

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 Poe, Edgar Allan, House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 506 Main Street NW

Not for publication

city or town Lenoir

Vicinity

state North Carolina

code NC

county Caldwell

code 027

zip code 28645

### 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 3/19/01  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
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:

- 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 ) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Poe, Edgar Allan, House  
Name of Property

Caldwell 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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

**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.)

Name of Property

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.
XX 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

1905

Significant Dates

1905

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Poe, Edgar Allan, builder

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:

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

Name of repository: Western Office, Archives & History

Poe, Edgar Allan, House  
Name of Property

Caldwell County, North Carolina  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property .50

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	451190	3974810
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 Sybil Argintar Bowers, Preservation Planning Consultant  
Research assistance by Amanda Blosser, Consultant, Brevard, North Carolina  
 organization Bowers Southeastern Preservation date December 15, 2000  
 street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone (828) 253-1392  
 city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Joel Kincaid  
 street & number P. O. Box 2647 telephone (828) 757-8778  
 city or town Lenoir state NC zip code 28645

**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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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Set on a level lot of approximately one-half acre on the east side of North Main Street in Lenoir, the Edgar Allan Poe House is bordered by other late nineteenth to early twentieth-century houses in all directions. The Poe House stands out as a highly intact example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style with especially notable interior woodwork, and is representative of the work of local builder Edgar Allan Poe. The lot drops slightly to the rear, allowing for a full basement on the east side of the house. Built in 1905, it appears that all rear wings were in place by 1913, with the rear porch being enclosed sometime after this. A kitchen fire in recent years led to the rebuilding of the rear wing at the northeast corner on the same foundation as the original.

### **1. Edgar Allan Poe House. Contributing. 1905.**

Facing west, this two-story Dutch Colonial Revival style house is a central-passage plan structure with a gambrel roof, gambrel roof dormer on the facade, shed-roof dormer on the rear (east) elevation, wraparound porch, and kitchen wing at the northeast corner. The foundation is brick, with brick piers visible in the basement. The central section of the rear (east) elevation originally was a porch, which was enclosed and covered with masonite siding at a later time, to create a downstairs bath. The one-story plus basement kitchen wing was constructed by 1913, but appears, after a fire, to have been rebuilt during the 1930s or 1940s on the same foundation as the original. It is currently covered with German siding, probably placed there when the wing was rebuilt.<sup>1</sup> The original weatherboard siding on the house was recently uncovered beneath aluminum siding which had been placed over it. The front porch has square posts, some in groups at the corners. The original solid, shingled balustrade is being restored at the present time, based on documentary photographs.<sup>2</sup> Granite steps lead from the front walk onto the porch. The front door is double-leaf, with a glass pane set within raised panels. There is an interior end brick chimney on the north side, and an exterior brick stack on the north elevation of the kitchen wing. Most of the windows are one-over-one, with some being multi-light-over-one (bay window on the north elevation). A bay window extends onto the porch at the northwest corner. French doors which are not original

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<sup>1</sup>Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1913. All of the rear wings and rear porch appear on this map. There also was an outbuilding on the property which is no longer there. According to the current owner, Joel Kincaid, this outbuilding served as a woodworker's shop.

<sup>2</sup>A photo from the 1940s indicates the original balustrade had been replaced by a more bungalowoid design with brick piers, but an earlier photo dating from soon after the house was built shows the original shingled balustrade, more in keeping with the original design of the house.

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porch at the southwest corner of the house. The doors were placed there when the house was used for boarders.

Inside, the grand central stair hall is flanked on the north and south by two rooms on either side, with the kitchen and enclosed porch area beyond the hall to the east (see Exhibit A, floor plan). The entry stair hall is particularly notable for its finely crafted woodwork, apparently a showpiece for Poe since this was his own residence. This includes cove ceilings, an oak staircase with an elaborate machined and hand-carved balustrade and newel posts, including a sand dollar motif, paneled wainscot, and beaded crown molding above doors. Ceilings in the stair hall are currently covered with beaver board, inset into a grid of boxed beams. Walls here are plaster, but the remainder of the house has tongue and groove board walls, in many cases covered by the original wallpaper covering. Doors throughout the interior are typically five-panel, many with their original glass knobs. The doors to the sitting room/parlor at the northwest corner are currently multi-light, French doors, but evidence suggests that these were originally pocket doors. Floors in the stair hall and the sitting room/parlor of the first floor are oak, with the remainder of the floors in the house being pine. The sitting room/parlor includes a sitting alcove at the northwest corner, which is set within the bay window extending out onto the porch. Details of the columns and framing around this alcove are the same as on the front porch. The mantel in this room is classically inspired. The dining room, to the northeast, has a built-in corner cupboard that appears to be original, and variable width beaded board wainscot. The parlor, at the southwest corner of the first floor, has a simple mantel with raised paneling and detailing similar to the balusters in the stair hall and a beaded board wainscot. The room beyond this, at the southeast corner, was possibly a downstairs bedroom originally, and had plaster walls. The plaster has been removed in the current renovation. The kitchen at the northeast corner of the house has tongue and groove walls, an exposed ceiling structure, and some built-in cabinetry in the butler's pantry.

The landing at the top of the grand staircase has a built-in windowseat and the same variable width wainscot as used in the dining room. There are four bedrooms upstairs, with the only alteration being the slight enlarging of the two rooms at the front (west) of the house, and the possible addition of a bath at the room in the northeast corner (see Exhibit A, floor plan). Elaborate crown molding defines the doorways. Apparently the only heat source in these rooms were stoves, since there are openings for stove flues, but no fireplaces. Despite the removal of some interior wall finishes in the current renovation, the house still conveys its original ca. 1905 appearance. The most significant

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aspects of the building, being the form, plan, and interior woodwork including the staircase, mantels, and wainscot, remain intact.

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**Summary**

The Edgar Allan Poe House, built in 1905, is a well-crafted, intact Dutch Colonial Revival style house designed and built by Edgar Allan Poe for his family. Poe was an important builder/architect in the town of Lenoir and other parts of western North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. In addition to his work as a builder, Edgar Allan Poe (1868-1949), was a well known citizen, active member of the community, lawyer, and mayor of Lenoir for four years.<sup>3</sup> Poe constructed several commercial buildings in Lenoir's business district, including the Courtney Building (1907) and the Lenoir Furniture and Hardware Building (1908). He also built the Caldwell County Courthouse (1903). His house on North Main Street was built at the height of his activity as a builder and is representative of his residential work. During the early twentieth century, Poe designed and built numerous houses in Lenoir in a variety of styles popular during the period, including Spanish Revival and Colonial Revival, as well as Dutch Colonial Revival, as represented by his own residence. The Poe house serves as one of the best examples of his work as architect and builder. The Poe House is eligible for listing under National Register Criterion C for architecture.

**Historic Background**

The town of Lenoir began in 1841 as the seat of the newly formed Caldwell County, which was carved from Burke and Wilkes counties. Located at James Harper's plantation and store, the county seat was named for a local politician, William Lenoir.<sup>4</sup> The county sits at the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains and encompasses both mountains and broad arable valleys. The earliest white immigrants in the area settled in the fertile valleys of the Yadkin and Catawba rivers. The county remained predominantly agricultural until the arrival of the furniture manufacturing industry in the twentieth century.<sup>5</sup>

Growth of Lenoir was also slow until the arrival of the Chester & Lenoir Railroad in 1884, which boosted trade and industrial development.<sup>6</sup> The first furniture company,

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<sup>3</sup>Poe's gravestone spells his name "Allan." His name is also spelled "Allen" in various sources. For consistency, "Allan" is used throughout this nomination.

<sup>4</sup>Catherine Bisher, Michael Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of Chapel Hill Press 1999) p. 140.

<sup>5</sup>Vicky Mason, "The Historical and Architectural Development of Caldwell County," no publisher, no page numbers, 1987.

<sup>6</sup>Bishir, et al, p. 140.



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Hickory Furniture, established a factory in Lenoir in 1889 (the company later reorganized into Lenoir Furniture in 1905), and the furniture industry brought a growth in population to Lenoir. By 1907, five furniture factories and three related factories were established in Lenoir.<sup>7</sup> The town quickly became the most industrialized in Caldwell County and brought people from outlying farms to the town for work. Between 1890 and 1902, the population of the town doubled. The industrial era also brought extensive rebuilding between the years of 1890 and 1920, often resulting in the loss of many residences to industrial buildings.<sup>8</sup>

It was during this boom in 1893, that Edgar Allan Poe began his professional career in Lenoir, remaining in the town until his death in 1949. Poe, born in Dallas, North Carolina (Gaston County), was the son of the Reverend Edmund A. Poe and Elizabeth A. Corpening Poe. Edmund Poe was a Baptist minister.<sup>9</sup> Within a short time of beginning his work in Lenoir, Edgar Allan Poe began to enjoy prominence in the town. On October 28, 1897, Poe married Eugenia Maude Miller, who was from a well-known family in Caldwell County.<sup>10</sup> The Millers arrived in the town of Lenoir from outlying areas of Caldwell County in the early 1890s and were known as a pioneering family. The Miller family bought property on North Main Street and built a house where Eugenia Maude lived until her marriage.<sup>11</sup>

Once married, Poe built his first house in the same neighborhood as his in-laws, on Scroggs Street.<sup>12</sup> The Poe's two children, Eugene Allan (1898 - 1964) and Carolyn Ransom (1903 - 1979), were both born in the house on Scroggs Street.<sup>13</sup> In 1905, two years after their second child was born, the Poe family bought a half acre on North Main

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<sup>7</sup>Mason, np.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid, p. 58.

<sup>9</sup>"Edgar Allen Poe Dies of Sudden Attack at Age 81", Lenoir News-Topic, 5 September 1949.

<sup>10</sup>Caldwell County Heritage Book Committee, The Heritage of Caldwell County, North Carolina (Winston Salem: Hunter Publishing, 1983) p. 450; and Caldwell County marriage records.

<sup>11</sup>Poe, Allan. Grandson of Edgar Allan Poe. Interview by Joel Kincaid, current owner of house, 20 June 2000.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid. The Scroggs Street house is a simple Queen Anne cottage, with turned porch posts, a hip roof, and a central brick chimney. It has been altered with the addition of aluminum siding and a replacement porch balustrade (field observations by Sybil A. Bowers, 29 November 2000).

<sup>13</sup>The Poes had a third child, Barbara Elizabeth Poe, born January 11, 1913 and died August 2, 1918. She would have been the only child born in the house on North Main Street. Mary A. Montgomery. Caldwell County, NC Cemeteries Part 2 (no publisher, no date) p. 80.

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Street and began construction on their second home.<sup>14</sup> The house remained in the ownership of the Poe family until August 1999 when it was sold to the current owner. Both Edgar and Maude Poe lived in the house until their deaths as did their daughter and her husband, T. J. Stone.<sup>15</sup> After Maude Poe died, Carolyn Stone took in boarders to fill the vacant rooms. Mrs. Stone lived in the Poe House until her death, when the house was willed to her nephew, Allan Poe. Allan Poe lived in the house for a number of years before selling the house to the current owner, Joel Kincaid.

The residences Poe built for himself in Lenoir were not his first building projects. He had established himself as a builder and may have worked on a number of well-known projects, primarily in western North Carolina, including buildings in Asheville, Boone, Hickory, and possibly Charlotte.<sup>16</sup> After finishing law school, Poe moved to Asheville in 1890 and boarded at 93 Woodfin Street while looking for work.<sup>17</sup> While not fully documented at the present time, it is possible he may have worked as a carpenter at the beginning of the construction of the Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate as well as many other building projects in Asheville.<sup>18</sup> He also may have worked on buildings in the Hickory area with a local architecture firm of Alfonse.<sup>19</sup>

By the time his home on North Main Street was completed in 1905, Poe had already served three of his four terms as mayor of Lenoir and had successfully started and continued to run a building contracting business.<sup>20</sup> The largest contract attributed to him was the construction of the Caldwell County Courthouse in 1903.<sup>21</sup> The County Commissioners declared that "...a new and modern courthouse for Caldwell County is a

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<sup>14</sup>Caldwell County Deed Book 39, p. 449.

<sup>15</sup>Lenoir City Directories 1937-1974.

<sup>16</sup>Letters of E. A. Poe and Caldwell County Heritage Book Committee.

<sup>17</sup>Letters of E. A. Poe, 1890 - 1893. Asheville City Directories indicate he was living in Asheville ca. 1890 to 1893. He received many letters at his Woodfin Street address.

<sup>18</sup>"Courthouse Here Freed of Debt", Lenoir News-Topic, 1 April 1959. His association with William A. Otter, with whom Poe worked on the courthouse renovation, might indicate the two knew each other from previous work. The article states that Mr. Otter did work at the Biltmore Estate. In checking with the Biltmore archives, they stated their records are incomplete for all of the carpenters and workers at the Estate. They said the architect often hired people for whom they would not have records in their pay stubs.

<sup>19</sup>1935 application to the Works Progress Administration lists this firm as a reference.

<sup>20</sup>Poe was mayor of Lenoir in 1899, 1901, 1904, and 1905.

<sup>21</sup>"Courthouse Here Freed of Debt".

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public necessity and the best interests of the county demand the same...Whereas the County Commissioners of the said County on said date, ordered and directed that the bonds of said county to the amount of \$25,000.00 be issued for the purpose of providing funds for the erection, construction and equipment of the said courthouse..."<sup>22</sup> William A. Otter, a Canadian who helped build Biltmore Estate, and E. A. Poe were awarded the contract and finished construction in 1905. The courthouse was remodeled in 1929 so that Poe's work is no longer recognizable.<sup>23</sup>

In 1907, Poe began construction on another well-known building in Lenoir, the Courtney Building. While working on the Courtney Building, Poe began construction on an adjacent building, the Lenoir Building. Built in 1908 for the Lenoir family and designed by the Charlotte architecture firm of Hooks and Rodgers, it housed the Lenoir Hardware and Furniture Company, a bank, and professional offices.<sup>24</sup>

In the late 1910s, Poe formed the Poe Triplett Construction Company with another Lenoir resident, Grover Bernhardt Triplett (1889 - 1971).<sup>25</sup> Triplett, trained as a watchmaker and later a brick mason, built his family a stucco house at 216 West Ashe Avenue (now 1018 W. Ashe Avenue) in Lenoir. After he built the house, he became more involved in building and for a period of time worked in Savannah, Georgia building smoke stacks. Once he returned to Lenoir, he and Poe began to build small stucco cottages in Lenoir.<sup>26</sup> While in partnership they were responsible for some of the earlier buildings at Appalachian State Teachers College in Boone and at Mayview Manor Hotel in Blowing Rock.<sup>27</sup> In 1926, the Bernhardt's Furniture Company burned down and Poe Triplett Construction Company rebuilt the factory. Once the job was finished, Triplett was asked to stay and manage the factory, thus effectively ending the Poe Triplett partnership.

Even after the Poe Triplett Construction Company dissolved, Poe continued to serve as a builder and contractor and a member of the building committee for First Baptist Church in Lenoir. In 1935, hit by the Depression, Poe requested work through the Works

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<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

<sup>25</sup>Caldwell County Heritage Committee, p. 538.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid.

<sup>27</sup>Mason, np. Entry on Grover Triplett House.

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Progress Administration and may have served on a work crew for this Federal Agency. It is more likely, however, that at his age (sixty-seven at the time), he may have served as a crew supervisor for some of the publicly-funded projects in the county.<sup>28</sup> Poe continued to work as a building contractor until late in his life. Edgar Allan Poe was ". . . regarded as one of Lenoir's best known citizens. He was a lawyer, architect, and contractor and served four terms as mayor of Lenoir around the turn of the century. . . ."<sup>29</sup>

#### Architectural Context

Edgar Allan Poe was a prolific builder and constructed many residences around Lenoir as well as several commercial buildings in the business district. His own home at 506 Main Street exemplifies his skill as an architect and builder and serve as a showpiece for his abilities and knowledge. Like many other self-taught contractors and builders during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Poe not only constructed buildings designed by others, but he also acted as an architect. From the nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries, the construction trades of architect and builder were often one in the same. It was not until later in the twentieth century, as populations grew and demands for housing and commercialization increased, that the two trades became more fully separate entities, as licensing laws and professional organizations began to develop.<sup>30</sup>

Serving as both architect and builder probably gave Poe ". . . direct control over the process of building and, equally important, offered an attractive drawing card to clients . . . the aspiring client could expect better results than he might obtain by showing unfamiliar pattern-book plates to local carpenters and masons."<sup>31</sup> With the arrival of the railroad in Lenoir by 1884 and the resultant availability of new machinery and industries for manufacturing building components, Poe, like many others in the latter part of the

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<sup>28</sup>1935 application to the Works Progress Administration, and interview with Mark Sanders, Reference Librarian with the National Archives by Amanda Blosser 20 June 2000.

<sup>29</sup>"Edgar Allen Poe Dies of Sudden Attack at Age 81", Lenoir News-Topic, 5 September 1949.

<sup>30</sup>Catherine W. Bisher, Charlotte V. Brown, Carl R. Lounsbury, and Ernest H. Wood, III. Architects and Builders in North Carolina. A History of the Practice of Building (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1990), p. 293. As noted, by the late 1930s, there began to be a need for greater clarity of the building trades, and the "...need for building and desire for development provided local contractors and architects with opportunities and challenges that encouraged new ways to organize and control the building process...the state joined with architects and contractors to direct and control this process through education and licensing".

<sup>31</sup>Ibid, p. 149.

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nineteenth century, prospered in his profession, having materials and skills readily available to meet the demands of his clients.

The Edgar Allan Poe House in Lenoir, built at the height of Poe's career as an architect/builder, is one of the few remaining unaltered houses in an area of North Main Street which once was a prestigious residential area in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. While there are several other houses along the street built in the Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Bungalow, and Tudor Revival styles, only a few retain their architectural integrity. A ca. 1850s farmhouse is still located on the street, but it has also been extensively altered from its original design.

While there are several examples of the use of the Dutch Colonial Revival style in Lenoir, the Poe House appears to be the most intact example of those dating from the first decade of the twentieth century. These Dutch Colonial Revival houses include 508 Mulberry Street, 1022 West Ashe Avenue, and the Ralph Todd House (1017 West Ashe Avenue). Of these three, the Todd House (ca. 1907-1913) appears to be the most similar to the Poe House in the quality and finish of the interior woodwork, which includes paneled wainscot, and both Craftsman and classically-inspired mantels. The exterior of the Todd House, however, built of rusticated concrete block, has been extensively altered by the addition of stone veneer.<sup>32</sup> While not documented, it is possible that Poe was the builder of the Todd House, due to the similarity of the interior details with those found in his own house located nearby.

In contrast to the grand house he built as his own residence on Main Street, Poe, while in partnership with Grover Triplett, built several smaller Spanish Colonial Revival style cottages in town. Of these, three are documented as being built by the Poe Triplett Construction Company. One, the Grover Triplett House (1018 West Ashe Avenue, built ca. 1918), is a one-story house with an arched entry and rough stucco walls, built for Grover Triplett. The houses at 421 and 419 Norwood Street follow in this same architectural style, featuring arched entries, rough stucco walls, and tile roofs. Allan Poe, grandson of Edgar Allan Poe, grew up in the house at 421 Norwood Street, built for his father, Eugene Poe.<sup>33</sup> A fourth cottage, at 415 Norwood Street, has many of the same architectural features as the others, including the rough stucco walls and arched entries.

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<sup>32</sup>Caldwell County survey files; field observations by Sybil A. Bowers 29 November 2000.

<sup>33</sup>Interview of Allan Poe by Joel Kincaid, 28 November 2000. Mr. Poe verified that his childhood home and the one adjacent to it were built by the Poe-Triplett Construction Company.

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While not documented as being one of the Poe-Triplett buildings, it is likely to be one due to its similarity of style and the fact it is adjacent to the two other documented cottages on this street.<sup>34</sup> The Spanish influence of these cottages may be due to the fact that Triplett lived in Florida at the turn of the century and was exposed to some of the building styles there.<sup>35</sup>

While Poe's residential buildings are certainly a testament to his skills as an architect/builder, the commercial buildings he designed in downtown Lenoir also serve as examples of his great skill and contributions to the town's architectural flavor. Of particular note are the 1907 Courtney Building and the 1908 Lenoir Hardware and Furniture Company Building. Poe's Courtney Building, adjoining an earlier Courtney Building not built by Poe (1897), is a three-story brick structure featuring corbelled brickwork, a pair of arched windows, and extensive limestone ornamentation.<sup>36</sup> The three-story Lenoir Hardware and Furniture Company building has a recessed entry, brick pilasters, dentil blocks at the cornice, and arched windows.

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<sup>34</sup>Field observations by Sybil A. Bowers, 29 November 2000.

<sup>35</sup>Caldwell County Survey File, "Grover Triplett House".

<sup>36</sup>Mason, np.

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**Boundary Description**

The boundary for this nomination comprises tax parcel PIN 2749.78.7850. The nominated tract is approximately one-half acre.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes all of the lot originally associated with the property.



