



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

December 14, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Pope Furr  
Office of Human Environment  
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley   
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report for Upgrade of SR 2002 (Riceville Road),  
PA 17-04-0021, Buncombe County, ER 17-2875

Thank you for your memorandum of November 20, 2017, transmitting the above-referenced survey report. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We concur that the Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House (BN6317) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent and intact example of a Rustic Revival-style log dwelling from the second quarter of the twentieth century. The proposed boundaries appear appropriate.

We also concur that the Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House (BN6316) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criteria.

That neither the National Register-listed Oteen Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District (BN0041) nor the National Register-eligible Blue Ridge Parkway (NC0001) was addressed or shown on the preliminary study area map, when both are clearly within the Area of Potential Effects is puzzling. Our report guidelines state that a report will "provide the information necessary to fully evaluate the National Register status of a property within an undertaking's Area of Potential Effects (APE)" and "Any property 50 years old or older within the APE should be addressed."

Given these omissions as well as no mention that the National Park Service is working to have the Parkway declared a National Historic Landmark, we cannot consider the report complete or adequate for planning purposes. We will, therefore, look forward to a revised report addressing our concerns.

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



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

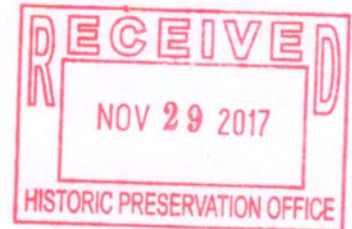
November 20, 2017

MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Mary Pope Furr  
Architectural Historian  
NCDOT Division of Highways

**SUBJECT:** PA No. 17-04-0021, Upgrade SR 2002 (Riceville Road), Buncombe County



ER 17-2875  
HARRIE 12/18

Due 12/20/17  
ER letters  
12/7

Enclosed please find the Historic Structure Survey Report, survey site form, and additional materials for the above referenced project. Please feel free to contact me by phone (919-707-6068) or email (mfurr@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mailing Address:  
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**Historic Structures Survey Report**  
**Upgrade SR 2002 (Riceville Road) from US 70 (Tunnel Road)**  
**to SR 2285 (Clear Vista Lane), Buncombe County, North Carolina**  
**TIP# U-5837**  
**WBS# 50229.1.1**  
**PA# 17-04-0021**

**Prepared for:**  
Environmental Analysis Unit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

**Prepared by:**  
MdM Historical Consultants Inc.  
Post Office Box 1399  
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November 9, 2017

**Historic Structures Survey Report  
Upgrade SR 2002 (Riceville Road) from US 70 (Tunnel Road)  
to SR 2285 (Clear Vista Lane), Buncombe County, North Carolina  
TIP# U-5837  
WBS# 50229.1.1  
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**Prepared for:**

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Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

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November 9, 2017

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Jennifer F. Martin, Principal Investigator  
MdM Historical Consultants, Inc.

Date

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Cynthia de Miranda, Principal Investigator  
MdM Historical Consultants, Inc.

Date

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

Date

Historic Structures Survey Report  
 Upgrade SR 2002 (Riceville Road) from US 70 (Tunnel Road)  
 to SR 2285 (Clear Vista Lane), Buncombe County, North Carolina  
 TIP# U-5837  
 WBS# 50229.1.1  
 PA# 17-04-0021

Survey Site Number and Property Name	Address and PIN	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation	NRHP Criteria
BN6316 Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House	545 Riceville Road Asheville NC 28805 966951647000000	Not eligible under any criteria	n/a
BN6317 Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House	509 Riceville Road Asheville NC 28805 966950789400000	Eligible for the NRHP	Criterion C for Architecture

**Management Summary**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to upgrade SR 2002 (Riceville Road) from US 70 (Tunnel Road) to SR 2285 (Clear Vista Lane) in Buncombe County, North Carolina. The project area is in the Riceville community of Swannanoa Township in an unincorporated area of Buncombe County, just east of the city limits of Asheville. The preliminary study area for the project is delineated on a map on page 5 of this report.

In September and October 2017, Mdm conducted a historic architectural eligibility study of the two properties located in the study area. Mdm principal Jennifer Martin conducted the fieldwork on September 28 and October 6, 2017, photographing and mapping all the built resources and landscapes associated with the two subject properties located within the study area. Ms. Martin conducted research on the Buncombe County Register of Deeds website, the Buncombe County GIS website, and at the North Carolina Collection at the Durham Public Library. She interviewed Frances Rice Shafer, owner of the Rice House, and the current occupant of the Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House. Ms. Martin authored this report.

After an intensive evaluation following the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria for eligibility, the Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House (BN6317) is recommended eligible under Criterion A in the area of Architecture. The Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House (BN6316) is recommended not eligible under any criteria because of a loss of integrity and lack of significance in any area.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) contains a National Register-listed property, the Oteen Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District (NR 1985, BN0041) and a National Register-eligible property, the Blue Ridge Parkway. Neither property was evaluated in this report.

The historic architectural survey within the APE associated with the upgrade of SR 2002 (Riceville Road) from US 70 (Tunnel Road) to SR 2285 (Clear Vista Lane) in Buncombe County, North Carolina was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Secretary of the Interior's standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; 36 CFR Part 800; and the NCDOT document entitled Historic Architectural Resources: Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines (2003). This evaluation meets the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

In order to meet the requirements of the above laws, regulations, and guidelines, the work plan for the intensive-level survey included the following items: (1) conducting general historical and architectural background research in order to develop contexts within which to evaluate the potential National Register eligibility of the resources located within the APE; (2) an intensive-level field survey of the APE, including surveying, describing, evaluating, and proposing specific National Register boundaries for any resources believed to be eligible for the National Register; (3) specific historical and architectural research on the resources inventoried at the intensive level; and (4) preparation of a report developed pursuant to the above-referenced laws, regulations and guidelines. The report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the general public.



SR 2002 (Riceville Road), view to the north toward Clear Vista Lane

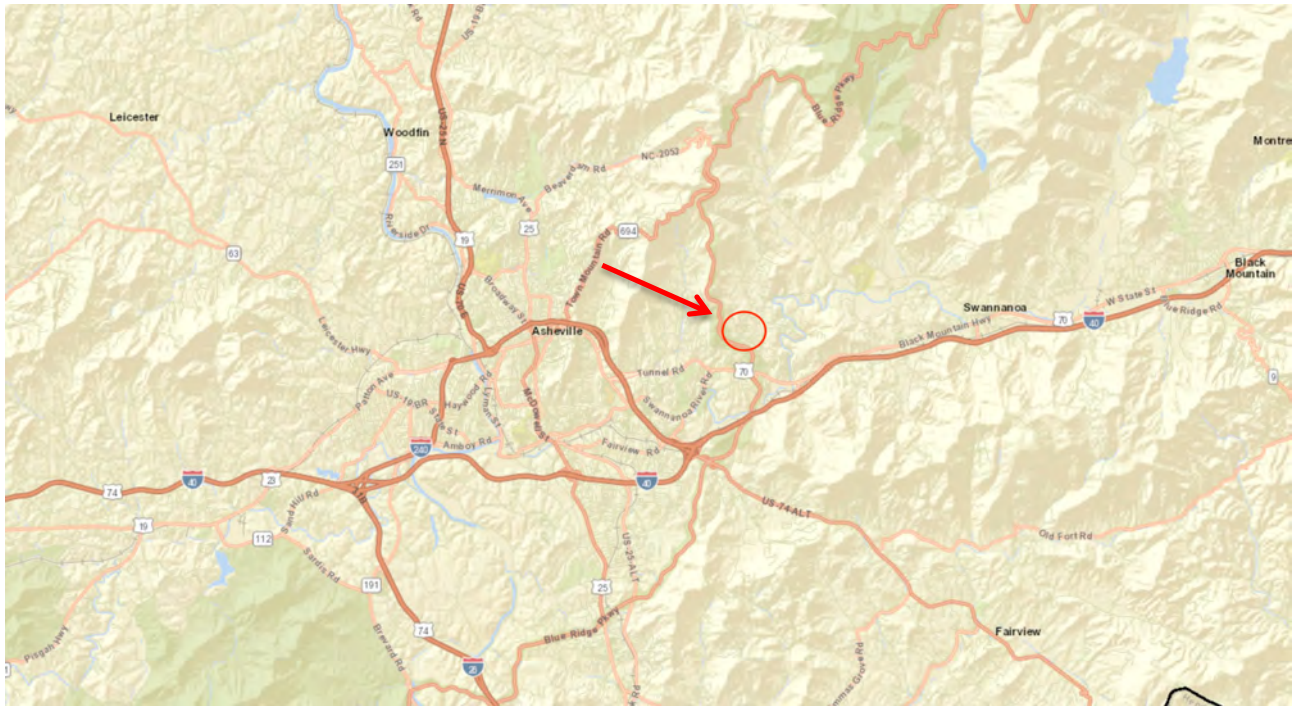
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I. Project Location Maps



Location of Buncombe County in North Carolina (image from the NC Department of Commerce)



Project location on Asheville vicinity map





Map showing project preliminary study area and evaluated properties (Map courtesy of NC DOT staff)

## II. Introduction

The project area for U-5837 is located just east of Asheville, North Carolina in a rural, but rapidly developing area of Buncombe County. SR 2002 (Riceville Road) is a two-lane road extending northward from Tunnel Road, a major commercial thoroughfare extending through the county and the city of Asheville. Oteen Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District (NR 1985, BN0041) and Riceville Road Bridge (BN5987) on the Blue Ridge Parkway are located on Riceville Road to the south of the two subject properties.

Two properties were evaluated for this report: the Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House (BN6316), a stone-veneered house located at 545 Riceville Road, and the Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House (BN6317), a saddle-notched log house with two outbuildings located at 509 Riceville Road.

## III. Methodology

The field survey was conducted on September 28 and October 6, 2017. All resources historically associated with the Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House (BN6316) located at 545 Riceville Road and the Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House (BN6317) located at 509 Riceville Road were photographed and recorded. Research on the project area was conducted on the Buncombe County Register of Deeds website, the Buncombe County GIS website, and at the North Carolina Collection at the Durham Public Library. The investigators interviewed Frances Rice Shafer, owner of the Rice House, and the current occupant of the Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House.



SR 2002 (Riceville Road), view to the south-southwest toward Maxwell Road

IV. Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House
HPO Survey Site #	BN6316
Location	545 Riceville Road, Asheville vic.
PIN	966951647000000
Construction date	1937
Recommendation	Not Eligible for the National Register under any criteria



West (front) elevation of the Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House, view to east

Description

*Setting*

The Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House is east of the city of Asheville in a built-up rural area in the community of Riceville in Swannanoa Township. The dwelling faces west overlooking Riceville Road (SR 2002) just south of its intersection with SR 2285 (Clear Vista Lane). The front of the house is a little less than forty feet from the centerline of Riceville Road. A span of chain link fence with a swing-in gate separates the

house and small front yard from a gravel parking space just off the highway. The Matthews House occupies a .46-acre grass-covered parcel dotted with large mature trees, including a stately black oak just south of the house. A row of cedars grows close to the house on its south elevation. Near Riceville Road, the yard is level with the highway, but drops precipitously to the east so that the house stands on nearly a full basement. An unnamed unpaved lane extending from the east side of Riceville Road borders the parcel to the north. None of the outbuildings that once accompanied the house survives.

*Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House, 1937*

The one-story, frame dwelling with a random-course stone veneer exterior and hipped roof features a full façade recessed porch supported by four wood posts resting on a stone kneewall with a concrete cap. The porch ceiling is sheathed in tongue and groove. Rafter tails grace the dwelling’s front and side elevations. A brick chimney rises from the interior on the south side near the center of that elevation. A two-story addition resting on concrete blocks and finished with composite vertical siding occupies the rear. A porch enclosed with lattice projects from the upper level of the addition. A steep set of wooden stairs extends from a landing on the upper level directly to the ground at the rear of the house. The north elevation features a modern shed-roofed porch sheltering modern double glazed doors located near the east end of the lower level. Doors and windows throughout the dwelling have been replaced.



South (side) elevation, view to the north



Detail of front porch, view to the northeast



South elevation, view to the north-northwest



Rear elevation with addition, porch and stair, view to the northwest



North elevation, view to the south



Fence and parking space in front of Matthews House, view to the south on Riceville Road

## History

Ella and Horace Emory Matthews built their house on Riceville Road in 1937. H. E. Matthews (1895-1981), a veteran of World War I, worked as a plumbing shop foreman at the Veterans Administration Medical Center located a little over one mile to the south. The couple had at least six children—two sons and four daughters.<sup>1</sup> Ella and Emory Matthews daughter, Willie Mae Matthews Fuller (1932-2009), acquired the house and passed it to her daughter, Patricia Jane Fuller, the current owner.<sup>2</sup>

## Context

The Matthews House is notable for its exterior of random-coursed stone likely mined from a nearby quarry. Houses built of similar stone are found throughout the county and attest to the wide availability of the material in the western portions of North Carolina. The dwelling also reflects the popularity of the Rustic Revival style, which espoused the use of native material in their most natural and unaltered forms for building houses for residents of all socioeconomic levels.

Builders used stone for an array of house forms—from small Craftsman-style dwellings to grand mansions like Zealandia (NR 1977, BN0021), an early-twentieth century edifice laid in a random ashlar of blue granite quarried on the site atop Beaucatcher Mountain just east of downtown Asheville. Zealandia, like many stone houses in Asheville and the surrounding area reflects the influence of the Tudor Revival style. Developers and builders constructed numerous more modest Tudor stone houses during the period.<sup>3</sup> On September 12, 1926, the *Asheville Citizen-Times* newspaper featured a full-page spread on a newly-built stone house on Charlotte Street with the headline, “Wouldn’t You Just Dearly Love to Live in this Little Stone House?”

Several other well-known stone houses stand in Buncombe County including the Richard Sharpe Smith House (NR 2009, BN 1931), a random-coursed, dry-stack stone house designed by Smith, the supervising architect for George Vanderbilt’s Biltmore Estate. Constructed in 1902-1903, Stoneybrook, as the Smith family named it, is a one-and-a-half-story house combining elements of popular architectural styles, the Arts and Crafts movement, and vernacular English architecture.<sup>4</sup>

More common are small vernacular houses, often reflecting the influence of the Craftsman style, the dominant architectural idiom of the period in western North Carolina. The Cole House, located at 8 R. C. Cole Lane just off the Riceville Road in Swannanoa Township, dates to 1940 and is a one-and-a-half-story, random-coursed stone house with Craftsman-style elements. The house, located about two miles north of the Matthews House, features clipped gables on the main block and porch, which is supported sturdy battered stone posts resting on a solid stone balustrade.

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<sup>1</sup> Horace Emory Matthews obituary, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 23, 1981.

<sup>2</sup> Buncombe County Deed Book 1265, page 463, February 9, 1981.

<sup>3</sup> North Carolina Division of Archives and History et al., “Zealandia National Register nomination,” 1977.

<sup>4</sup> Clay Griffith, “Richard Sharpe Smith House National Register nomination,” 2009.





Cole House at 8 R. C. Cole Lane, view to the southeast

### Evaluation

The Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House stands in its original location and therefore retains integrity of location. The house has replacement windows and doors that compromise the dwelling's integrity of materials and integrity of workmanship. The replacement windows and doors also compromise the dwelling's overall integrity of design. The house remains in a rural, yet quickly developing area of Buncombe County but retains its integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP if they are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. Although the property once functioned as a small farm, the house and the associated acreage do not convey significance in the area of agriculture because of a lack of resources and landscape related to the history of farming in Buncombe County. The Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A because it has not made a discernable contribution to local, state, or national history.

Horace Emory Matthews was a plumber at the Veterans Administration Medical Center at Oteen, but did not make any specific contributions to that field on a national, state, or local level. The house therefore is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

The Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House is a vernacular, one-story, random-course stone house with integrity compromised by the replacement of its original windows and doors. The Matthews house does

not retain sufficient integrity to convey the distinctive characteristics of this dwelling type and does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. It is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion C, specifically in the area of architecture.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. Therefore, the Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.



Ella and Horace Emory Matthews House Site Plan (adapted from HPO Web)

V. Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House
HPO Survey Site #	BN6317
Location	509 Riceville Road, Asheville vic.
PIN	966950789400000
Construction date	1934
Recommendation	Eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture



Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House, view to the northeast

Description

*Setting*

The Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House stands on a 2.36-acre wooded and grass-covered parcel on the east side of SR 2002 (Riceville Road) in the Riceville community of Swannanoa Township in Buncombe County. The front of the house is about ninety feet from the centerline of Riceville Road. Two outbuildings occupy the house parcel—a chicken house located to the northeast of the dwelling and a garage standing

just off the southeast side of the house. Large trees, including black oaks, stand in the level to sloping yard. Grassy Branch Baptist Church, housed in a modern building, stands to the south, while a densely-developed subdivision called East Ridge is directly across Riceville Road from the house. Mostly small dwellings facing Riceville Road stand to the north.



Northwest (front) corner, view to the southeast

*Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House, 1934*

The Rice House exemplifies the Rustic Revival style in the use of natural, relatively unaltered building material native to this part of Buncombe County. The builders cut the logs used to construct the house from trees felled on the property. They skinned the logs and laid them to create the exterior walls and vertical and horizontal supports for the front porch. Stones were gathered from the area and artfully stacked to craft the foundation and chimney.

The Rice House is a front-gabled, Rustic Revival-style, saddle-notched log house built in 1934. The dwelling rests on a stone foundation and features rafter tails along the side elevations of the main block and porch, a massive random-coursed, dry-stacked stone chimney on the south elevation, and original three-over-one double-hung sash. The gable ends are sheathed in stained wood shingles. The intact full-width front-gabled porch displays exposed rafters and log purlins. Round logs serve as columns along the façade and support a horizontal log upon which rests slender logs that support the gable. The balustrade is composed of thick, straight branches set in an x pattern with a center vertical support. The north and south elevations feature projecting front-gabled bays sheathed at their crowns with wood shingles. A small original rear room on a

concrete block foundation is sheathed in German siding. A later small porch with a milled lumber balustrade and a hipped metal roof extends from the rear elevation.



Rear German-sided extension and later porch, view to the south-southeast



South elevation, view to the north

The interior follows an irregular plan with the front door opening into a small parlor. Finishes, including original Masonite walls and ceilings and oak floors, remain intact. One bedroom at the northeast (rear) corner was sheathed in faux wood paneling likely in the 1950s or 1960s. The massive stone fireplace displays a simple wood mantel shelf.



Fireplace in front parlor, view to the south



Masonite ceilings remain intact throughout

Two outbuildings remain on the property. A 1934 frame chicken house stands northeast of the house. The board and batten wood building has a shed roof and exposed rafter tails. Typical of chicken houses, the building features large windows on the south-facing elevation to illuminate the coop. A front-gabled garage, also built in the 1930s, stands to the southeast of the house. The board and batten outbuilding resting on a poured concrete foundation includes two large doors on its façade.



Chicken house, view to the northeast



Garage, view to the east

## History

Cora Helen Patterson Rice (1900-1991) and her husband Raphael Monroe Rice Sr. (1889-1971) had this log house built in 1934. Born and raised in northwest New York, Cora Rice settled in Buncombe County where she worked as a nurse at the Veterans Administration Medical Center at Oteen.<sup>5</sup> She met Raphael Rice, a Buncombe County native, and the two married in 1928.<sup>6</sup> Raphael Rice was a descendant of Joseph Marion Rice, who settled this area of the county in the late eighteenth century and for whom the Riceville community was named.<sup>7</sup>

Raphael Rice along with his brother, Frank Rice, harvested the logs and built the house. Raphael Rice's brother-in-law, stone mason Hal Reed (1889-1937), built the chimney and likely laid the foundation. The house became the center of a small farmstead operated by Raphael Rice. He later served as a post master and worked as a truck driver for the Veteran Administration Medical Center.<sup>8</sup> Cora and Raphael's only child,

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<sup>5</sup> Frances Rice Shafer, interview with Jennifer Martin, Oteen, North Carolina, October 6, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Marriage of Cora Helen Patterson and Raphael Monroe Rice, *North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015, accessed November 1, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Anne E. Chesky, *Riceville* (Images of America Series) (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 7.

<sup>8</sup> Raphael Monroe Rice, *1930 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2002, accessed October 28, 2017; *1940 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012, accessed November 1, 2017.



Raphael Monroe Rice Jr. inherited the house and lived here until his recent death. The house remains under the ownership of the Rice family.<sup>9</sup>

### Context

Log construction, a building form evocative of the country's frontier period, enjoyed a renewed popularity in North Carolina in the early twentieth century. This revival of what many saw as a traditional building form was nearly always executed in dwellings and other buildings constructed of peeled tree trunks that were frequently treated with a dark stain and daubed with concrete. While early log buildings were built of hewn members joined by tight dovetail notching, the twentieth-century versions were predominantly saddle-notched at their corners with the log ends extending slightly beyond the building corners.

The impetus for building in log in the twentieth century originated in the early nineteenth century with the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing who espoused the idea of harmonizing structures into their settings by using building material in its natural form. In his 1841 publication, *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*, he advocated for the use of rustic construction from tree trunks and tree branches in their intrinsic, unpeeled, and sometimes twisted forms. According to historian National Park Service historian Linda Flint McClelland, "Downing established the link between a structure's material and its setting and set the precedent for the use of native materials in naturalistic forms as a technique for harmonizing built structures with a natural setting."<sup>10</sup>

Downing greatly influenced builders and architects in the Adirondack Mountains of New York in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who designed lakeside resorts known as the Great Camps. Taking cues from the Shingle Style, log building traditions, and European country homes, the Great Camps utilized wood in its natural form to erect log structures set on stone foundations and with large stone chimneys. Rustic Adirondack buildings appeared frequently in magazines in the early twentieth century including *American Architect and Building News* and *House and Garden*, which featured photographs and drawings of the Great Camps.<sup>11</sup>

Another magazine of the period, *The Craftsman*, which promoted the philosophy of the English Arts and Crafts movement in the United States, featured rustic log buildings with a Craftsman influence. Its editor, Gustav Stickley (1858-1942), was the leader in advancing the Arts and Crafts movement in the United States. He heavily promoted the American Craftsman style, an extension of the British Arts and Crafts movement, which advocated a back-to-nature philosophy of building and garden design. Through his magazine, Stickley endorsed a philosophy of building in harmony with the environment by using natural and local materials, including log. He believed that industrialization had led to poor design and endorsed a return to a simple vernacular aesthetic that displayed the pure and natural beauty of building materials and that showcased the skills of craftsmen. In the November 1911 edition of *The Craftsman* author Natalie

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<sup>9</sup> Shafer, interview with Jennifer Martin, October 6, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Linda Flint McClelland, *Building the National Parks* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 23.

<sup>11</sup> McClelland, 94, 100.

Curtis wrote, "There are elements of intrinsic beauty in the simplification of a house built on the log cabin idea. First, there is the bare beauty of the logs themselves with their long lines and firm curves. Then there is the open charm felt of the structural features which are not hidden under plaster and ornament, but are clearly revealed, a charm felt in Japanese architecture.... The quiet rhythmic monotone of the wall of logs fills one with the rustic peace of a secluded nook in the woods."<sup>12</sup>

The source for the inspiration for the Cora and Raphael Rice House remains unknown, but it is possible that Cora Rice's familiarity of the Great Camps from her native upstate New York coupled with the availability of logs and native stone influenced the couple to build a Craftsman-style log house along Riceville Road.

A few examples of the saddle-notched log house remain in rural Buncombe County. Just across Riceville Road from the Rice House stands a front-gabled, saddle-notched log dwelling. Built in 1930 and located at 522 Riceville Road, the Dillingham House, as it is locally known, features a simple modern wood balustrade on the front porch. The house lacks a stone chimney such as the one on the Rice House. All the windows on the Dillingham House have been replaced with new sash thereby compromising its integrity.



Dillingham House at 522 Riceville Road, view to the Northwest

The saddle-notched log house at 3350 New Leicester Highway in the Leicester community is an L-plan house positioned on a hillside overlooking a large pasture. Built in 1917, the dwelling features a Craftsman-

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<sup>12</sup> Natalie Curtis, "The Log Cabin House at Craftsman Farms: An Architectural Development of the Log Cabin," *The Craftsman*, Vol. XXI, Number 2, November 1911, <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.d?DLDecArts.hdv21n02>, accessed March 28, 2013.

style porch with battered posts and an interior brick chimney. Small weatherboard additions extend from the rear elevation. The house retains its integrity.



House at 3350 New Leicester Highway in Leicester, view to the southwest

### Evaluation

The Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House remains at its original location and therefore retains integrity of location. The house possesses integrity of setting because it remains in a rural setting where it was built in 1934. The house remains mostly intact with original windows and interior and exterior finishes. The ca. 1960 rear porch does not detract for the house's overall integrity of material. The house possesses integrity of association because it is mostly intact and overall retains the appearance and form it had when built. The integrity of association is further bolstered by the continuous ownership by members of the Rice family. The house evokes the aesthetic or historic sense of a saddle-notched log house from the 1930s enabling the house to retain its integrity of feeling. The physical evidence of the craftsmanship of the log construction and stone masonry contribute to the property's integrity of workmanship. Finally, the composition of elements that constitute the form, plan, space, and style of a saddle-notched log house with significant stone work are intact and therefore the property retains integrity of design.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP if they are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. Only one agricultural outbuilding historically associated with the house remains, therefore the Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House is not eligible for its agricultural significance. The house is recommended not eligible for the NRHP

under Criterion A because it has not made a discernable contribution to any area of local, state, or national history.

Neither Cora Rice nor Raphael Monroe Rice achieved any particular significance on the national, state, or local level. The house therefore is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

The Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House retains a high degree of integrity that conveys the distinctive characteristics of a Rustic Revival-style log house built in the 1930s. The Rice House exudes the unadorned rustic aesthetic popular in the log revival movement of the Great Depression era. Its saddle-notched construction and the extensive and honestly executed use of wood and stone exemplifies the idiom and makes the Rice House an outstanding example of its style in Buncombe County. Built to harmonize with its rural setting, the house displays peeled and dark-stained log walls, log rafter tails and purlins, a stone chimney, and a stone foundation and is therefore recommended eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. Therefore, the Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

#### Boundary Description

The recommended NRHP boundary for the Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House includes the legal parcel 966950789400000 owned by Frances Rice Shafer, a descendant of the original owners. The boundary includes the 1934 house, the 1934 chicken house, and 1934 garage. The boundary also includes the significant landscape and setting associated with the Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House. The boundary follows the existing right-of-way along Riceville Road (SR 2002). The parcel represents the land, resources, and features associated with the Cora and Raphael Monroe Rice House, which has been associated with this parcel since 1934, the date of construction of the house. The 2.36-acre parcel is an appropriate setting to convey the property's significance in the area of architecture on the local level of significance.



Site plan with National Register Boundary

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