

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Purefoy-Chappell House and Outbuildings**

Wake Forest, Wake County, WA1501, Listed 1/22/2008

Nomination by Nancy Van Dolsen

Photographs by Nancy Van Dolsen, September 2006



Original house, side view



Façade of the ca. 1895 wing on right



Kitchen/dining building, rear view



Smokehouse

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018  
(Rev. 10-90)  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Purefoy-Chappell House and Outbuildings**  
other names/site number **N/A**

2. Location

street & number **1255 South Main Street** not for publication **N/A** city or town **Wake Forest** vicinity **N/A** state **North Carolina** code **NC** county **Wake** code **183** zip code **27587**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
4. National Park Service Certification  
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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 Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	3	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing **Historical and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:       **Domestic**       Sub:   **Single Dwelling**  
              **Domestic**               **Secondary Structure**  
              **Agriculture**           **Agricultural Outbuilding**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:       **Domestic**       Sub:   **Single Dwelling**  
              **Domestic**               **Secondary Structure**

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

**Other: One-Room House**  
**Greek Revival**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation       **BRICK**  
roof               **METAL**  
walls              **WOOD**  
other

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

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.
- X**    **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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**ARCHITECTURE**

Period of Significance       **ca. 1838; ca. 1862; ca. 1895**  
Significant Dates           **ca. 1838; ca. 1862; ca. 1895**  
Significant Person          **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.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreege of Property **approximately one acre**

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

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	17	3982570	723820	3
2			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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title **Nancy Van Dolsen** date **18 January 2008**  
street & number **1601 Highland Drive**  
city or town **Wilson** state **NC** zip code **27893**

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Additional Documentation  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

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

name

**John and Carol Pelosi**

street & number **1255 South Main Street** city or town **Wake Forest** state **NC** zip code **27587**  
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Wake County, N.C.

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**Narrative Description**

The Purefoy-Chappell House is located in the former village of Forestville, which is now part of the town of Wake Forest in northeast Wake County, North Carolina. The house sits at 1225 South Main Street, the northeast corner of the intersection of South Main Street and Friendship Chapel Road. The half-acre lot is mostly level, and to the east is a vacant half-acre lot that has been historically and is presently associated with the house. A railroad line runs behind the vacant lot. A small, ca. 1830 dwelling sits on the lot to the south. Across South Main Street, is the Little House, an antebellum house that was remodeled ca. 1895 and ca. 1935. Aside from these historic buildings, and the Forestville Baptist Church (NR, 1984), which stands about one-tenth mile southwest of the house, the area is developing rapidly, with both commercial and residential buildings being constructed daily.

The house faces South Main Street, which is presently a three-lane road with a center turn lane. A one-story porch was originally on the façade of the house but was removed prior to 1966 at the time when Main Street was widened. The house shares the lot with five other buildings: a non-contributing ca. 1945 concrete block well house, a ca. 1838 smoke house, a ca. 1862 doctor's office, a non-contributing ca. 1890/1950 barn, and a non-contributing 2005 greenhouse. A brick patio laid in sand fills the area between the house and smoke house. A grape arbor for scuppernong grapes, constructed of metal posts during the mid-twentieth century, is located between the doctor's office and smoke house. A low pierced brick wall is located between the house and doctor's office. A dirt driveway runs from Friendship Chapel Road behind the house to a gravel parking area. The house lot is lightly shaded by deciduous trees and has numerous garden beds.

**House, ca. 1838, ca. 1895, ca. 1960, ca. 1974, contributing**

The house is composed of four major sections: a ca. 1838, one-and-a half story, side-gable, single-pile main block with rear shed wing; a ca. 1895 two-story, side-gable, single-pile addition built onto the south gable end of the original house; a two-room side-gable kitchen dining building dating to ca. 1838 that was connected to the main block and the ca. 1895 addition by a one-story hyphen containing a modern kitchen added in 1974. The hyphen is composed of two shed roofs: the main shed roof forms an inset porch on the north elevation while a lower shed roof forms the entry on the south elevation. A very small, one-story shed roof addition was built ca. 1960 onto the rear of the ca. 1895 section to house a small bathroom.

The house stands on a stone foundation and has a metal roof. The exterior of the house is covered with weatherboards while the kitchen/dining building has board-and-batten siding with narrow weatherboards in the gables above the soffit. The small ca. 1960 bath also has board-and-batten siding. The original section has a tiny boxed cornice with no returns, while the ca. 1895 addition features a large boxed return cornice with simple fascia board. The kitchen/dining building has a small boxed cornice with no returns. The windows in the original section contain



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nine-over-nine sash on the façade and south elevation, with very vertical six-over-six sash flanking the chimney of the main block and four-over-four sash adjacent to the chimney in the shed room. The second-floor south elevation features six-over-nine sash. The ca. 1895 wing contains four-over-four sash, and the kitchen/dining building has replacement one-over-one sash windows on the north and east elevations, and an original six-over-six sash window on the south elevation. The ca. 1960 bath has a six-over-six sash window, with each sash wider than it is tall. The hyphen has four single-light windows above the south shed roof and paired six-over-six light sash on the north and south elevations.

Two parged stone shouldered chimneys run up the north side of the house, one for the original main block and one for the rear shed. An end interior brick chimney is centered on the south gable peak of the ca. 1895 addition. A central brick chimney divides the two rooms of the kitchen/dining building.

The original heavy timber-frame building, which forms the north end of the house, has a one-room plan with loft in the main block. The original fenestration on the façade (west) elevation had a central door flanked by windows; this door was removed prior to the mid-twentieth century (perhaps even as early as ca. 1895 when the wing was constructed). A staircase (patched boards on the second floor indicate its location) was located in the southeast corner of the main block. The rear shed was originally one room, but a wall was added in 1960 to make a small room on the south end that served as a kitchen. This room can not be accessed from the dining room but only from the hyphen. This space has 1960s kitchen cabinets and vinyl on the floor; a separate room was created to house the furnace.

The two-story, ca. 1895 wing is comprised of a stair passage and one room on the south end. A bathroom was added to the rear of this room (which serves as the master bedroom) ca. 1960. The ca. 1895 wing consists of a side stair passage and a room on both the first and second floor. The rooms in this section of the house have manufactured beaded board ceilings and narrow board floors. The passage features a stair with a straight run to the second floor. The staircase features a massive turned newel and turned balusters. When the ca. 1895 wing was added, the primary entrance shifted from the main block to the stair passage of the wing through a six-panel door flanked by panel and glass sidelights and topped with a two-light transom. The first-floor room has a fireplace (with a board over the opening) on the south elevation, with an adjacent original closet with a four-panel door. The mantel features an Eastlake design and was added in the late 1960s. The second floor has the same plan. The mantel in the second-floor room has a simple design, with chamfered pilasters and a shallow arched frieze board.

The 1974 hyphen is one open space. The kitchen/dining building is divided into two equal sized rooms, with the room to the south acting as the kitchen (a crane for holding pots over the fire was still in the fireplace in the mid-twentieth century). A one-story shed roof porch was once located on the rear (east) of the main block and a one-story shed roof porch once ran the length of the kitchen/dining building on the west elevation. These porches were altered in the 1960s and replaced in 1974 by the hyphen.

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The kitchen/dining building has openings from each room into the hyphen. These openings are original. The south room has a wainscot made from paneled doors from a building that was demolished at Peace College in Raleigh. The central chimney has fireplace openings into to each room; the firebox now has a raised hearth that was created ca. 1970. The chimney has no trim or sheathing. The board ceiling in the south room dates to the nineteenth century.

The interior of the original main block and wing retains its original floors and plaster under wallboard. The fireplaces in the original room and rear shed have simple Greek Revival mantels with a plain frieze and mantel shelf. The rear shed room now serves as a dining room. A chairrail was added in the 1960s and a small cupboard in the northeast corner appears to date to the early twentieth century. The second floor room of the original section has a simple fireplace with a flat board surround and a simple mantel shelf. The room appears to have always been a living space.

**Smoke House, ca. 1838/ca. 1900, contributing**

The smoke house sits south of the house, with the entrance on the north gable end. The heavy timber frame building was extended ca. 1900 with light frame construction, perhaps when it ceased functioning as a smokehouse. The weatherboarded building has a six board door with metal door latch on the north elevation and has two brick steps up to the door. A similar board door leads into the added portion of the building on the west elevation. A shuttered window is located on the east elevation. The building stands on a brick foundation and has a metal roof.

**Doctor's Office, ca. 1862, contributing**

The two-room, hip-roof frame doctor's office building stand southwest of the house, closer to South Main Street. The building has a central brick chimney that served as a flue for a stove. The building is covered with board-and-batten siding on the east elevation and original narrow weatherboards on the other three elevations. The building stands on a brick foundation and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A five-panel door is located on the west elevation and a four-panel door is centered on the east elevation, each with a brick step. A decorative hood, added in the late twentieth century, shelters each door. Two six-over-six sash windows light the east room of the building, which served as the doctor's office. The west room retains shelves on the west and north walls and served as the apothecary and storage room for medical supplies.

**Well house, ca. 1945, non-contributing**

This concrete block building stands northeast of the house. The shallow-pitched gable-roof building has a narrow door on the south gable end; the door was added in the 1990s. The building covers the well.

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**Barn, ca. 1895/1950, non-contributing**

The barn stands east of the house. The building has a central gable-front section flanked by side shed wings. Sliding doors lead into the central aisle of the barn which was originally flanked by mule and horse stalls with a feeding trough between each stall. The side sheds served as space for storing hay.<sup>1</sup> The barn appears to have originally been constructed ca. 1895, but was substantially reworked in the 1950s. The building was originally log and had no foundation. The log walls were gradually replaced and a stone foundation put under it.

**Greenhouse, ca. 2005, non-contributing**

A small shed roof greenhouse stands to the east of the smokehouse. This building was constructed ca. 2005.

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<sup>1</sup> Frank Chappell. Interview with Nancy Van Dolsen and Carol Pelosi, 17 August 2006. Mr. Chappell's father was the one who remodeled the barn in the 1950s.

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**Summary**

The Purefoy-Chappell House stands in the former village of Forestville (now a part of Wake Forest) in Wake County, North Carolina. The original section of the house was constructed for James S. Purefoy in 1838 on a one-acre lot in the burgeoning village of Forestville where a railroad depot for the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad had just been established. As an early nineteenth-century one-room house with a rear shed room, the Purefoy-Chappell House in Wake County represents an early common, vernacular regional house type found in North Carolina. The Purefoy-Chappell House represents the continuation of this form into the fourth decade of the nineteenth century, as well as the upper end of the form, with the main room, loft room and shed room all being fully finished spaces, each with a fireplace fitted with a stylish mantel. A detached kitchen/dining building was also constructed ca. 1838, and has now been incorporated into the main house. A ca. 1838 smoke house stands south of the house and is also well-preserved.

In 1862, Dr. Leroy Chappell and his wife Eliza purchased the property and shortly thereafter constructed a two-room doctor's office. This building retains its apothecary shelves and is an unusual surviving example of this building type in the county. During the late 1890s, a two-story addition was built onto the south end of the original house, and is a good example of late nineteenth-century vernacular design with Greek Revival-stylistic influences and a hall and parlor plan. The barn on the property was also built at that time, although it was remodeled in the mid-twentieth century and is therefore non-contributing. A ca. 1945 concrete block well house and a small twenty-first-century greenhouse also are located on the half-acre lot and are considered non-contributing.

The Purefoy-Chappell House and Outbuildings meet National Register of Historic Places Criterion C in the area of architecture. The antebellum house and outbuildings, including the ca. 1862 doctor's office, are rare survivors of once common forms. Although the Purefoy-Chappell House and Outbuildings are not discussed in the Historical and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941) (NR 1983), they meet the registration requirements established for antebellum houses (F 141-142) and for outbuildings (F 124). The period of significance for these locally significant buildings is ca. 1838 for when the original portion of the house, the smoke house and kitchen/dining building were constructed, ca. 1862 for the building of the doctor's office, and ca. 1895 for the construction of the two-story wing.

**Historical Background**

The Purefoy-Chappell House stands in the former village of Forestville (now a part of Wake Forest) in Wake County, North Carolina. Forestville had been settled as early as the late eighteenth century, and the building of a railroad depot for the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad in its vicinity in the 1830s renewed interest in the area. In 1838, a post office was established and William Alston was named the postmaster for a hamlet called Alston's Store; the town name was changed in 1838 to Forestville. The town prospered in the second half of the nineteenth century,

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and the town was incorporated in 1879. In 1880, the population of Forestville included 116 people, two Baptist churches (one African American and one white), numerous small businesses, and a post office. The railroad depot, however, was moved to nearby Wake Forest in 1874. The town charter was repealed in 1915, and the village remained a viable but small community throughout the mid-twentieth century. By the 1980s, the area around Wake Forest and Forestville became increasingly developed, and Forestville was incorporated into Wake Forest during that decade.<sup>1</sup> The region surrounding Forestville is now developing rapidly, with the town of Wake Forest almost doubling between 2000 and 2007, growing from 12,588 people to 22,784 in seven years.<sup>2</sup>

The land associated with the Purefoy-Chappell House was owned during the early 1830s by Jesse Kemp, a substantial landowner who gave his name to a stream a half mile to the east of this lot, Kemp's Spring Branch, which was later shortened to Spring Branch.<sup>3</sup> Jesse Kemp sold one acre of his land on December 30, 1837 to James Simpson Purefoy for fifty dollars.<sup>4</sup> Purefoy's name first appears in the Wake County tax rolls as owner of this property (listed in the Forest District of Wake County) in 1838. His property has no assigned value and the tax assessed was sixteen cents. By January 1, 1839, Purefoy's property was listed as one acre valued at \$500 and he was also the owner of two slaves; the tax owed was \$3.40. The hike in value assessed and in taxes owed suggests that the original section of the house was constructed in late 1838.

James S. Purefoy (February 19, 1813-March 30, 1889) was born in the Forest District of Wake County, the youngest of three sons of the Reverend John and Mary Fort Purefoy. John Purefoy (1778-1855) was, as his son James noted in an address for the semi-centennial of Wake Forest College, the key person in convincing the Baptist State Convention to buy Dr. Calvin Jones' plantation as the site for the future college. John Purefoy was a wealthy plantation owner and the builder of the original portion of the Purefoy-Dunn House (NR 1987), which stands southwest of Forestville. The house is a small Federal-style dwelling that was built around 1814. The same year that his son James Purefoy bought his one-acre lot in Forestville from Kemp, his father John Purefoy, sold his plantation and moved to Johnson County, his second wife's home.

James S. Purefoy married Mary Ransom Fort in December of 1831. Mary Fort Purefoy was the daughter of Foster Fort, also a wealthy farmer and mill owner in Wake County. At Mary's marriage to James Purefoy, her father gave her "one bed and stead and furniture, one bureau, cow and calf and sow and pigs" and two slaves. By 1840, the couple had four children (three sons and one daughter) and one slave. It is not known if the Purefoys had sold one of the slaves that her father had given her as part of her dowry.

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<sup>1</sup> Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina* (Raleigh, N.C.: Wake County Government, 1994) 250.

<sup>2</sup> *The Wake Forest Gazette*; [http://www.wakeforestgazette.com/volume\\_5/number\\_13/the\\_growth\\_rate.html](http://www.wakeforestgazette.com/volume_5/number_13/the_growth_rate.html); accessed March 28, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> The history of the Purefoy-Chappell House was researched by Carol Pelosi and is found in her essay, "A History of the Chappell-Pelosi House" (Unpublished typescript, July 2006).

<sup>4</sup> Wake County Deed Book 14:63, Wake County Court House, Raleigh, North Carolina.

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James Purefoy joined the Wake Union Baptist Church in 1834, where his father was the pastor. James Purefoy was ordained a Baptist minister in March of 1842, and served churches in Wake, Granville, Franklin and Warren counties until 1889, the year of his death. He was the historian for the Central Baptist Association from 1876 through 1888, and a charter member and first president of the North Carolina Baptist Historical Society. He was also the treasurer of the Baptist State Convention from 1842 to 1870. Purefoy was a trustee, financial agent and benefactor of Wake Forest College; he served as a trustee for forty-five years beginning in 1844. In addition, James Purefoy was a businessman and farmer. At the request of the college board of trustees, in 1846 he purchased a lot on South Avenue across from the campus and built the Purefoy Hotel. He also purchased an adjacent lot and operated a general store. Purefoy served as the postmaster of Forestville beginning in 1839, most likely soon after he had completed building his house and moved to the village.

In 1850, James and Mary Purefoy lived in the house with two of their sons (John and Edgar), two daughters (Isabella and Emma), a twenty-year old carpenter named Harris Vaughn, and a twenty-one year old mulatto named Perry Parks who was listed as having no occupation. The Purefoys also owned seven enslaved people, five males and two females ranging in age from five to sixty-five years. The Purefoys owned the house until 1853 when they sold the one-acre lot to Richard Ligon (their neighbor) for \$200. The deed from Purefoy to Ligon described the property as "Beginning at a Stake on the East side of the Road (and Southwest corner of the street running to the depot called Front Street) and running with the Road."<sup>5</sup> The "Road" referred to is South Main Street, and Front Street is now known as Friendship Chapel Road.

Three months later in June 1853, Richard Ligon sold the house and the half-acre it stood on to Peyton A. Dunn for \$125. Ligon apparently subsequently sold the half-acre nearer the railroad to someone else who constructed at least one store building on that half-acre. Peyton Dunn was a superintendent for the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad. It is not known if Peyton Dunn and his family lived in the house, although its close location to the railroad depot and his position with the railroad suggests that they may have resided there. Peyton Dunn was a wealthy man, owning \$6,000 in real estate and \$14,000 in personal estate in 1860. He and his wife, Jane, had four sons and one daughter living with them in 1860. They owned eleven enslaved people, ranging in age from two to forty-seven years, who lived in two houses on his property.<sup>6</sup>

On January 6, 1861, Peyton Dunn sold the half-acre and house to S.A. (Street) Taylor for \$400. Taylor held onto the property for less than two years, selling the half-acre and house, along with a second tract of eight acres to Dr. Leroy Chappell for \$2,100.<sup>7</sup>

Dr. Leroy Chappell (July 21, 1823-May 31, 1913) was born in Granville County but was raised in Wake County after his father, Edward, moved the family to some land along what is now Falls

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<sup>5</sup> This deed is owned by the present property owners, Carol and John Pelosi.

<sup>6</sup> Federal Manuscript Slave Census, Forestville Post Office, Wake County, North Carolina, 1850; Federal Population Census, Forestville Post Office, Wake County, North Carolina, 1850.

<sup>7</sup> Wake County Deed Book 24: 52; Wake County Court House, Raleigh, North Carolina.

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of the Neuse Road near St. Raphael's church. Chappell first studied medicine locally under a Dr. Johnson and then attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia for a year. He set up his first practice in Shallotte in Brunswick County, North Carolina, which was not successful, and then moved to Kinston, Lenoir County, on the recommendation of a friend. It was there he met his future wife, Eliza J. Norcross (July 27, 1830-August 5, 1907), who had moved to Kinston from Boston, Massachusetts, to establish a school of music and art. The couple had two sons, Leroy Norcross, born in 1860, and Henry Arthur, born in 1863. The couple rented their residence in Kinston.<sup>8</sup>

The Chappells built the doctor's office for his practice shortly after purchasing the Forestville lot in 1862. Little is known about Dr. Chappell's career, although it appears he was a successful doctor. G.W. Paschal, in the second volume of his "History of Wake Forest College," states that Chappell was President Wingate's physician when he died in 1879.

In 1870, Dr. Chappell's family lived in the house with a young school teacher, Georgiana Stella (age twenty-two). In 1877, Dr. Chappell reunited the two parts of the original acre of land by buying the back half-acre from Richard G. Roberts of Calhoun County in Alabama for \$150. In 1880, all four of the family were still living in the house, with the two sons attending Wake Forest College. Leroy N. Chappell graduated from Wake Forest College in 1881, and Henry Arthur Chappell in 1884; Henry also received a master's degree from the institution in 1886.

Henry Arthur Chappell (September 21, 1863-September 20, 1926) was an educator, a planter and a surveyor. He had a master's degree in civil engineering and was involved in road building and surveying. Henry Arthur owned approximately 170 acres along Forestville Road about half a mile south of the family home. He married Bettie Reaves (November 6, 1867-December 17, 1961), and they had two children, a daughter, Helen, who died young, and Frank Chappell (June 16, 1899-March 5, 1964).

By 1900, Dr. Leroy Chappell (seventy-seven years old) and his wife Eliza (sixty-nine years old) lived in the house with their son Henry Arthur, his wife Bettie, and their newborn son, Frank. It seems likely that the large two-story wing was added to the original house during the late 1890s, when Henry Arthur started his family and both couples began to live in the house.

Ten years later, in 1910, Henry Arthur is described as a surveyor working for the government. He and his wife, their son Frank, and old Dr. Leroy Chappell live in the house with a servant, Nancy Jones. In 1913, the ownership of the house and two half-acre parcels passed from Leroy Chappell by will to his grandson, Frank Chappell, who was then fourteen years old.<sup>9</sup> Frank Chappell was recruited at Wake Forest College in 1918, to enlist in the army to fight in World War I. He attended officer's school in Plattsburgh, New York.<sup>10</sup> In 1920, Henry Arthur and

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<sup>8</sup> Federal Manuscript Population Census, Kinston, Lenoir County, 1860. Dr. Chappell is listed as a physician who owned no real estate but who had \$5,000 in personal estate.

<sup>9</sup> Wake County Will Book H: 22; Wake County Court House, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>10</sup> Frank Chappell, Jr. Interview.

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Bettie, with their son, Frank, no longer in the army, lived in the house. Both Henry and Frank are listed as farmers.

Frank Chappell, according to his son, Frank Chappell Jr., was a farmer and a plumber. He began working for Texas Oil Co. as a driver, eventually worked on the plumbing for the tanks, and finally became a representative for the company and installed underground gas tanks. After his retirement from Texas Oil Co., he did plumbing work as a contractor, using the barn on the property as his workshop. Frank Sr. married a woman named Celera (July 20, 1904-November 9, 1983) in 1921, and they had one son, Frank Jr. Bettie Reaves Chappell lived with her son, Frank Sr., and daughter-in-law Celera until her death in 1961. Bettie Reaves Chappell had her bedroom on the second floor of the ca. 1895 addition, while Frank Sr. and Celera had the bedroom on the second floor of the original house; they partitioned a portion of their room to create a small bedroom for their son Frank.<sup>11</sup>

After Frank's death in 1964, Celera Chappell inherited the house and land. In 1965, she sold both the house and the separate half-acre to J. Nurney and Grace Bond of Wake Forest.<sup>12</sup> The Bonds did not live in the house, but sold both pieces of property to their daughter and son-in-law, Jean and Robert McCamy, on September 12, 1967.<sup>13</sup> The McCamys sold the house and land to John and Carol Pelosi, the present owners, on July 20, 1970.<sup>14</sup> The Pelosis added the hyphen in 1974.

### **Architecture Context: One-Room Antebellum Houses, Two-Story Additions and Kitchen/Dining Buildings in Wake County, North Carolina**

The original portion of the Purefoy-Chappell House, which dates to ca. 1838, is a rare and significant survivor of a once common vernacular form; the one-and-a-half story, one-room dwelling with second-story room and rear shed room. The plan of the house is intact, as are significant features such as the original chimney stacks, mantels, windows, some interior trim, and the building's frame. The ca. 1838 kitchen/dining building, now attached to the house, is also significant as a rare survivor. As noted in the Wake County Multiple Property Documentation Form, the registration requirements for houses that date to pre-1850, due to their rarity, differ from those established for later houses. These earlier houses may "sustain more alteration, such as the replacement of siding or the modernization of an interior" and still remain eligible (F 141). In addition, this document also notes that "there are a number of houses in Wake County that do not represent a single style or type of architecture, but show a progression of stylistic influences and building techniques, illustrating the ways in which Wake County residents updated their homes over time. In these cases, alterations made at least fifty years ago are considered part of the historic fabric of dwellings if they retain integrity of design, materials,

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<sup>11</sup> Frank Chappell, Jr. Interview.

<sup>12</sup> Wake County Deed Books 1685: 553; 1695: 398.

<sup>13</sup> Wake County Deed Books 1786: 217.

<sup>14</sup> Wake County Deed Books 1936: 561.



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and workmanship and have not been obscured by still later alterations.” (F 142). Within this context, the Purefoy-Chappell House meets all necessary registration requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

As a one-room, timber-frame house with a rear shed room constructed during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the Purefoy-Chappell House represents one of the earliest house forms in the state, and embodies the continuation of this form into the fourth decade of the nineteenth century; the form would continue to be built into the twentieth century. The original section of the Cullen Jones House (NR 2006) in Chowan County, North Carolina was constructed ca. 1815 and was also a one-room plan, log house, and the ca. 1815 Davenport House, Washington County (NR 2007) was a one-room frame dwelling, which also had a contemporary rear shed room like the Purefoy-Chappell House.

The Purefoy-Chappell House exemplifies a more elaborate version of this form than the Jones House or Davenport House in that the rear shed room was a heated room with a fireplace fitted with a stylish mantel, and the upper floor of the main block was finished originally, had a fireplace with mantel, and was reached by a full staircase. The Purefoy-Chappell House represents the upper end of the plan, while the Jones and Davenport houses represent the more common form.

William Cullen Nowell, a Baptist minister, described these unassuming, one-room houses that he was familiar with when he was a child in mid-nineteenth-century eastern Wake County: “. . . in those primitive times, people had a living house, or, more correctly, a bed-house, and a kitchen, some thirty or fifty feet apart. These houses . . . were very simple and unpretentious building. They were built of logs and covered with boards . . . The chimneys were the stick-and-dirt style.”<sup>15</sup> None of these early log houses with stick-and-mud chimneys survived into the late twentieth century in Wake County.

Although one-story and one-and-a-half-story houses were common, two-story houses began to dominate during the mid-to-late nineteenth century, especially among surviving buildings. The two-story wing that was added in the mid-1890s exemplifies the prevalence of the two-story form by the late nineteenth century.

As a successful doctor in a prosperous small town, Dr. Chappell would have wanted a larger and more stylish house. The ca. 1895 addition to the earlier section of the house has slight Greek Revival detailing, as seen in its cornice returns and front entry with transom and sidelights. It has a hall and parlor form but, in combination with the main block of the house, creates a modified center-hall plan which had become increasingly popular in nineteenth-century Wake County. Both the form and style of the addition are throw-backs to earlier tastes showing a preference for conservative design not uncommon in Wake County in the late nineteenth century.

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<sup>15</sup> Lally, 27.

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The two-room kitchen/dining building that stood behind the house, and which appears to have been constructed at the same time as the original building, is also a rare survivor. In the Wake County Multiple Property Documentation Form, kitchens are noted as a property type under outbuildings (F 118). Although the document mentions two-room kitchen and dining structures with the two rooms separated by an interior chimney as a type found in the county, no examples are given. By the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, combining kitchen and dining in one detached building became more common in eastern North Carolina and was a very established practice in villages on the Outer Banks, such as Hatteras.

**Architecture Context: Nineteenth-Century Doctor's Offices and Domestic Outbuildings in eastern and central North Carolina**

The Dr. Leroy Chappell Doctor's Office is a two-room building complete with original apothecary shelves as well as its original interior trim. The building is a fine example of a mid-nineteenth-century vernacular design for a small-scale professional office.

Intact doctor's offices from the nineteenth century are rare survivors in central and eastern North Carolina. Few survived in Wake County into the late twentieth century and it is not mentioned as a property type in the Wake County Multiple Property Documentation Form (NR 1993). A more rural example survived on the Hartsfield-Price-Perry Farm in nearby Rolesville. The office dates to ca. 1850 and, like the Dr. Chappell office, has a hip roof. Dr. Hartsfield's office, however, has an exterior chimney with the primary entrance on the eave elevation and appears to be only one room.

A more similar office survives in Hertford County, in the northeast portion of the state. The Dr. Roscius P. Thomas Doctor's Office, built ca. 1855, is a two-room building that also has its original apothecary shelves. The Dr. Joseph Bynum Office, in Pitt County, dates to ca. 1865 and is also a two-room building with an interior partition wall and formerly had an exterior chimney on the rear gable end. The building also has two doors, one on the gable end and the other on the eave wall. In form and size it resembles the Dr. Chappell office.

The two rural doctor's office buildings that are museum buildings today in North Carolina—the Country Doctor's Museum in Bailey (Nash County) and the Mint Hill Museum (Mecklenburg County)—are both late nineteenth-century examples. The Nash County building is actually a composite of two doctor's offices, and the Mint Hill doctor's office was moved to that site.

Dr. Henry Vaughn Dustan's Office, a ca. 1870 building, in the Windsor Historic District (NR 1991), in Bertie County, in northeastern North Carolina, was moved from across the street and the roof altered to accommodate gas pumps.

The Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings in Warren County (NR 2000) comprises a ca. 1840 Greek Revival-style main house with Greek Revival-style outbuildings,

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one of which may have been Dr. Skinner's office. Unlike the Dr. Chappell office, none of the outbuildings on the Skinner property were two rooms with a space that would have been used as an apothecary. The building traditionally known as Dr. Skinner's office more closely resembles Dr. Hartsfield's office in Wake County than Dr. Chappell's office.

Although doctor's offices are not noted as property type in the Wake County Multiple Property Documentation Form, the registration requirements for outbuildings would apply, since this type is considered an outbuilding on both town lots and rural properties. According to the form, "surviving examples of certain distinctive and very scarce building types . . . are eligible individually if they remain substantially intact" (F 124). The Dr. Chappell office meets this requirement.

The other antebellum outbuilding on the Chappell property, the smokehouse, is also a remarkable survivor. Smokehouses were found on nearly every antebellum farm and on many town lots, but few survive. Smokehouses and meathouses are noted as a property type in the Wake County Multiple Property Documentation Form (F 119). Five examples of intact antebellum smokehouses are noted at the following properties: Oak Forest, Beaver Dam, and Midway plantations and on the George W. Scarborough and William Turner farms. Like the smokehouses mentioned in the form, the Chappell smokehouse is tightly constructed and did not have a chimney. The smokehouse should be considered a contributing building to the overall resource despite the small addition to the rear of the building.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The historic boundary is shown on the accompanying tax parcel map, at the scale of 1" = 100', for Wake County, tax parcel 1840257330.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the house and the yard immediately surrounding the property, and the associated outbuildings. The boundary includes acreage is historically associated with the Purefoy-Chappell House and Outbuildings and provides an appropriate setting. The boundary includes approximately 0.57 acre of land.

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**Photographs**

The following information applies to all photographs:

Purefoy-Chappell House and Outbuildings

Wake County, North Carolina

Nancy Van Dolsen

September 2006

North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

1. Exterior, facing southeast
2. Exterior, facing northeast; Façade of the ca. 1895 wing
3. Exterior, facing northeast; Rear elevation and attached kitchen/dining building
4. Exterior, facing northwest; Attached kitchen/dining building and hyphen
5. Exterior, facing southwest; Rear of attached kitchen/dining building
6. Exterior, Doctor's Office
7. Exterior, Smoke House
8. Exterior, Barn (non-contributing)
9. Interior, First Floor; Room in the rear wing
10. Interior, First Floor; North room, main block
11. Interior, Primary Entrance; ca. 1895 block
12. Interior, Second Floor; Main block
13. Interior, Kitchen/Dining Building
14. Interior, Doctor's Office