



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory  
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

December 20, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick  
Human Environment Unit  
NC Department of Transportation

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos *RMB for Ramona M. Bartos*

SUBJECT: Installation of Sidewalks on the East Side of Main Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Shopping Center at NC 89/US 311, Walnut Cove, PA 13-04-0011, Forsyth County, ER 13-2920

Thank you for your December 6, 2013, transmittal of the Historic Architectural Survey Report, prepared by Marvin A. Brown, for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and concur that the **Samuel Wilson Rierison House (SK0126)** is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C -- as a good, local representative example of an 1890s I-house with picturesque window and porch detailing on the exterior. Interior views show a similar treatment to the mantels, and an Italianate newel and stair. The rear brick wing is noteworthy and contributes to the architectural importance of the house. We do not believe the Rierison House is eligible for listing under Criterion A as the house did not play a significant role in the town's establishment and it numbers among many other houses from that time period. The boundaries appear appropriate.

We also concur that the **J. Will Wall House at 708 North Main Street** is not eligible for listing in the National Register. The 1920s house does not appear architecturally important, and the application of asbestos siding has significantly altered the house.

Neither house is located within the Study List residential district on Summit Street, and cannot be added to the district.

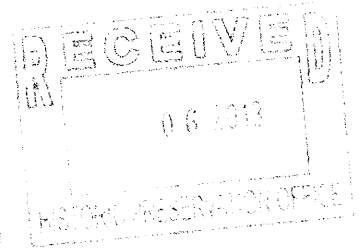
The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or [renee.gledhill-earley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:renee.gledhill-earley@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT  
Marvin A. Brown, URS



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



PAV MCCROBY  
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY J. TALA  
SECRETARY

RECORD OF TRANSMITTAL FORM

PA  
HIP No: 13-04-001 WBS  
Federal Aid No: 3609 3.7 County: Stokes

Brief Project Description: Installation of Sidewalks on the East Side of Main Street  
from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Shopping Center at NC89 US311  
Intersection: 5<sup>th</sup> Street

*Open Scallops*  
4 100E  
R22 12/18/13  
in ERB

On December 6, 2013, the enclosed materials were transmitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and received by the undersigned representatives of the following agency:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO) *12/13*
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Materials Transmitted

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) documentation, including:
  - Photographs
  - Color Transparencies
  - Landscape Plans
  - Negatives
  - Construction Drawings
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report(s)  
Number of Copies: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Hard Copy, 1 PDI \_\_\_\_\_
- Historic Architectural Resources survey materials, including:
  - Photographs
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - Survey site forms

Delivered by: Vanessa Patrick 6 December 2013  
North Carolina Department of Transportation Date  
*for Kate Husband*

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Name and Agency

MAILING ADDRESS:  
NC Department Of Transportation  
Human Environment Section  
1508 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1549

TELEPHONE: 919-465-2700  
FAX: 919-465-2701

LOCATION:  
DORR CENTER BUILDING  
1000 BRIDGE ROAD  
RALEIGH, NC 27610

## Gledhill-earley, Renee

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**From:** Swallow, Ann  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2013 5:49 PM  
**To:** Gledhill-earley, Renee  
**Subject:** FW: PA No.: 13-04-011 - Sidewalks in Walnut Cove, Stokes County

Renee -- I forgot to say that the Rierson House is not eligible under Criterion A simply because it dates to the period when the town was initially established and settled. This particular house did not play a significant role in the town's establishment, and it numbers among many other houses from that time period.

Ann

Ann V. Swallow, National Register Coordinator  
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North Carolina Historic Preservation Office  
N. C. Department of Cultural Resources  
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[Opinions expressed in this message may not represent the policy of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
E-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law "NCGS Chapter 132" and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized state official.]

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**From:** Swallow, Ann  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2013 5:33 PM  
**To:** Gledhill-earley, Renee  
**Subject:** PA No.: 13-04-011 - Sidewalks in Walnut Cove, Stokes County

Renee -- I think the Samuel Wilson Rierson House (SK0126) is eligible for NR under Criterion C -- as a good local representative example of an 1890s I-house with picturesque window and porch detailing on the exterior. Interior views show a similar treatment to the mantels, and an Italianate newel and stair. The rear brick wing is noteworthy and contributes to the architectural importance of the house.

The J. Will Wall House at 708 North Main Street is not eligible for the National Register. The 1920s house does not appear architecturally important, and the application of asbestos siding has significantly altered the house.

Both houses are not located within the Study List residential district on Summit Street, and they could not be added to the district.

Ann

Ann V. Swallow, National Register Coordinator  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION FOR  
INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS ON THE EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET  
FROM 5TH STREET TO SHOPPING CENTER AT NC 89/ US 311 INTERSECTION,  
WALNUT COVE, STOKES COUNTY**

**PA NO. 13-04-0011**

**WBS NO. 3609.3.17**

**Marvin A. Brown  
Principal Investigator**

**URS Corporation – North Carolina  
1600 Perimeter Park Drive  
Morrisville, North Carolina 27560**

**July 2013**



## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to install sidewalks on the east side of Main Street from 5th Street to the shopping center at the NC 89/US 311 intersection in Walnut Cove in Stokes County (PA No. 13-04-0011; WBS No. 3609.3.17). The Historic Architecture Staff of NCDOT's in-house human environmental unit requested assistance in the planning process from a consulting firm, URS Corporation-North Carolina (URS), to provide historic architectural analyses for this project. Specifically, NCDOT requested that URS evaluate two resources on Main Street in Walnut Cove, 530 North Main Street and 708 North Main Street. This effort included evaluating the National Register eligibility of the resources and writing a report that included photographs of the buildings and landscapes, historic and architectural contexts (as needed), evaluations of eligibility, and carefully delineated and justified National Register boundaries, if appropriate. The investigation complied with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, other state and federal regulations, and NCDOT's current *Guidelines for Survey Reports for Historic Architectural Resources*.

This report recommends that 530 North Main Street (Samuel Wilson Rierson House/SK-126) is individually eligible for National Register listing under Criterion A, for its association with the early history of the town of Walnut Cove, and Criterion C, for its intact late nineteenth-century architecture. The report further recommends that 708 North Main Street (J. Will Wall House) is not eligible for National Register under any of the Register's Criteria (**Figure 1**).



**Figure 1.** Resource locator map with Main Street at center (source of base image: Google Earth)



## II. NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATIONS

### A. 530 North Main Street (Samuel Wilson Rierson House/SK-120) (PIN #6962-06-39-7717)



Figure 2. Rierson House: front elevation

### Description

The front block of the Samuel Wilson Rierson House is two stories tall and one room deep. It is built of frame clad in weatherboards that appear to be original. A stuccoed masonry foundation underpins the block. Its gable-end roof is covered by standing-seam metal and broken at its ridge by one off-center brick chimney stack. Narrow plain cornerboards and wider plain friezeboards enframe the rectangular structure (**Figure 2** to **Figure 7**).

Three symmetrically placed bays cross the front (west) elevation of the block. The first story is marked by a centered door with a window bay to either side. Three windows pierce the elevation's second story. All six bays are set in unusually long surrounds. At the first story these extend from just short of the porch floor up to the porch ceiling. Above they stretch from the porch roof up to and just onto the friezeboard. Triangular lintels top the surrounds, which are otherwise plainly finished. The front and screen door have been



replaced, but the window bays continue to hold long, two-over-two, double-hung sash. The pediments, extended bays, and long lights are basic reflections of the Italianate style popular during the Victorian period.

The intact porch stretched across the front elevation's first story also reflects popular late nineteenth-century design. Its posts are turned and edged at their tops by pierced jigsaw brackets. Jigsaws also produced the pierced and scalloped baluster boards which, set side to side, edge the porch with a lively openwork design.

The north and south side elevations are identical. Each has two centered windows—one at the first story, the other above—with long two-over-two sash set in triangular-topped surrounds that mirror those of the front elevation. The wide overhangs of the gables, framed by moldings and underpinned by fascia boards, form distinct triangles. They terminate at boxed cornice returns. The rear (east) elevation has no openings. The regular pattern of the weatherboards suggests that this was always the case.

The house is for sale, its curtains are drawn, and no one answered the door during two visits. Therefore the interior could not be viewed. When Laura Phillips inventoried the house in 1983, however, she identified it as having a single-pile center-hall plan. The dwelling is therefore a representative of the common, traditional, center-hall-plan I-house. Although the interior could not be viewed, a deed indicates that it retains much of its interior intact. When the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina sold it (see further below) in 1994, it included protective covenants that stated:

5. The Grantee and the Foundation hereby agree that the interior architectural features listed below are elements which contribute to the architectural significance of the Will Rierson House:

- Any and all wooden floors
- Five original wooden mantels
- The original staircase, including newel, handrail balusters, risers and treads.

Photographs of some of these interior features, taken in the 1990s, are included below (**Figure 8**).

Set perpendicular to the rear elevation of the front block is a one-story ell that gives the house an L-shaped footprint. It is built of brick, but the history of the property (discussed below) suggests that it is contemporary with the principal frame block. It is laid in five-over-one common bond and topped by a standing-seam metal roof penetrated near its center by a brick stack. At its long north elevation, a two-over-two window in a plain unpedimented surround appears to be original. A second opening has been partially filled and holds two later-added windows. There are no openings at the ell's east-facing gable end, but its lower section has had some bricks replaced and has been repointed since the house was recorded in 1983.

The ell's roof extends out at its long south elevation over a screened-in porch and a side room lit by a window that is likely not original. The porch holds two original or early four-panel doors that enter the ell. The size of the ell, the placement of the two doors, and its brick construction suggest that it was built to hold a dining room and a kitchen. Phillips made the same supposition in 1983.

Two oaks, a magnolia, a spruce, and other trees shade the front and side yards, which occupy about 40 percent of the lot. A fence starting a few feet behind the rear of the ell surrounds an open yard that makes up the remainder of the lot. There are no outbuildings on the property.



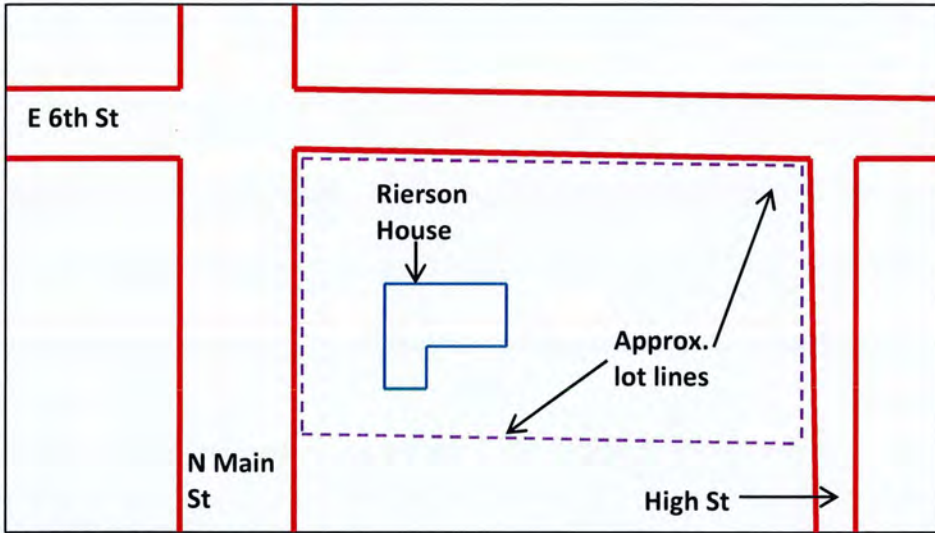


Figure 3. Sketch map



Figure 4. Rierson House: west front and north side elevations at left; west front and south side elevations at right



Figure 5. Rierson House: porch details





**Figure 6.** Rierson House—north side elevation at left; east rear elevation from rear of backyard and lot at right



**Figure 7.** Rierson House—south side and east rear elevations



**Figure 8.** Rierson House—two mantels and stairway in 1990s (source: Preservation North Carolina)

## History

The Rierson House dates back to the establishment of the town of Walnut Cove, although not back to the beginnings of the early-settled area. A state historical marker on Main Street near the house notes that settlers began passing through the area on the Old Wagon Road in the eighteenth century. About 1830 William and Ann Lash of the Moravian Bethania community settled at the western edge of what was to become the town. The development of the proper town of Walnut Cove, however, awaited the coming of the railroad and the actions of the Lashes' son, Dr. William Alexander Lash, Jr. (Stokes County Historical Society 1981:45; Stokes County Historical Society, 1990:3; Committee for Walnut Creek Centennial Celebration 1989:5).

When the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad (CP&YV) began running between Mt. Airy and Fayetteville in 1888, Walnut Cove became the first town in Stokes County with rail service. About 1891 or 1892 a branch of the Norfolk and Western Railroad running between Winston and Roanoke, Virginia gave the town its second rail line. In harmony with these developments, the community was incorporated about 1890 and W.A. Lash, Jr. platted the town of Walnut Cove about 1892 (Stokes County Historical Society 1981:45; Stokes County Historical Society, 1990:3; Committee for Walnut Creek Centennial Celebration 1989:6; Carroll 2006:106).

The plat map of the town, dated August 1892 when it was drawn and 1907 when it was filed, depicts about 210 lots. They extend north up the spine of Main Street from 1st Street to 9th Street and one or two blocks to the east and west. The Rierson House lot—number 105—is at the southeast corner of Main and 6th Streets. The plat map has about 75 names written onto the lots, including that of S.W. Rierson (or “Ryerson”). These names were added after 1892, possibly at the time the map was finally filed. The map also depicts a small number of building footprints: the Lash family residence west of the platted town; the CP&YV depot to the south of the lots; and three or four buildings near First and Second Streets. The paucity of structures suggest that these buildings date to the 1892 drawing of the plat.

The form and style of the Rierson House, coupled with their purchase of the lot in 1893 from the Lash family, suggests that it was among the first group of houses erected on the heels of the town's incorporation and the arrival of the railroad. Rierson acquired Lot 105 directly from W.A. Lash, Jr. and his wife, Annie, in April 1893. The deed notes that Rierson was a resident of Stokes County and that the Lashes resided in Guilford County. He paid \$200 for the corner lot (Stokes County Deed Book 35/Page 28). On the same day as the purchase, Rierson put up the lot up as collateral for a loan of \$500—perhaps to help pay for the construction of his house—which he paid off in 1899 (Stokes County Deed Book 32/Page 172).

S.W. or Samuel Wilson (or Will) Rierson was born in 1856 and died in Walnut Cove in 1929. In 1897 he married Sallie B. Martin (1867-1955) (Stokes County Death Book 17/Page 163 (S.W. Rierson); Stokes County Death Book 43/Page 123 (Sallie Rierson); Lineback n.d.:131).

The Riersons engaged in various occupations. According to a state business directory of 1903, S.W. Rierson had a business in Walnut Cove that manufactured caskets and “S.W. Rierson and Company” was one of seven enterprises in the town that dealt in tobacco (*News and Observer* 1902). (The directory identifies S.C. Rierson as the proprietor of a boarding house and as the mayor of Walnut Cove. Sanders C. Rierson was S.W. Rierson's brother (FindAGrave website; Phillips 1983).) A state directory of 1904 identified S.W. Rierson as manufacturing and dealing in caskets (*News and Observer* 1904). Tobacco dealers were no longer included, but the directory further identified Rierson as an auctioneer and also as one Walnut Cove's three aldermen. The Rierson family was an important one in the small community.



According to a history of Walnut Cove, “Mr. and Mrs. Will Rierson” were among the proprietors of the town’s Central Hotel, which “catered to transient and boarding trade” (Committee for Walnut Creek Centennial Celebration 1989:7). Elizabeth Mitchell Heath recalled in 1989 that Annie Rierson ran a boarding house (Committee for Walnut Creek Centennial Celebration 1989:38). S.W. Rierson’s death certificate of 1929 listed his occupation as farming. Sallie Rierson’s death certificate, which recorded her passing in 1955 at the age of 88, identified her occupation as domestic.

Regardless of their occupations, the Riersons were successful enough to build their house and raise a family there. The house likely dates from 1893, when S.W. bought the lot. It was certainly standing no later than 1900. In that year, according to Dr. Jack Fowler, the Riersons’ daughter, Wilma, was born in the house (Committee for Walnut Creek Centennial Celebration 1989:57).

The property passed to the Riersons’ son, Herbert “Hub” Rierson, at an undetermined date. No deed or estate papers record the transaction, but it was owned by him at his death in 1981 (Stokes County Clerk of Superior Court, Estate 81-E-148). According to Dr. Fowler, his uncle Hub lived in the house and operated a gas station a block to the south, at 4th Street, for about 50 years. Fowler recalled that he “was one of our great local characters, always cracking wise.” During an interview in 1989, Fowler included the following among his uncle’s bon mots (Committee for the Walnut Creek Centennial Celebration 1989:55): “Hub was putting gas in my car and I told him the dipstick didn’t reach the oil. Hub shoots back, “What you need is a longer stick.” A customer asks, “You got a fan belt for a ’68 Ford?” Hub says, “Two door or four door?” Almost everybody has felt the barb of his wit.””

Upon Hub Rierson’s death his son, Herbert Wayne Rierson, and daughter-in-law, Bonnie P. Rierson, inherited the house (Stokes County Deed Book 277/Page 353 (1982).) In 1983 they rented it out (Phillips 1983). Herbert Wayne Rierson, who continued to operate the gas station after his father’s death, died in 2002. In 1994 Bonnie Rierson deeded the property to the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina (Stokes County Deed Book 378/Page 521). After a century of ownership, it had left Rierson family hands. With protective covenants, the Foundation in turn deeded the property to Linda S. Cardwell later that year (Stokes County Deed Book 378/Page 524). In 2004 Linda and Robert Henry Rinaldi sold it to Deborah A. Cowan, who has put the house up for sale (Stokes County Deed Book 514/Page 1261).

### **Significance and Integrity**

The Samuel Wilson Rierson House has a high degree of integrity that supports its significance under National Register Criteria A and C. It retains all seven elements of National Register integrity in support of both Criteria:

- **Location:** The house stands on the same spot, within the same lot, where it was originally constructed.
- **Design:** The form, finish, and style of the house are unchanged since it was constructed. Among the original exterior elements it retains are its I-house plan, brick ell, weatherboard cladding, triangular-topped surrounds, long two-over-two sash, and porch posts, brackets and balusters. Its interior retains five original mantels and a stairway with original newel post, handrail, balusters, risers, and treads.
- **Setting:** The house continues to stand on its original lot on the principal thoroughfare in Walnut Cove.
- **Materials:** The little-altered house retains numerous original materials, including frame and brick walls, weatherboards, surrounds, windows, porch, mantels, and stairway. Description made and photographs taken by Phillips in 1983 and Preservation North Carolina in the 1990s indicate almost no changes to the house in the past 30 years.

- **Workmanship:** The house's many original features continue to represent the craft of the workmen that created them.
- **Feeling:** The house's integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship combine to allow it continue to evoke its historic feeling.
- **Association:** The house's integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling combine to convey its continuing integrity of association.

The house retains many of its original features. These include an I-house-form principal block; long, two-over-two, double-hung, sash windows; surrounds with triangular lintels; cornerboards, friezeboards, and cornice returns; weatherboard cladding; and a full-façade front porch finished with original turned posts, jigsawn upper brackets, and flat, decorative, jigsawn baluster boards. Inside, the front block retains five original wooden mantels and an original staircase that includes an intact newel post, handrail, balusters, risers, and treads. The house also retains an original one-story kitchen/dining room ell built of brick that reflects the common use of brick in the Moravian and German-settled Walnut Cove and Stokes County. (Indeed, the no-longer-extant house erected by the German Moravian William A. and Ann Lash beginning about 1830, the first known to stand in the community, was built of both frame and brick (Committee for Walnut Creek Centennial Celebration 1989:6; Stokes County Historical Society 1981:102).) The house therefore retains sufficient integrity to support its significance under Criterion A.

The house is believed to be eligible for National Register listing under Criterion A for its association with the earliest history of the town of Walnut Cove. It was erected about 1893, five years after the railroad first came to Walnut Cove and Stokes County, about three years after the town was incorporated, and only one year after it was platted. S.W. Rierson purchased Lot 105 from the town's developer, W.A. Lash, Jr., and upon it erected the house, which is one of the first houses raised in the new town and one of the most intact survivors. Rierson was a farmer, hotel or boarding house operator, casket manufacturer and dealer, auctioneer, and town alderman.

The house is also believed to be eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C for its architecture. It is a good relatively modest representative of the combination of a traditional form—the I-house—with the popular Italianate style. This use of traditional form coupled with modest expression of popular national styles is described by Laura Phillips (1989:52) in her architectural history of the county:

While traditionalism was an ever-present factor in Stokes County's architecture, the second half of the nineteenth century—from the Greek Revival to the late [V]ictorian Queen Anne—was a period, nationally, of romanticism in architecture that was expressed in a variety of Victorian period styles. In Stokes County this romanticism in building design was evident, but to a lesser extent than in many places, particularly more urban places. The latter half of the nineteenth century—especially the last quarter—was a time of growth and change in Stokes County, but it was not, for the most part, a time of great individual wealth. Thus housing in general tended to cling to comfortable traditionalism with only tentative forays into the world of stylish romanticism.

The house falls within the more basic expression of national styles in the county described by Phillips (1989:54). Following a review of high-style residences, she notes that:

Other houses of simple but handsome Italianate influence were also built in Stokes County during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Located primarily in the towns, these houses made use primarily of gabled roofs with overhanging eaves and bracketed cornices, pedimented door and window surrounds, and fancy porches with chamfered posts and



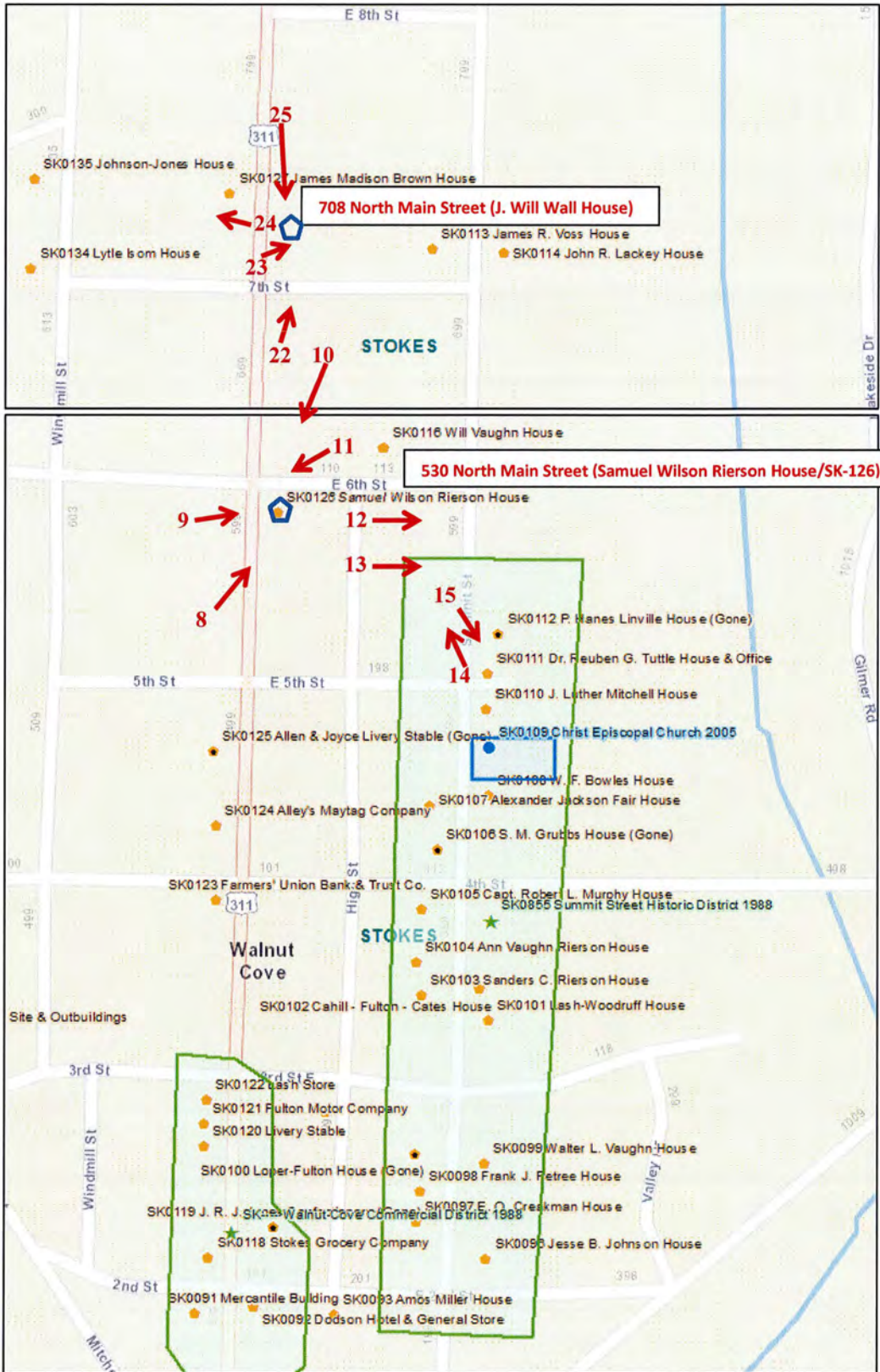
sawnwork brackets and balustrades. These houses were usually two stories in height, though various configurations and plans were used.

Phillips (1983) notes specifically in her narrative description of the house that it is “typical of late nineteenth century domestic architecture in Stokes County.”

The period of significance of the house is the same for both Criteria A and C, its ca. 1893 date of construction.

While the house is believed to be individually eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C for its architecture, it is not believed to be further eligible for listing under that Criterion as part of any historic district. As indicated by the following maps (**Figure 9** and **Figure 10**) and photographs, it is ringed by modern resources that cut it off from inclusion in any potential historic district. This includes any district that would incorporate part of North Main Street (**Figure 11** through **Figure 14**) and also the Summit Street Historic District (**Figure 15** through **Figure 18**), which is on the state Study List of resources potentially eligible for National Register listing. The northern end of that resource has seen the loss of its two northernmost resources—the P. Hanes Linville House (SK-112), replaced by a modern house, and the Dr. Rueben G. Tuttle House and Office (SK-111), now a vacant lot—on the east side of Summit Street north of 6th Street. On the west side of Summit north of its intersection with 6th is a large paved parking lot, a garage, and two mid-twentieth-century houses out of character with this historic district that were not included within its recommended boundaries. The same reasons that kept the Rierson House outside of the boundaries of the historic district when it was placed on the Study List in 1988 continue to keep it from meriting inclusion within that resource.

The house is also not believed to be National Register eligible under Criterion B. Samuel Wilson Rierson was a man of some note in Walnut Cove, but neither he nor his son or grandson rise to the level of prominence required for eligibility under this Criterion. None of them were “persons significant in our past.” Any potential archaeological eligibility of the resource under Criterion D is not addressed here.



**Figure 9.** Map depicting locations of 530 North Main Street, 708 North Main Street, and the Summit Street Historic District/SK-855 (long green rectangle at right), and the spots from which the contextual photographs for the two resources were taken (source of base map: NC Historic Preservation Office)



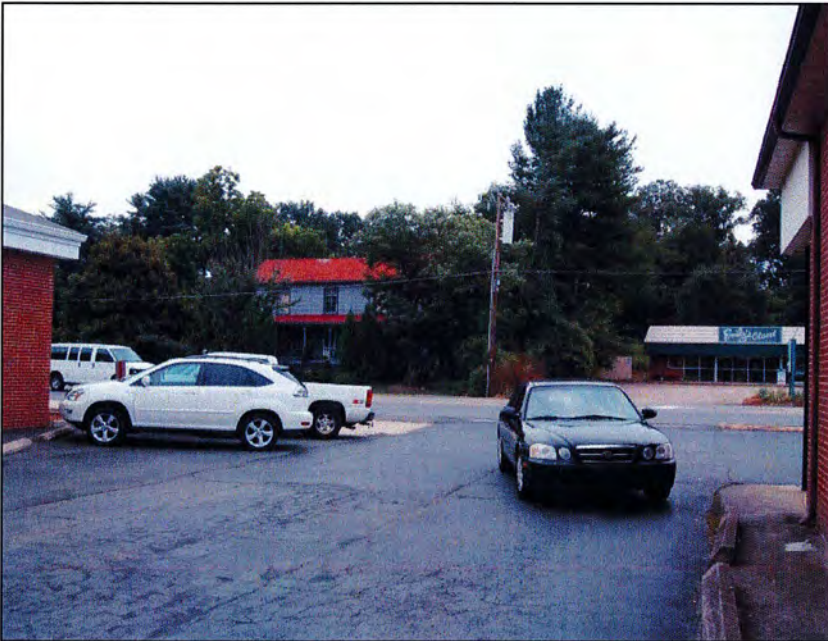


**Figure 10.** Map depicting locations of 530 North Main Street, 708 North Main Street, and the spots from which the contextual photographs for the two resources were taken (source of base image: Stokes County tax maps)





**Figure 11.** Looking northeast up Main Street at late twentieth-century thrift store at right, Rierson House at center, CVS drugstore at left distance, modern Dr. Jack Fowler park at far left foreground



**Figure 12.** Looking east across Main Street at early twenty-first-century ABC store at far right foreground, thrift store at right, Rierson House at left center, fire department building at far left foreground





**Figure 13.** Looking south with early twenty-first-century CVS drugstore at left, Rierson House at center across 6th Street, and Main Street and ABC store at far right



**Figure 14.** Looking southwest down 6th Street with Rierson House at left and early twenty-first-century fire department building at right across Main Street



**Figure 15.** Looking east from High Street (alley) running along rear of Rierson House lot toward back elevation of 517 Summit Street (north of Summit Street Historic District)



**Figure 16.** Looking east from High Street (alley) running along rear of Rierson House lot toward back elevation of 511 Summit Street (north of Summit Street Historic District)





**Figure 17.** Looking northwest from junction of Summit Street and 6th Street toward garage and front elevation of 511 Summit Street at northern edge of Summit Street Historic District



**Figure 18.** Looking southeast from junction of Summit Street and 6th Street toward manufactured house on site of P. Hanes Linville House (SK-112) at left and J. Luther Mitchell House (SK-110) at right at northern edge of Summit Street Historic District; note that Dr. Rueben G. Tuttle House and Office (SK-111), which stood between the two houses, was demolished after 1983



## Boundaries and Justification

The recommended National Register boundary for the Samuel Wilson Rierson House includes the lot it has occupied since it was constructed ca. 1893 and extends out to the edge of roadway pavement. That lot is depicted below on a portion of the plat map of Walnut Cove of 1892, labeled "S.W. Ryerson" and numbered 105 (Figure 19). The same lot with the same 100'-x-200' proportions is depicted below on current Stokes County tax map 287B-8. It is identified in tax records as PIN #6962-06-39-7717 and NC PIN #0702235 (Figure 20). These boundaries encompass the house which stands alone on the lot, its front yard and fenced rear yard, and various plantings.

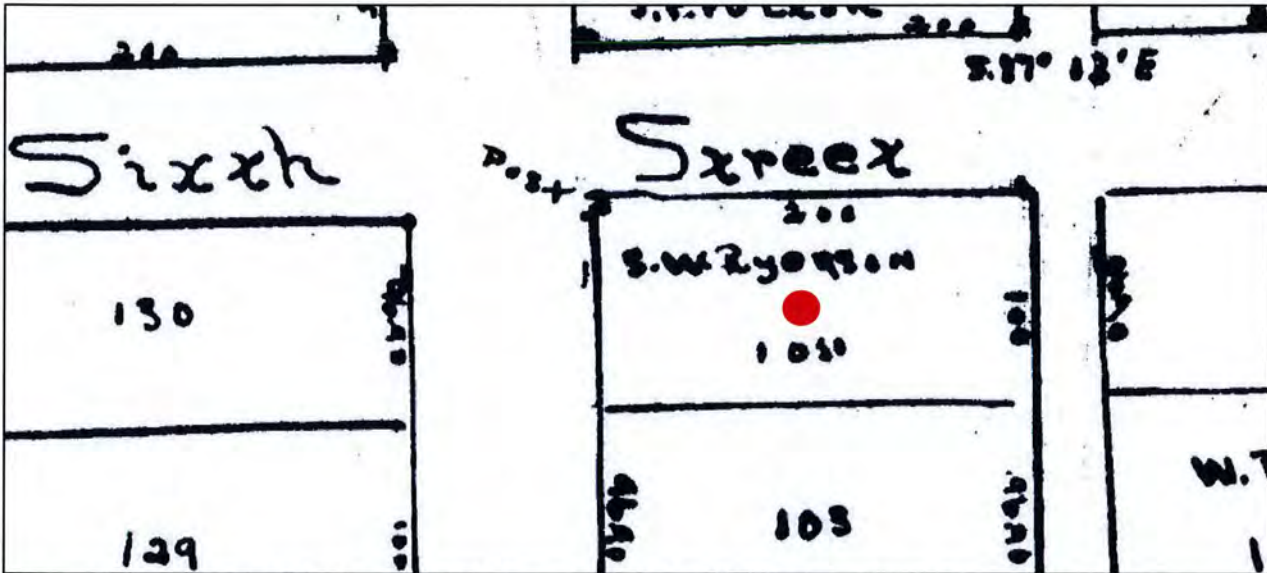


Figure 19. Portion of 1892 plat map of Walnut Cove with red dot locating Lot 105

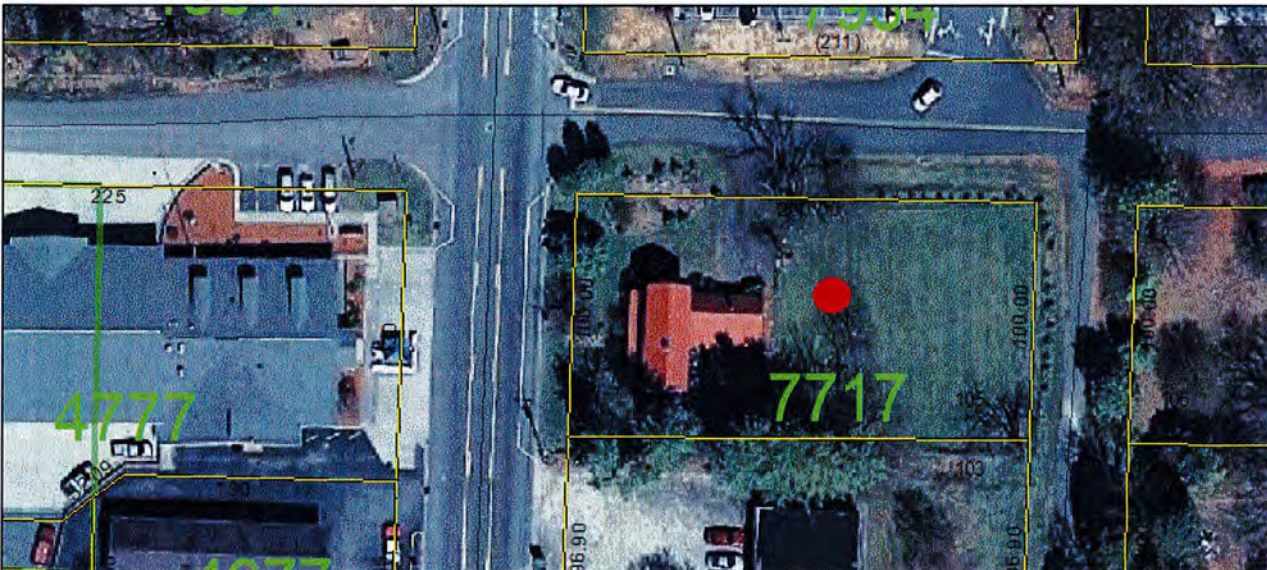


Figure 20. Portion of Stokes County tax map 287B-8 with red dot marking the lot that is recommended as the National Register boundaries along with any additional property that extends out to the edge of surrounding roadway pavement



**B. 708 North Main Street (J. Will Wall House) (PIN #6963-18-30-7540)**

*Not eligible  
date?  
1920s*



**Figure 21.** Wall House: west front and north side elevations

**Description**

The J. Will Wall House is a straightforward, gable-end, one-story house with Craftsman-style features (**Figure 21** through **Figure 25**). It is built of frame and covered with asbestos shingles. At its north side elevation, where a utility box was once attached, a bit of the house's original German siding is visible. The front (west) elevation is three bays wide. At the left (north) is a double-hung sash window, at the center a door, and at the right a paired double-hung sash window unit. The Craftsman-style four-over-one windows appear to be original, as does the front door, which includes four long lights that reflect those of the upper sash of the windows. The shutters at this and the house's other elevations are later additions. Extended across the length of the elevation, and wrapped back around the south side elevation, is a Craftsman-style porch. Edged by tapered wooden posts set upon brick piers, it also appears to be original. One further Craftsman-style element is the exposure of rafter tails beneath the standing-seam metal roofs covering the house and the porch. An offset interior brick chimney stack extends from the gable peak of the house roof, near the south side.

The house's north side elevation is marked by four-over-one sash windows set individually and in pairs. The gable peak is pierced by a paired window and sided with wooden shingles. The south side elevation has an



original four-over-one window in the shadow of the wraparound porch. The paired four-over-sash window unit in the shingled gable peak above is out of character with the other windows, but may be original. A projecting room at the south side elevation, to the rear of the porch, also has a paired window unit with four-over-one sash. It can be entered through a door opening directly onto the porch. A shed-roofed ell crossing the rear (east) elevation once included an open porch at its north end. A paired four-over-one window unit near its center indicates that it was also partially enclosed, however.

The tenant did not permit any access to the house. He did state, though, that the interior had been altered through the addition of sheetrock walls.

Due to the uneven surface of the lot, the house is raised on brick foundation walls. Brick, supplemented with concrete block and some stone, also forms portions of a retaining wall and wide overgrown steps that lead from the street to the brick stairs of the front porch.

One outbuilding stands to the rear of the house (**Figure 25**, at right). It is a one-story, gable front, two-room building built of frame clad in vinyl. A door and six-over-six sash window fill its front (west) elevation. Its south side elevation has one long window, its north side elevation a small window and a door that enters the rear room. A brick flue stack rises from the center of its standing-seam metal roof. The placement of the openings and the flue suggest that the building may have been erected as a summer kitchen. The number "709" is marked over and upon the front door. This is the address of the house immediately across Main Street from the house. This building, which appears to date from earlier in the twentieth century than the house, may have been moved from there or elsewhere in the town.

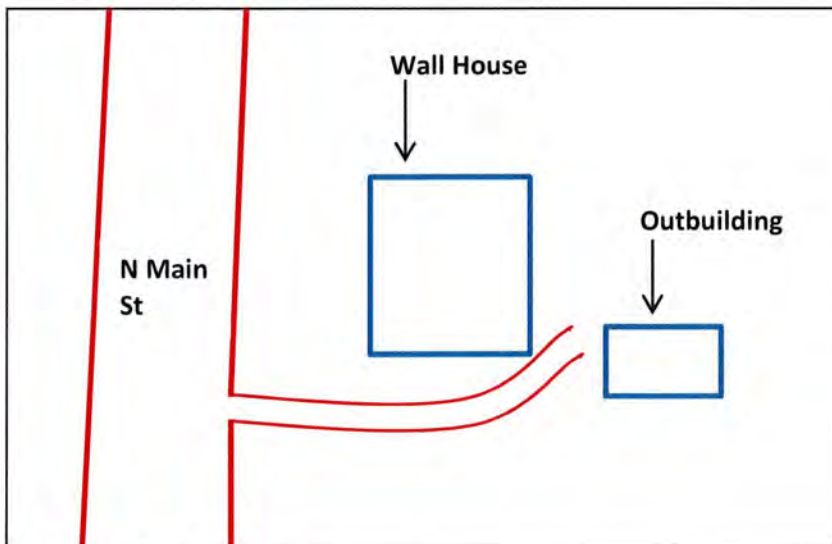


Figure 22. Sketch map





**Figure 23.** Wall House: south side elevation at left; west front elevation and retaining wall and stairs at right



**Figure 24.** Wall House: west front elevation with Craftsman-style porch, sash, and front door at left; north side elevation with original German siding exposed beneath asbestos shingles at right



**Figure 25.** Wall House: north side and east rear elevations at left; west front and south side elevations of outbuilding immediately to rear of house at right

## History

The J. Will Wall House occupies Lot 177 of the 1892 plat map of Walnut Cove. This lot is located near the northern end of the map and was not sold until 1907. As the below table indicates, the lot has passed through numerous hands in the past century:

Date	Deed Bk/ Page No.	Grantor	Grantee	Sales price
1907	52/244	W.A. & Annie E. Lash	Charles W. Gibson	\$200
1913	59/184	Charles W. & Gertie Gibson	J.R. Lackey	\$600
1915	61/194	John R. & Nannie L. Lackey	J.G.H. Mitchell	\$685
1919	67/213	J.G.H. Mitchell	J.H. Fowler; A.A. Fowler	\$700
1920	67/459	J.H. Fowler; A.A. Fowler	J. Will Wall	\$825
1926	77/6	Bank of Stokes County	E.F. Neal	\$200
1926	76/260	E.F. & Macy Neal	Bank of Stokes County	\$3,000
1932	84/325	N.O. Petree, Stokes County trustee	Gurney P. Hood, Commissioner of Banks	\$750
1932	81/440	Gurney P. Hood, Commissioner of Banks	Town of Walnut Cove	\$5 and other
1941	98/629	Town of Walnut Cove	Harvey L & Willie Bandy Pettus	\$100 and other
1958	133/543	Harvey L & Willie Bandy Pettus	J.P. Allen; Mandie Allen; Minnie Allen; Nora Allen	\$4,500
1970	192/142	Estate of J.P. Allen; Clarence and Lois Allen	Harden W. & Myrtle B. Brown	\$6,500
2001	459/872	Myrtle Bibey Brown	John R. & Marilyn M. Parsons	Not listed
2002	467/584	John R. & Marilyn M. Parsons	Clyde E. & Nelldra K. White	Not listed
2007	573/1718	Nelldra K. White	John R. & Marilyn M. Parsons	Not listed

The gradual increases in sales price suggest the lot was bought and sold, with no dwelling, from 1907 through 1920. In 1920 J. Will Wall purchased the property for \$825. By 1926 he had apparently defaulted on a loan and lost the property to the Bank of Stokes County. The bank turned around and sold it to E.F. Neal for \$200 and a deed of trust for \$3,000. This deed of trust was likely a mortgage that allowed Neal to purchase the property, which apparently had an improved value of about \$3,200. This strongly suggests that Wall had erected a house on the lot.

J. Will Wall may have been James William Wall (1882-1945) who was born and died in Stokes County and is buried in Walnut Cove Cemetery (FindAGrave website). No other information could be located on him in local history sources or online. The house is now owned by John and Marilyn Parsons and is occupied by a renter.

## Significance

The J. Will Wall House is not believed to be significant in terms of any of the National Register's Criteria. It has no known association with the broad patterns of our history or persons significant in our past and is therefore not believed to be eligible under Criterion A or B. Its plain rectangular form is common and its Craftsman-style details commonplace. Numerous houses with more pronounced bungalow forms and Craftsman-style features can be found throughout Walnut Cove. The house is therefore not believed to be individually National Register-eligible under Criteria A, B, or C. It is also not believed to be eligible under Criterion C as part of any potential historic district. As indicated by the above maps (**Figure 9** and **Figure 10**)—and the associated photographs below (**Figure 26** through **Figure 29**)—it is virtually encircled by modern resources that cut it off from inclusion in any potential historic district. The house is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register under any of the Register's Criteria. Any potential archaeological eligibility of the resource under Criterion D is not addressed here.





**Figure 26.** Looking north from edge of CVS parking lot toward early twenty-first-century car dealership building at right, late twentieth-century house at left, and J. Will Wall House at left distance; Main Street out of sight just to left



**Figure 27** Looking northeast from junction of Main and 7th at late twentieth-century house at right and J. Will Wall House at left





**Figure 28.** Looking northwest across Main Street from J. Will Wall House at late twentieth-century car dealership building at left and early twentieth-century house at right



**Figure 29.** Looking southeast with Main Street just to right at early twenty-first-century financial offices at left, late twentieth-century house at center, and J. Will Wall House at right)



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