

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 (former) Avery County Jail

other names/site number Avery County Historical Museum

2. Location

street & number 1829 Schultz Circle Not for publication

city or town Newland vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Avery code 011 zip code 28657

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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 11/2/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

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	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Correctional Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Museum - Recreational and Cultural

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Utilitarian Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete block

walls brick

stucco

roof metal, standing seam

other wood

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government _____

Architecture _____

Social History _____

Period of Significance

1913-1949 _____

Significant Dates

1913 _____

Architect/Builder

Wheeler & Runge, Architects _____

Campbell, R. C., Builder _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ~~less than one acre~~

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	117	416560	3993780
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Helen Quillin Cain/ Museum Consultant

organization _____ date March 12, 1999

street & number 1146 Lyncrest Avenue telephone (601) 355-8230

city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39202

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Avery County Historical Museum

street & number P. O. Box 266 telephone (828) 733-7111

city or town Newland state N. C. zip code 28657

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 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 20503.

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(former) Avery County Jail, Avery County, N. C.

Narrative Description

The former Avery County Jail is set on a well-maintained site at one end of the town park in Newland, North Carolina. The former jail is located to the east of the Avery County Courthouse (NR #1432), facing north. Built in 1913, the former jail, like the courthouse, was designed by architects Wheeler & Runge of Charlotte, North Carolina. Newland, the highest county seat east of the Mississippi River at 3,589 feet, is located in the approximate center of Avery County in the mountains of western North Carolina. Presently, the former jail shares the less-than-one-acre site with a mid-1800s log smokehouse that was moved in 1976 to its location northeast of the jail building.¹ A paved asphalt parking lot extends to both the north and south of the former jail, and a few small plantings grow near the foundation of the building. The jail ceased to be used as a correctional facility in 1972, and in 1976 the Avery County Historical Museum moved into the building, where it continues to operate.

(former) Avery County Jail. 1913. Contributing

Exterior

The (former) Avery County Jail is a two-story masonry building with small one-story wings on the west and south walls of the rear wing. The cross-hip-roofed building is characterized by an attic gable and an almost-full-façade hip-roofed porch on the main façade of the one-room-deep front or top wing of the "T" and symmetrical fenestration throughout. The historic building has retained original architectural details that include the turned porch posts and double-hung window sash in segmental-arched openings.

The two-story main structure is of double-walled construction of hand-formed pressed brick. All of the exterior walls are stuccoed in a rough texture and painted white. The main façade is three bays wide and the large rear unit of the "T" is two bays deep. Small, original one-story wings extend from the south and the west sides of the building. The entire building sits on a continuous foundation of concrete block.

At the three-bay principal façade, the porch supported by turned posts on concrete plinths shelters a centered main entry with a plain replacement wooden door. On this and other façades, the symmetrically placed openings are segmental-arched and contain wood surrounds and sills or thresholds embracing rectilinear doors or double-hung two-

¹ Frank Hamlin, Avery County Historical Museum, Interview with author, October 1998.

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over-two windows. First-story windows are quite tall; second-story windows are shorter. All windows are covered with steel, diamond-pattern security bars.

Like the main façade, the other sides of the main structure are rather austere, characterized by cleanly incised openings. On the east façade, the front wing is one bay deep with one window opening on each story. On the two-bay east façade of the rear wing, one of the second-story windows has been converted to a door opening to a metal fire escape leading to the ground, while an early five-panel door with wooden storm door apparently no longer functions as a door, as indicated by the absence of a stoop and the presence of the diamond-pattern security bars. The two-bay south façade features two windows on the second story and an original one-story, one-bay-deep wing with hipped roof below. Similarly, the two-bay west façade has two window openings at the second story and two one-bay-deep wings below, one with a gable roof and one with a shed roof. All windows in the one-story wings are fairly small and square, with two-over-two double-hung sash.

The roof structure is in good condition, with boxed eaves throughout. Standing seam metal covers the two-story units and the front porch; asphalt shingles cover the roofs of the one-story wings.

The principal alteration to the building is the 1960s addition of a one-story, flat-roofed wing positioned on the west elevation of the two-story block so that its main façade is flush with the original building's main facade. Construction of this stuccoed cinder block wing entailed removal of an original exterior end chimney. The principal façade is symmetrically organized, with a door flanked by large tripartite windows or a single fixed pane between narrow, double-hung sash. The entry door is plain wood and currently acts as the main entrance to the entire structure, as the historic entrance has been sealed to control access to the building.

Interior

Because the building was intended to serve dual purposes--jail and housing for the sheriff--the space was organized accordingly into correctional and domestic uses. Most of the first floor contained the living spaces for the sheriff and his family. The main entry opens into a vestibule with the stairs to the second floor. The stair balustrade, spindles, and newel post are square-in-section milled wood and original to the house. On either side of the main entry, doorways lead to large rooms. To the west was originally the sheriff's bedroom with a fireplace and the room to the east was originally the sheriff's or deputy's sitting room. A door in the south wall of the sitting room leads to the original

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(former) Avery County Jail, Avery County, N. C.

dining room, located in the east half of the two-story rear wing, while the west half contained the original kitchen, which connected to the dining room through a doorway. On the northwest wall of the kitchen is a door that opens into the original storeroom. The sheriff's wife would typically cook for the deputy and prisoners, as well as her own family.

The domestic rooms used by the sheriff as living space are in good condition and have maintained their original materials. The floors are hardwood, the walls are either plaster or beaded wood paneling, and the ceilings are plaster or pressed tin. The hardware is original and in good working condition. There were no original furnishings in the building because each sheriff brought his own with him.

The majority of the building was devoted to correctional uses. The south end of the rear wing originally contained a hallway, small office, two rooms used to house female prisoners, an evidence room, and a small storeroom. These rooms have original concrete floors, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings. The evidence room also has a pressed tin ceiling. Almost all of the second floor was used for correctional purposes. The plan of the front wing is the same as below. The east room originally housed the sheriff's office, where he booked the prisoners, and the west room was a bedroom. The floors are the original hardwood and the ceilings are beaded wood. On the south wall of the east room, a door of solid steel with inset bars leads back into the rear wing, which was used to house the male prisoners. Here, a large cage with four cells is divided in half by a central passage. The southeast cell was for solitary confinement and held a single bed and commode. The remaining three cells shared a sink and commode to the south end of the central passage. These contain two-tiered cots with springs and a small corner stove. Although the current fixtures are replacements, the cells and the locking mechanism are original and in working condition. The rear wing also has a side door on the east wall that leads to the exterior fire escape. Like the door leading into the sheriff's office, it is solid steel with inset bars.

Smokehouse. Mid-19th century; moved 1976. Non-contributing.

The gable-roofed smokehouse was built in the mid-nineteenth century from hand-hewn logs on the Crenshaw Farm in Avery County. Local tradition holds that the logs originally were used for a 1780s dwelling. The smokehouse functioned until the late 1940s and was moved to the northeastern corner of the front parking lot of the former Avery County Jail in 1976. At that time, the original tin roof was replaced with wood shingles.

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(former) Avery County Jail, Avery County, N. C.

Integrity Statement

Despite changes in the use of the (former)Avery County Jail, the building remains largely intact. Alterations to the original building have been minimal, consisting primarily of replacing certain windows with wood replicas and removal of the chimney. The only substantial change is the addition of the flat-roofed one-story wing in the 1960s. Its negative impact has been minimized by the application of white-painted stucco identical to the surface treatment of the original building, providing some continuity between the old and the new. Furthermore, the placement of the log smokehouse near the jail does not minimize the much larger building's presence. Considering the facts that historic jails are quite rare in North Carolina and that the original building is so little altered, overall the (former) Avery County Jail retains sufficient integrity to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

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(former) Avery County Jail, Avery County, N. C.

Statement of Significance

Summary

The (former) Avery County Jail in Newland, the county seat of Avery, was built in 1913 and is closely associated with the founding of Avery County. With increasing numbers of settlers in Avery County in the early twentieth century, the need to establish a permanent center of government was recognized and Newland was selected as the site of the county seat. In 1912, the county officials began funding and building a courthouse and accompanying correctional facility. The county hired Wheeler & Runge, a prominent architectural firm based in Charlotte, to design the new courthouse and jail. Wheeler & Runge designed at least seven North Carolina courthouses, including the Avery County Courthouse (NR 1979), but the former Avery County Jail is the only surviving example of their jail designs and only one of eleven surviving historic jails in western North Carolina. This simple "T" shaped building eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of social history and politics and government as an important institution directly associated with the founding of Newland and of Avery County. The (former) Avery County Jail is also eligible under Criterion C as it incorporates traditional domestic architecture with the need to incarcerate criminals.

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Historical Background and Politics/Government Context

In the early nineteenth century, nearly a hundred years before Avery County was created, settlers were drawn to the rolling mountains with their vast hardwood forests, abundant fresh water, and fertile valleys. These early settlers erected one and two room log houses. The hardwood forests provided more than enough timber for building, and by the late nineteenth century, as sawmills were established, log houses gave way to larger and more stylish wooden frame dwellings.

With the influx of families wishing to settle in the region, the introduction of small businesses and industry supported more permanent communities. In 1882, the railroad was extended from Elizabethton, Tennessee to the iron mine in Cranberry, seven miles northwest of the present town of Newland. The railroad opened even more opportunities and the area saw an increase in development in the 1880s. Lumber companies from the north were lured to the area by the vast stands of hardwood and the transportation system that facilitated the exportation of the timber. The timber companies acquired large areas of forest land and began building small company communities to support their operations. The growth of industry drew more commercial interest into the small towns and communities dispersed throughout the mountain valleys. Churches, small stores, hotels, and schools began to appear in ever increasing numbers.

Those living in the area of then northernmost Mitchell County began to complain of the hazardous and arduous trip to the courthouse to attend to legal business. The roads were long, narrow, and most of all poorly constructed. The Mitchell County Courthouse was located as a permanent seat of justice in 1862 at Calhoun, near present day Kalmia, but following the Civil War was changed to Bakersville. The inhabitants of northeasternmost Mitchell again protested, claiming that they were not being represented equally in the state legislature. Thus, it was decided that a new county would be formed and named for Colonel Waightsill Avery of Morganton, hero of the American Revolution. The new county seat, when chosen, would carry the name of Lieutenant Governor W. C. Newland, who had aided in the passage of the bill to form Avery County.¹

On February 23, 1911, portions of Caldwell, Mitchell, and Watauga Counties were combined to create Avery County, the last of North Carolina's one hundred counties to be formed. With the creation of the new county came the need for a central meeting

¹ Cooper, Horton, History of Avery County, North Carolina (Asheville, NC: Groves Printing Co., 1982), p. 9

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place for its governing body, and the settlement of Old Fields of Toe (present Newland) was chosen as the county seat.² In the Avery County Commissioner's meeting of February 6, 1912, it was "ordered that Commissioners M. B. Hughes and J. T. Phillips go to Lenoir and inspect their courthouse, and obtain the name of the company that furnished their drawings."³ On March 4, 1912, the commissioners discussed issuing bonds "for the purpose of raising funds for the purpose of erecting a courthouse and jail in and for the county of Avery...."⁴ Wheeler & Runge, an architectural firm from Charlotte, North Carolina, designed both buildings, and R. C. Campbell of Caldwell County was contracted to "build and completely furnish in a good substantial and workmanlike manner" the two buildings.⁵ On May 23, 1913, the "Commissioners met at a special meeting and examined the public buildings of said county to whitt the courthouse and jail and accepted the same and paid R. C. Campbell in full for the said work."⁶ The jail cost \$7,350 to erect.

Architect Oliver Wheeler, along with several associates Runge, Stern, and Schwenn, designed a group of nine notable, Neo-Classical Revival courthouses throughout North Carolina between 1899 and 1913. These buildings reveal little variation upon the standard theme established with the Wilkes County Courthouse (1902), which is characteristic of the Wheeler style. While the Iredell County (1899) and Randolph County (1909) courthouses are two of the more ornate Wheeler buildings, the Stokes County (1904), Avery County (1913), and Ashe County (1904) courthouses are more conservative representatives of his style.⁷ The two-story brick Avery County Courthouse (NR 1979) has the three-story, hip-roofed central core, Ionic portico, and oblong mansard-like dome characteristic of Wheeler's designs. The nearby jail complements the stucco-over-brick exterior of the courthouse but takes a domestic form

² Ibid., p. 9.

³ Avery County Commissioner's Records, Register of Deeds, Newland, North Carolina, p. 34.

⁴ Ibid., p. 42.

⁵ Ibid., p. 50.

⁶ Ibid., p. 95.

⁷ Courthouses in North Carolina Thematic National Register Nomination (1979), Sect. 7, p. 2.

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(former) Avery County Jail, Avery County, N. C.

common to jails in small county seats through the early twentieth century.⁸

The pressed bricks for the courthouse and jail were made in the park square in front of the courthouse site. At the same time, the first private building on the Courthouse Square was also being built of the same materials. The E. C. Guy Building housed the Avery County Bank, the first institution of its kind in the new county.

Avery County government used the (former) Avery County Jail until 1972. Beginning in 1976 the Avery County Historical Museum occupied the building and continues to use it for exhibits and community gatherings.

Social History Context

The prison as we know it in modern times is a new concept in the area of Western Society. In the earlier times of the seventeenth, eighteenth and even nineteenth centuries, the jail housed the criminal awaiting sentencing rather than incarceration being the sentence. The jail was not the punishment as such. Offenders of all types and levels of society were thrown together in large institutions and their living "style" was much dependant on their social class and finances. Rejecting this custom of social preference, the idea came about in the eighteenth century that prisons might be changed in order to provide reform in place of the socially inefficient and varied punishments that were being imposed. Punishments were known to vary from jail to jail and with the personality of the jailer.

At the turn of the twentieth century, new ideas emerged and were two-fold. First that incarceration gave the opportunity to teach and change the character that made the person a criminal. Also, believing that all human beings, regardless of class, are social beings incarceration gave the opportunity of learning to live with one another. Even though both of these hypothesis were expounded and widely put into use, the jail was still necessary to incarcerate the offender. Financial resources were not available to put all of the proposed programs into practice and the jail remained a necessary institution. In earlier periods, the function of the jail was only to hold criminals temporarily for trial or punishment. The development of jails and prisons for punishment through confinement was new method of criminal management. It was also at this time that fewer crimes in the United States were punishable by death, many criminals were now sentenced to time of imprisonment. These growing numbers of inmates forced states and their counties to

⁸ Catherine Bishir, et al., A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), p. 223.

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build large state prisons and outlying county jails.⁹

In the Western section of North Carolina, the development of new counties and small towns occurred into the early twentieth century. The (former) Avery County Jail was an example of the new trend in the role of the prison in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This development of jails for punishment through confinement was the new mode in criminal management. Punishment for the offender was a block of time, meted out by the sheriff, that the prisoner spent in the jail. Building these jails to represent a home in the front area, and the jail in the rear, provided a place of residence for the sheriff and his family, a step-up in the social world, perhaps, from his earlier domicile. The (former) Avery County Jail, as well as the others looked at in the historical section, were minimum-security facilities. The book of incarcerations at the (former) Avery County Jail, shows that almost without exception, the offender was making and/or selling "moonshine", a form of illegal whiskey. The offenders were not likely to try and escape, for their sentences were not unusually long, and they would be back at their "business" before long. Prisoners did not harm one another as they were not likely to be let out of the cell, except under the watchful eye of the sheriff or deputy. Jails, such as the (former) Avery County Jail, were operated with a twentieth century view, having the process toward rehabilitation connected with the closeness of family. Having the jail far from the homeplace would have made it hard for the loved ones to come and visit. The social impact of a prisoner's incarceration, geographically and emotionally, would do more harm than good were it removed from the place in society to which they would return. Having small institutions in each county provided the social impact of not having any prisoner housed too far from his home and family.

In Avery County, the social implications related to imprisonment arose from the business at which the offender worked. This area of Western North Carolina was only being settled and civilized in the early 1900s and the making of moonshine to sell was perhaps the only way (or the easiest way) that the offender knew how to make a living for himself and to provide for his family. Only a few years prior to this time, the Drs. Sloop had come to the "uncivilized" area to provide a school and a hospital for these people. Avery was an area of continuing exploration, development and settlement.

The (former) Avery County Jail followed the trends of the time in the development of the penal system of North Carolina by providing small institutions in each county. This jail, as did the others like it, drew together two functions and needs of the community. The county, when formed in 1911, had to have a correctional facility to

⁹ Kadish, Sanford H., ed. *Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice* (New York: The Free Press, 1983), p. 916.

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manage its criminals and administer its laws, and to have housing for the sheriff and a place for him to carry out his duties. All of these needs were answered in a creative fashion by designing this type of institution. In Avery County, it was so successful that the (former) Avery County Jail was in use from 1913 until its closing in 1972. Socially and economically, it continues to serve the county as the Avery County Historical Museum, which moved into the structure in 1976.

Architectural Context

Avery County was one of a growing number of North Carolina counties to construct a central jail facility. The former Watauga County Jail, built in 1889, predates the Watauga County Courthouse designed by Wheeler & Runge in 1904. The two-story, brick jail served Watauga County until 1925. This earlier jail was constructed as a two-story, handmade common-bond brick building, not covered with stucco (as is the (former) Avery Jail) and served as a jail from 1889 until 1925. It compares with the 1913 (former) Avery County Jail in that it has a three bay front façade and the roofs of porch and main section are covered by painted, pressed tin shingles. The Watauga Jail had wooden, battered porch posts just as does the (former) Avery Jail, and double-hung window sash here also. From inside, the foot and a half deep solid brick walls are visible in the doorways as they are in the (former) Avery Jail. In Watauga, the women were housed upstairs and the men downstairs, just opposite of the (former) Avery Jail. In Avery the floors are hardwood, the walls either plaster or beaded wood paneling and the ceilings are plaster or pressed tin just as in the (former) Watauga Jail. The Watauga Jail became a residence about sixty-five years ago and now houses college students.

The Alexander County Jail was built in 1913 at a cost of \$7,790, soon after the (former) Avery Jail which cost \$7,350. It was the second jail built in Alexander County. Also a two-story brick structure, it is not covered with stucco and is a larger structure, though of the same "T" plan as Avery. Windows are double hung sash and this building, as well as the (former) Avery Jail has retained a large degree of original details.

Each of the jails was constructed as a government correctional facility and to house the elected sheriff and his family, also to have room for the deputy to be on duty when required. The jailer's family lived in the front portion of the structure and the jailer's wife not only cooked for her family, but for the prisoners as well. In this era, this was the very best solution available for providing housing for the sheriff as part of his salary and for keeping a constant surveillance on the prisoners.

In neighboring Tennessee, closer to Avery County than a large majority of the counties of North Carolina, even those in the western section, similar jail facilities were

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(former) Avery County Jail, Avery County, N. C.

being built. In Franklin County, Tennessee, the county seat, Winchester, now houses the Franklin County Historical Society Jail Museum, in the fourth jail, built in 1897. The building is a two-story red brick with a rear ell with steel cages, much as the plan of the (former) Avery Jail. The sheriff's quarters were in the front of the building which is the configuration of a house of the time. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In Lawrence County, Tennessee, the fourth jail, built in 1893-1894, is now the County Museum and Archives Building and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It also is a two-story brick building, with the sheriff's quarters in the front and the jail ell in the rear. The front has three bays, with the central front entrance a solid door with transom. There is a covered three-quarter front porch supported by classical columns.

In comparing these buildings in this area of the western region, each was using the same philosophy of correction. Housing prisoners in a place of medium security and having them to serve time was the punishment for their misdemeanor. Early on in the history of prisons, prisoners were awaiting trial and/or punishment for their deed. These buildings were regarded much as "holding pens" as one would have for animals. In the eighteenth century, the effectiveness of this type of jail was questioned and the feeling came about that building well-designed correctional institutions might bring the offender around to being a "corrected" citizen, teaching them that crime did not pay. At the turn of the twentieth century the thought was to correct flaws in character by humane incarceration. However, it was in the time of the (former) Avery County Jail as it is in jails today that these remain mostly custodial housing rather than rehabilitation institutions.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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State and Local Records

Avery County Courthouse, Avery County Commissioner's Records, Office of the Register of Deeds, Newland, North Carolina. 28657

Allegheny County Courthouse, Historical Records, Alleghany County Seat, Sparta, North Carolina 28675

Caldwell County Historical Society Heritage Museum, 112 Vaiden Street, SE, Lenoir, North Carolina 28645

Iredell County Courthouse, Historical Records, Statesville, North Carolina 28687

Iredell County Public Library, P. O. Box 1810, Statesville, North Carolina 28687-1810

Randolph County Courthouse, Historical Records, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203

Randolph County Public Library, 201 Worth Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203

Stokes County Courthouse, Historical Records, Stokes County Seat, Danbury, North Carolina 27016

Watuaga County Courthouse, Historical Records, Boone, North Carolina 28607

Watuaga County Public Library, 140 Queen Street, Boone, North Carolina 28607

Wilkes county Courthouse, Historical Records, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina 28697

Wilkes County Public Library, C Street, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina 28697

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Interviews

Interview with Frank Hamlin, Director of the Avery County Historical Museum, October
1998

Interview with former Sheriff Fred Banner, November 1998

Interview with Bea Hensley, November 1998

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property boundary is that portion of lot 3038 of block 53, Avery County tax map 1836, as shown on the enclosed map.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass all of the property historically associated with the (former) Avery County Jail that retains a sufficient degree of historic integrity, and includes an adequate setting for the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

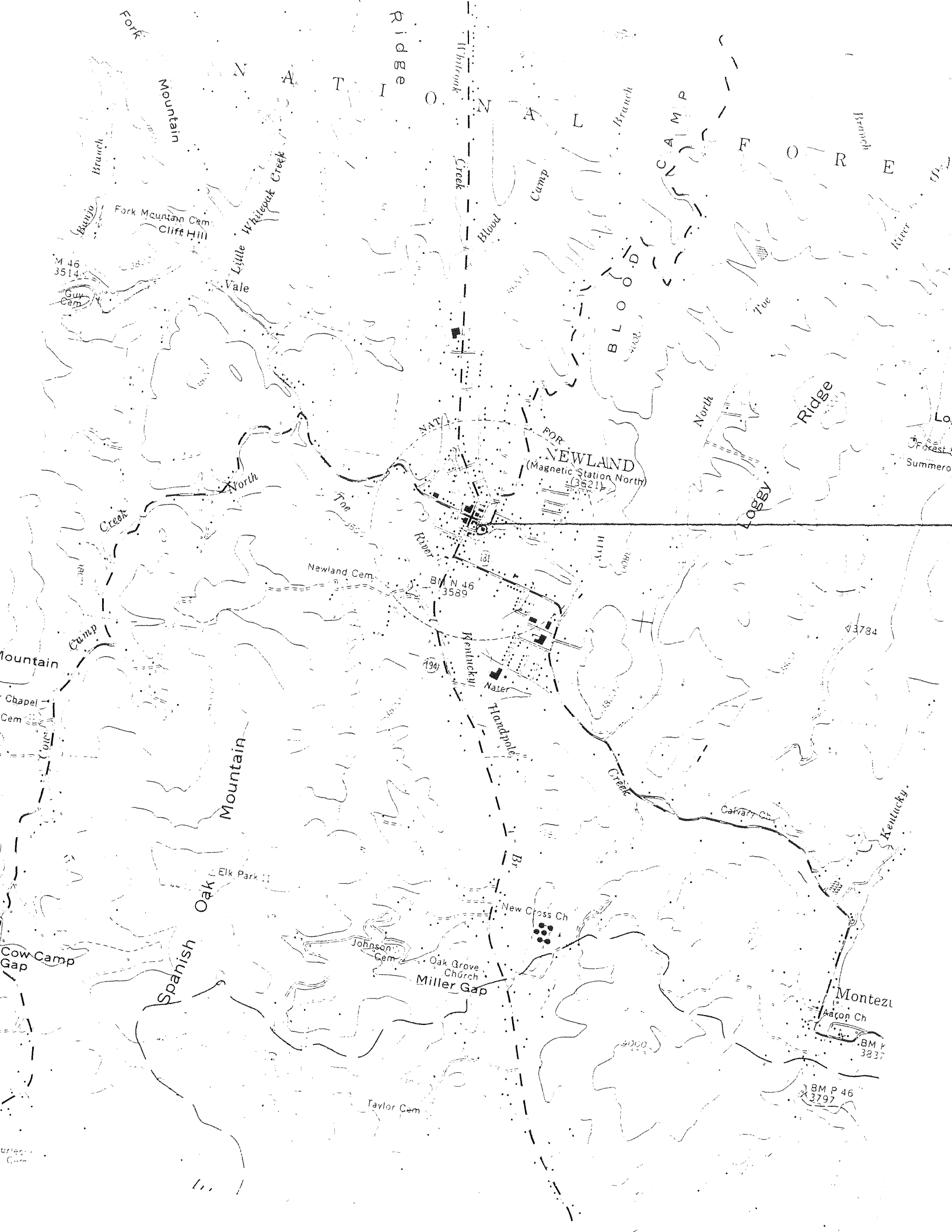
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

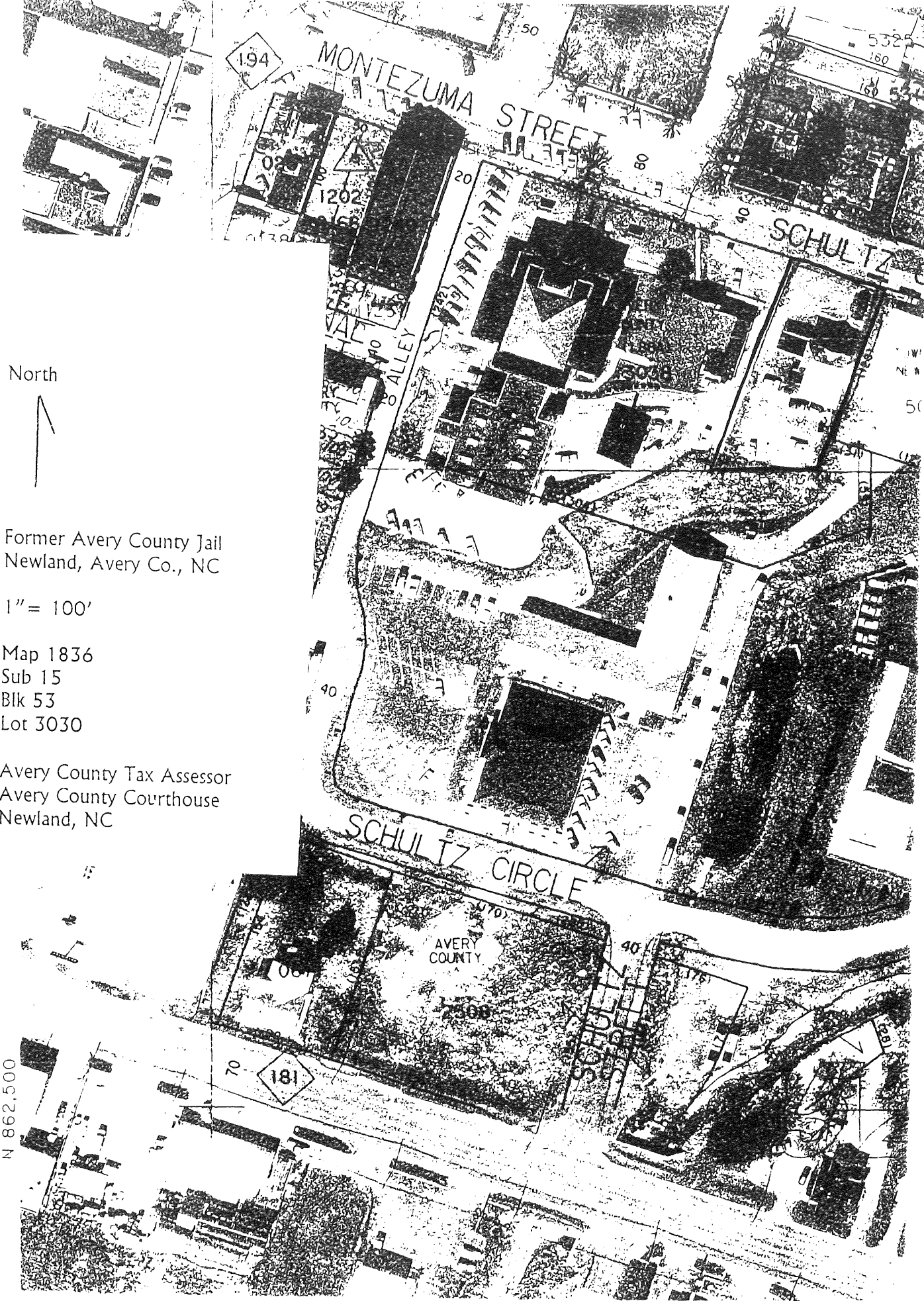
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Photographs

All photographs by Helen Cain of 1146 Lyncrest Avenue, Jackson, MS. 39202
Date of photographs November 1998
Original negatives located at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History,
Western Office, Asheville, North Carolina.

1. Front (north) elevation of the (former) Avery County Jail, looking south.
2. Side (eastern) and rear (south) elevations of (former) Avery County Jail, looking northwest.
3. Side (western) elevation of the (former) Avery county Jail, looking northeast.
4. Rear (south) elevation of the (former) Avery County Jail, looking northwest.
5. Interior stairwell ascending from vestibule to second floor. Details of quarter-landing plan with a balustrade, a row of balusters square-cut, newel posts that are squared with simple lamb's tongue decoration each side of the square and anti-dust newel post. Also showing beaded board wall looking south from the inside of the front door.
6. View from the antechamber of the cell cage, second floor, rear ell, of the cells and the locking mechanism, looking southwest.
7. View of the interior of a cell with steel walls and ceiling and cots, looking west.





North



Former Avery County Jail
Newland, Avery Co., NC

1" = 100'

Map 1836
Sub 15
Blk 53
Lot 3030

Avery County Tax Assessor
Avery County Courthouse
Newland, NC

