

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**George and Neva Barbee House**

Zebulon, Wake County, WA2234, Listed 8/28/2007  
Nomination by Cynthia de Miranda  
Photographs by Cynthia de Miranda, October 2006



Façade view



Rear view

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

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

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Barbee, George and Neva, House  
other names/site number Dr. G. S. Barbee House

**2. Location**

street & number 216 West Gannon Avenue  not for publication N/A  
city or town Zebulon  vicinity N/A  
state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27597

**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

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

<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: _____	_____	_____

Barbee, George and Neva, House  
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina  
County and State

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	Total

#### Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic 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 from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> C. AMERICAN  
MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE

#### Narrative Description

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

Barbee, George and Neva, House  
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1914

### Significant Dates

1914

### 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: Wake Co. Register of Deeds, Raleigh

Barbee, George and Neva, House  
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreeage of Property** .54 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 742290 3967650  
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.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cynthia de Miranda  
organization Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. date April 4, 2007  
street & number Post Office Box 1171 telephone 919/682-2211  
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

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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.)

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## Property Owner

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

name Eric Dean and Ken Pearce  
street & number 216 West Gannon Avenue telephone 919/868-7265  
city or town Zebulon state NC zip code 27597

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**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

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George and Neva Barbee House  
Wake Co., N.C.

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**DESCRIPTION**

The George and Neva Barbee House is an imposing foursquare with a brick exterior featuring bold Craftsman detailing and an eclectic interior with Craftsman and Colonial Revival elements and a single Prairie Style stained-glass window. The hip-roofed dwelling stands tall on a high basement on the north side of the 200 block of West Gannon Avenue, the second residential block west of the commercial district in the eastern Wake County town of Zebulon. The house is roughly centered on the lot and sits in line with the neighboring houses. A two-car garage, altered to serve as a pool house, stands northwest of the house, in the back yard at the end of a concrete driveway that passes under the dwelling's porte-cochere. A swimming pool installed in the mid-1990s fills a substantial portion of the rear yard. The lot is flat and shaded by mature trees.

The 200 block of Gannon Avenue is part of the early twentieth-century street grid established for Zebulon, which was still being laid out and was rather sparsely developed when the town's earliest Sanborn map was drawn in 1923. Surrounding houses are similarly large, but none share the distinctive architectural detailing seen in the Barbee House. This section of West Gannon Avenue features flat topography and runs in a southwesterly direction away from the town's commercial core. For the purposes of clarity in the following descriptions, however, cardinal axis points will be used with the house facing south.

**George and Neva Barbee House, 1914, Contributing Building**

The dwelling is detailed with bold Craftsman features, including very large nine-, twelve-, and twenty-four-over-one double-hung sash; a porte-cochere; a sheltered wraparound porch; and a nearly solid brick porch balustrade. The boxed cornice, heavy cast-stone lintels and window sills, and deep eaves of the porch and porte-cochere provide strong horizontal lines. Grouped pilasters form porch posts on substantial brick piers topped with cast stone, adding another Craftsman detail. The foursquare house type was commonly rendered with Craftsman detailing and the Barbee House matches the boldness of its architectural embellishment to the impressive stature of the dwelling itself. The house also features two corbelled chimneys and a few stained-glass windows.

With the exception of the porch, the house is roughly square in plan with a shallow, two-story rear section inset from the corners of the main block. An original single-story hip-roofed section at the west end of the rear elevation houses the kitchen and a back porch; this porch was originally screened but now features storm windows. The porch provides entry into the back of the two-story dwelling and into the single-story kitchen block. While the kitchen stands on a foundation wall that encloses a partial basement, the back porch stands on high brick piers infilled with lattice screens. A stoop made entirely of cast iron provides access to the door on the east side of the porch, and a late-twentieth-century metal fence separates the back yard from the side yards. A small hip-roofed entry projects from the north wall of the kitchen, providing access to the partial basement.

The south-facing facade is symmetrical in massing and fenestration. Fenestration includes a centered, single-leaf front door with leaded glass topped by a leaded-glass transom and flanked by similar sidelights. The entrance is in turn flanked by a broad twenty-four-over-one window at its left and a set of three narrow twelve-over-one windows at its right. Fenestration at the second story is perfectly symmetrical: paired twelve-over-one windows

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George and Neva Barbee House  
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at each of the two front rooms pierce canted walls that project slightly from the otherwise flat plane of the second story. The canted walls feature interlocking bricks at their angled meeting between the paired windows, highlighting the oblique joint. Two smaller twelve-over-one windows pierce the flat wall between the sets of canted walls, directly above the front door. All fenestration on the facade, indeed all over the house, feature the same bulky cast-stone lintels and only slightly less-substantial cast-stone sills. At the second story, the top edge of the lintels touch the eave of the dwelling's hipped roof; at the first story, the top edges of the window lintels likewise touch the ceiling of the porch.

The front porch stretches across the facade and extends beyond it to the west to form the porte-cochere and to the east to wrap around most of the east elevation. At the center, corresponding with the location of the front steps and entrance, a gable roof interrupts the low hipped roof of the porch. This feature provides additional height at the front entrance. The ends of the hipped roof create the appearance of cornice returns, echoing the gabled dormer with cornice returns in the main hipped roof. The roof dormer holds vents for the attic area.

The west elevation has single twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows at the front room on both the first and second floors. At the first-floor rear room—the dining room—a triple-window composition features a wide fixed-sash stained-glass window flanked by narrower nine-over-one double-hung sashes. A single, continuous lintel unifies the group of three windows. The stained-glass window is the height of the upper sashes of the flanking windows and features a Prairie-inspired window design with angular, stylized depictions of flowers. Elements of the Midwestern-born Prairie style, unlike those of the Craftsman style, are rarely seen in North Carolina.

Above this composition is a set of paired twelve-over-one windows for an upstairs back bedroom. Single twelve-over-one windows also pierce both stories of the narrow west elevation of the inset two-story rear block, and two twelve-over-one windows provide light from the west wall of the single-story section into the kitchen. Like the windows in the main block, the kitchen windows also feature heavy cast-stone lintels that reach the top of the wall where it meets the boxed cornice.

The rear elevation is consistent in finish and composition with the rest of the house, with full and partial windows piercing the wall at the basement level as well as the two main floors. Two windows light the kitchen and a single window lights the basement. A simple brick stack emerges through the roof near the eave of the single-story kitchen and back porch block, between the two rear kitchen windows. The two-story section has two twelve-over-one windows piercing the east end of the second story and a fixed-sash stained glass window at the first story, aligned directly below the easternmost window that provides light to the second floor. The stained-glass design has an elaborate, curved floral motif set against a rectilinear backdrop.

The east elevation has the same second-story window arrangement at the west elevation: single twelve-over-one window at the front bedroom, double twelve-over-one windows at the back bedroom, and another single window in the shallow two-story block at the back of the house. The first floor has the same single window/double window arrangement in the main block, with the addition of a single-leaf French door immediately south of the double window, providing access from the porch into the rear room on the east side of the first floor. In the shallow two-story rear section, the window at the first floor is another twelve-over-one

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double-hung sash; the lower sash, however, features a third stained-glass window. The design here is similar to that on the rear wall of the house, with a curvaceous floral design set against a rectilinear grid.

The interior of the house, like the exterior, is simple with bold architectural details; unlike the exterior, these elements are rendered in Colonial Revival as well as the Craftsman style; some classical detailing has been recently added by the current owners. The floor plan features a room at each of the four corners of the house with a transverse center hall in the rear half of the first floor and running nearly the full depth of the house on the second floor. A staircase rises toward the back along the west side of the center hall. The shallow two-story rear section provides space for a butler's pantry and passage into the kitchen, two bathrooms, a laundry room, and the landing at the top of the stairs. Oak floors are throughout the house; fireplaces heat each main room and feature either plain, heavy Craftsman mantel shelves with stepped brick firebox surrounds or more elaborate pre-fabricated Colonial Revival mantels and surrounds. Original woodwork survives in each room in the form of door and window surrounds and baseboards; original two-paneled doors and French doors also remain, all with crystal doorknobs. These details constitute the interior architectural decor in the majority of the rooms.

The front door opens directly into the sitting room, which occupies the front two-thirds of the house at the southeast corner. The masonry fireplace, on the north wall, was covered in stucco at some point in the second half of the twentieth century, obscuring its original appearance. A single-leaf French door in the north wall of the room, directly opposite the front door, provides access to the center hall and the back of the house. A pair of French doors centered on the west wall open into the study, which features a brick fireplace with heavy rectilinear shelf mantel set at an angle in the northwest corner of the room. The shape and dimensions of the stuccoed fireplace in the sitting room are similar to those of the fireplace in the study, indicating that the altered fireplace likely looked like the study fireplace originally. The study also features dentil molding and a wall of built-in bookcases on the south wall, all of which was added by the current owners in the 1990s. A second set of double-leaf French doors in the north wall leads into the dining room.

The dining room is the most elaborately finished room in the house, featuring shoulder-height Craftsman paneled wainscot topped by a narrow bracketed shelf. The fireplace, like that in the study, is set at an angle in the southwest corner of the room. The wood mantel is Colonial Revival, with Tuscan columns supporting a wide frieze with oval insets under a molded shelf. A long, rectangular mirror the width of the mantle tops the composition, and a high-relief metal lamp and swag surmount the mirror. The mantel is likely a manufactured item ordered from a catalog and also features glazed tile surrounding the firebox opening. The Prairie-style window flanked by double-hung sash light the dining room from its west wall. A swinging two-paneled door at the east end of the north wall leads into the butler's pantry and a hinged two-panel door leads from the south end of the east wall into the center hall.

The butler's pantry occupies some of the space provided by the two-story rear inset section and leads into the kitchen in the single-story rear block. The original butler's pantry remains in the east side of this shallow space, while recently added shelves, cabinets, and a pair of French doors fill the west side. The kitchen, meanwhile, was completely remodeled in the 1990s, but all the original windows, window openings, and doorways remain. A 1950s-era partially glazed, two-panel, single-leaf door leads from the east wall of the kitchen into the porch at the back of the house. The porch features vertical board sheathing at the interior walls below the storm windows



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that replaced the original screens, and a tongue-and-groove porch floor. Squared pilasters with molded capitals adorn the interior and exterior corners of the porch; the pilasters support a plain frieze just below the ceiling and roofline, respectively. These slender pilasters recall the more substantial versions that form the posts on the front wraparound porch and porte-cochere.

From the back porch, another 1950s-era partially glazed, two-panel, single-leaf door leads into the back of the center hall. A remodeled bathroom fills the space on the east side of the shallow inset block on the back of the house; the fixed-light stained glass window pierces the north wall of the bathroom, over the bathtub. From the hall, a two-paneled door leads into the downstairs bedroom, which functions today as a den. The room features a fireplace angled in the southwest corner of the room. The mantel is simple, with colonettes supporting a plain shelf while brick surrounds the firebox. A paired set of windows pierce the east wall to provide light; more light enters the room through the single-leaf French door that leads onto the wraparound porch. A closet at the northeast corner of the room has been converted into a wet bar; the third stained glass window is in this closet area.

The staircase that leads upstairs has a substantial squared, paneled newel post and squared balusters with a molded handrail. Upstairs, the hall runs nearly the depth of the house, providing access to all upstairs rooms. At the back of the house, in the shallow space provided by the second story of the inset block, there is a laundry room west of the landing and a second bathroom east of the landing. Both have been remodeled since the house was built. Bedrooms fill the four rooms occupying the corners of the basic foursquare plan. The two back bedrooms have closets in the north walls and fireplaces angled in the southwest corners. Both front bedrooms have closets in the area that would otherwise be the center hall; each closet is illuminated by one of the small windows in the center of the second story at the facade. Both bedrooms also have fireplaces angled in their northeast corners and feature an irregular shape where the canted walls angle outward at the south walls of the rooms. Three of the four fireplaces have wood mantels with plain bracketed shelves and painted plaster firebox surrounds, while the mantel in the front east bedroom features Tuscan columns and a molded shelf of wood and a tile firebox surround.

**Garage, 1914, Noncontributing Building**

The two-bay garage stands northwest of the Barbee House, at the end of a late-twentieth-century concrete driveway that passes through the porte-cochere and continues into the rear yard. The garage has a hip roof and brick exterior, like the house; it also has a hip-roofed rear extension that is narrower than the garage and is centered on its rear elevation. Two smaller flat-roofed storage areas have been added in both inset corners formed by the original extension; the brick walls of these sections have been built continuous with the original west, north, and east walls of the garage.

On the front, or south elevation of the garage, two sets of paired French doors installed by the current owners allow access into the main garage space; close examination reveals that brickwork around the doors has been patched, apparently resizing the original openings. A photograph from the early 1990s shows that there were no garage doors, but a center support column separated the two entrances to the double-bay garage. The photograph also show that there was historically no pavement at the driveway.

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The west elevation features a single nine-over-one double-hung sash window that lacks the cast-stone lintels and sills seen on the house. A single-leaf wood door towards the north end of the west elevation provides access into the added storage room. The rear elevation has a single nine-over-one double-hung sash on the original center section and a smaller, square four-light fixed sash window in the added east storage room. The fenestration on the east elevation has also been altered; no original windows remain, but two French doors were added by the current owners.

### **Swimming Pool, ca. 1995, Noncontributing Structure**

The swimming pool occupies a substantial portion of the rear yard of the Barbee House, filling much of the open space between the garage, the house, and the rear and east lot lines. The pool has an amorphous curvilinear shape and is edged with two rows of brick set into a concrete patio.

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George and Neva Barbee House  
Wake Co., N.C.

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1914 George and Neva Barbee House in Zebulon is locally significant under Criterion C as a notable example of a Craftsman foursquare house. The dwelling features bold Craftsman detailing at the exterior, including very large nine-, twelve-, and twenty-four-over-one double-hung sash; a porte-cochere; a sheltered wraparound porch; and nearly solid brick porch balustrade. Grouped pilasters form porch posts on substantial brick piers topped with cast stone, adding another Craftsman detail. The interior shows eclectic use of Craftsman and Colonial Revival elements and a hint of the Prairie Style, rarely seen in North Carolina, in a single stained-glass window. The most elaborate Craftsman foursquares in Wake County are found in towns like Zebulon, rather than in rural areas, and the brick exterior of the Barbee House further distinguishes it from the county's more-common weatherboarded or shingled examples. The Barbee House is Zebulon's only masonry Craftsman foursquare; weatherboarded examples also survive in town.

Context 3, "Populism to Progressivism (1885-1918)," pages 46-64 in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, Ca. 1770-1941" (MPDF) provides historic context for the urban development of Wake County. The locally significant Barbee House falls under Property Type 3C, "Twentieth-Century Popular House Types," for the property type "Craftsman Houses," and pages 137-139 of the MPDF provide the architectural context. Other comparable houses in Zebulon are described on page 138 of the MPDF. Houses in Wake County are significant as reflections of the architectural trends that reached the county and the choices and adaptations that people made in terms of architectural design and style.

Individual houses in Wake County must retain a high level of integrity to be considered eligible under Criterion C for architectural significance, according to the registration requirements on pages 141-142 of the MPDF. The Barbee House exhibits excellent architectural integrity, retaining all of its original materials and Craftsman detailing at the exterior. The house also retains a great proportion of notable interior finishes—particularly the French doors and two-paneled doors, high wainscot in the dining room, door and window trim, stained glass in some windows, and most of its original mantels and fireplace finishes.

The period of significance for the house is 1914, the date of its construction. Additional historical information specific to the house is included below.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Zebulon, in southeastern Wake County, is an early twentieth-century town with its roots in the railroad, which came through the area in 1907, the same year that the tiny place got a post office and incorporated as a town. By 1912, there were several stores, a couple of tobacco warehouses and mills, a hotel, a cotton market, a bank, and even telephone service. In 1916, Zebulonites voted for a bond to pave the streets. The town was growing at a fast clip—its population very nearly doubled between 1910 and 1920, when it neared one thousand residents.<sup>1</sup>

Charles and DeElla Flowers of Pamlico County purchased a number of parcels in the developing town in the 1910s. In October 1914, they sold the parcel at 216 West Gannon Avenue to their daughter Neva Flowers

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<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina, Prehistory to Centennial* (Raleigh, N.C.: Capital Publishing Company, 1983), 657-658; Lynne Belvin and Harriette Riggs, eds., *Heritage of Wake County* (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company for Wake Genealogical Society, 1983), 68.

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Barbee (1893-1962) for \$1. The deed notes that the parcel was valued at \$400 and the low selling price was to be considered a no-interest loan. Neva and her husband, physician Dr. George Sprite Barbee (1887-1953), erected the substantial brick Craftsman foursquare on the parcel. In 1916, Dr. Barbee began practicing medicine in space above the Zebulon Drug Company in the town's commercial district, occupying the office vacated by Dr. J. A. Strickland when he left town that year.<sup>2</sup>

Neva's parents offered a similar real estate deal to Neva's twin sister Mary Campen, selling Mary the parcel at 220 West Gannon Avenue, immediately west of the Barbee House, for \$1 on the same day as Neva's transaction. The Flowers built their own house nearby, a simple but typically large Queen Anne at 503 North Wakefield Street. Their son Dr. Clarence A. Flowers, another local physician, built a many-gabled bungalow across the street from his parents, at 500 North Wakefield Street. Lifelong Zebulon resident Dorothy Debnam called Dr. Flowers's house "prefabricated," perhaps meaning a mail-order house.<sup>3</sup>

Mary's house is strikingly similar to her sister Neva's, also a foursquare with a broad wraparound porch and a similar centered gabled dormer high in the hip roof of the commodious dwelling. Mary's house was weatherboard to her sister's fine brick version, however, and lacked the porte-cochere, the gabled feature at the porch entry, and the stylish groupings of engaged pilasters on brick piers that support the porch roof. It is possible that Neva's and Mary's houses were built from the same mail-order house plan, tailored by a local builder to each sister's taste and budget. Interior architectural elements—like the more decorative mantels in the dining room and in two bedrooms of the Barbee House, for instance, as well as doors, crystal door knobs, and stained glass windows—could be ordered from building supply catalogs at the time. Such availability, enabling a homeowner to pick and choose diverse elements, may account for the mix of styles inside the Barbee House.

Neva Flowers Barbee, widowed in 1953, sold her house in 1956 to Robert and Jeanne Massey, who lived there for forty years. In 1996, the Massey heirs sold the Barbee House to William E. Dean. Mr. Dean now jointly owns and lives in the house with Kenneth C. Pearce.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Charles A. and DeElla A. Flowers to Neva D. Barbee, Book 298, page 134, Wake County Deeds, Garland Jones Building, Raleigh; Jerry Cross, *Railroad Born, Citizen Bred: A Century of Life in Zebulon* (n.p: Little River Historical Society, 2006), 9. The Wake County Real Estate Data records 1914 as the construction date. Kelly Lally dates the house to 1917 but does not include a source for the information.

<sup>3</sup> Charles A. and DeElla A. Flowers to Mary A. Campen, Book 289, page 539; and Lucia F. Mitchell to Zee R. Rochelle, Book 1275, page 237; Wake County Deeds. Dorothy Debnam, Zebulon resident, telephone interview with the author, October 13, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Neva Flowers Barbee to Robert D. Massy, Book 1247, page 125; Frances B. Massey to William Erich Dean, Book 7251, page 221; Guy and Marsha Massey and James and Frances Jenkins to William Erich Dean, Book 7251, page 224; William Erich Dean to William Erich Dean and Kenneth Charles Pearce, Book 9041, page 1681, Wake County Deeds, Garland Jones Building, Raleigh.

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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George and Neva Barbee House  
Wake Co., N.C.

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### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries coincide with the legal bounds of parcel 2705250297.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire parcel historically associated with the house.