

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Bower-Cox House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER NE side SR 1595, 0.1 mi. SE of junction with SR 1593

CITY, TOWN _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 VICINITY OF Nathans Creek 5th

STATE North Carolina CODE 37 COUNTY Ashe CODE 009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. A. B. HuRt

STREET & NUMBER Route 2

CITY, TOWN Crumpler _____ VICINITY OF North Carolina STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Ashe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Jefferson STATE North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bower-Cox House is a frame structure with weatherboard sheathing. It has a "T" plan formed by two, two-story blocks of almost equal size, constructed at different times. The ca. 1820 late Federal south block has a one-story shed-roof porch across the full length of the south elevation. The later ell, behind this block, has a one-story shed-roof porch across the east elevation and a two-story porch across its west elevation which is now regarded as the "front" of the house.

The south block has a gable roof finished with a box cornice and tapering rake boards. On the south elevation, a one-story, shed-roof porch protects flush sheathing in which is set a window containing six-over-six sash. The door to the east of the window has been removed and the opening is now sheathed over. The porch, replaced about 1930, is supported by four posts, square-in-section, which rest on cement caps above rock piers, also square-in-section. The second level has a two-bay division with one window original to the south block containing nine-over-nine sash and a replacement window containing six-over-six sash.

An exterior brick flue constructed in common bond on the foundations of an earlier chimney rises at the east gable end. A very fine exterior single-shoulder chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond stands at the west gable end. It is flanked by windows containing six-over-six sash on the first level and windows containing nine-over-six sash on the second level. The window surrounds vary throughout the house. Those around the windows of nine-over-six sash have plain surrounds with a molded back band. The surrounds on the later windows of six-over-six sash are plain unmolded boards.

The north elevation of the early section is covered by the later, ca. 1870-75, ell. The west elevation of the ell has a three-bay division on both levels and is fronted by a two-story porch four bays wide. The first level of the porch is supported by short unfluted columns which rest on cement capped rock piers, square-in-section, which were installed about 1930. The second level of the porch is supported by posts, square-in-section, with a balustrade of simple balusters, also square-in-section, under an unmolded hand rail. The paired gable roofs (which cover the ell), are arranged transversely, and each extends over the four bays of the porch. Their pented fronts are clad in weatherboards and contain rectangular ventilators. The roof pents are covered with wood shingles. The windows behind the porch contain six-over-six sash and are set in molded architraves which curve outward at the top. The door surrounds vary, but those on the first bay (immediately behind the earlier block), on both levels have modeled lintels with curved tops while the door in the northern bay of the second level has a plain surround with a molded back band.

The west elevation of the ell has a single window containing six-over-six sash at both levels. A one-story shed-roof porch carries across the full length of the east elevation of the ell; the northern end has been enclosed.

The interior of the original block follows a hall-and-parlor plan and is primarily Federal in character, though the existing first floor partition appears to be a later replacement. No clear evidence remains as to the placement of the stair in this section; the second floor may have been reached by a rear exterior stair similar to that

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of the nearby McMillan House of a slightly later period. The Greek Revival character of the second floor doors to the present stair hall bears out this supposition.

The mantel of the west parlor probably dates from the period of the Victorian addition; a narrow shelf rests on square end blocks supported in turn by flat, narrow pilasters flanking the fire opening. A raised triangular block with stepped and molded edges, a motif similar to other later nineteenth century mantel ornamentation in the area, is attached under the shelf at the center. The mantel of the smaller east room has been removed, and a twentieth century bathroom has been installed on the north side of the room. Walls of both rooms, with exception of the newer partitions, retain their original wide flush sheathing.

The interior space of the Victorian addition extends northward in a linear fashion with a stair hall and two rooms running south to north. The stair hall joins the west parlor of the original block with a six-panel Federal door which was the original exterior rear door of the late Federal section. The open-string stair rises to the east along the south wall to a landing, and completes the ascent with a short reverse flight to the second floor hall. The newel, square-in-section, has a neck molding and a simple molded cap. Balusters, square-in-section, support the molded handrail.

The door to the second floor east room of the original block is reached by three steps rising off the landing. This door has two vertical raised panels. The mantel in the east room is the only remaining original one; it consists of plain pilasters flanking a square fire opening surmounted by two flat panels trimmed with a delicate applied molding. The shallow shelf is supported by small, square, molded brackets at the ends and in the center.

The door in the second floor interior partition is unusual; it is composed of four panels, a horizontal panel at the top and bottom with two vertical panels between. The panels are raised with a thin applied molding on the same side as the bevel. This door no longer reaches the west room, as a new partition extends across that room, forming a long narrow closet. The west room has been completely refinished in sheet rock, and its mantel removed. The door joining it to the stair hall has three narrow vertical raised panels.

The second floor interior of the Victorian wing follows the linear arrangement and plain finish of the first, with machine made doors set in plain board architraves.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bower-Cox House belonged to two of Ashe County's most prominent citizens of the nineteenth century and like other houses it has enjoyed additions and alterations to the original fabric by a series of owners. George Bower was prominent in both political and commercial circles and had extensive land holdings throughout the county. He erected the Federal-style section of this house around 1820. In 1852, he sold the house and adjacent property to Dr. Aras B. Cox, who wrote a history of the settlement of the area, a running monologue on the most prominent families, Footprints in the Sands of Time. Dr. Cox added the wing to the rear of the Bower house, after the Civil War, expanding the house to its present proportions.

Probably sometime around 1820 George Bower built a house on the South Fork of the New River near Silas Branch in Ashe County. Between 1800 and 1820 he purchased several large amounts of land on the South Fork. But because these purchases involved numerous transactions, and since contemporary landmarks are now obscure, it is not possible to determine from whom Bower obtained the property on which he erected his house.

George Bower was an influential resident of Ashe County in the early nineteenth century. In 1807 he was constable of the Ashe County Court. He also served in the North Carolina Senate from 1812 to 1817, longer than any other state senator from Ashe County. Besides his role in public service, Bower was a successful farmer and businessman who, in addition to his South Fork farm house, built an imposing brick house (1828-1850) which still stands on Main Street in Jefferson. He ran his farm with the labor of thirty-three slaves, and according to local tradition, he drowned in the Yadkin River in 1861 while pursuing one of his runaway chattels.¹

In 1852 Bower had sold to Aras B. Cox "a certain parcel of land lying and being in the County of Ashe . . . on the waters of the South Fork . . . of New River on Silas Branch . . . estimated at four hundred acres."² Evidently this conveyance included the Bower House.

Dr. Aras B. Cox was a locally prominent physician who served as Clerk of Superior Court in 1849 and 1853. Ashe County citizens remember him as a leader in establishing the Sutherland Methodist Church around 1856. His real and personal estate, which included the Bower-Cox House and eight slaves, was valued at \$12,600 in 1860. Cox also commanded a company of Confederate infantry during the Civil War.³

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The Ashe County records do not reveal when Aras B. Cox died or how he disposed of his estate. But his granddaughter, Mrs. Ruth Cox Huft, who is still living, testifies that he deeded his property on Silas Branch to his son, Solomon V. Cox, in the late nineteenth century. Mrs. Huft, who married A. B. Huft of Ashe County in 1917, also recalls that her father, Solomon V. Cox, deeded the Bower-Cox House tract to her before his death in 1913. The house became the property of A. B. Huft when he and the former Ruth Cox married, but in his will, probated in 1961, Huft devised the Bower-Cox place to his "beloved wife, Ruth Cox Huft."⁴ In 1963 Mrs. Huft deeded the Bower-Cox House and land to her son, A. B. Huft, Jr., while "reserving a life estate" in the property until her death.⁵

FOOTNOTES:

¹ Arthur L. Fletcher, Ashe County: A History (Jefferson: Ashe County Research Association, Inc., 1963), pp. 88, 299; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Ashe County, North Carolina, Schedule 2, Slave Inhabitants, 5; R. D. W. Conner (comp. and ed.), A Manual of North Carolina . . . 1913 (Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission, 1913), p. 491.

² Ashe County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Ashe County Courthouse, Jefferson, Deed Book R: 12, hereinafter cited as Ashe Deed Books.

³ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Ashe County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 496; Fletcher, Ashe County, pp. 89, 168; John W. Moore, ed., Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War Between the States, Vol. III (Raleigh: Edwards, Broughton and Company, 1882), 710.

⁴ Ashe County Record of Wills. Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Ashe County Courthouse, Will Book I: 127-28.

⁵ Ashe Deed Book H-4: 128.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashe County Deed Books. Office of the Register of Deeds, Ashe County Courthouse, Jefferson.
 Ashe County Record of Wills. Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Ashe County Courthouse, Jefferson.
 Conner, R. D. W., comp. and ed. A Manual of North Carolina . . . 1913, Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission, 1913.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	46,713,4,0	4,013,312,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Davyd Foard Hood, consultant, Michael T. Southern, NAME/TITLE survey specialist, architectural description; Joe A. Mobley, survey specialist, significance

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives and History

June 29, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

919/829-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Larry Edm

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7/8/76

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Fletcher, Arthur L., Ashe County: A History. Jefferson: Ashe County Research Association, Inc., 1963.

Moore, John W., ed., Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War Between the States, 3 vols. Raleigh: Edwards, Broughton and Company, 1882.

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Ashe County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Schedule 2, Slave Inhabitants.

