



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Chery

February 18, 2014

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT: Replace Bridge 273 on SR 1346 (White Oak Road) over Messer Branch,
Haywood County, ER 14-0261

Thank you for transmitting the Historic Structures Survey Report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the materials that we received on February 10, 2014 and concur that the **Teague House (HW0510) is eligible for listing** in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as outlined in the report.

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

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

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE REPORT
INTENSIVE EVALUATION FOR TEAGUE HOUSE**

**Replace Bridge No. 273 on SR 1346 (White Oak Road) over Messer Branch
Haywood County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
WBS No. 17BP.14.R.94**

Prepared for:

**Human Environment Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699**

Prepared by:

**Mulkey Engineers & Consultants
6750 Tryon Road
Cary, North Carolina 27518**

January 2014



January 28, 2014

Matt McDaniel, Principal Investigator

Date

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

Date

Table of Contents

List of Figures	iv
Project Description and Summary	1
Architectural Description.....	4
Historic Development.....	21
Architectural Context.....	25
Cemetery Context	28
National Register Determination of Eligibility.....	29
Proposed National Register Boundary.....	33
Bibliography	36

List of Figures

Figure 1. Project/Resource Location Map.	2
Figure 2. Teague House Site Map.....	3
Figure 3. View east to Teague House from White Oak Rd.; Bridge No. 273 in foreground.....	4
Figure 4. View northeast to west facade.	7
Figure 5. View north to south side elevation.	7
Figure 6. View northwest to south elevation and rear, east elevation.....	8
Figure 7. View west to rear elevation.	8
Figure 8. View southwest to rear elevation and north side elevation.	9
Figure 9. View south to north elevation.....	9
Figure 10. View southeast to north elevation.	10
Figure 11. Representative view of main block’s log floor joists.	10
Figure 12. View southwest within main block’s north hall to main entry.....	11
Figure 13. View northwest within main block’s south parlor to main entry.	11
Figure 14. View north within main block’s parlor to enclosed stair.....	12
Figure 15. View south within dining room.....	12
Figure 16. View west within kitchen.	13
Figure 17. View northwest within bedroom above main block’s north hall.....	13
Figure 18. View south within bedroom above main block’s south parlor.....	14
Figure 19. View west within rear ell’s bedroom above dining room and kitchen.	14
Figure 20. View west from Teague House to Bridge No. 273 and Messer Branch.....	15
Figure 21. View west along White Oak Rd. to Bridge No. 273 and Teague House.....	15
Figure 22. View west along White Oak Rd. from Bridge No. 273.....	16
Figure 23. View southeast along White Oak Rd. from just south of Teague House.	16
Figure 24. View north from Teague House to vegetable garden.	17
Figure 25. View north from Teague House to smokehouse ruins.	17
Figure 26. View north along vegetable garden; Messer Branch within west treeline.	18
Figure 27. View south from vegetable garden’s north end.....	18
Figure 28. View north from White Oak Rd. along internal farm road; Teague House on west.	19
Figure 29. View west to Teague Family Cemetery.	19
Figure 30. Representative slate headstone within Teague Family Cemetery.	20
Figure 31. Representative tablet marker within Teague Family Cemetery.	20
Figure 32. View east from west end of Teague Family Cemetery.	21
Figure 33. Frank and Didamy Teague family, in front of the Teague House, circa 1920.	23
Figure 34. Comparable example: Smathers House, Dutch Cove vicinity	26
Figure 35. Comparable example: Campbell-Hall House (HW536), Maggie Valley vicinity.....	27
Figure 36. Comparable example: Williams House, White Oak vicinity.....	27
Figure 37. Proposed National Register Boundary Map for Teague House: Overview.....	34
Figure 38. Proposed National Register Boundary Map for Teague House: Detail view.....	35

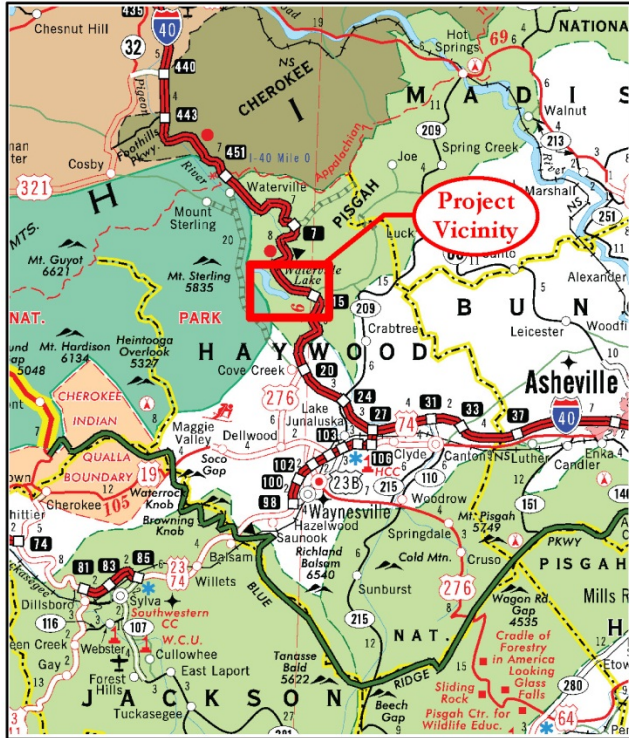
Project Description and Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 273 on SR 1346 (White Oak Road) over Messer Branch in Haywood County (WBS No. 17BP.14.R.94). The NCDOT identified a previously documented architectural resource within the proposed project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) known as the Teague House (HW510). The Teague House was previously documented in Randall Cotten's 1983 survey of Haywood County's historic buildings.

In October 2013, NCDOT requested that Mulkey Engineers & Consultants (Mulkey) complete intensive-level historic field survey, research, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of the Teague House. Senior Architectural Historian Matt McDaniel visited the site, completed photo-documentation, and conducted an interview with Russell Teague, one the property's current owners, on October 29 and 30, 2013. He also conducted property records research at the Haywood County Registrar of Deed's Office in Waynesville and local background research at the Haywood County Public Library's Main Library, also in Waynesville. McDaniel also coordinated with Annie McDonald with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's (NC-HPO) Western Office, who provided information regarding Haywood County's 1983 architectural survey.

Mulkey conducted all fieldwork, research, and evaluations to meet the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, as well as NCDOT's *Guidelines for the Survey Reports for Historic Architectural Resources*.

Based on the field survey, background research, and the NRHP evaluation documented in this report, the Teague House has been determined eligible for the NRHP as a rare and intact example of a saddlebag-form dwelling in Haywood County.



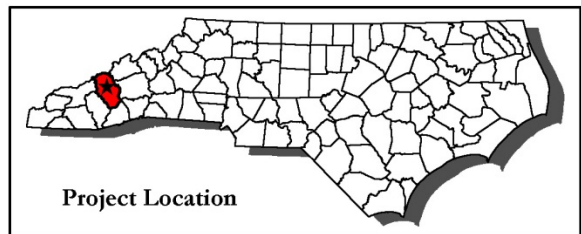
Project/Resource Location Map

Bridge No. 273 on SR1346

(White Oak Road) over Messer Branch

Teague House (HW150)

Haywood County, North Carolina



Project Location



Figure 1. Project/Resource Location Map.

Teague House (HW150) is located on Haywood County PIN 8702-82-4565

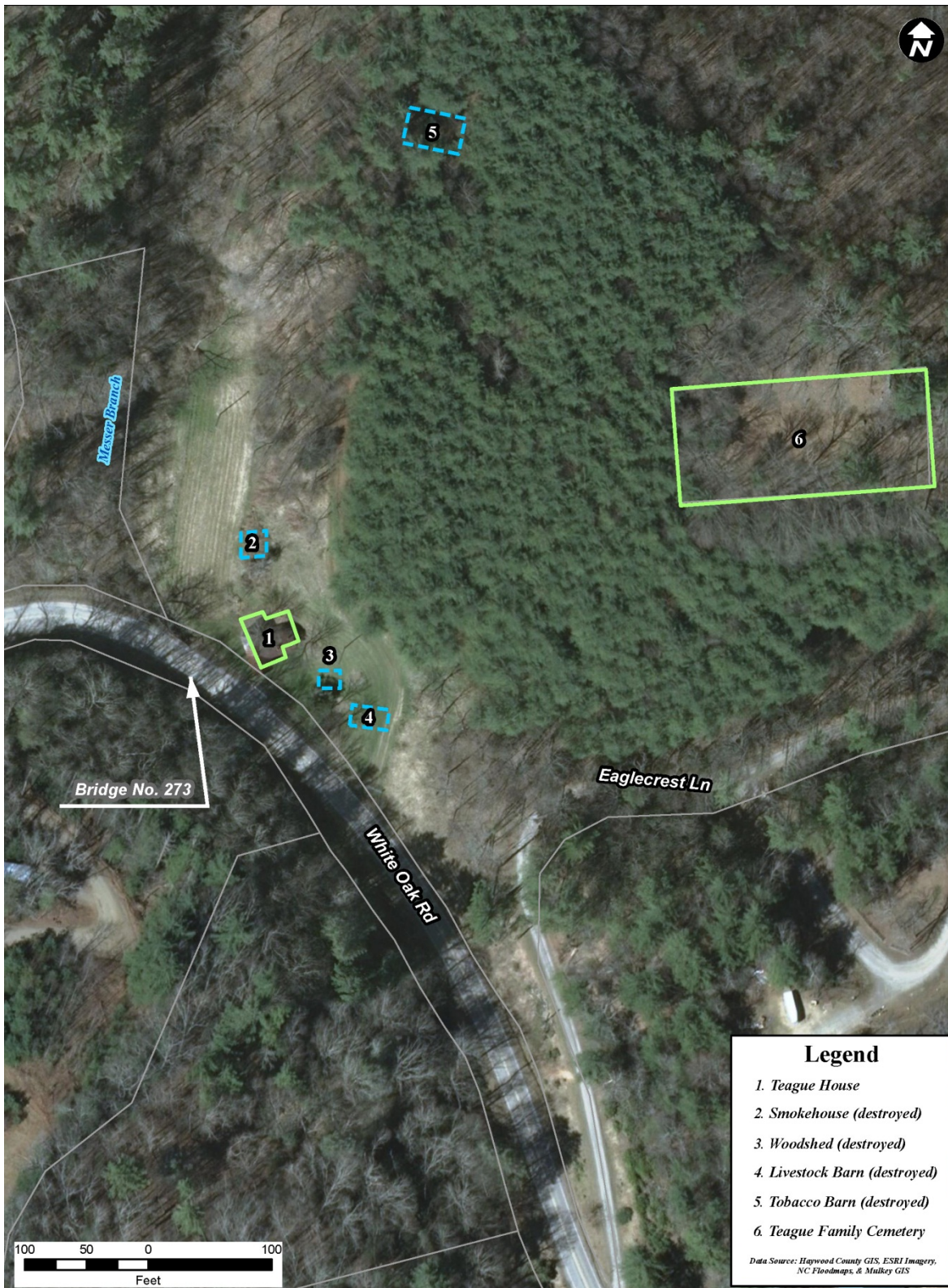


Figure 2. Teague House Site Map.



Figure 3. View east to Teague House from White Oak Rd.; Bridge No. 273 in foreground.

Architectural Description

The Teague House, constructed in 1900, stands in a rural setting amid sparse residential development and some limited agricultural development. Other existing nearby houses date primarily from the late twentieth century, but no modern development is visible from the Teague House property. The surrounding terrain is mountainous, and forestland predominates, although some developed farms are located west of the property and contain large areas of pastureland.

The Teague House is a one-and-a-half-story saddlebag house with a hall-parlor plan on the first floor. The vernacular dwelling exhibits no stylistic embellishment. The house is oriented approximately west facing White Oak Road and Messer Branch. The original side-gabled main block was constructed first. Shortly thereafter, a gabled ell was added to the rear, creating a T-shaped plan. The frame building is clad with wood weatherboards and rests on a stone pier foundation. Framing members and weatherboards are poplar, and the floor sills and joists are hand-hewn hemlock logs. Both chimneys, including the main block's central, ridgeline chimney and the rear ell's interior chimney, are stone construction with brick flues rising above the roof surface. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal panels. Exposed rafter tails with rounded ends are located along the eaves. Remaining windows are original wood-framed, four-over-four, double-hung sash units. The original wood doors are paneled. Original porches have been destroyed, including the partial-width, hip-roof front porch and a side porch along the south

elevation and the rear ell. Ghost marks and some structural members indicate the porches' former locations. Previously whitewashed with blue-green painted trim, the house retains paint remnants under the roof eaves and on some facade trim. The house is vacant and in deteriorated condition.

The symmetrical west-facing façade comprises a central entrance containing a paneled wood door flanked by single window openings, each with a four-over-four window. Joists at the loft level are partially exposed and indicate former attachment points for the former front porch.

The main block's gable end on the west and the rear ell on the east compose the south elevation. The main block contains a four-over-four window on both the first floor and loft level. The rear ell contains two paneled doors.

The rear or east elevation consists primarily of the rear ell. It contains two window openings, one each on the first floor and at the loft level. Both windows retain casings, but their sashes have been removed or destroyed. Small, non-historic wooden ramps are located at each window's sill. A paneled door is located on the main block's south end.

The north side elevation features the main block on the west and the rear ell on the east. Four-over-four windows are located at the main block's first floor and loft level. Window openings on the rear ell's west do not retain sashes. The rear ell's east first-floor window retains a three-over-one sash configuration. This window unit appears to be one of the house's few material replacements.

The house's interior plan includes the main block's hall-parlor plan, a dining room and kitchen in the rear ell, and bedrooms within the loft level of both sections. The house's main entry accesses the main block's hall, located on the north; the parlor is located on the south. The central chimney's stone construction is exposed at each room's hearth. However, each firebox has been infilled with stone and concrete to accommodate iron stoves, now removed. No mantelpieces are present. A doorway within the hall's east wall provides access to the dining room within the rear ell. An exterior door occupies the parlor's east wall. At its south corner just north of this exterior door, a narrow, enclosed stair rises to the main block's loft level. A deteriorated sink and cabinet are located at the parlor's southwest corner. The current owner stated the sink previously flowed continuously via a natural spring piped to it from the hillside just south of the room.

Within the ell, the first floor contains the dining room on the west and the kitchen on the east. An exterior door punctuates the dining room's south wall. Interior doors on the west and east walls open to the main block's hall and to the kitchen, respectively. An enclosed stair leading to the

ell's loft level is located just east of the dining room's exterior door. The kitchen contains a large stone fireplace on its west wall and an exterior door on its south wall.

The loft consists of three bedrooms: two within the main block that correspond to the two rooms below and a larger room in the ell. A small passageway links the front bedrooms to the ell bedroom.

The house, once the principal building of the Teague Farm, remains in a rural setting and on the southern edge of an eighty-acre parcel (Haywood County PIN 8702-82-4565). The property is primarily situated within the small valley through which Messer Branch flows north to the Pigeon River, which is now dammed and part of Waterville Lake. The property lies almost entirely north of White Oak Road and south of Pigeon River/Waterville Lake, with a small portion located south of White Oak Road. The property's topography is rugged with sloping hillsides rising from Messer Branch.

The Teague House is oriented to the west, facing White Oak Road, Bridge No. 273, and Messer Branch. Almost entirely forested, the property contains stands of mixed deciduous trees and pine. The family cultivates a one-acre garden north of the house, along Messer Branch. No accessory buildings are extant. The ruins of a collapsed smokehouse, including a stone foundation and deteriorated framing elements, remain just north of the house. The present owners stated that a wood shed and a log barn stood just east of the house and a tobacco barn was sited farther from the house. However, no aboveground evidence of these buildings, or of any other outbuildings, remains. The owners maintain an original internal road just east of the house. This track runs north-south and connects White Oak Road to the north end of the property near Pigeon River/Waterville Lake.

The Teague Family Cemetery is located approximately 350 feet northeast of the house and is accessed by Eaglecrest Lane, a modern road. It contains a variety of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century slate headstones, standing fieldstones, tablet markers, uncarved stone markers, and a variety of late-twentieth-century granite monument markers. The tombstones are typical of family and community cemeteries in North Carolina with no outstanding, unusual, or notable funerary art. Markers are arranged on an east-west axis, but otherwise do not follow a pattern or grid. The family and some non-family community members used the large plot, which, according to family member Russell Teague, contains approximately one hundred graves of which twenty-nine retain carved headstones. The cemetery is rectangular in plan and enclosed on all sides by mature woodlands.



Figure 4. View northeast to west façade.



Figure 5. View north to south side elevation.



Figure 6. View northwest to south elevation and rear, east elevation.



Figure 7. View west to rear elevation.



Figure 8. View southwest to rear elevation and north side elevation.



Figure 9. View south to north elevation.



Figure 10. View southeast to north elevation.



Figure 11. Representative view of main block's log floor joists.



Figure 12. View southwest within main block's north hall to main entry.



Figure 13. View northwest within main block's south parlor to main entry.



Figure 14. View north within main block's parlor to enclosed stair.



Figure 15. View south within dining room.



Figure 16. View west within kitchen.



Figure 17. View northwest within bedroom above main block's north hall.



Figure 18. View south within bedroom above main block's south parlor.



Figure 19. View west within rear ell's bedroom above dining room and kitchen.



Figure 20. View west from Teague House to Bridge No. 273 and Messer Branch.



Figure 21. View west along White Oak Rd. to Bridge No. 273 and Teague House.



Figure 22. View west along White Oak Rd. from Bridge No. 273.



Figure 23. View southeast along White Oak Rd. from just south of Teague House.



Figure 24. View north from Teague House to vegetable garden.



Figure 25. View north from Teague House to smokehouse ruins.



Figure 26. View north along vegetable garden; Messer Branch within west treeline.



Figure 27. View south from vegetable garden's north end.



Figure 28. View north from White Oak Rd. along internal farm road; Teague House on west.



Figure 29. View west to Teague Family Cemetery.



Figure 30. Representative slate headstone within Teague Family Cemetery.



Figure 31. Representative tablet marker within Teague Family Cemetery.



Figure 32. View east from west end of Teague Family Cemetery.

Historic Development

The Teague House is the last surviving building of a small family farm that has a variety of associations with Haywood County's history. George W. Teague acquired the land, originally described as "100 acres more or less," in August 1860 for \$400 from a prominent Haywood County land speculator, James R. Love. Teague paid \$200 at the time and Love accepted a "note of hand" for the remaining \$200, essentially a mortgage. The deed indicates Teague's purchase was for the "place on which he lives," suggesting Teague had been a tenant of Love's. The deed does not describe any improvements or how the land was being used at that time. According to federal census records, George Teague was a farmer living with his wife, Marinda, and three children.¹

It was during George Teague's ownership that the family started the Teague Family Cemetery. The earliest grave is that of two-year-old Robert E. Teague who died in 1860. The next earliest grave is marked 1874, and the remaining graves date from the 1880s and into the twentieth century.

¹ Robert and Connie Medford, *The Families of Haywood and Jackson Counties, Based on the 1860 Census Records* (Alexander, NC: WorldComm, 1994), 59.

Although he lived on the property for the rest of his life, George Teague sold his farm to his son Francis “Frank” Teague and his wife, Didamy Messer Teague, for \$200 in 1895. The sale included “130 acres more or less...together with all woods, ways, waters, minerals, mines, [and] opportunities there belonging to.”² White Oak Township, within which the Teague Farm was located, was formed the same year and during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century was reported to be “inhabited by a thrifty and intelligent people...engaged in farming, stock raising, and lumbering.”³ Typical early twentieth-century crops in the area included corn, wheat, and tobacco.⁴ According to Russell Teague, Frank Teague built the current house about 1900. Initially, the house included only the western main block. Frank added the rear, eastern ell shortly thereafter, circa 1901.⁵ He also built two log barns, a smokehouse, and a wood shed. By 1900, the census records Frank as a farmer and notes the family’s four children, including a twenty-one-year-old daughter and three others under ten, as well as a male boarder, most likely a farmhand.⁶ The family grew substantially, and the 1910 census enumerated eleven Teague children between the ages of eleven and thirty.⁷

The late nineteenth century brought change and development to rural Haywood County, once described as a “desolation of the wilderness.”⁸ In the early 1880s, the construction of the Western North Carolina Railroad (soon after integrated into the Danville and Richmond Railroad) linked Waynesville and Canton to new and distant markets. One historian has described the arrival of the railroad as “the decisive development shaping modern Haywood County.”⁹ The railroad created opportunities for small farmers, like the Teagues, to grow cash crops such as corn and tobacco, which helped them construct larger frame homes.

² Deed of sale from George W. Teague to F. M. Teague, 12 March 1895, Haywood County, North Carolina, Deed Book 6: 425, Register of Deeds, Waynesville, North Carolina.

³ W. C. Allen, *Centennial of Haywood County and its County Seat, Waynesville, N.C.* (Waynesville, NC: Courier Printing Company, n.d.), 103.

⁴ W. C. Allen, *The Annals of Haywood County, North Carolina* (Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, 1977), 193.

⁵ Interview with Russell Teague, October 29, 2013. Teague family history provided hereafter was the result of this interview unless otherwise noted.

⁶ Robert and Connie Medford, *The Families of Haywood and Jackson Counties, Based on the 1900 Census Records* (Alexander, NC: WorldComm, 1995), 99.

⁷ Robert and Connie Medford, *The Families of Haywood and Jackson Counties, Based on the 1910 Census Records* (Alexander, NC: WorldComm, 1998), 101.

⁸ *Annals of Haywood County*, 104.

⁹ Curtis W. Wood, Jr., *Haywood County: Portrait of a Mountain Community, a Bicentennial History* (Waynesville, NC: The Historical Society of Haywood County, 2009), 128.

Frank Teague’s utilization of and investment in his property follows this pattern of development: he constructed the frame, one-and-a-half story saddlebag house that still stands and, in addition to continuing to produce foodstuffs for his family, began growing tobacco commercially. Teague grew burley tobacco, a large leaf type that was air-cured on hooks. He transported the tobacco to Waynesville for sale, where it was then likely shipped out of Haywood County for additional processing and sale elsewhere.



Figure 33. Frank and Didamy Teague family, in front of the Teague House, circa 1920.
(Source: Russell Teague)

James Lawson “Pa” Teague and Mattie Russell Teague, grandparents of the property’s current owner, acquired the small farm in 1926 “in consideration of a lifetime mantaince [sic]” for their parents, Frank and Didamy, who stayed on the property. James Lawson appears to have operated the farm in similar fashion to his father. Russell Teague remembers his grandparents and the small farm’s operations vividly: they produced primarily for their own consumption, growing corn, potatoes, and other vegetables, and raised chickens, hogs, and kept a milk cow. They also grew corn and tobacco commercially. Cornfields covered the hillsides, and tobacco was grown in a “patch” along both sides of Messer Branch. Russell remembers that his family’s annual sale of their tobacco crop would pay the property’s taxes and sometimes afford “a little something at

Christmas time.” The hillsides closer to Pigeon River were kept in pasture for their few cows and horses. Little of the larger property was wooded.

The Teagues continued to farm the property, with little change in methodology, through the early 1960s. As James Lawson and Mattie grew older and less capable of maintaining the farm, their farming activities gradually decreased. Although agriculture has remained an important part of Haywood County’s economy, the number of farms and farmers has steadily declined since the mid-twentieth century.¹⁰ The Teague family’s gradual departure from agriculture mirrors this trend. A variety of factors have combined since World War II to discourage Haywood County’s small farmers, including increased competition, increasing prices for feed and fertilizer, reduced incomes, and rising property values.

In 1963, the Teague Farm passed to Russell Teague’s parents, Henry France and Mattie Teague, although James Lawson and Mattie Teague remained on the farm. Russell Teague remembers that commercial cultivation ended at the property about 1965, and by 1970, the entire family had moved to Canton. The Teague House has been vacant since that time, and the farm’s fallow fields and pastures have reverted to deciduous woodlands. A stand of pines was planted between the house and the Teague Family Cemetery, and a small field has been maintained as a family garden just northwest of the house. The garden is located in an area that was previously part of a narrow tobacco field along Messer Branch. The house’s porches were removed or destroyed prior to 1983, when Randall Cotten documented the property for a countywide historic resources survey. The property’s outbuildings, mentioned in Cotten’s documentation, have deteriorated or been destroyed since 1983. The only visible ruin is the smokehouse located just north of the house.

Russell Teague and his siblings, Gary Teague, Brenda Pace, and Anita Frizzell Teague, received the property from their parents in 1994. Although deed records do not clearly indicate the transactions, the original property of approximately 100 acres has been reduced to approximately 80 acres due to sales and family transfers. The Teague family currently maintains the property and utilizes it for the aforementioned garden and for recreational purposes.

¹⁰ Ibid., 421-422.

Architectural Context

The Teague House is a saddlebag house, a house type with a central chimney flanked by two rooms. Saddlebag houses were a common modest house type utilized in North Carolina at least through the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century.¹¹ Of log or frame construction, saddlebag houses were often constructed in rural areas by early settlers and small farmers and could be expanded according to the needs of its owners. Some saddlebag houses resulted from the expansion of single-pen houses to two rooms. The Teague House, an early-twentieth-century frame example, was originally constructed as a one-and-a-half-story, hall-parlor house and expanded shortly after its initial completion to accommodate Frank and Didamy Teague's growing family.

Randall Cotton documented the Teague House in his county survey. It is also described in *Haywood Homes and History* as "one of the few remaining older houses in the White Oak vicinity," and it is mentioned again in *Mountain Gables: A History of Haywood County Architecture*.¹²

During the eighteenth and for almost all of the nineteenth century, log construction was the most common building method in Haywood County and western North Carolina. Railroads, the spread of a cash economy, and machinery such as mobile sawmills that could dress timber on-site afforded the construction of new house types expressing some level of the day's "fashionable styles." While property owners continued building with log, frame construction became considerably more common.¹³

The Teague House conforms to the aforementioned pattern of late-nineteenth-century to early-twentieth-century residential development in Haywood County and the region. The simple saddlebag house was constructed by its owner of locally sourced materials during a time when subsistence farmers constructed modest frame dwellings as an improvement over their log antecedents. Even the house's modest finishes are typical of the period's frame, vernacular dwellings: the exterior's white paint and contrasting blue-green trim and the interior's unpainted pine bead board paneling were common.¹⁴

¹¹ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 178-179 and 352.

¹² Betsy Farlow, Dan Lane, and Duane Oliver, *Haywood Homes and History* (Waynesville, NC: Oliver Scriptorium, 1993), 105 and 203; and Duane Oliver, *Mountain Gables: A History of Haywood County Architecture* (Waynesville, NC: Oliver Scriptorium, 2001), 83-91.

¹³ Ed Trout, *Historic Buildings of the Smokies* (Gatlinburg, TN: Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association, 1995), 39.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 41.

Saddlebag houses do not appear to be common in Haywood County. The county's two historic architectural contexts, *Haywood Homes and History* and *Mountain Gables* document only two extant examples, the Teague House and the Smathers House. During travel for fieldwork and research for the present study, as well as for other Haywood County project surveys, which included considerable travel within the county, the principal investigator encountered only two additional saddlebag examples, although substantially altered: the ca. 1890 Campbell-Hall House (HW536), just north of Maggie Valley, and the ca. 1918 Williams House (undocumented) in the White Oak area. Both of these houses have undergone substantial material alteration, including the installation of non-historic siding, windows, and doors.

The 1983 NC-HPO survey of Haywood County did not document the saddlebag form; further review of this survey does not indicate additional intact saddlebag examples. Notably, as indicated in *Historic Buildings of the Smokies*, during development of nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park, park planners removed almost all nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century frame buildings to give the park a more authentic appearance of "pioneer" log construction.¹⁵ Thus, due to abandonment and a program of removal, many area examples of early and modest frame residential construction have been lost.



Figure 34. Comparable extant example: Smathers House, Dutch Cove vicinity
(Source: *Mountain Gables: A History of Haywood County Architecture*)

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 33-34.



Figure 35. Comparable example: Campbell-Hall House (HW536), Maggie Valley vicinity



Figure 36. Comparable example: Williams House, White Oak vicinity

Cemetery Context

Family cemeteries with stone markers have been used in North Carolina since European settlers began populating the region. In the mountains of North Carolina, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century cemeteries were often sited on bald mountain tops or hill tops with a variety of markers, ranging from uncarved fieldstones to ornate tablets purchased and transported into the region. During the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, mechanization and better transportation created opportunities for the introduction of popular styles of markers, in the same way that industrialization nationalized architecture and building design. Hilltops, however, have always remained popular locations for cemeteries.¹⁶

The Teague Family Cemetery is located within the Teague House's property parcel. According to property owner Russell Teague, the cemetery contains between eighty and one hundred graves. Twenty-nine of those graves are marked with a variety of stones including barely legible, incised fieldstones, typical late-nineteenth-century carved stone and concrete markers, and modern granite monuments. More graves are marked with uncarved fieldstones, and the landscape suggests the presence of numerous unmarked graves. Until the mid- to late twentieth century, the Teague Family Cemetery was visible at a distance from the Teague House, but, today, it occupies a clearing within a larger forested area. It is not surrounded by a fence, and the markers are not artistically significant. The cemetery's size is notable, but a review of the Teague family's genealogy reveals large generations with eight to twelve children per household. Large generations and continued use of the cemetery have combined to yield a well-populated burying ground.

Additionally, the cemetery's size, while notable, is not unusual. A review of 226 Haywood County cemeteries indicates that about one-third to one-half of those documented cemeteries are family plots, similar to the Teague Family Cemetery. Based on photographs and inventories of interments at those family cemeteries, the Teague Family Cemetery is sizable but it is not unusual. It is considerably smaller than the largest family cemetery noted by the investigator in Haywood County. Most of the county's family cemeteries contain ten to twenty graves with the number of marked burials ranging from one to the largest: an impressive 573 interments at the Buchannan Family Cemetery.¹⁷

¹⁶ Ruth Little, *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 99-100.

¹⁷ "Cemetery Search Results," findagrave.com, accessed December 17, 2013, via <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=csr&CSentry=4&CSst=29&CSnty=1694&CSsr=1&>.

National Register Determination of Eligibility

Teague House

The Teague House retains its integrity of location and its integrity of design because it has never been moved and its design has not been notably modified. The building does not retain integrity of setting because the land around it has been allowed to return to woodland when, historically, it would have been open, cultivated land. Similarly, its integrity of association with agriculture has been degraded because of the absence of a farm setting and the absence of original farm buildings and outbuildings. While the Teague House has not been significantly altered, neglect has diminished its integrity of materials, workmanship, and feeling. The porch and mantelpieces are missing and some windows, doors, and their trim are significantly damaged or missing. Foundation problems observed include significant rot and termite damage in floor sills on both the main block and the rear ell, resulting in floor-collapse in the ell's easternmost room. However, the materials that remain are unaltered so that the house retains sufficient integrity of materials, workmanship, and feeling to communicate its architectural significance.

National Register Criterion A states that a property eligible under Criterion A is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The Teague House is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. While the property has loose associations with locally prominent politician and land speculator James B. Love, the Love family bought and sold tens of thousands of acres in Haywood County and the sale of the property to George Teague in 1860 is not unique or unusual in its association with land speculation or development. No architectural resources remain on the property from this period of time.

The Teague House is associated with historic agricultural trends in Haywood County, including late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century commercial agricultural growth and the corresponding relative improvements for traditional subsistence farmers. However, the current property does not adequately convey the characteristics of an early-twentieth-century small farm complex. Although the house remains, no other outbuildings are intact. Outbuildings that have been destroyed include two log barns, a woodshed, and a smokehouse. Furthermore, historically cultivated fields and pastures are obscured by natural succession; the property is primarily wooded with only a small area of cultivation remaining along Messer Branch. The loss of all the property's historic agricultural buildings, as well as changes to the property's setting, diminish its integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The property no longer conveys any significant associations with regional agricultural development.

Therefore, although the Teague property is associated with local historic events and trends, due to changes to the property over time and the resultant loss of historic integrity, the Teague House does not convey these associations and is not eligible under Criterion A.

National Register Criterion B states that an eligible property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. The Teague House property was once owned by James B. Love, a prominent citizen, but Love's real estate transactions involved tens of thousands of acres in Haywood County and this property has no particular association with Love. Otherwise, the Teague House is not known to be associated with the lives of persons significant in the past. Background research did not indicate any significant associations. Therefore, the Teague House is not eligible under Criterion B.

National Register Criterion C states that an eligible property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represents the work of a master; possesses high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The Teague House is representative of a late-nineteenth-century through early-twentieth-century architectural trend in Haywood County as small-scale farmers and builders transitioned from log to frame construction for housing. This improvement in construction technology was made possible primarily by new commercial agricultural opportunities afforded by the late-nineteenth-century arrival of rail in the county. When Frank Teague followed this pattern by building a frame house, he chose the saddlebag form, a house type utilized in the region's earlier log construction. Rarity does not necessarily make a resource eligible for the National Register, but the saddlebag form is rare in Haywood County. Most known surviving examples of saddlebag houses in the county have been significantly altered. The Teague House is one of the best surviving examples of a saddlebag-form dwelling in Haywood County and is therefore eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C. The period of significance is 1900, the date of the house's construction.

National Register Criterion D states that a property may be eligible if it has yielded or may be likely to yield information important to history or prehistory. Background research and observed aboveground features do not indicate that the property is likely to yield new information important in history or prehistory. Therefore, the property is not recommended eligible under Criterion D. This evaluation does not consider or address the property's archaeological potential.

Teague Family Cemetery

The Teague Family Cemetery is located within the Teague House's property parcel and historically associated with the Teague House. However, dense woods now cover what was open farmland between the house and the cemetery and completely separate them. Therefore, the National Register eligibility of the cemetery is evaluated as an individually eligible property, as a contributing feature within the boundary of the Teague House, and as a contributing feature in a discontinuous boundary for the Teague House.

The Teague Family Cemetery retains its integrity of location, materials, workmanship, and feeling. It has not been relocated, the grave markers have not changed materially, and integrity of workmanship remains, although some of the incised markers have lost some clarity. Furthermore, its overall feeling as a final resting place for Teague family members remains. The cemetery's integrity of setting has been somewhat diminished because woodland has overtaken what had been open farmland, but, within the cemetery, open lawn has been maintained. The

cemetery does not have any known associations with notable or important persons, events, or broad patterns of history, although it does have two associations: the cemetery retains its association with the Teague family, and it is associated with a centuries-old pattern of North Carolinians using simple family burial places. However, those associations are not historically significant because the Teague family is not notably significant, the cemetery is one of hundreds of similar family cemeteries scattered across Haywood County, and its role in the tradition of family burial plots is not significant or notable.

National Register Criterion A states that a property eligible under Criterion A is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The Teague Family Cemetery is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. The Teague family's story is typical of many families in Haywood County, and the Teague Family Cemetery is typical of family cemeteries across North Carolina. Therefore, the cemetery is part of a broad pattern of the use of family cemeteries by rural families across the state, but the Teague Family Cemetery does not play a notable, instructive, or distinguished role within that broad pattern of history. The cemetery is also relatively large, but its size is not unusual when compared with other family cemeteries in the county. Therefore, the cemetery does not possess a notable or compelling association with any event or broad patterns of history that rise to the significance of National Register eligibility under Criterion A.

National Register Criterion B states that an eligible property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. The Teague Family Cemetery is not known to be associated with the lives of persons significant in the past. Background research did not indicate any significant associations. Therefore, the Teague Family Cemetery is not eligible under Criterion B.

National Register Criterion C states that an eligible property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represents the work of a master; possesses high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The Teague Family Cemetery is representative of family cemeteries that were used, and continue to be used, from the beginning of European settlement in North Carolina until today. However, the cemetery contains no unique, outstanding, or significant funerary art, design features, or landscape design elements that would meet Criterion C.

National Register Criterion D states that a property may be eligible if it has yielded or may be likely to yield information important to history or prehistory. Background research and observed aboveground features do not indicate that the property is likely to yield new information important in history or prehistory. Therefore, the property is not recommended eligible under Criterion D. This evaluation does not consider or address the property's archaeological potential.

National Register Criteria Consideration D states that an eligible cemetery must derive its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events. No one of transcendent importance rests in the cemetery, nor is the cemetery unusually old. The cemetery is large for a family cemetery, but the Teague family's generations were large with households of eight or

more children being normal. Furthermore, family cemeteries of a similar size or larger are found in Haywood County. The Teague Family Cemetery does not display distinctive design features. Instead, it contains plain, typical, and undistinctive grave markers, common to nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemeteries across the state. It has no known association with historic events.

As an individual resource, the Teague Family Cemetery is not eligible for the National Register because it does not meet Criteria A, B, C, or D, nor does it meet Criteria Consideration D.

Proposed National Register Boundary

Because the Teague property (Parcel ID No. 8702-82-4565) no longer represents an intact, historic farm complex, the proposed National Register boundary for the Teague House is limited to a portion of the property parcel that includes the house and its immediate surroundings. This boundary comprises the right-of-way along White Oak Road on the south; Messer Branch on the west; the east edge of an internal farm road on the east; and a tree line spanning Messer Branch to the internal farm road, approximately 250 feet north of the Teague House, on the north (see Figures 37 and 38). This boundary includes approximately 1.43 acres and the property's historically significant features, including the Teague House and its immediate surroundings.

The Teague Family Cemetery is associated with the Teague House, which this report determines eligible for the National Register. However, the cemetery is completely separated from this eligible resource by dense woodland. The house is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, but the cemetery has no relationship to or impact on the house's architectural significance. Because verdant forest separates the two sites, because this woodland is an intrusive feature that has degraded the property's association with agriculture, and because the only National Register criteria that the property can meet is Criterion C for the house's architecture, a National Register boundary for the house that expands across these dense woodlands to encompass the Teague Family Cemetery cannot be justified.

National Register guidelines for selecting boundaries for National Register-eligible properties state that boundaries should not include areas of the property that do not retain integrity, which in this case would be the woods that have overtaken the farm land. The guidelines also indicate that boundaries can include acreage associated with the property historically that conveys the property's historic setting. However, the guidelines explicitly state that such acreage must retain historic integrity and contribute to the property's historic significance. Creating a boundary to encompass the Teague House and the Teague Family Cemetery would add acreage that does not retain historic integrity because it is farmland that has been overtaken by woodland, and it would add acreage that does not contribute to the property's historic significance because the property is significant for architecture and not for an association with agriculture or any other aspect of history that would justify the inclusion of woodlands.

Therefore, the Teague Family Cemetery cannot be included in a contiguous boundary for the Teague House.

According to National Register guidelines, discontinuous boundaries can be applied in limited circumstances, including situations in which the intervening space lacks significance, such as the case between the Teague House and the Teague Family Cemetery. However, the Teague Family Cemetery does not contribute to the significance of the Teague House. Although the Teague House and the Teague Family Cemetery are linked historically and the house's large property parcel contains the cemetery, the cemetery does not meet Criteria Consideration D and is not significant to the house's architectural history or integrity. Therefore, a discontinuous boundary for the Teague House that would include the Teague Family Cemetery cannot be justified.



Figure 37. Proposed National Register Boundary Map for Teague House: Overview



Figure 38. Proposed National Register Boundary Map for Teague House: Detail view

Bibliography

Allen, W. C. *The Annals of Haywood County, North Carolina*. Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, 1977 [originally published 1935].

Allen, W. C. *Centennial of Haywood County and its County Seat, Waynesville, N.C.* Waynesville, NC: Courier Printing Company, n.d. (1908?).

Bishir, Catherine W. *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1990.

Bishir, Catherine W., Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999.

Farlow, Betsy, Dan Lane, and Duane Oliver. *Haywood Homes and History*. Waynesville, NC: Oliver Scriptorium, 1993.

Findagrave.com. "Cemetery Search Results." Accessed December 17, 2013. via <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=csr&CScntry=4&CSst=29&CSnty=1694&CSsr=1&>.

Haywood County Register of Deeds. Deed records, 1860-1994.

Haywood County Tax Administration. Tax records, 2013.

Haywood County Genealogical Society. *Haywood County Heritage, North Carolina, Volume 1, 1994*. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1994.

Little, Ruth. *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Medford, Robert, and Connie Medford. *The Families of Haywood and Jackson Counties, Based on the 1860 Census Records*. Alexander, NC: WorldComm, 1994.

Medford, Robert, and Connie Medford. *The Families of Haywood and Jackson Counties, Based on the 1900 Census Records*. Alexander, NC: WorldComm, 1995.

Medford, Robert, and Connie Medford. *The Families of Haywood and Jackson Counties, Based on the 1910 Census Records*. Alexander, NC: WorldComm, 1998.

Oliver, Duane. *Mountain Gables: A History of Haywood County Architecture*. Waynesville, NC: Oliver Scriptorium, 2001.

Teague, Russell. Personal interview with Matt McDaniel. October 29, 2013

Trout, Ed. *Historic Buildings of the Smokies*. Gatlinburg, TN: Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association, 1995.

Wood, Jr., Curtis W. *Haywood County: Portrait of a Mountain Community, a Bicentennial History*. Waynesville, NC: The Historical Society of Haywood County, 2009.

