

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 Snipes-Fox House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 306 South Dogwood Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Siler City N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Chatham code 037 zip code 27312

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.)

Stephen J. Brown SHPD 7/15/98
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 certifying 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) _____

Snipes-Fox House
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
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>1</u> | buildings |
| _____ | _____ | sites |
| _____ | _____ | structures |
| _____ | _____ | objects |
| <u>2</u> | <u>1</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

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Snipes-Fox House
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:

Snipes-Fox House
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approx. .85 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 638700 3953660
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 Kaye Graybeal and Nancy White

organization DSAtlantic Corporation date 6/15/98

street & number 7820 North Point Boulevard telephone 336-759-7400

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27106

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 Tom and Cindy Edwards

street & number 306 S. Dogwood Ave. telephone (919) 742-2679

city or town Siler City state NC zip code 27312

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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Snipes-Fox House
Chatham County, NC

Physical Description

The Setting and the Exterior

The Snipes-Fox House, located on a street now named South Dogwood Avenue, is one of Siler City's earliest and most intact examples of a turn-of-the-century vernacular frame house. After purchasing a lot on the former Hill Street from Samuel Siler in 1897, Alvis Snipes built this house circa 1900 in what was the growing town's first residential neighborhood. Snipes built his new home facing east, just three blocks west of the town's central business district. The house is among the first built in the neighborhood, as well as in Siler City. It is also the most impressively-sited house in the neighborhood. Exhibiting a commodious three-gabled form, expansive wrap-around porch, and unique interior woodwork, the two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling is typical in its form yet distinctive in its detailing. On its nearly one-acre lawn shaded by a grove of pines and oaks, the house is sited on a knoll overlooking the street which is lined with houses dating to as early as 1900. One other of these houses is a less intact, three-gabled form dating to circa 1905. Other house styles on the street include two Victorian-era cross-gabled houses, a 1920s brick Georgian Revival house, and a 1930s bungalow.

A frame front-gabled smokehouse with a south shed addition is located to the rear (southwest) of the house. The one-story structure, contemporary with the house, is windowless and retains its original tin roof, stone piers and two rough-hewn vertical board doors. This period outbuilding type is a rare-surviving example in Siler City. Also on the property, sited just north of the smokehouse, is an asbestos-shingled garage, built in the early 1930s.

The main block of the house is defined by restrained Victorian detail. A slight Gothic Revival influence is revealed in the steeply-pitched roof, the centered front gable, and the small triangular-headed louvered vents in each of the three gables. A slight Greek Revival influence appears in the returned cornice and deep fascia. The dominant character, however, is essentially a simplified Victorian style with embellishment appearing mainly on the wrap-around porch. This hipped-roof porch extends across the front of the house and almost completely wraps around the northern side. It has chamfered posts adorned with decorative sawn brackets and a turned balustrade. Its form is reminiscent of the Queen Anne style as it follows the obtuse angles of the hipped roof rather than squaring-off at right-angles as is more typical in this house form. The porch ceiling and floor are covered in tongue-and-groove. The six steps leading up to the porch are now brick, but a documentary photo indicates that in 1924 the steps were wooden with ball-topped newels (copy of photo in NC State Historic Preservation Office survey files).

Two interior stretcher-bond chimneys rise from the midpoint of the main east-west roof ridgeline and from the west roof slope. Neither is visible above the front roof ridge when approaching from the east. The only exterior chimney is located on the west-facing rear facade of a kitchen ell. The single-shouldered chimney is characterized by a tall stack and glazed common bond. The house foundation is also of brick. The pine weatherboards covering the entire house are original.

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Snipes-Fox House
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The central entry door shows Queen Anne influence, embellished with turned and applied wood moldings and squares of stained glass (red, green, yellow and blue) surrounding etched glass in the upper middle panel. The remaining bays of the facade are marked by two double-hung, two-over-two windows flanked by original louvered shutters.

The south facade has four two-over-two windows placed in symmetrical fashion--two on the first floor and two on the second. A hip-roofed enclosed porch extends south from the kitchen ell. This porch, originally screened but enclosed in 1983 by the present owners, features a beadboard ceiling and an unusual Italianate five-panel door from downtown Siler City's 1907 Hadley Hotel.

A kitchen ell is attached to the rear (west) elevation of the house and is anchored by an exterior chimney flanked by small four-over-one rectangular windows in the gable. The chimney was restored in 1989 utilizing as much of the original brick as possible. The cornice on this facade, as on all the facades, has a slight overhang and enclosed rafters and purlins, with the exception of the 1920s second level bathroom-addition which exhibits exposed rafter ends.

Characteristics of the porch-enhanced northern side include an Italianate, four-panel door and a set of paired three-over-one replacement windows in the kitchen ell. The windows in this location were originally identical to those on the rest of the house. A plain five-panel door leads from the porch into the dining room. This section of the wrap-around porch was doubled in width and enclosed with screens just prior to 1970. Deteriorated floorboards were replaced with similar boards in 1983.

The Interior

The interior of the main block of the seven-room house is laid out in an unaltered center-hall plan with a one-story rear kitchen ell. It is more exuberant in its Victorian detail than the exterior. Richly-grained and varnished beadboard sheathes the north parlor and center hall from which rises a straight-run semi-enclosed stair with a heavy turned balustrade and newel. The underside of the stair carriage follows a gentle arch. The floors throughout the main block are the original pine strip-flooring, delineated with an eight-inch-high molded baseboard. Five-section raised-panel mortise-and-tenon doors with original porcelain knobs are retained in every room with the exception of the kitchen. The window openings are framed with fluted surrounds and original molded sills. The north and east parlors, dining room and three upstairs bedrooms are graced with original mantelpieces (seven in all) each with fluted or turned pilasters on plinth bases and adorned with a one-piece sawn frieze-- each frieze having a unique profile.

The larger two front rooms, formerly the main parlor and dining room, open off the south and north sides of the center hall respectively. To the west, behind the main (south) parlor now used as a living room, is a smaller room now used for dining. The dining room and main parlor walls were originally sheathed in beadboard which was removed in the 1970s when electrical rewiring occurred. Drywall and replacement crown molding were installed in these rooms in 1983. Adjoining the dining room to the rear of the main block of the house is the kitchen ell, which was updated and modernized with new wiring and plumbing

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Snipes-Fox House
Chatham County, NC

in 1983. The fireplace and mantel in this room are original. The fireplace opening is a relieving-arch type constructed with brick soldiers. Other 1983 renovations to the kitchen include the installation of new ceiling bead board and oak flooring to replicate the original, and the installation of drywall to replace the original beaded-board sheathing on the walls. All first-floor rooms feature ten-foot ceilings covered in original beadboard.

The center hall is distinguished by reeded door and window facings. The walls here, as in the north parlor and staircase, are covered in the original richly-grained and varnished beadboard. Diagonal tongue-and-groove pine beadboard sheathes a two-foot-high wainscot, while horizontal beadboard of the same manufacture sheathes the upper section of the wall. In the north parlor, a heavy ironwork fireplace insert accentuates the somber tone of the room. An original four-armed brass gaslight remains. A closet was added in the 1940s to house furnace ductwork, and in the 1970s, a small half-bathroom was added underneath the staircase.

The upper floor plan mirrors that of the ground floor, and retains its original plan of three bedrooms and a central stair hall. A window originally located at the west end of the stair hall was filled in to accommodate a bathroom added in the early 1920s. Some sections of the beaded board have been replaced by drywall, but the north bedroom retains all of its original beaded board sheathing. A small closet on the south side of the second floor hallway provides access to an unfinished attic. The vaulted and beadboarded attic space extends over the kitchen ell.

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Chatham County, NC

Statement of Significance

The Snipes-Fox House at 306 South Dogwood is one of Siler City's earliest houses, and moreover, a notable and intact representation of a turn-of-the-century frame dwelling in the Piedmont town. The commodious two-story house with its conspicuous facade gable displays distinctive yet restrained exterior decoration contrasting with its more ornate interior woodwork. The house survives in near-original condition, having received only minor interior renovations since its construction between 1897 and 1908 by Alvis Snipes. Beginning in 1908, it remained for nearly a half-century in the Fox family, descendants of Siler City's prominent early merchant Daniel G. Fox. The Snipes-Fox House is eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion C in the area of architecture as a locally important and intact example of turn-of-the-century domestic design. The period of significance for the property is its estimated construction date of 1900.

Historical Background

In the mid-to-late nineteenth century, small commercial developments sprang to life in scattered areas of rural North Carolina as the railroad progressed across the state. Siler City was chartered in 1887, a few years after the Cape Fear-Yadkin Valley rail line started depositing settlers and entrepreneurs in the area. The land on which the Snipes-Fox House is built was first owned by Samuel Siler, a Civil War veteran who gave the land for and his surname to the "Siler Station" railroad stop which prompted the growth of Siler City. In 1897 Siler sold a five-acre tract to Alvis Snipes, another Civil War veteran who built his home on the site near the town's emerging business district (Osborn and Seldon-Sturgill 1991, p. 132).

Snipes' heirs sold the house after his death in 1908 to a prominent merchant, Millard M. Fox, for \$1904.76 (Chatham County Deeds). Fox was the son of Daniel G. Fox (1845-1915), a Civil War veteran who was also a prominent merchant in Siler City. Daniel in turn was the grandson of Jacob (Jack) Fox (1775-1851) who opened the county's first pottery just before 1843, located between Siler City and the town of Coleridge. The pottery was operated through the 1880s by Jacob's son, Nicholas Fox (1797-1858) and by grandson Daniel. After coming to Siler City circa 1886, Daniel served as mayor from 1891 to 1893, and in 1902, became president of the town's first telephone company. He later became a partner with Robert F. Wren in the general merchandise store of Fox and Wren (Hadley 1987, p. 7). With his son Millard, who was a surveyor, he owned and operated a general merchandise store, D. G. Fox and Son, until 1917. Millard also opened a grocery store and ice house, Fox and Company, which operated from 1905 until 1928 at 111, 115 and 117 South Chatham Avenue. These three brick buildings are the earliest remaining within Siler City's business district (Osborn and Seldon-Sturgill 1991, pp. 10 and 132).

The Millard M. Fox family and its descendants occupied the Snipes-Fox House for nearly a half-century. In the 1950s ownership passed briefly through the McGuiness family, who sold it to William Wren. William Wren was the great grandson of Alvis Snipes. In 1983, William Wren sold the house to the present owners (K. Graybeal interview with Cindy Edwards, current owner, 11/97).

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Snipes-Fox House
Chatham County, NC

Architectural Context: Turn-of-the-Century Domestic Architecture in Chatham County Communities

Post-Civil War to 1900

By the mid-1870s new stylistic trends and technological advances began to affect Chatham County architecture. Throughout this decade, vestiges of the Greek Revival mode lingered in some Chatham dwellings, and very few purely vernacular houses were constructed as late as 1890, but designs from the nationally-popular Gothic Revival style generally supplanted the earlier approaches. The Gothic Revival was an exuberant, picturesque, and often asymmetrical design, developed chiefly by architect Alexander Jackson Davis in the 1840s, which became nationally-influential after the Civil War. Chatham's builders were encouraged to use the style by a growing post-war awareness of national trends as well as by the pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing, a nationally-influential mid-nineteenth-century landscape designer and espouser of new designs for rural architecture (Bishir, et al. 1990, pp.142-144). Builders were aided in this endeavor by new technology. A preference for the central-hall single-pile dwelling persisted throughout the nineteenth century despite advances in construction practices (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill 1991, p. 42).

The advent of a vernacular Gothic Revival style coincided with a building boom in post-Civil War Chatham County, and the result was a large number of one-- and two-story houses built to reflect the style. Factors contributing to this boom were the county's population surge in the 1880s, the arrival of the railroad that encouraged the building of new towns, and new technology that simplified the construction process (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill 1991, pp. 42-43).

The three-gabled house, with its characteristic profile of two end gables and a center front gable, quickly became a predominant and familiar form throughout the county in both town and country. Many houses were built in this era with gable roofs, single-pile depth, and symmetrical three-bay facades with a central single-leaf door. A central gable, the hallmark of the vernacular Gothic Revival, was often added to these dwellings, resulting in the so-called "triple-A" form-- a widespread adaptation from Downing's models. Exterior end chimneys were usually built to the rear of or in the interior of the main block, on the back of which a one-story kitchen ell was often added. Exterior and interior decoration proliferated with the introduction of jigsaws and lathes. With the production of larger sheets of glass, the number of lights in sashes dropped from six-over-six to two-over-two. Plain weatherboards replaced wide hand-planed boards. Narrow beaded-board began to be used as exterior and interior decoration. Mantels and stairways featured turned and sawn embellishments, and stairs became an important design element in center-hall plans (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill 1991, p. 43).

Similar Gothic Revival influences appear in a few late nineteenth-century triple-A dwellings in Siler City. The handsome William Wren House at 315 North Third Avenue is a two-story structure erected in the 1890s and features a wrap-around porch with sawn and turned detail. It is slightly less refined in detail than is the Snipes-Fox House. Along with the circa 1895 Richardson House located at 327 East

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Snipes-Fox House
Chatham County, NC

Second Street, it appears to be earliest surviving house in Siler City. The Richardson House is a one-story triple-A structure fronted by a porch also embellished with sawn-and-turned woodwork including unique fan-shaped brackets. The Siler-Wren House, located at 413 Dogwood Avenue, is a triple-A structure erected circa 1905, but it does not as strongly evoke the Gothic Revival as do the aforementioned examples, and exhibits simpler Victorian-era characteristics in its shed-roofed porch and simple mantels.

In the nearby town of Pittsboro, the Gothic Revival influence is also evident in several late nineteenth-century houses. The 1894 Henry H. Fike House at 211 East Street is a two-story triple-A structure with an irregular composition built up from a central hallway-plan. Its steeply-pitched central front gable and tall narrow windows lend to a Gothic Revival countenance. The c. 1895 Henry Adolphus London House at 508 West Salisbury Street also displays steeply-pitched front gables on what is essentially a Queen Anne cottage. The two-story triple-A Alston House, erected in 1892, is similar in form to the Snipes-Fox House with its ornate wrap-around porch and unpedimented central front gable.

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Snipes-Fox House
Chatham County, NC

Section 9: Bibliography

Bishir, C. W.; Brown, C. V.; Lounsbury, C. R.; & Wood, E. H., III. 1990. Architects and Builders in North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 540 pages.

Chatham County Register of Deeds. December 18, 1907. Book EL-EK, pages 352-353.

Hadley, Jr., Wade Hampton. 1987. The Town of Siler City, 1887-1987. 65 pages.

Hadley, Jr., Wade Hampton. 1996. "Historical Buildings of the Central Business District, Siler City, North Carolina." Pittsboro: Chatham County Historical Association. 24 page-manuscript.

Lee, Mary Ann with guidance from Dr. Charlotte Brown. 1983. "Chatham County Multiple Resource Nomination," National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form. Washington, DC: United States Department of Interior. 60 pages.

North Carolina Survey Files. 1988. Located at the State Historical Preservation Office, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC.

Osborn, Rachel and Ruth Selden-Sturgill. 1991. The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina. Charlotte: Chatham County Historic Architecture Survey Committee. 391 pages.

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Photos

Snipes-Fox House
Chatham County, NC

Section 10: Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the boundaries delineated for lot SC-112-9-1 on the accompanying Chatham County tax map, index number 8761.05.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass the original plot of land on which the house was erected given that the parcel retains its integrity of historic setting.

Photographic Key

All photographs were taken on September 16, 1997 by Kaye Graybeal. All original negatives are located at the State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Cultural Resources in Raleigh, NC.

- 1.) East (front) and south facades- camera facing northwest
- 2.) North and west (rear)facades- camera facing southeast
- 3.) Smokehouse and garage-east (front) and south facades
- 4.) North parlor mantel



SILER CITY PROPERTY INDEX MAP
SNIPES - FOX HOUSE
306 S. DOGWOOD AVE.
SILER CITY, CHATHAM CO., NC
1"=70'
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES



SILVER CITY ROAD

SNIPES-FOX HOUSE

SHAFAN C.

17/323700 / 30531660

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

E. GREENSBORO 38 MI LIBERTY 9 MI 638 639 27'30" 640 16 MI TO NC 87 IC



