



**North Carolina Department of Natural and 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

February 2, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report for Grade, Drain, Base and Pave SR 1560 from
SR 1549, PA 15-05-0008, Ashe County, ER 16-0010

Thank you for your memorandum of January 4, 2016, transmitting the above-referenced report. We concur with the findings of the report that the:

Stephen Ward House (AH0236) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture and that the proposed boundaries appear appropriate.

Ward Farm (AH0202) and Frank Edwards House (AH0237) are not eligible for the National Register.

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 environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.



PAT McCrory
Governor

NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON
Secretary

EPZ16-0010

January 4, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office

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FROM: Kate Husband
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: PA No. 15-05-0008, Grade, Drain, Base and Pave SR 1560 (Martin Gambill Road) from SR 1549 (Garvey Bridge Road) to Existing Pavement *Asher County*

*Due 1/28/16 To Annie MCD
Y6/16
OK
Y25/16*

Attached is the Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, and survey site forms and photographs, for the above-referenced project. Please review and provide comments, and I thank you for your continued assistance. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (919) 707-6075 or at khusband@ncdot.gov.



HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS OF
THE WARD FARM (AH0202), THE STEPHEN WARD HOUSE
(AH0236), AND THE FRANK EDWARDS HOUSE (AH0237),
ASHE COUNTY

Grade, Drain, Base and Pave SR 1560 (Martin Gambill Road) from SR 1549
(Garvey Bridge Road) to Existing Pavement
Ashe County, North Carolina
WBS No. 11C.005150

Prepared for:

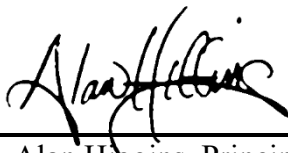
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Human Environment Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by:

Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.
P.O. Box 71220
Richmond, Virginia 23255

S. Alan Higgins, M.S.
Principal Investigator

December 2015



December 11, 2015

S. Alan Higgins, Principal Investigator
Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE WARD FARM (AH0202), THE STEPHEN WARD HOUSE (AH0236), AND THE FRANK EDWARDS HOUSE (AH0237), ASHE COUNTY

Grade, Drain, Base and Pave SR 1560 (Martin Gambill Road) from SR 1549
(Garvey Bridge Road) to Existing Pavement
Ashe County, North Carolina
WBS No. 11C.005150

I. INTRODUCTION

In October 2015, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA), conducted an intensive-level historic architectural analysis for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in association with the project to Grade, Drain, Base and Pave SR 1560 (Martin Gambill Road) from SR 1549 (Garvey Bridge Road) to the end of existing pavement in Ashe County, North Carolina (WBS No.: 11C.005150). The goal of the historic architectural analysis was to evaluate the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of three properties known as the Ward Farm (AH0202), the Stephen Ward House (AH0236), and the Frank Edwards House (AH0237), in Ashe County (Figures 1–4). All three properties fall within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project, which extends 50 feet from the center of the existing road each way for the length of the project. CRA's investigation, completed between September 29 and October 2, 2015, included a combination of archival research, visual investigations, and photographic documentation of extant buildings and structures and their contextual setting.

CRA performed the historic architectural analysis in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974; Executive Order 11593; and Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 660-66 and 800 (as revised, 1999). The field research and report meet the requirements specified in the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation" (*Federal Register* 48: 190:44716-44742) (National Park Service 1983), as well NCDOT's *Historic Architectural Resources: Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines* (2003) and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (NC HPO) *Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources and Digital Photography for Historic Property Surveys and National Register Nominations, Policy and Guidelines* (2012). Based on archival research and a detailed physical investigation, CRA recommends that the Ward Farm (AH0202) and the Frank Edwards House (AH0237) are not individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, B, C, or D due to a loss of integrity. CRA recommends, however, the Stephen Ward House (AH0236) is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for Architecture.

II. RESEARCH DESIGN

Archival Research

Prior to fieldwork, CRA conducted background research to gain understanding of the development of Ashe County. CRA consulted the NC HPO's online HPOWEB GIS Service to ascertain the level of existing documentation of the property or of other properties within the area that might share a similar context. Archival research also included an investigation at the NC HPO Western Office and an inspection of archival resources, published histories, historical aerial images, topographic quadrangle maps, and historical map collections available through facilities, such as the Ashe County Public Library, and resources such as the North Carolina Maps project.

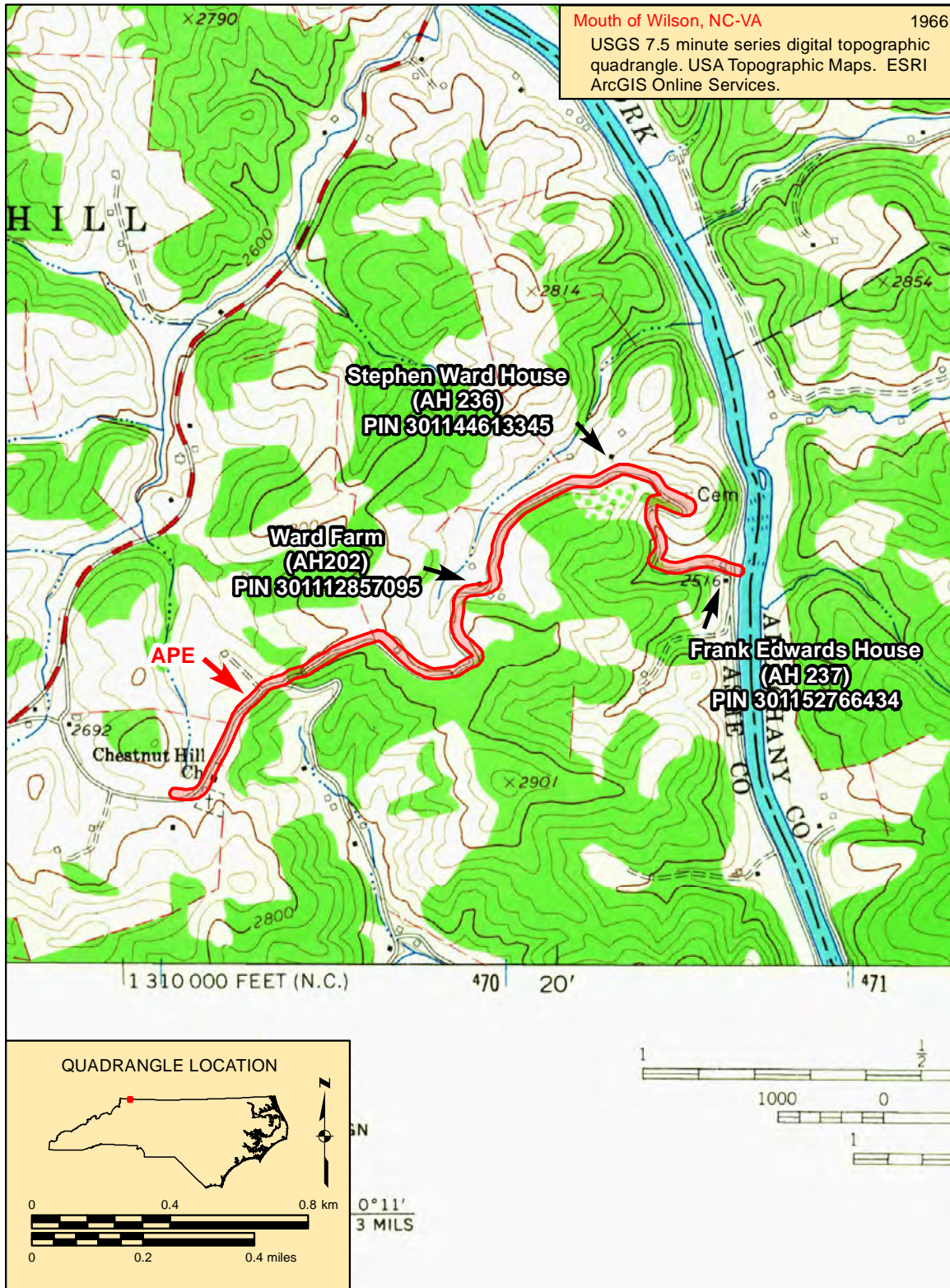


Figure 1. Portion of 1966 United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, quadrangle showing the locations of the Ward Farm (AH202), the Stephen Ward House (AH236), and the Frank Edwards House (AH237) along Martin Gambill Road.

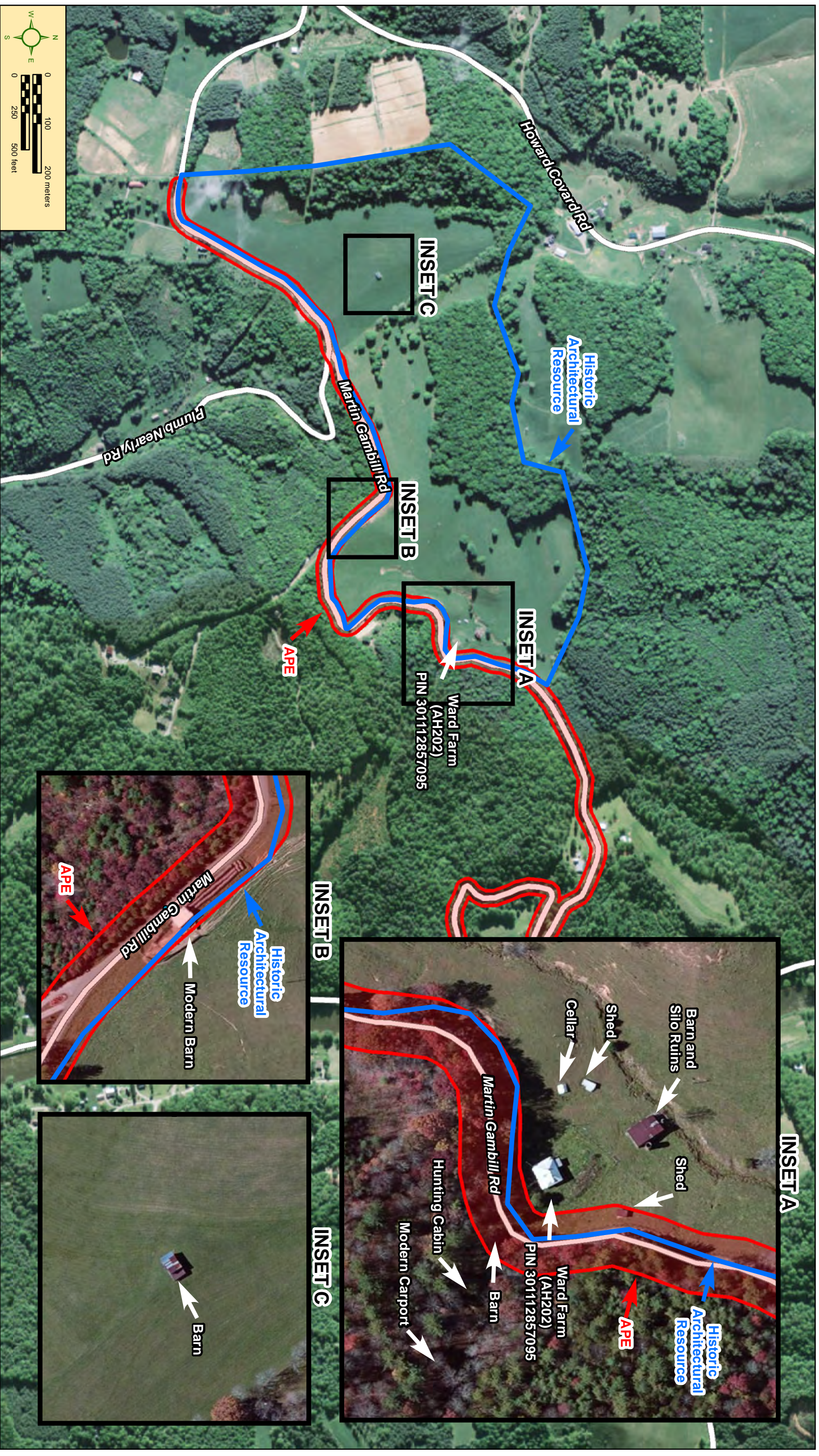


Figure 2. Aerial showing the location and site plan of the Ward Farm (AH202).

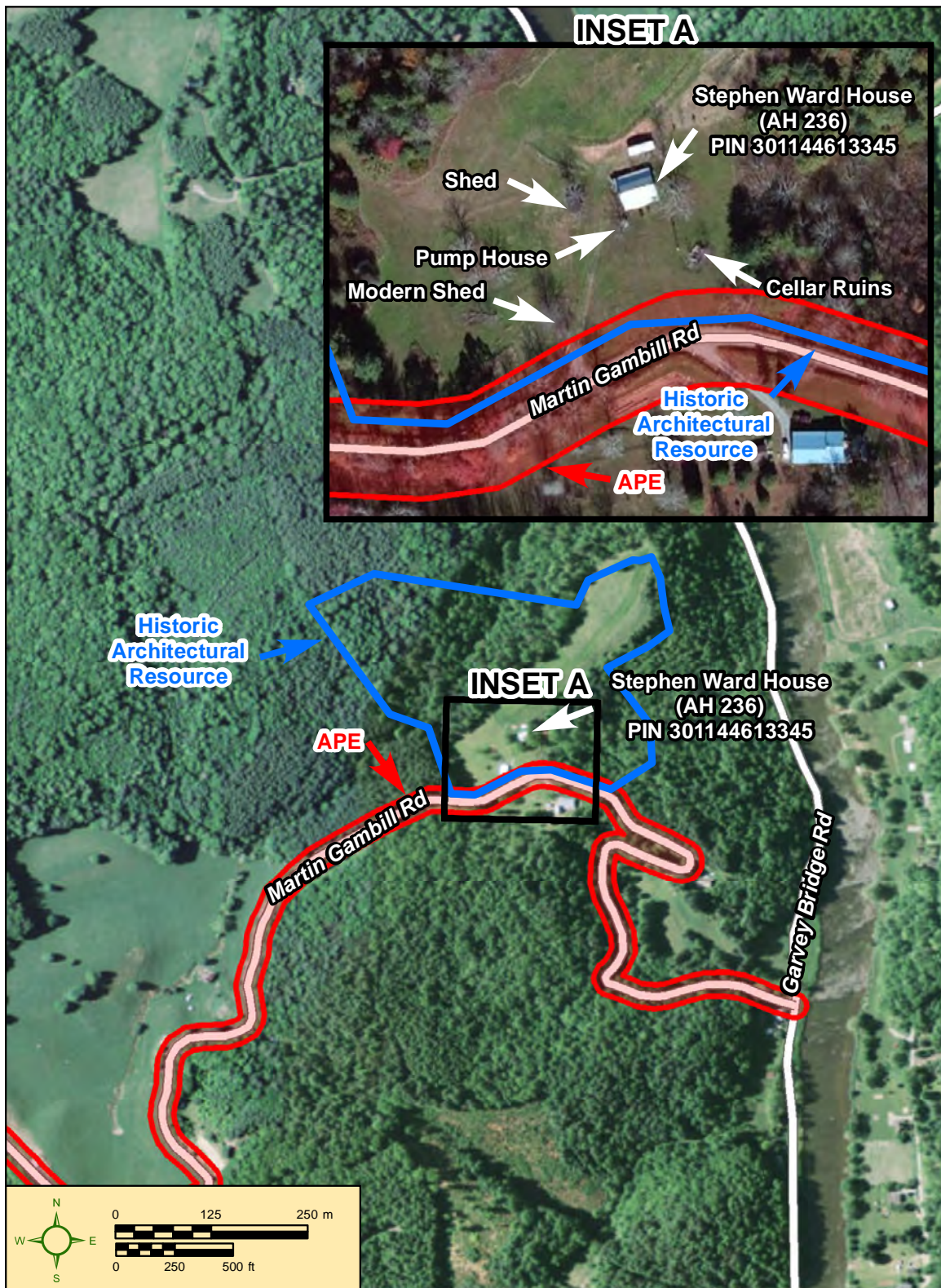


Figure 3. Aerial showing the location and site plan of the Stephen Ward House (AH236).



Figure 4. Aerial showing the location and site plan of the Frank Edwards House (AH237).

CRA then examined property tax records available at the Ashe County Tax Office and deed records at the Ashe County Register of Deeds. CRA also contacted the present property owner of each of the three properties. Caroline Gamble, the daughter of Betty and Dr. John Reeves Gamble, Jr., and one of the trustees of her parents' estate which includes the Ward Farm (AH0202), granted permission for CRA personnel to only take photographs of the exterior of the outbuildings from the right-of-way of Martin Gambill Road; the house associated with the Ward Farm is no longer standing. Interior access to gated areas and buildings was denied. Janet Ward, the owner of the Stephen Ward House (AH0236), granted permission to access the exterior of the house and outbuildings. She denied access to the interior of the resources since they were out of town at the time of the survey. Steven Ray Farrington, the owner of the Frank Edwards House (AH0237), granted access to the exterior of the house, garage, and barn (which is currently located on his father-in-law's property). Mr. Farrington did not grant access to the interior of the house or barn.

Field Investigation

Following the archival research, CRA architectural historian Hallie Hearnnes and architectural assistant Jesse Harris performed an intensive-level field investigation of the three properties: the Ward Farm (AH0202), the Stephen Ward House (AH0236), and the Frank Edwards House (AH0237). Hearnnes took detailed notes and made a sketch site plan of the property to facilitate an understanding of the property's contextual setting. Because the property owners only granted access to the exterior of the recorded resources, CRA was not able to access the interior of the houses and outbuildings; therefore, no floor plans or interior photography could be completed. Recordation included documenting physical characteristics, dates of construction, character-defining features, and integrity. All buildings and structures associated with each of the three properties were marked on a USGS topographic quadrangle map and aerial image.

CRA also completed extensive photographic documentation of all accessible portions of the three properties according to NC HPO standards and guidelines. Digital photographs were taken of each of the three sites as well as of the contextual setting and the exterior of all buildings and structures. Emphasis was placed on capturing building forms, character-defining features, and changes that have occurred throughout each property's history.

Based on the available historical information and field observations, CRA has provided a recommendation regarding the eligibility for listing in the NRHP of the Ward Farm (AH0202), the Stephen Ward House (AH0236), and the Frank Edwards House (AH0237).

III. DESCRIPTION, HISTORIC CONTEXT, AND EVALUATION

Resource Name: Ward Farm

HPO Survey #: AH0202

Street Address: 1501 Martin Gambill Road, Crumpler, NC 28617

PIN No.: 301112857095

Construction Date(s): circa 1890–1920

NRHP Recommendation: Not Eligible



Setting: Located approximately 1.3 miles northeast of the small community of Chestnut Hill in northeast Ashe County, the Ward Farm (AH0202) is situated on the either side of a bend of Martin Gambill Road, approximately 0.3 miles north-northeast of its intersection with Eagle Landing Drive. Road. The resources associated with the Ward Farm lie within a hilly pasture along Martin Gambill Road in a mountainous area surrounded by both pastureland and woodland (Figures 5–8). The site of the house, the ruins of a barn and silo, two sheds, and a cellar are located to the west of Martin Gambill Road within a pasture; two additional barns are also located on this 108.8 acre parcel.



Figure 5. Overview of Ward Farm (AH0202) and woodland beyond the resource, facing north-northeast.



Figure 6. View of the barn, hunting cabin, and modern carport associated with the Ward Farm (AH0202), facing east.



Figure 7. Overview of the Ward Farm and the woodland on the east side of Martin Gambill Road, facing south-southwest.



Figure 8. View of the pastureland and woodland beyond the Ward Farm along Martin Gambill Road, facing west.

The barn, hunting cabin, and modern carport formerly associated with the Ward Farm are located to the east of Martin Gambill Road, on a separate parcel within dense woodland. Both properties are separated from Martin Gambill road by a barbed wire fence with metal gates (see Figures 5–8).

House, overview: The house associated with the Ward Farm (AH0202) has been demolished since the time of its last survey in February of 2005 (Figure 9). According to Caroline Gamble, the trustee of the estate, the house burned. The wire fence surrounding the house remains (Figure 9). According to the text and photos included in the previous survey form for the Ward Farm, the hip-roof cottage dated to the early twentieth century. The one-and-one-half-story house featured frame construction clad in German siding with corner boards and was sheltered by a standing-seam metal roof. The roof was pierced by single front-gabled dormers on the south and east elevations and two central interior brick flues. The single-leaf entry opened to a porch that wrapped the façade and west elevation of the house. Sheltered by a hip roof clad in standing-seam metal supported by square posts, the porch featured a rounded roof on the corner. A one-story concrete block addition with a shed roof extended from the rear elevation (Wyatt and Jones 2005a).

Shed: Previous survey records indicate that a frame wood shed clad in vertical board siding and sheltered by a shed roof was located to the southwest of the house, just outside of the wire fence around the house and yard (Wyatt and Jones 2005a). This structure is no longer extant (Figure 10).

Barn and Silo Ruins: The foundation of a circa 1900–1960 barn and the ruins of a silo are located approximately 150 feet north of the site of the now-demolished house (see Figure 5). The foundation and ruins are set within a field on the west side of Martin Gambill Road. According to the previous survey completed in 2005, the barn featured a two-story frame form clad in vertical board siding and sheltered by a shed roof. It featured two aisles — one with a rolling door and the other with an unusual arched double-leaf entry (Wyatt and Jones 2005a). The poured concrete and concrete block foundation of the barn are all that remain. The silo, which was connected to the barn, is now in ruins. It is missing a roof, is set upon a poured concrete foundation, and features masonry construction of hollow-core glazed ceramic tile. A thin metal ladder runs along the east side of the silo structure (Figure 11).



Figure 9. Overview of the site of the house associated with the Ward Farm, facing northwest.



Figure 10. Site of former wood shed to the southwest of the house site, facing north-northwest.



Figure 11. Barn and silo, facing west-northwest.

Shed: A circa 1940–1970 one-story frame shed is located approximately 100 feet east of the barn and silo ruins (Figure 12). The shed is situated on stacked fieldstone piers, features frame construction clad in board-and-batten siding, and is sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof. The south elevation of the shed features a single-leaf, off-center vertical-board plank door. The east elevation features a window opening; the southern half of the window features open narrow slats, while the northern half of the window is enclosed by a panel comprised of horizontal boards. The north elevation is void of openings and the rear, or west, elevation is not visible from the ROW.

Shed: A second 1940–1970 shed and a cellar/canning house are located southwest of the barn and silo ruins (Figure 13). The shed is located approximately 130 feet southwest of the silo ruins. Oriented to the southeast, the one-story shed features frame construction clad in vertical-board siding and is sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof (Figure 14). An off-center vertical plank door is located on the northeast elevation. A small, half-story shed addition with a metal-clad roof extends from the southeast elevation; an opening, clad in corrugated plastic panels, is centered on the southeast elevation.

Cellar/Canning House: A circa 1890–1910 one-story cellar/canning house is located approximately 25 feet south-southeast of the second shed. Oriented to the northeast, the cellar is set into the base of a slope. The single-story structure features a metal-clad front-gable roof clad in horizontal board-and-batten wood siding on the gable end (Figure 15). The façade, which is comprised of concrete block construction, features three central single-leaf openings. The left and central openings no longer retain windows or doors, while the right bay features a single window with four-over-four-light, double-hung wood sashes. The northwest and southeast (side) and southwest (rear) elevations are void of window or door openings and feature uncoursed, mortared field stone construction.



Figure 12. Shed to east of silo, facing north-northwest.



Figure 13. Overview of the second shed and cellar/canning house, facing northwest.



Figure 14. View of the second shed, facing west-northwest.



Figure 15. View of the cellar/canning house, facing west.

Modern Barn: Two barns are located to the southwest and west of the previously recorded resources on the west side of Martin Gambill Road. A modern barn, constructed between 1970 and 2000 is located on the east side of a curve on Martin Gambill Road, approximately 950 ft southwest of the cellar/canning house. The two-story barn features frame construction clad in vertical-board siding and is sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof (Figure 16). The only opening on the structure is an open entry centered on the façade, facing Martin Gambill Road. Fenced pens extend from either end of the barn.

Barn: A circa 1940–1970 frame barn is located approximately 2,500 feet west-southwest of the previously recorded resources associated with the Ward Farm, and approximately 1,500 feet to the west of the modern barn. Set into a grassy field, approximately 480 feet from Martin Gambill Road, the barn features frame construction clad in vertical-board siding and is sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof with exposed rafter tails. A one-story shed addition extends from the northwest elevation of the barn (Figure 17).

Barn: A frame barn, hunting cabin, and modern carport are located east of Martin Gambill Road, across from the rest of the resources associated with the Ward Farm (see Figure 6). These resources are located on a separate parcel owned by the Murray family, but are historically associated with the farm. The circa 1915–1950 barn features a two-story form and frame construction clad in board-and-batten siding on the first floor and vertical-board siding on the second floor (Figure 18). The barn is situated on a poured concrete foundation and is sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof with exposed rafter tails. A single window with two single-light vinyl sashes with muntins affixed to simulate a nine-light arrangement are centered on the façade of the barn. A one-story, one-bay, open addition, sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof, extends from the northwest corner of the barn; there is no entry beneath the addition. A one-story shed addition clad in vertical-board siding and sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof, extends from the east elevation of the barn. The west elevation features a sliding vertical-plank barn door on the first floor (see Figure 6); the rear elevation features a centered single opening with a wood ramp to provide interior access to the barn.



Figure 16. Modern barn, facing north.



Figure 17. Barn to the far west of the Ward Farm, facing west.



Figure 18. View of the barn on the east side of Martin Gambill Road, facing east.

Hunting Cabin: A one-story circa 1940–1970 hunting cabin/cottage is located approximately 85 feet west-southwest of the barn. Possibly converted from a frame shed, the one-story cabin features frame construction clad in weatherboard siding and is sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof (Figure 19). An exterior brick flue extends to the roofline. The west elevation of the cabin features a single-leaf off-center entry with a storm door.

Modern Carport: A one-story modern (circa 2005–2015) carport is located approximately 245 ft east-southeast of the barn on the east side of Martin Gambill Road. The tall carport, which accommodates a camping trailer, features a metal-clad shed roof supported by square posts with angled brackets at each corner (Figure 20). This resource was not previously recorded as a part of the site in 2005.

Historic Context: The Ward Farm (AH0202) is situated to the east-northeast of the community of Chestnut Hill and west of the South Fork New River in northeastern Ashe County, within the Chestnut Hill Township. Ashe County was formally established in 1799 from portions of Wilkes County, though it was much larger than its current size with portions of Allegheny, Watauga, Avery, and Burke Counties included within its boundaries. It was also a part of the State of Franklin, a region formed from several counties in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. The majority of early settlers to the area and their descendants occupied small self-sufficient subsistence farms throughout the rugged mountainous terrain of Ashe County (Houck et al. 2000:7-8). These farms generated several products including burley tobacco, oats, and beef and dairy from livestock (Houck et al. 2000: 53-62; 65).



Figure 19. View of the hunting cabin on the east side of Martin Gambill Road, facing east.



Figure 20. Modern carport, facing southeast.

According to the 2005 survey form, the house formerly associated with the Ward Farm dates to the early twentieth century and is thought to have been originally owned by the Ward family (Wyatt and Jones 2005a). In December of 1902 and January of 1903, Walter C. (W. C.) Ward purchased two tracts of land in Chestnut Hill Township. One tract was purchased from Walter's parent's, C.H. Ward and his wife, M.C. Ward (Ashe County DB UU:172-1973); the other was purchased from James McMillan and his wife, Margaret (Ashe County DB UU:174-175). Given the description of the form, materials, and design of the house formerly associated with the Ward Farm, it is likely that the house was constructed by Walter C. Ward (Wyatt and Jones 2005a). The house associated with the Ward Farm first appears on the 1912 Ashe County Soils Map (North Carolina Department of Agriculture 1912) (Figure 21).

Walter and Cora Ward occupied the Ward Farm from 1902-1903 through 1940. Walter Ward was born May 18, 1880, in North Carolina to Chapman H. (C.H.) and Martha Ward. His wife, Cora Bell Ward, was born April 2, 1888, in Grayson County, Virginia. A full-time farmer who only attended school to the sixth grade, Walter Ward lived and worked in close proximity to his brother, Stephen Ward (1870-1940), who also lived on Martin Gambill Road (U.S. Census Bureau 1940; FindAGrave 2015). Walter and Cora Ward owned the house and farm until September of 1940, when it was sold to Mattie Murray (DB Z-2:138). Just three months after the sale of his farm, Walter C. Ward died on December 20, 1940. His wife, Cora, who survived him by almost 15 years, passed away on July 14, 1955. Both Walter and Cora Ward are buried near their home in the Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church Cemetery (FindAGrave 2015).

In December of 1981, Mattie Murray and her husband, Robert Murray, conveyed the current 108.8-acre parcel to John R. Gamble, Jr., and his wife Betty Gamble (DB 132:1272-1278). Today, the property is included in a trust, with Mary Caroline Gamble appointed as executor (DB 353:537), and the house has been demolished since the previous 2005 survey (Wyatt and Jones 2005a).

NRHP Recommendation: According to the 2005 survey record for the Ward Farm (AH0202), the house associated with the property was a very good example of a hip roof cottage dating from the early twentieth century and the property retained a good collection of outbuildings including a barn with unusual arched entries; however, it was not recommended as eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D (Wyatt and Jones 2005a). Since the time of the last survey, the house, barn, and a small frame outbuilding recorded in 2005 have been demolished. CRA recommends that the remaining associated outbuildings are not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D. While the outbuildings reflect typical early twentieth century types and forms that reflect the occupation of the property, research has not demonstrated that the resources are associated with a particular event or explicit pattern of events that would warrant eligibility under Criterion A. Moreover, the collection of outbuildings is one of several within the area that can reflect such generic agricultural and settlement patterns in the Chestnut Hill area.

Additionally, neither W.C. Ward nor his family or later occupants of the property have been documented as playing a significant role within the local or regional community. Therefore, the Ward Farm is not eligible for listing under Criterion B.

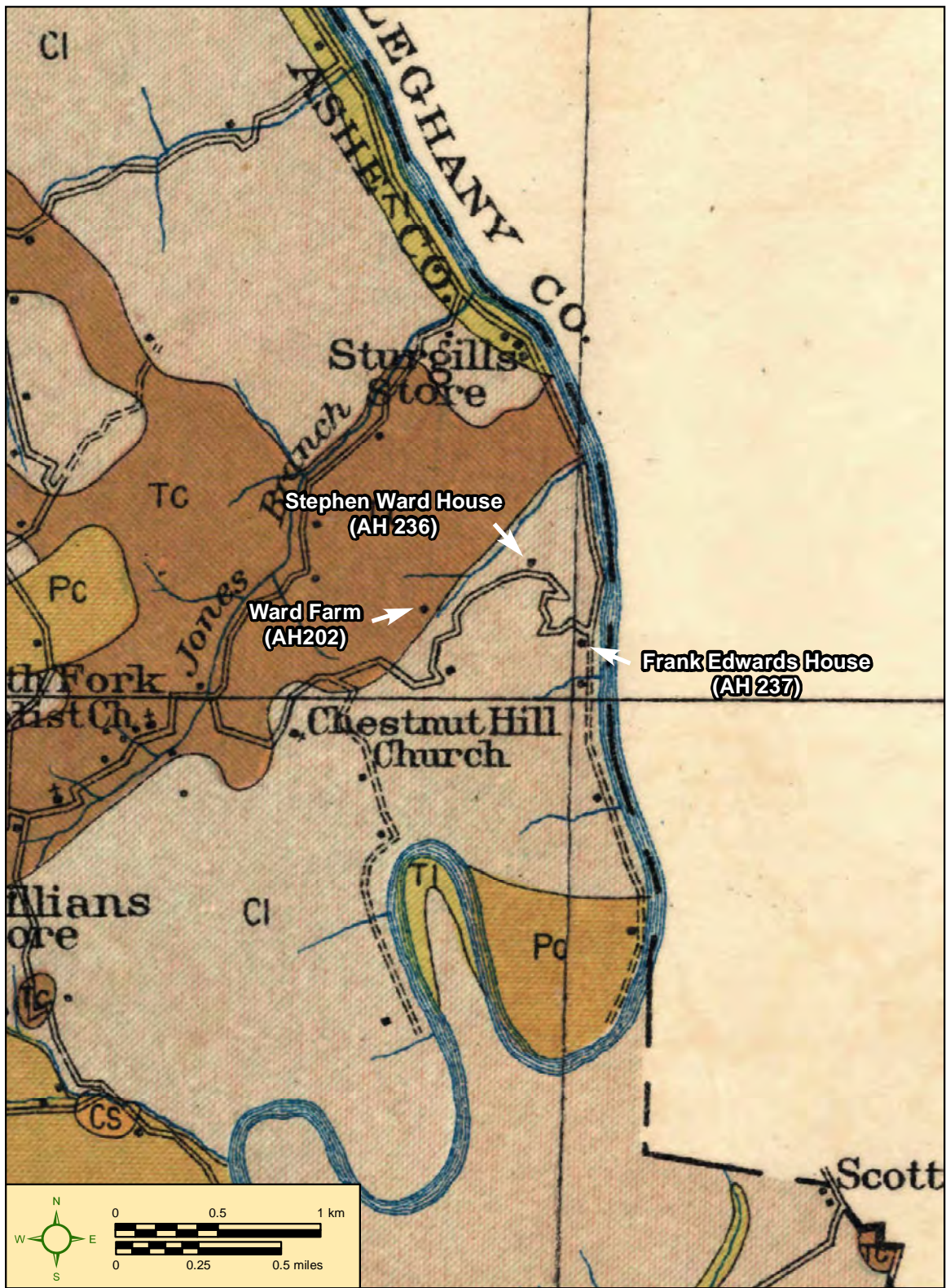


Figure 21. 1912 Soil Map of Ashe County, North Carolina showing the locations of the Ward Farm (AH202), the Stephen Ward House (AH236), and the Frank Edwards House (AH237) along Martin Gambill Road.

The house and two outbuildings—a barn with arched entries and a frame outbuilding—associated with the Ward Farm have been demolished since the last survey of the property in 2005 (Wyatt and Jones 2005a). While the remaining outbuildings reflect the previous agricultural use of the property, they represent vernacular agricultural forms constructed at the beginning of the twentieth century. Furthermore, similar types of outbuildings can be found throughout Ashe County; many are a part of farmsteads that retain historic homes and outbuildings. Intact farmsteads, like the one located at 5862 US 221N (Figure 22), the Richard Blevins House (AH0169) at 2563 Helton Road (Figure 23), and the Perkins House (AH0164) within the study-listed Helton Historic District (Figure 24) can be found throughout Ashe County. Because there are other comparable groups of historic outbuildings that retain association with historic farmsteads within the immediate vicinity of the Ward Farm and throughout Ashe County, the remaining extant resources associated with the Ward Farm cannot be considered a particularly unique collection of outbuildings within the local setting. The remaining historic secondary resources associated with the farmstead are undistinguished examples of their respective types. Alterations to the property since its previous survey in 2005, including the demolition of the house, barn, and a frame outbuilding, have diminished integrity of feeling and association of the Ward Farm; it no longer represents an intact, distinct farmstead. Thus, the Ward Farm is not eligible for listing under Criterion C.

Early-twentieth-century domestic and agricultural constructions are common to the region (and country as a whole), and the outbuildings are not likely to yield any important historical information regarding building technology of the period not readily available from other sources. The Ward Farm is, therefore, ineligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.



Figure 22. Outbuildings associated with a farmstead at 5862 US 221N, facing southwest.



Figure 23. Outbuildings associated with the previously surveyed Richard Blevins House (AH0169) at 2563 Helton Road, facing northwest.



Figure 24. Outbuildings associated with the Perkins House (AH0164) within the study-listed Helton Historic District, facing west-northwest.

Resource Name: Stephen Ward House

HPO Survey #: AH0236

Address: Martin Gambill Road, Crumpler, NC 28617

PIN No.: 301144613345

Construction Date(s): circa 1871 (left side); 1893 (right side); 1935 (rear kitchen)

NRHP Recommendation: Eligible Criteria C



Setting: Located approximately 1.57 miles northeast of the small community of Chestnut Hill in northeast Ashe County, the Stephen Ward House (AH0236) is situated on the north side of Martin Gambill Road, approximately 0.43 miles northwest of its intersection with Garvey Bridge Road. The resources associated with the Stephen Ward House lie within a cleared sloping pasture in a mountainous area surrounded by both pastureland and woodland (Figures 25–28). In addition to the house, secondary resources associated with the Stephen Ward House include a pump house, shed, cellar ruins, and a modern shed. A gravel driveway connects the 26 acre property to Martin Gambill Road.

House, overview: The primary structure associated with the property, the Stephen Ward House, features a two-bay (d/d), side-gable I-house form with a one-story rear shed addition (Figure 29). Previous survey records indicate that the southwest (left) portion of the structure was originally a log structure built in 1872, the northeast (right) portion was added in 1893, and the kitchen rear addition was added in 1935 (Wyatt and Jones 2005b). The I-house portion of the house is sheltered by a side-gable roof clad in standing-seam metal; the front porch and rear addition are sheltered by shed roofs clad in standing-seam metal.



Figure 25. View of the grassy pasture and woodland from the Stephen Ward House (AH0236), facing west-northwest.



Figure 26. View of the mature trees at the rear of the Stephen Ward House (AH0236) and pasture and woodland, facing north.



Figure 27. View of the grassy yard and woodland from the Stephen Ward House (AH0236), facing east.



Figure 28. View of the grassy yard and the Janet and Larry Ward House on the south side of Martin Gambill Road, facing south.



Figure 29. View of the façade and southwest elevations of the circa 1871–1935 Stephen Ward House (AH0236), facing northeast.

Access to the interior was not available, as CRA was not granted access by the property owners. At the time of the survey, the property owners were out of town and provided exterior access, but denied interior access. As such, details regarding the framing of the house are unconfirmed; however, given the building's age and the notes included on two previous surveys in 1976 and 2005 (exterior)/2006 (interior), the left (southwest) bay of the house features log construction and the right (northeast) bay of the house features frame construction. Given the limited access, this could not be confirmed during fieldwork. The house is situated on a stone pier foundation and the entire exterior of the house, including both the I-house and rear addition, is clad in weatherboard siding

House, exterior: The Stephen Ward House features a two-story, single-pile, side-gable I-house form; however, it only features two doors on the first floor and four windows on the second floor, instead of the more common three-bay form. While it is possible that it has been altered from its original 3-bay form, it is more likely that the house retains the original location of second floor openings on the western log portion of the house and two additional openings on the later frame portion on the eastern side of the house. Both ends of the roof are pierced by exterior end chimneys. The southwest elevation features a shouldered dry-laid stone chimney; the northeast elevation features a tall, shouldered brick chimney. The portion of the chimney above the roof is missing. Windows on the first floor of the I-house and rear addition feature two-over-two-light, double-hung wood sashes. The only windows on the second floor, which span across the façade, feature six-over-six-light, double-hung wood sashes. Simple wood trim surrounds each window.

The façade features two entries: the primary entry is centered; the secondary entry is off-center on the left side of the façade (Figure 30). The central entry features a single-leaf wood door with a half-light over three panels and a wood storm door (Figure 31). The secondary entry features a single-leaf five-panel wood door and a wood storm door. Simple wood trim with a single central bead surrounds both entries, which open to a wood porch that is sheltered by a shed roof clad in standing-seam metal. Six square wood posts support the porch roof; the porch features a beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling. Two wood steps connect the porch to the yard. Four single windows are centered on the second story of the façade. These windows feature six-over-six-light double-hung wood windows (see Figure 26).

The northeast, or side, elevation is dominated by a large brick chimney (Figure 32). The chimney features common bond brick masonry up to the shoulder; the shoulder features two angled sections that meet in the center. The stack is common-bond brick above the shoulder (Figure 33). The chimney is failing and is partially crumbled near the ridgeline of the roof. Single windows with two-over-two-light double-hung wood sashes flank either side of the chimney on the first floor; there are no windows on the second floor. A single window with two-over-two-light, double-hung wood sashes is centered on the northeast elevation of the one-story rear kitchen addition.

The rear elevation features two pairs of single windows with two-over-two-light, double-hung wood sash windows on the rear kitchen addition (Figure 34). There are no other openings.

The southwest, or side, elevation is dominated by a large dry-laid stone chimney (Figure 35). The shouldered chimney extends above the ridgeline of the roof, and likely dates to the original log portion of the house, circa 1872. Single windows with two-over-two-light, double-hung wood sashes flank either side of the chimney on the first floor; the second floor is devoid of windows. A single-leaf side entry with a paneled wood door and wood screen door is centered on the southwest elevation of the rear kitchen addition. This side entry opens to a wood porch that spans the depth of the rear addition. The side porch features a shed roof partially clad in standing-seam metal that is supported by four square wood posts.



Figure 30. View of the façade of the Stephen Ward House, facing north-northwest.



Figure 31. Detail of the façade entries of the Stephen Ward House, facing north-northwest.



Figure 32. View of the northeast elevation of the Stephen Ward House, facing southwest.



Figure 33. Detail of the brick chimney on the northeast elevation, facing southwest.



Figure 34. Detail of the rear, or northwest, elevation, facing south-southeast.



Figure 35. View of the southwest, or side, elevation, facing northeast.

House, interior: As noted, access to the interior of the Stephen Ward House could not be secured during the survey. The only details available for the interior are from previous survey records for the house. According to the 2006 survey of the interior of the house, the first floor of the Stephen Ward House features a central hallway flanked by single rooms in the I-house portion. The central passage is characterized by a wood staircase that runs along the northeast wall of the hall. The room to the left, or southwest, features a massive stone fireplace with a soapstone firebox and surround and walnut trim. The room to the right features a fireplace and chestnut plank sheathing on the walls. A third entry, which was previously centered on the southeast wall of the right room, has been patched and sealed with siding on the exterior. The rear of the central hall opens to the rear addition that is divided into three rooms: a kitchen on the far left, a central room, and a bath on the right. The second floor features the central hall, with vertical wood plank walls and wide-plank flooring; a bedroom to the left with wood plank walls and ceiling; and a room to the right that features wide wood floorboards, a wood ceiling, and new drywall (Wyatt 2006).

Pump House: A circa 1900–1956 pump house is located approximately 15 feet south-southwest of the Stephen Ward House (Figure 36). The one-story structure features concrete block construction and is sheltered by a metal-clad shed roof. An off-center single-leaf entry with a metal door is the only opening on the structure.

Shed: The circa 1950–1970 shed is located approximately 40 feet west-southwest of the Stephen Ward House (Figure 37). The one-story structure features frame construction clad in vertical-board siding and is sheltered by a steeply-pitched shed roof clad in metal panels. The façade features an off-center vertical-plank wood door and a small opening with a hinged door centered on the façade of the shed.

Cellar Ruins: The ruins of a log canning house or barn set over a stone cellar are located approximately 70 feet southeast of the Stephen Ward House (Figure 38). Portions of the log sills and a dry-laid stone foundation are all that remain of this structure.



Figure 36. View of the circa 1900–1956 pump house, facing west-southwest.



Figure 37. View of the circa 1950–1970 shed, facing northwest.



Figure 38. View of the ruins of a cellar, facing east-northeast.

Modern Shed: A modern shed is located approximately 120 feet south-southwest of the Stephen Ward House (Figure 39). The shed features modern frame construction, portions of which are clad in vertical-plank wood siding. The shed features a metal-clad shed roof that is supported by square wood posts. The façade is divided into three open bays.

Historic Context: The Stephen Ward House (AH0236) is situated to the east-northeast of the community of Chestnut Hill and west of the South Fork New River in northeastern Ashe County, within the Chestnut Hill Township. Ashe County was formally established in 1799 from portions of Wilkes County, though it was much larger than its current size with portions of Allegheny, Watauga, Avery, and Burke Counties included within its boundaries. It was also a part of the State of Franklin, a region formed from several counties in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. The majority of early settlers to the area and their descendants occupied small self-sufficient subsistence farms throughout the rugged mountainous terrain of Ashe County (Houck et al. 2000:7-8). These farms generated several products including burley tobacco, oats, and beef and dairy from livestock (Houck et al. 2000: 53-62; 65).

Log cabins or one-room houses were typical homes in Ashe County through the mid-nineteenth century, when water-powered sawmills appeared throughout the county. The availability of uniform lumber within the county increased the use of frame construction methods by local carpenters. The arrival of the railroad in 1914 also encouraged the construction of larger frame homes that featured large panes of glass and other decorative elements that could be purchased through mail-order catalogs. In addition to increasing materials for the built environment of Ashe County, the arrival of the railroad also diversified the local economy beyond the farming and agriculture of early settlers. New industries including timbering, textiles, furniture, and electronics soon emerged within the county. These industries continued to grow with the arrival of electricity. While the first electric lines were installed in Ashe County in 1939, they did not reach most of the rural county until the mid-1940s (Houck et al. 2000:9; 57; 65).



Figure 39. View of the modern shed, facing northwest.

Previous survey records indicated that Stephen Ward purchased the property on which the house stands before 1906 (Wyatt and Jones 2005b). Deed research also indicates that Stephen Ward purchased three parcels in the vicinity of the Stephen Ward House, near the South Fork New River prior to 1906. First, in March of 1894, he purchased 25 acres from Samuel Plummer and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Plummer (Ashe County DB KK:318-319). In March of 1901, Stephen Ward purchased another 19 acre tract in the vicinity from F.R. Warden, and his wife, Ida Warden (DB QQ:309-310). In December of 1903, Stephen Ward purchased a second 30 acre tract from Samuel and Mary Elizabeth Plummer (DB VV:441-442). None of these deeds reference previous ownership, and the builder of the circa 1872 and circa 1893 portions remains unknown, although previous survey records indicate that according to family history, the Caldwell family may have been the original occupants. Deed research did not reveal the Caldwell name, though there were Caldwells listed in the Chestnut Hill Township in the 1940 census (Wyatt 2006; U.S. Census Bureau 1940). According to the previous survey records, Stephen Ward added the kitchen addition to the rear of the house in 1935 (Wyatt 2006).

Born to Chapman and Martha Ward, who settled in Ashe County from Virginia, Stephen purchased property close to his brother, Walter (U.S. Census Bureau 1870). Walter and his wife, Cora, occupied the Ward Farm (AH0202) located to the west of Stephen's house along Martin Gambill Road. In April of 1906, Stephen married Della (also spelled Dellia), and they occupied the Stephen Ward House later that year (Ashe County Historical Society 1984:633). By 1910, Stephen and Della had settled into the farm and had a son, Bruce, and a daughter, Phama. Stephen was self-employed as a farmer. The house appears on the 1912 Ashe County Soils Map (North Carolina Department of Agriculture 1912) (see Figure 21). By 1930, Stephen and Della had five sons and three daughters: Bruce, a 23-year old who worked as a machinist in a nearby steel mill; Phama, a 21-year old public school teacher; Dale, a 19-year old farm laborer; Blandina, age 16; Wade, age 13; Kyle, age 11; Blaine, age 9; and Edna M., age 4 (U.S. Census Bureau 1930). As farmers, Stephen, Della, and their many children cultivated wheat, corn, and tobacco and harvested apples and cherries from the apple orchard that was located to the south of Martin Gambill Road. At one point, the farm consisted of over 150 acres and stretched across both sides of Martin Gambill Road (Wyatt 2006). According to family history, Stephen Ward enjoyed walking over his fields in the early mornings (Ashe County Historical Society 1984:633).

In 1916, a turbulent flood wreaked havoc on the farm. The South Fork New River overflowed its banks and washed away fences, a barn, a smokehouse, and a wagon that belonged to Della's parents, John Andrew and Sarah Hoppers Moxley. After the waters receded, the house was covered in debris and mud. In 1940, the South Fork New River breached its banks again (Ashe County Historical Society 1984:633).

On February 6, 1940, Stephen Ward died in his sleep at the age of 69. His wife, Della, survived him for some 36 years, passing away at the age of 92 in 1976. Both are buried in Chestnut Hill Methodist Church Cemetery, where they attended church (Ashe County Historical Society 1984:633).

In 1979, portions of the property associated with the Stephen Ward House were transferred by a Commissioner's Deed to Samuel Bruce Ward and Ruby Alma Ward, by commissioners Dan R. Murray and Russell Roten (DB 123:504-505). In January 1981, the property entered into the Samuel Bruce Ward Trust (DB 131:1306-1312). Just four years later, in May of 1985, Larry T. Ward and Janet D. Ward gained one-half undivided interest in four tracts of the Samuel Bruce Ward Trust (DB 152:2456-2459). Larry and Janet Ward currently live in a recently-constructed house on the south side of Martin Gambill Road, across from the Stephen Ward House.

NRHP Recommendation: According to the previous survey record for the Stephen Ward House (AH0236), in 2006 the resource was added to the Study List for the State of North Carolina and recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of a circa 1872 log structure integrated into a larger circa 1893 I-house form. As such, it is a representative example of the I-house form found throughout Ashe County. CRA recommends that the house and its associated historic outbuildings are not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, B, or D; however, it is eligible

under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

While the house reflects the late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century occupation of the Stephen Ward Farm, research has not demonstrated that the house is associated with a particular event or explicit pattern of events that would warrant eligibility under Criterion A. Moreover, it is one resource of several within the vicinity that can reflect such generic agricultural and settlement patterns in Chestnut Hill Township.

Additionally, neither Stephen Ward nor his family, or earlier or later occupants of the property have been documented as playing a significant role within the local or regional community. Therefore, the Stephen Ward House is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B.

The Stephen Ward House is a vernacular housing form constructed during the late nineteenth century. The house utilizes a central passage plan and a two-bay I-house form and demonstrates broad Appalachian influences in its inclusion of a full front porch and exterior end chimneys. The Stephen Ward House is one of several within the vicinity exhibiting this general I-house form, including the George T. Eller House (AH0397) on Highway 194 (Figure 40) and the Frank Seagraves House (AH0191) at 1538 Little Helton Road (Figure 41). The Frank Seagraves House features a similar brick chimney to that of the Stephen Ward House, which features angled bricks at the shoulder (Figure 42). Similar vernacular houses that feature modified forms are also found within the vicinity of the Stephen Ward House, including the smaller, two-bay, side-gabled Duvall House (AH0194) on the southwest side of Sussex Road (Figure 43) and the wider, central chimney form of a house located on the north side of Sussex Road (Figure 44) that has not been previously surveyed. Both of these houses date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and feature side-gable variations of the side-gable form typically found on I-houses. While the Stephen Ward House features a similar side-gable form to nearby comparable examples, it exhibits a rare, two-bay façade with two façade entries due to its two-phase construction, making it a particularly unique property type within its local setting.



Figure 40. View of George T. Eller House (AH0397) on Highway 194 outside of Lansing, facing north.



Figure 41. View of the Frank Seagraves House (AH0191) at 1538 Little Helton Road, facing south.



Figure 42. Detail view of the brick end chimney of the Frank Seagraves House (AH0191), facing southeast.



Figure 43. View of the Duvall House (AH0194) on the southwest side of Sussex Road, facing southeast.



Figure 44. View of a side-gable, central chimney house on Sussex Road, facing north.

The architecture and design of the Stephen Ward House reflects the growth and development of agricultural enterprises at the turn of the twentieth century in Ashe County. While fairly isolated in mountainous Ashe County and limited to the use of local timber and lumber in 1872, the original portion of the house featured a smaller log form and a stone chimney; however, by the time of the construction of the remainder of the house around 1893, the carpenter had access to milled lumber for framing and siding as well as bricks for the chimney.

Additionally, the house has not been changed since its previous survey in 2005 and 2006 (Wyatt and Jones 2005b; Wyatt 2006). Despite the construction of a minimal one-story lean-to rear addition around 1935, the house retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship. It is clad in weatherboard siding and windows feature two-over-two-light, double-hung wood sashes throughout. The historic secondary resources associated with the Stephen Ward House—the pump house, the shed, and cellar ruins—are undistinguished examples of their respective types; however, collectively they support the feeling and association of the house. Thus, the Stephen Ward House is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for Architecture.

Late-nineteenth-century to early-twentieth-century domestic constructions are common to the region (and country as a whole), and neither the house nor outbuildings are likely to yield any important historical information regarding building technology of the period not readily available from other sources. The Stephen Ward House is, therefore, ineligible, for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

Boundary Description and Justification: Because the Stephen Ward House (AH0236) is recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C, the proposed NRHP Boundary includes the portion of the current parcel that contains the house and historic resources associated with it that include the pump house and the cellar ruins as well as the historic drive (Figure 45). The boundary starts at the southwestern edge of the driveway and extends along the western boundary of the drive to the rear of the house, then eastward to the treeline, then southward to the edge of the ROW of Martin Gambill Road, then westward along Martin Gambill Road to the starting point. The NRHP boundary extends to the current ROW for Martin Gambill Road (SR 1560) as discussed in the chain of title for the property (Ashe County DB 152:2456-2459). The boundary does not include two non-historic sheds located to the west and southwest of the house, on the west side of the driveway.

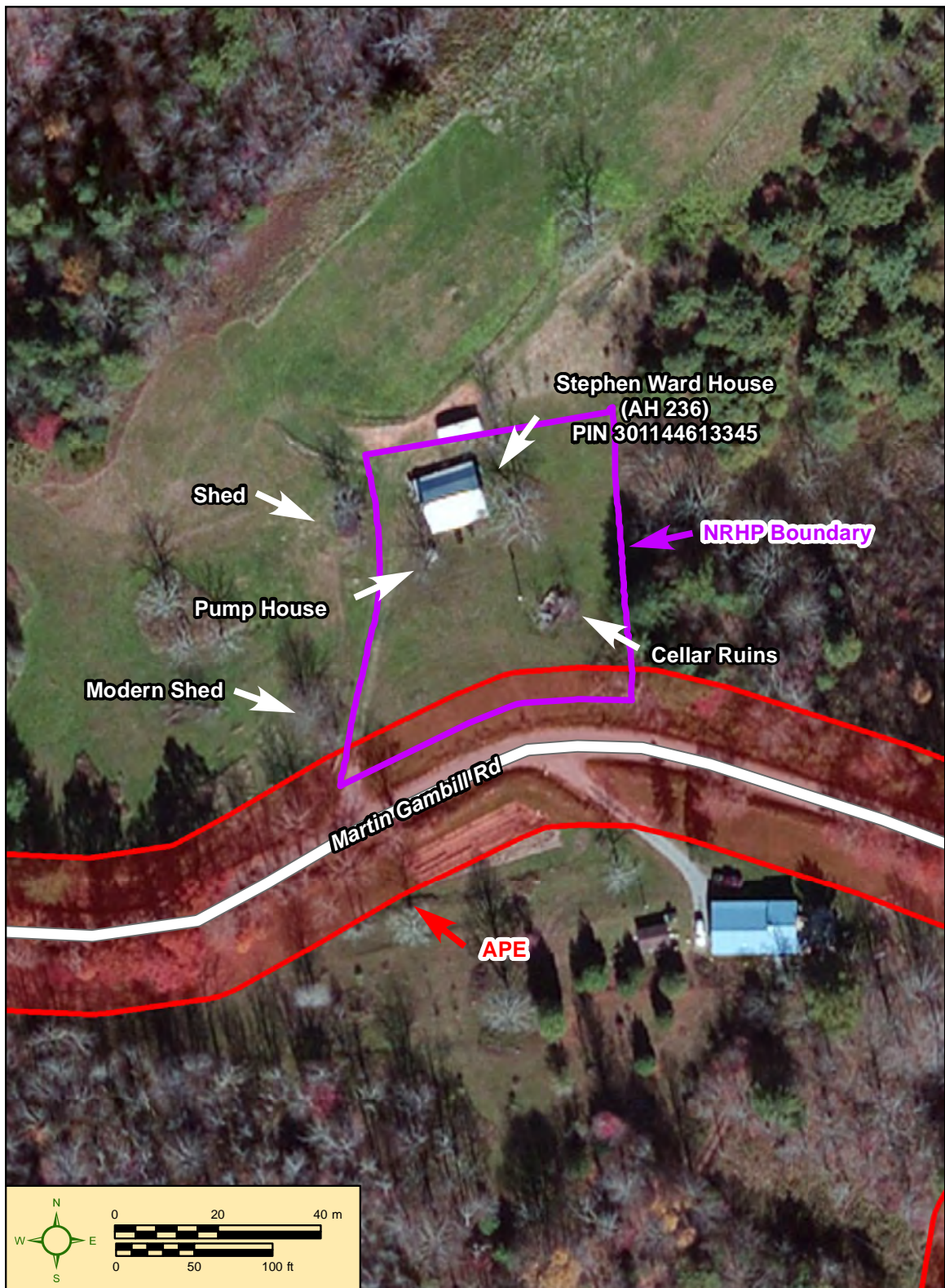


Figure 45. Aerial view showing the proposed NRHP Boundary for the Stephen Ward House (AH0236).

Resource Name: Frank Edwards House

HPO Survey #: AH0237

Street Address: 4606 Garvey Bridge Road, Crumpler, NC 28617

PIN No.: 301152766434

Construction Date(s): circa 1900

NRHP Recommendation: Not Eligible



Setting: Located approximately two miles east-northeast of the small community of Chestnut Hill in northeast Ashe County, the Frank Edwards House (AH0237) is situated on the south side of Martin Gambill Road at its intersection with Garvey Bridge Road. The resources associated with the Frank Edwards House lie to the east of a woodland within the floodplain of the South Fork New River (Figures 46–49). Secondary resources historically associated with the Frank Edwards House include a barn that is now on a separate parcel owned by the Douglas family, and a modern garage. A frame outbuilding noted on the 2005 survey record of the property is no longer extant (Wyatt and Jones 2005c). A gravel driveway connects the 1.1 acre property to Garvey Bridge Road.

House, overview: The Frank Edwards House is a circa 1900 T-plan house with an enclosed front porch and an enclosed side porch (Figure 50). Originally a three-bay (w/d/w) T-plan house, the core of the house is sheltered by a cross-gable hip roof clad in standing-seam metal. The house features ornate shouldered window surrounds that feature wide trim with a pointed crown and flared base; recent alterations to the home have concealed all of the window surrounds in sheet metal.



Figure 46. View of the intersection of Martin Gambill Road and Garvey Bridge Road to the east of the South Fork New River, facing north.



Figure 47. View of the South Fork New River from the façade of the Frank Edwards House, facing east.



Figure 48. View of the South Fork New River and Garvey Bridge Road from the Frank Edwards House, facing south.



Figure 49. View of the woodland to the rear of the Frank Edwards House, facing west.



Figure 50. Overview of the circa 1900 Frank Edwards House and the terminus of Martin Gambill Road at Garvey Bridge Road, facing west-northwest.

CRA was not granted access to the interior by the property owner. As such, details regarding the framing of the house are unknown; however, given the building's age and the notes on previous surveys, the house is presumed to be a balloon frame building. Previous survey records indicate that the carpenter died during construction and, therefore, the window surrounds on the south elevation were never completed (Wyatt and Jones 2005c). The house is situated upon a continuous poured concrete foundation and the exterior is clad in vinyl siding with aluminum corner boards with a fluted detail.

House, exterior: The circa 1900 Frank Edwards House is comprised of two original sections: a hipped front section and a hipped rear T section. The front section features a full-width enclosed front porch and the rear T section features an enclosed side porch. The ridgeline of the front section is pierced by two central interior brick chimneys (Figure 51). An additional exterior parged concrete block flue extends from the south elevation of the rear T portion of the house. Windows throughout the house feature one-over-one-light, double-hung vinyl replacement sashes with muntins affixed to simulate six-over-six-light arrangement. All of the window surrounds, including the unique original angled surrounds on original windows, are clad in aluminum (Figure 52).

The façade is dominated by a full-width one-story front porch and two decks: one deck on the first floor and one deck above the enclosed porch on the second floor. The central façade entry is comprised of a single-leaf recessed entry with a replacement door; a decorative storm door encloses the recessed entry vestibule. A metal-clad shed roof with a small front-gable above the entry shelters the enclosed porch. The façade entry opens to a deck that features composite decking, a simple balustrade, and stairs on the north and south ends that connect the porch to the yard. A bank of three windows is located at the southern end of the enclosed porch. The second story of the façade is dominated by a raised square deck that features square posts and composite decking and balustrade. A central single-leaf door flanked by sidelights provides access to this porch. Single windows with aluminum-clad surrounds are centered on either side of the second-floor entry.

The north, or side, elevation features two windows with aluminum-clad decorative surrounds centered on the first and second floors of the front portion of the house (Figure 53). The house also features two similar windows on the second floor of the rear T portion of the house. Two smaller windows with wide aluminum surrounds are located on the north elevation of the enclosed porch that extends from the rear T portion of the house. A metal-clad shed roof shelters the one-story enclosed side porch. There are no openings on the north elevation of the front enclosed porch.

The west, or rear, elevation of the Frank Edward House features two windows centered on the first and second floors of the rear T portion (Figure 54). The first-floor window has been replaced with a smaller window than the original window, as seen in the previous survey photos. The rear elevation of the north-south portion of the house features single windows on the first and second floors to the right of the rear T portion; the rear elevation of the front portion of the house also features a single window centered on the second floor to the left of the rear T portion of the house, above the enclosed side porch (see Figure 52).

The south, or side, elevation of the Frank Edwards House is bisected by an exterior parged concrete block chimney that pierces the eave of the hipped roof (Figure 55). An off-center single-leaf rear entry with a replacement hollow-core door and storm door is located to the left of the stack. A front-gabled awning clad in metal sheeting with vinyl siding on the gable end shelters the rear entry; it opens to a composite board and stamped concrete patio that wraps the rear of the house. A small window, which has been altered from its original size, is located to the right of the chimney stack on the first floor of the rear T portion. Two windows with aluminum-clad surrounds are centered above the first-floor openings. The south elevation of the north-south portion of the house features single windows centered on the first and second floors. A pair of vinyl windows is located on the south elevation of the enclosed front porch.



Figure 51. View of the façade of the Frank Edwards House (circa 1900), facing west.



Figure 52. Detail of an aluminum-clad window surround on the north elevation of the Frank Edwards House, facing southeast.



Figure 53. View of the north (side) and west (rear) elevations of the Frank Edwards House, facing southeast.



Figure 54. View of the west (rear) and south (side) elevations of the Frank Edwards House, facing northeast.



Figure 55. View of the south (side) elevation of the Frank Edwards House, facing north.

House, interior: As noted, access to the interior of the Frank Edwards House was not granted during the survey. Details of the interior were not included in previous survey records in 1976 and 2005 for the house (Wyatt and Jones 2005c). According to the property owner, Steven Farrington, during recent renovations, the majority of the interior walls were taken down to the framing studs. Because of these extensive renovations, it is unlikely that much of the original materials or design of the original interior remain intact.

Barn: The circa 1900 side-gable barn formerly associated with the Frank Edwards House is located approximately 85 feet northwest of the rear of the house, on the north side of Martin Gambill Road (Figure 56). The one-story frame barn is set upon a concrete foundation, features frame construction clad in vertical-board siding, and is sheltered by a low-pitched, wide side-gable roof clad in metal panels (Figure 57). The interior of the barn features a central passage with a rounded arch entry flanked by pens on either side (Figure 58). The east elevation of the barn features a one-story, one-bay frame addition clad in vertical-board siding and sheltered by a metal-clad roof (see Figure 57). The southwest corner of the barn, set just off of the ROW of Martin Gambill Road, is failing and the roof does not appear to be well-supported (see Figure 56).

Modern Garage: A modern, circa 2005–2010 garage is located approximately 70 feet southwest of the Frank Edwards House. A gravel driveway connects the garage to the house and Garvey Bridge Road. The one-and-one-half-story, front-gable garage is set into a slope and features parged concrete block construction on the first floor (Figure 59). Each of the two garage bays feature paneled overhead garage doors. The gable end of the metal-clad front-gable roof is clad in vinyl siding; a single window with one-over-one-light, double-hung vinyl sashes is centered on the gable end.



Figure 56. View of the rear of the barn and the Frank Edwards House on either side of Martin Gambill Road, facing east-southeast.



Figure 57. View of the east elevation of the barn, facing northwest.



Figure 58. View of the interior of the barn, facing northwest.



Figure 59. View of the façade of the modern barn, facing southwest.

Historic Context: The Frank Edwards House (AH0237) is situated to the east-northeast of the community of Chestnut Hill and west of the South Fork New River in northeastern Ashe County, within the Chestnut Hill Township. Ashe County was formally established in 1799 from portions of Wilkes County, though it was much larger than its current size with portions of Allegheny, Watauga, Avery, and Burke Counties included within its boundaries. It was also a part of the State of Franklin, a region formed from several counties in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. The majority of early settlers to the area and their descendants occupied small self-sufficient subsistence farms throughout the rugged mountainous terrain of Ashe County (Houck et al. 2000:7-8). These farms generated several products including burley tobacco, oats, and beef and dairy from livestock (Houck et al. 2000: 53-62; 65).

On January 15, 1896, Richard Franklin (Frank) Edwards purchased the property from E.J. Edwards and his wife, Sarah J. Edwards (Ashe County DB LL:26). Shortly after the purchase of the property, around 1900, Frank Edwards constructed his home on the banks of the South Fork New River. The house first appears on the 1912 Ashe County Soils Map (North Carolina Department of Agriculture 1912) (see Figure 21). Frank Edwards was born on September 13, 1855.-In 1874, Frank Edwards married Sarah Jane Plummer. Sarah was born in 1852 and her parents lived within close proximity to Frank Edwards' property according to 1900 census records. By 1900, around the time that the Frank Edwards House was constructed, Frank was working as a farmer on his land and he and Sarah had three children: Arora, Robert, and Nora (U.S. Census Bureau 1900). Twenty years later, in 1920, Frank and Sarah were the sole occupants of their homeplace and the census records indicated he was employed as a lusterer working with Mosaics at the age of 64 (U.S. Census Bureau 1920). Following Sarah's death in 1931, Frank Edwards continued living in his home along the South Fork New River. Frank died just two years later on May 4, 1933, and he and Sarah are both buried in the Richard F. Edwards Family Cemetery, located on a portion of his former property to the north of Martin Gambill Road (Ashe County Cemetery Records 2001).

Three months before his death, on February 18, 1933, Frank Edwards conveyed his property to his children and grandchildren: Acacia Brown-Moore, Virginia Brown, Cicero Edwards, Robert Edwards, and Allie McMillan following the settlement of a court case against him by Acacia Moore and others (DB Q-2:417-419). Throughout the remainder of the twentieth century, the property changed hands several times. On July 14, 1945, Allie McMillan and her husband, P.L. McMillan sold the 46 acre R.F. Edwards property to Dennis Loggins (DB G3:450). Five years later, Dennis Loggins and his wife, Marie Loggins, conveyed the property (except for the Richard F. Edwards Cemetery) to Paul and Irene Douglas (DB N3:286), who then on December 17, 1986, sold three tracts, including the 46 acre Edwards property to Stanley and Pamela Douglas (DB 157:375-377). Nineteen years later, Stanley and Pamela Douglas transferred a 1.1 acre portion of the larger property formerly associated with Frank Edwards to their daughter, Allison Douglas Farrington, and her husband, Steven Ray Farrington, the current owners. (DB 340:1005). The house and modern garage are located on the parcel owned by the Farringtons, while Stanley and Pamela Douglas retain ownership of the remainder of the Frank Edwards property, including the barn associated with the house.

NRHP Evaluation: According to the survey record for the Frank Edwards House (AH0237), previous surveys in 1976 and 2005 noted that the house featured an uncommon hip roof and decorative window surrounds; however, it was not recommended for addition to the Study List for the state of North Carolina (Wyatt and Jones 2005c). CRA recommends that the house and its associated outbuildings are not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

While the house reflects its turn of the twentieth-century occupation of the Frank Edwards property, research has not demonstrated that the house is associated with a particular event or explicit pattern of events that would warrant eligibility under Criterion A. Moreover, it is one resource of several within the area that can reflect such generic agricultural and settlement patterns of Chestnut

Hill Township.

Additionally, neither Frank Edwards nor his family, or later occupants of the property, have been documented as playing a significant role within the local or regional community. Therefore, the Frank Edwards House is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B.

The Frank Edwards House is a T-plan vernacular housing form constructed around 1900. The house utilizes a general two-story, linear I-House form with a rear T that is original to the design of the house. The house is one of several houses dating to the turn of the twentieth century in the vicinity that reflects similar forms and details, including the Jackson Howell House (AH0402) on Silas Creek Road (Figure 60) that features façade entries on both the first and second floors and windows with four-over-four-light, double-hung sashes that the Frank Edwards House featured prior to recent renovations, and the house associated with the Study-Listed Joel Walters Farm (AH0517) at 828 Don Walters Road that features a hip roof and Queen Anne form and dates to the same period as the Frank Edwards House (Figure 61). Because there are other houses that feature similar form and trim and retain a higher degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship within the vicinity of the Frank Edwards House, it cannot be considered a particularly unique property type within its local setting.

Additionally, the Frank Edwards House has been changed extensively since its most recent survey in 2005. Alterations since that survey include the installation of vinyl siding, aluminum corner boards and vinyl sash replacement windows throughout, the wrapping of the distinctive window surrounds in aluminum, and the alteration of fenestration on the west and south elevations of the rear T portion of the house. Additionally, the screened part of the front porch has been enclosed, a deck was added to the second floor of the façade over the enclosed porch, a patio with a retaining wall was added to the rear of the house; furthermore, the interior was completely renovated. According to the landowner, during renovations most of the interior was removed to the studs (Wyatt and Jones 2005c). Thus, while the house retains integrity of location and association, excessive alterations have diminished the integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The historic secondary resource associated with the Frank Edward House, the barn on the north side of Martin Gambill Road, is an undistinguished example of its type. Thus, the Frank Edwards House is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C.

Early-twentieth-century domestic constructions are common to the region (and country as a whole), and neither the house nor barn is likely to yield any important historical information regarding building technology of the period not readily available from other sources. The Frank Edwards House is, therefore, ineligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.



Figure 60. View of façade and porch of the Jackson Howell House (AH0402) on Silas Creek Road, facing south.



Figure 61. View of the house associated with the Joel Walters Farm (AH0517) at 828 Don Walters Road, facing southeast.

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1966 Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map.

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