

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Benjamin Hubbard House

Moravian Falls vicinity, Wilkes County, WK0213, Listed 1/29/2009

Nomination by Mike Hubbard

Photographs by Jennifer Cathey and Becca Johnson, June 2008



Overall front view of house



Barn

**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 Hubbard, Benjamin, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Highway 18, north side, one mile east of SR1106 not for publication N/A

city or town Moravian Falls vicinity x

state North Carolina code NC county Wilkes code 193 zip code 28697

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X 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

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

Hubbard, Benjamin House
Name of Property

Wilkes 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 the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic /single dwelling
Agriculture/outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: V-Notched Log House

Other: Log Barn

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Metal

walls Log

Wood

other Stone

Narrative Description

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

Hubbard, Benjamin House
Name of Property

Wilkes 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.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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

1778 – ca. 1870

Significant Dates

1778 – ca.1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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: Michael Hubbard's personal collection of family documents

Hubbard, Benjamin House
Name of Property

Wilkes County, North Carolina
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 22.58

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>481340</u>	<u>3993880</u>
2	<u>17</u>	<u>481660</u>	<u>3993830</u>

	Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>17</u>	<u>481600</u>	<u>3993560</u>
4	<u>17</u>	<u>481300</u>	<u>3993580</u>

___ 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 Michael William Hubbard
organization _____ date August 31, 2008

street & number 1625 Mt. Pisgah Ch Rd telephone 919-363-1610
city or town Apex state NC zip code 27523

12. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Foothills Heritage Farm, Inc.
street & number 1625 Mt Pisgah Ch Rd telephone 919-363-1610
city or town Apex state NC zip code 27523

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 listings. 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hubbard, Benjamin, House
Wilkes County, North Carolina

Description

The Benjamin Hubbard House is a 1778 side-gabled log house with frame additions made to the east of the main block on two occasions, the first likely taking place in the 1790s and the second in ca. 1870. The house is located a mile and a half west of Moravian Falls and within fifty feet of the abandoned Old Burke Road to the south, which runs parallel to the current Highway 18. Seven miles to the east is Wilkesboro, the Wilkes County seat. The property is twenty-two acres of rolling terrain with Gin Branch running west to east through the property. The front porch faces due south and affords a view of the Brushy Mountain range. Behind the house, on the north side, are wooded ravines, pasture and crop areas, typical of late eighteenth century farmsteads in the foothills of the Yadkin River Valley. A large black walnut tree dominates the east side of the house, while two smaller walnuts are along the rear. A large hickory tree is on the west side of the house. Located to the northeast, 236 feet from the rear of the house, is a two-story, banked log barn, dating to 1846. The barn features covered, cantilevered logs on three sides allowing extra hay storage capacity under an extended roof. The house and barn are both in excellent condition.

The entire house rests on a fieldstone pier foundation and a hewn, oak log floor joist system. The roof is composed of metal panels dating to the early twentieth century and the windows were all replaced sometime in the early twentieth century. The facade reflects the original 1778 single-pen, two-story log house; the need for additional bedrooms in the story-and-a-half frame addition from the 1790s; and the single-story frame, kitchen addition from ca.1870.

Benjamin Hubbard House, Contributing Building, 1778, 1790s, ca. 1870

Log House, 1778

The original two-story, hall and parlor plan log house, built in early 1778, was the home of John Dyer and later acquired by Benjamin Hubbard in 1784. The floor plan is original and intact. The facade of the log portion has a centered door with single nine-over-six windows on either side, as well as two second-story six-over-six windows above a shed-roof porch, which runs the length of the original log structure. Accessed from the far west side of the porch is a small windowless saddle room, outside the main core of the house and abutting the massive, central single-shouldered fieldstone chimney on the west elevation. Weatherboard siding covers the building to the south side of the chimney, whereas to the north side of the chimney, the building is covered with board and batten siding. The rear (north) elevation has one lower and one upper-level nine-

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over-six window in the western half of the log portion. The entire length of the rear of the house is covered in board and batten siding.

This section of the house measures twenty-three feet wide and nineteen feet deep. The logs are joined with V-notching and the exterior is covered with weatherboard siding. In the upper gable ends, the siding above the logs is attached to a pegged, wooden frame. It is not known when the siding was replaced on the upper, east gable end and the wall above the front porch, but possibly when the rear shed portion was removed ca.1937. A full-length shed-roof front porch was a part of the original house and was constructed with a wood frame and plank flooring. All of the porch flooring was replaced at an unknown time. Five partially chamfered wooden posts, two of which are original, support the porch's framed roof and three inch wide tongue and groove ceiling. The exterior wall under the front porch roof is covered with horizontal tongue and groove boards. At the west end of the porch, tucked beside the chimney, is a small, window less frame room with a ca. 1937 replacement vertical plank door. According to family memory, this was used to store riding saddles.

There were originally ten glass-paned windows in the house. One window on the northeast side and the second-story window, which lit the stairwell in the rear, were boarded over at the time of the first expansion to the east and north. A second window on the southeast side was converted to a second-story access to the first addition. The middle, second-story window, directly over the front door, was covered and the remaining windows were replaced with wood double-hung sash, probably ca.1937. One pair of wooden louvered shutters remains on the first-floor east window of the log house. There were originally two vertical plank exterior doors on the log house, one front and one rear, but the rear parlor door opening was boarded over during the ca. 1937 removal of the rear shed wing of the house, which was added as part of the first addition.

The eaves are boxed, including the fascia, soffit and cornice. The rake includes a fascia and molding. The roof rafters are four to six-inch round wooden poles, pegged at the ridge and wall plate. Common purlins are spaced to support what was the original, rough split oak, shingled roof. The west gable-end stone chimney vents a lower and an upper fireplace, and is in excellent condition, with only the surface inch or two of the clay mortar missing due to exposure.

The mantels throughout are constructed with layered molding in simple vernacular designs reflecting the Federal style. The first floor parlor interior has a three-inch wide, tongue and groove pine floor covering the original six-inch wide, tongue and groove pine boards. The interior wall surface of the outer walls and ceiling is covered with three to six inch wide flush board sheathing, some of which is whitewashed. The door, window and fireplace trim are of a

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simple design, as is the period paneled wainscoting around the parlor walls. The fireplace hearth was slightly raised at the time the existing floor was installed, probably ca. 1870. Trim molding around all but two windows has been replaced with plain, six-inch wide boards. A non-weight-bearing, interior room partition consists of vertical pine boards placed side to side. This wall stands between the eight feet wide by fourteen feet deep bedroom and the thirteen feet wide by seventeen feet deep parlor. A vertical plank door provides access to the bedroom. An under stair closet, with a vertical plank door, serves the bedroom.

The enclosed winder stair is accessed from the rear, east side of the parlor and turns to run along the original east exterior wall. The original balustrade, which is missing the straight balusters, separates the stairwell opening from the second floor (Please refer to the exhibit floor plan). The second-floor rooms have the same footprint as the lower rooms, with a main bedroom to the west, divided from the smaller bedroom into which the stairwell opens by a plank wall. The fireplace hearth in the west room is slightly off-center from the firebox opening, and the flooring is the original six-inch wide, tongue and groove pine. The ceiling height is approximately six feet six inches.

First Addition, 1790s

The first expansion to the house occurred in the 1790s on the east gable end of the original log house. It is a story and a half frame bedroom addition measuring fifteen feet wide by nineteen feet deep and includes a closet and fireplace. Log floor joists rest on a fieldstone pier foundation and exterior walls in the east gable end are covered with weatherboard siding, while horizontal flush board sheathing covers the walls under the front porch. The chimney in this addition is composed of fieldstones on the lower portion and brick on the upper portion. It was initially an exterior end chimney but through the construction of the third addition it has become an interior chimney that serves both the second and third additions. The roofing system consists of common rafters, hewn and pegged at the wall plate and nailed to a ridge board. Tie beams are present along with the purlins that originally supported a rough-split oak shingle roof. The eaves are open with exposed rafters. The facade has a vertical plank front door on the west side. Sometime in the mid-twentieth century, the original single nine-over-six window on the east side of the facade was replaced with a paired nine-over-six sash double-hung window. The rear elevation has a door opening directly to the attic stairs and a single six-over-six window.

Also built as part of this first addition were two shed rooms, the larger of which included a fireplace probably used for cooking. A single-run staircase from this kitchen area led to a loft bedroom that covered the attic area of the gable addition. The door at the bottom of those stairs now opens directly out into the rear yard of the house. Interior access to the rear shed rooms was

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from the rear parlor door in the main block of the house. This door has since been covered. When the shed rooms and rear porch were removed ca. 1937, the back of the house was covered with vertical board and batten siding (Note the exhibit floor plan).

The first-story bedroom in the addition measures fourteen and a half feet wide by thirteen and a half feet deep, and includes an eleven and a half foot wide by four foot deep closet on the rear (north) wall. There is a replacement window in this closet, which was probably added around 1937 when the rear shed portion of the house was removed. The closet door is of vertical plank construction, as is the door that connects this addition to the main block of the house. The box stair to the loft area creates a small storage area, the same depth as the closet. The interior walls are six-inch wide unpainted horizontal boards. The original six-inch wide tongue and groove pine flooring is covered with three-inch wide tongue and groove pine flooring matching the parlor flooring.

Second Addition, ca. 1870

The second, twenty-three feet wide by fifteen feet deep one-story frame addition, completed ca. 1874, was built directly off the east gable end of the earlier addition. The exterior siding is vertical rough-sawn board and batten. Log floor joists, fieldstone foundation piers, framed walls of rough-sawn lumber, and a common rafter roofing system are found in this addition as well. The front porch was further extended with this addition to shelter the entire length of the house; however, this shallower section of the porch was removed ca. 1937 at the time the shed rooms and porch were removed from the rear of the house. A shed-roof porch supported by square porch posts is located on the east gable end and covers a hand dug well at the northeast end of the porch. The porch depth was increased and the porch flooring was converted from a plank floor to concrete in the 1950s. The façade has two six-over-six windows and the rear has a vertical plank door at the west end and a single six-over-six window to the east. The east elevation has a centered, vertical plank door to the kitchen.

The interior of this addition consists of two rooms that are divided by a partition wall two planks thick running from front to back. There is a door opening in the wall partition, but no door. The smaller room to the west, measuring ten and a half feet wide by fourteen feet deep, is separated from the 1790s first-story bedroom by a vertical plank door. The whitewashed chimney from the first addition has a stove pipe opening and is visible in this room. The room's historic function is not known. The larger, kitchen room to the east is twelve feet wide by fourteen feet deep.

The integrity of the Hubbard House is sound, in that few alterations have been made. The only major changes have involved the removal of the rear shed portion and the replacement of

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exterior weatherboards, windows and roof sheathing. The stone chimney, log joist, doors, flooring, walls, moldings, mantels, roof rafters and purlins are all original.

Barn, Contributing Building, 1846

The two-story barn was constructed in 1846, and with an unusual combination of design features, appears to be a hybrid of traditional barn forms. The structure possesses a cantilevered roof and multi-pen floorplan similar to other barns in the mountains of western North Carolina and east Tennessee, though different in proportion and roof form. Its form is also reminiscent of the cantilevered bank barns of the Mid-Atlantic States.

The exterior dimensions of the structure are roughly thirty feet wide by thirty-five feet deep, with the rear (north) side banked into a gentle slope. The structure of the barn is composed of two log pens, approximately eleven feet wide by thirty-five feet in length, with a thirteen feet wide runway in between. The rear (north) end of the runway opens into an embankment, while the front (south) end sits three to four feet above ground level. A log wall (transverse to the runway) divides the barn interior into six areas, four stables on the ground floor and two storage lofts on the upper floor. This dividing wall also marks a transition in the roof structure. A side-gabled roof sits atop the lofts and runway, while a shed roof covers the rear stables. The roofing system consists of skinned wood rafter poles mortised and pegged at the ridge and plate. Original roofing materials were likely wood shakes or shingles, though the roof and rear wall are now sheathed in 5-V metal roofing.

Two ten feet by twelve feet stables, accessible from exterior doors cut into the log walls, are located at the rear (north) end of the barn, under the shed roof. Larger ground-floor stables (also accessible by exterior doors) and upper-floor haylofts lay under the gable-roof portion of the structure. The ground-floor stables at the front of the barn contain feeding troughs hewn from massive single logs. Pockets cut into some sidewall logs indicate the location of temporary interior dividing walls, and openings are cut into the interior runway walls in order to pass feed into the stables. Logs and floor joists in the structure range from approximately eleven to twenty-five inches in width.

A pent roof positioned below the gabled roofline wraps the front and sides of the barn, accentuating the unusual shape of the structure. The pent roof is supported by the top logs of the pens and dividing wall, which extend approximately six feet from the front and side walls. An intermediate log in each pen (about three courses down from the top of each wall) is also cantilevered out six feet. Although the ends of these logs no longer support any building

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material, they presumably would have once supported flooring for additional, exterior hay storage.

Aside from limited deterioration of logs and floor joists in the right rear pen, the barn is in generally excellent condition without obvious modern alteration except for the twentieth-century metal roofing.

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Statement of Significance

Built in 1778, the Benjamin Hubbard House is a single-pen, side-gabled, hall and parlor plan, log house with frame additions made to the east of the main block on two occasions, in the 1790s and again ca. 1870. The construction of the Benjamin Hubbard House is significant for its embodiment of artisan craftsmanship and quality materials. Building artisans were often among the first settlers in communities, and with the Hubbard House being located on a regional trade route quality building materials of all kinds were readily available.¹ Early settlers built simple “log cabins”, but later, second generation “log houses” were distinctive in form and materials, such as two-story, hall-parlor plans with hewn logs, glass windows, and weatherboard siding.² The first addition to the Hubbard House epitomizes the emergence of frame houses in the North Carolina foothills in the 1790s.³ As families grew and became more prosperous, additions to the building core were common. This first addition is a one-and-a-half-story, one-over-one room plan, frame building that provided more bedrooms; and the second addition, a one-story, two-room, frame building, that provided an updated kitchen space and possible dining space. The integrity of craftsmanship and the quality of materials is evident today in the excellent condition of the 230-year-old house. The house meets National Register Criterion C as an excellent early hall and parlor plan, v-notched log house, with two early frame additions, and the period of significance is from 1778 to ca. 1870.

The two-story log barn to the rear of the Hubbard House, built in 1846, also meets National Register Criterion C as an example of an unusual combination of design features which is a hybrid of traditional barn forms not seen elsewhere in Wilkes County. The structure possesses a cantilevered roof and multi-pen floor plan similar to other barns in the mountains of western North Carolina and east Tennessee, though different in proportion and roof form. Its form is also reminiscent of the cantilevered bank barns of the Mid-Atlantic states.

Historical Background

During the eighteenth century, the population of North Carolina exploded. Settlers from the mid-Atlantic colonies poured into the Piedmont back county.⁴ The number of North Carolinians grew from about 35,000 in 1730 to about 200,000 in 1775. By 1800, the population was

¹ Swaim, Doug ed. Carolina Dwelling. (The Student Publication, 1978), 30.

² Bishir, Catherine. North Carolina Architecture, 173.

³ Bishir, Catherine W. and Michael T. Southern, Jennifer F. Martin. A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 24.

⁴ Bishir and Brown. Architects and Builders in North Carolina, 48.

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478,103.⁵ Almost exclusively rural, the state's economic and social life was based on small family farms. These widely scattered frontier farms developed into communities along major roadways and crossroads. Such was the case along the Yadkin River valley in the foothills of Wilkes County.

From the mid-eighteenth century onward, land hungry, white settlers pressed into the western foothills of North Carolina, along the fertile, upper stretches of the Yadkin River valley. Wilkes County was formed by the North Carolina state legislature in 1778. The county was named after John Wilkes, a member of Parliament, who supported American rights. The county is bordered by the Blue Ridge on the north and the Brushy Mountains on the south, with the Yadkin River flowing east across the center.⁶

In 1803, Colonel William Waugh built a home and general merchandise store in the community known as "Forks in the Road", later to be called Moravian Falls in 1874. Waugh built the first bur flour-mill in Wilkes County on Moravian Creek and a corn mill, linseed oil mill and a wool-carding machine were also provided to the local farmers for the processing of their crops.⁷ These farmers were primarily subsistence farmers, but did sell their surplus crops in nearby Wilkesboro, Morganton and Salisbury. In the early days, horse racing was a favorite past time and a race track was built in Forks in the Road.⁸ From the late eighteenth century, the first and only iron smelter in Wilkes County to produce iron from native ore was forged on Moravian Creek.⁹ County seats were established with Morganton, founded in 1799, in Burke County, and Wilkesboro, established in 1801, in Wilkes County.¹⁰ In these two towns, merchants maintained contact with their counterparts in Charleston and other markets in the low country of South Carolina, and sometimes with Philadelphia and New York.¹¹ Burke Road, the stagecoach road from Forks in the Road to Morganton in Burke County, was a well-traveled trading path, allowing for the acquisition of building materials such as nails, window glass and door hardware, as well as allowing an outlet for surplus farm products such as tobacco and cereal crops of wheat and corn grown for market.

⁵ Ibid, 48.

⁶ Ibid, 2.

⁷ Anderson, Jay J. "Wilkes County Sketches". Bicentennial Edition. 35, 36

⁸ Ibid, 35

⁹ Ibid, 37

¹⁰ Bishir and Southern. Guide to Architecture of Western North Carolina, 19.

¹¹ Ibid, 19.

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In 1778, John Dyer and his family settled on land along the Burke Road, approximately a mile and a half from Forks in the Road. Tapping the abundance of virgin forest, he built, probably in conjunction with local artisans, a distinctive log house utilizing purchased materials including weatherboard, glass, and hardware. The land he settled has a gently rolling terrain bordered on the east by Moravian Creek. In 1784, John sold his property to his son-in-law Benjamin Hubbard and returned to his native state of Virginia. It is believed that the house was first expanded in the 1790s to create additional sleeping quarters since the family had grown to ten household members as listed in the 1800 census. Benjamin and his wife, Rosanna Dyer Hubbard, raised six children in the house. Benjamin was active in the community as a road overseer, juror and member of the militia. He farmed the land until his death in 1823, having amassed over 1300 acres. Benjamin's son, Joel Hubbard, inherited the property and died the next year at twenty-three years of age. Joel's only child, William Henry Hubbard, married Jane Saner in 1846, and they raised eleven children on the farm over the next fifty years.

The farm log outbuildings, built by Benjamin, included a blacksmith shop, tobacco barns, spring-house and double-sided corn-crib. The construction date of a frame smokehouse is unknown. None of these outbuildings are extant. The surviving barn was built in 1846 from logs given as a wedding gift by the bride's family to William Henry and Jane Saner Hubbard. By 1874, William Henry had expanded the house a second time, adding a new kitchen, which included a new cast iron stove.¹² As the county magistrate, William Henry held official court sessions from the bench seats that still grace the front porch. He died in 1897, at the age of seventy-three.

William Henry's son, William Rufus Jackson Hubbard moved from the house around 1907. Corrugated metal replaced the wood shake roofing material on the house and barn, probably in the early twentieth century. The farm outbuildings, with the exception of the 1846 barn, as well as the rear shed portion of the house were removed ca. 1937 due to deterioration. With the rear shed removed, the doors leading to the main house were covered in board and batten siding, as was the entire rear of the house. It is believed that all of the windows were replaced and electricity brought to the house ca. 1960 in preparation for what turned out to be a very brief tenancy. Hubbard family reunions have been held annually at the "Old Home Place" since 1918. Descendents owned and maintained the property until 2008. The property is now owned by Foothills Heritage Farms, Inc., a non-profit corporation whose task is to restore and preserve the Hubbard Farm.

¹² Surratt, Lella Hubbard. "Memories of Home".

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Architectural Context

The first white settler arrived in what would be Wilkes County in 1750.¹³ There was typically a lag of twenty to thirty years between initial settlement in a county and the first regular appearance of apprenticeship bonds for carpenters, joiners, and bricklayers in the county records.¹⁴ This helps explain the quality workmanship demonstrated in the 1778 construction of the Benjamin Hubbard House, twenty-eight years after the area's settlement.

Artisans, versatile in their skills, were mobile and able to travel and work throughout an area as large as three counties.¹⁵ It seems likely that specialized tradesmen helped to construct the Hubbard house. The intricately constructed fieldstone chimney from onsite material suggests a mason's craftsmanship and a joiner's work is evident in the Federal-style fireplace mantles, wainscoting, and trim molding.

The full-length front porch seen on the Hubbard house was common in Southern houses by the late 1700s.¹⁶ The one-over-one or two-over-two room layout of a bedroom or bedrooms over a parlor or parlor and bedroom is typical of log houses, and the proportion of room size reflects the value of interior space.¹⁷ The parlor of the Hubbard House is five feet wider than the smaller bedroom, with the same proportions in the upstairs rooms.

From the 1780s, when traditional building flourished at all levels of society, log architecture in North Carolina attained its greatest variety and quality.¹⁸ V-notching, in which the top of each log is cut to a triangular form, was the predominant notching method in the Piedmont of North Carolina through out the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, often used with a two-story block form.¹⁹ Undulated furring strips were crafted to counter the imprecise squaring of the logs, allowing a plumb surface on which to attach the weatherboard. The construction techniques of the components indicate the quality with which the house was built. These components included a shingled roof, glass windows, an enclosed rake, shutters, a full-length front porch, an enclosed stairway, and tongue-and-groove flooring. The Benjamin Hubbard House is an excellent example of refined log construction containing interior and exterior details that display sophisticated craftsmanship.

¹³ Anderson, JJ. "Remember When? Important Dates in Wilkes Noted." The Journal-Patriot, Bicentennial Edition.

¹⁴ Bishir and Brown. Architects and Builders in North Carolina, 53.

¹⁵ Bisher and Brown. Architects and Builders in North Carolina, 103.

¹⁶ McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses, 82.

¹⁷ Bishir, Catherine. North Carolina Architecture, 174.

¹⁸ Ibid, 173.

¹⁹ Bishir, Catherine. North Carolina Architecture, 174.

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In search of reasonably priced frontier land, immigrants from Germany, Scotland, Ireland and England, along with settlers from other states, settled the piedmont area of North Carolina, around 1740. The multi-ethnic architectural traditions found in the colonies at that time had begun to become homogenized by the period of residence with other immigrants.²⁰ Buildings preserved a blending of culture and an adaptation of that blend to the materials at hand. The v-notched, two-story log houses with enclosed winder stairs and rooms of unequal size in a hall and parlor plan reflect elements of traditional German building techniques. This tradition also included an interior centered chimney, but the Hubbard House demonstrates the assimilation of the Tidewater, Anglo tradition of exterior, gable-end chimneys into the German floor plan.²¹ Early, influential Pennsylvania settlers conformed to a Scotch-Irish form of rectangular log houses built using German techniques, with spaces left between the logs for chinking and frequently covering the logs with board siding, as with the Hubbard House.²²

Wilkes County was the home of many of the wealthier planters of Western North Carolina due to its lush river valley farmland and its access to regional trade routes. This prosperity, along with the growing family's increased spatial needs, led to larger homes with more sleeping quarters and kitchen space. Framed houses, using sawn lumber from an increasing number of sawmills, were built in the area as early as the 1790s, at the same time of the first framed addition to the Hubbard House.²³ Many houses were constructed with elaborate detailing and finer building materials, such as moldings, metal hardware and glass. In the 1790s, Benjamin Hubbard, as with many residents, could afford these materials, which were available from nearby and distant commercial centers along readily accessible trading routes.

The Benjamin Hubbard House is one of only a few known examples of late eighteenth-century, two-story, hall and parlor plan, log houses in the foothills separating the western piedmont and eastern mountain regions of western North Carolina. One of these examples, the Bray House, in adjacent Surry County, is in fair condition today. It has a single-pen design and is a two-story log house built in the late eighteenth century. The hall and parlor plan and mortised rafters are the primary clues as to the construction period along with the vertical plank door. As in the Hubbard House, the Bray House has an enclosed corner stairway, but contrary to the Hubbard House, it is sheathed with corrugated metal. Another such structure is the Prospt House. Built around 1792,

²⁰ Stoner, Paula. "Early Folk Architecture of Washington County". *Maryland Historical Magazine* 72(4), 512-22.

²¹ Kniffen, Fred. *Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion*. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 1965, 561.

²² Swaim, Doug ed, *Carolina Dwelling*. (The Student Publication, 1978), 31.

²³ Bisher, Catherine W. and Michael T. Southern. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*. (Chapel Hill: University Of North Carolina Press, 1999), 24.

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this house has been moved from its original site and completely restored. It is now located at the assemblage of log structures known as Hart's Square in Caldwell County. The Prospt House is a two-story, single-pen, log structure with five windows on the front, as formerly found on the Hubbard House. Vertical plank doors, an elaborate field stone chimney, and a winder stair are also comparable features. The Prospt House has half-dovetail log notching as opposed to the Hubbard House's-notching. The Prospt House also did not have a rear shed addition. Another example of the influence of this form and construction into the nineteenth century is the Butler-Moser House in Surry County. Built ca.1830, this two-story, log house is deteriorated but still reflects its side-gable, single-pen, hall and parlor plan without a corner stair. The boxed cornice, nine-over-six, first-story windows, and the six-over-six, second-story windows are characteristic of time and place, and are also seen on the Hubbard House. The Hubbard and Butler-Moser Houses each had a large one-story, shed addition along the rear, but the Butler house also had one on the façade. These prototype houses were the dominant folk architecture in the rural South until well into the twentieth century.

The two-story barn was constructed in 1846, and it contributes to the historic setting of the house. It has an unusual combination of design features, a hybrid of traditional barn forms not seen elsewhere in Wilkes County. The structure possesses a cantilevered roof and multi-pen floor plan similar to other barns in the mountains of western North Carolina and east Tennessee, though different in proportion and roof form. Its form is also reminiscent of the cantilevered bank barns of the Mid-Atlantic states. Although no countywide survey for Wilkes County has been completed, no barns comparable to the Hubbard barn were noted in surveys completed in surrounding counties.

The rear (north) side of the barn is banked into a gentle slope. The structure of the barn is composed of two log pens with a wide runway in between. The rear (north) end of the runway opens into an embankment, while the front (south) end sits three to four feet above ground level. A log wall (transverse to the runway) divides the barn interior into stables on the ground floor and storage lofts on the upper floor. A side-gabled roof sits atop the lofts and runway, while a shed roof covers the rear stables which are accessible from exterior doors cut into the log walls. The roofing system consists of skinned wood rafter poles mortised and pegged at the ridge and plate. Original roofing materials were likely wood shakes or shingles, though the roof and rear wall are now sheathed in 5-V metal roofing. Larger ground-floor stables (also accessible by exterior doors) are located under the gable-roof portion of the structure. The ground-floor stables at the front of the barn contain feeding troughs hewn from massive single logs. Pockets cut into some side wall logs indicate the location of temporary interior dividing walls, and openings are cut into the interior runway walls in order to pass feed into the stables.

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A pent roof positioned below the gabled roofline wraps the front and sides of the barn, accentuating the unusual shape of the structure. The pent roof is supported by the top logs of the pens and dividing wall, which extend approximately six feet from the front and side walls. An intermediate log in each pen (about three courses down from the top of each wall) is also cantilevered out six feet. Although the ends of these logs no longer support any building material, they presumably would have once supported flooring for additional, exterior hay storage.

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Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property for the Benjamin Hubbard House is shown by a heavy line on the accompanying tax map at a scale of 1 inch equals 466 feet. The nominated tract is approximately 22 acres, tax map 3845, block 88, lot 0307..

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the residual 22.58 acres historically associated with the Benjamin Hubbard House.

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The following applies to all of the photographs:

Name: Benjamin Hubbard House
Location: Moravian Falls vicinity, Wilkes County, NC
Photographer's Names: Jennifer Cathy
Rebecca Johnson

Date of Photographs: August, 2008
Location of original: NC SHPO

Description of View:

- #1 Façade, oblique view, north
- #2 Second addition, oblique view, southeast
- #3 Rear, oblique view, northwest
- #4 Main House interior, parlor
- #5 Second addition interior, bedroom
- #6 Third addition interior, kitchen
- #7 Barn, oblique view, southwest
- #8 Barn interior, west log wall (transverse to runway)