by Mary C. Jones. http://web.co.wake.nc.us/library/locations/orl/Farmers_Land%20Owners%201891/buckhorn.htm (accessed July 5, 2007).

Keane, Beth. "New Hill Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2001. Survey and Planning Branch, Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, NC Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh.

Lally, Kelly A., and Todd Johnson. "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)." National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1993. Survey and Planning Branch, Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, NC Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh.

Martin, Jennifer. "Jesse Penny House and Outbuildings." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2002. Survey and Planning Branch, Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, NC Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh.

Wake County, NC. Tax lists. 1880, 1925. North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Wake County, NC. Deed records. North Carolina Department of Archives and History; Wake County Registrar of Deeds.

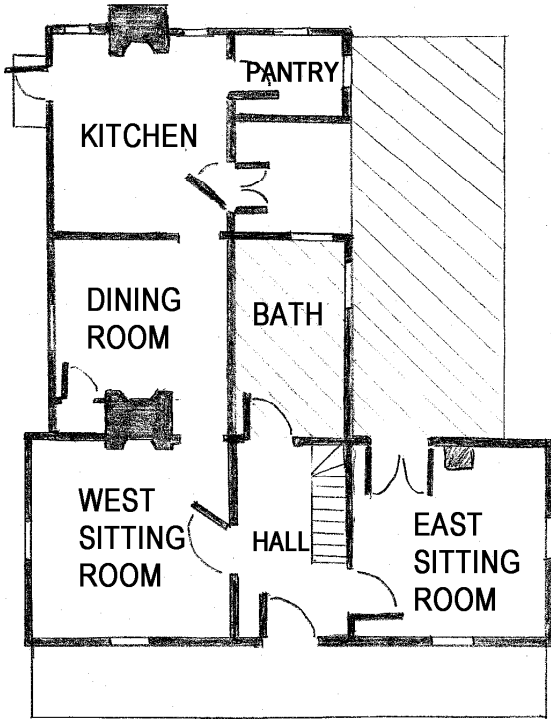
U.S. Census Bureau. Manuscript census returns: Wake Co., NC. 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920.

Verbal Boundary:

The boundary of the Calvin Wray Lawrence House is shown as parcel number 0711758892 as shown on the accompanying Wake County property tax map.

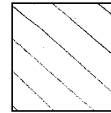
Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises 6.65 acres of the original acreage historically associated with the Calvin Wray Lawrence House and provides an appropriate setting for the house and outbuildings.

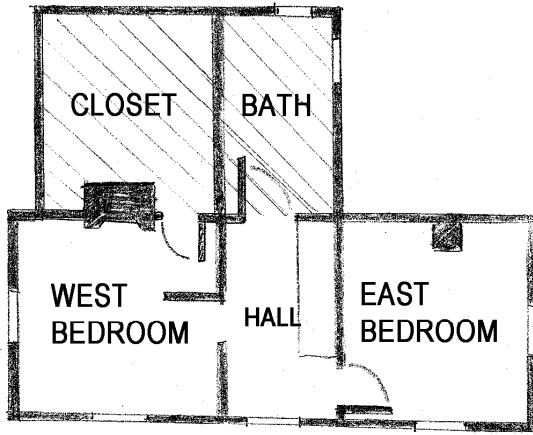


CALLIE LAWRENCE
HOUSE
WAKE CO., NC

$\frac{3}{4}'' = 1'0''$



1ST
FLOOR



2ND
FLOOR

CALLIE LAWRENCE
HOUSE
WAKE CO., NC

SITE MAP
NOT TO SCALE

