



**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

June 10, 2019

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, Replace Bridge 8 on NC 194 over North Fork New River,
BR-0002, PA 17-12-0011, Ashe County, ER 19-1732

Thank you for your May 16, 2019, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have read the report and concur that the Thompson-Barr House (AH0372) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons 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 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov

Received: 05/17/2019
State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 19-1732

May 16, 2019

Due -- 6/11/19

MEMORANDUM

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

H-
E Pletters
6/7/19

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: BR-0002 Replace Bridge No. 8 over North Fork New River on NC 194,
PA No. 17-12-0011, Ashe County

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey Report, survey site database, and additional materials for the above referenced project for your review and comment per 36CRF.800. Please contact me by phone (919-707-6075) or email (klhusband@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments.

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PDEA-HUMAN ENVIRONMENT SECTION
MAIL SERVICE CENTER 1598
RALEIGH NC 27699-1598

Telephone: (919) 707-6000
Fax: (919) 212-5785
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

Website: www.ncdot.gov

Location:
1020 BIRCH RIDGE RD
RALIEGH NC 27610

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

Replace Bridge No. 08 over North Fork New River on NC 194, Ashe County

TIP# BR-0002

WBS# 67002.1.1

PA# 17-12-0011

Prepared for:

Environmental Analysis Unit

North Carolina Department of Transportation

1598 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699

Prepared by:



CALYX Engineers and Consultants, an NV5 Company

6750 Tryon Road

Cary, North Carolina, 27518

APRIL 2019

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

Replace Bridge No. 08 over North Fork New River on NC 194, Ashe County
TIP# BR-0002
WBS# 67002.1.1
PA# 17-12-0011

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

Prepared by:



CALYX Engineers and Consultants, an NV5 Company
6750 Tryon Road
Cary, North Carolina, 27518

APRIL 2019



Kenneth Joel Zogry, Principal Investigator

5/13/19

Date

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

Date

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to Replace Bridge No. 08 over North Fork New River in Ashe County. The project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), as defined by NCDOT, is illustrated in Figure 2.

The project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). NCDOT architectural historians conducted preliminary documentary research and a site visit to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. One resource within the APE warranted further evaluation for potential National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility and is the subject of this report. NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other properties are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

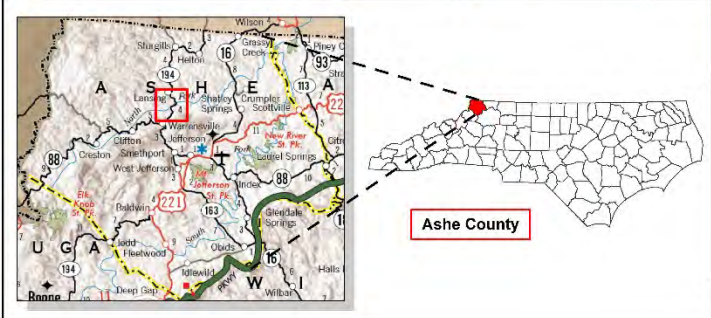
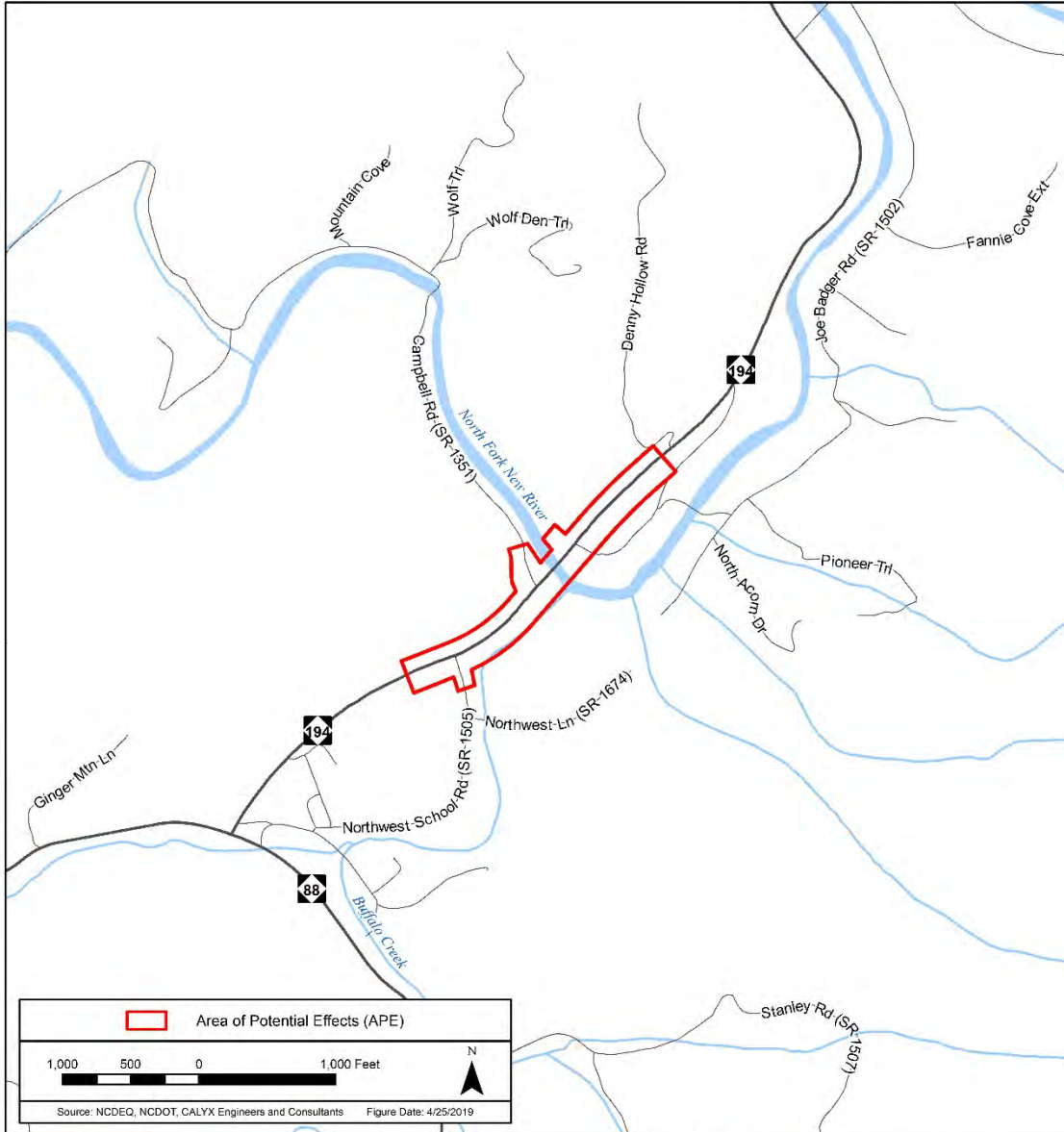
Ashe County was previously surveyed for the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office in 2005. The evaluated property, the Thompson-Barr House (AH0372) at 6256 NC Highway 194 in North Warrentonville, was documented at that time, although it was not identified by a historical name.


In March 2019, NCDOT requested that CALYX Engineers and Consultants (CALYX) complete documentary research, an intensive-level historic resources field survey, and an NRHP evaluation for this single property. The result of that evaluation is as follows:

Property Name	NCHPO Survey Site Number	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
Thompson-Barr House	AH0372	Not Eligible	N/A

Contents

Management Summary	i
Methodology.....	4
Evaluation: Thompson-Barr House	4
Description.....	4
History and Architectural Context	13
Comparable Examples.....	15
National Register Evaluation.....	17
Works and Sources Cited	19



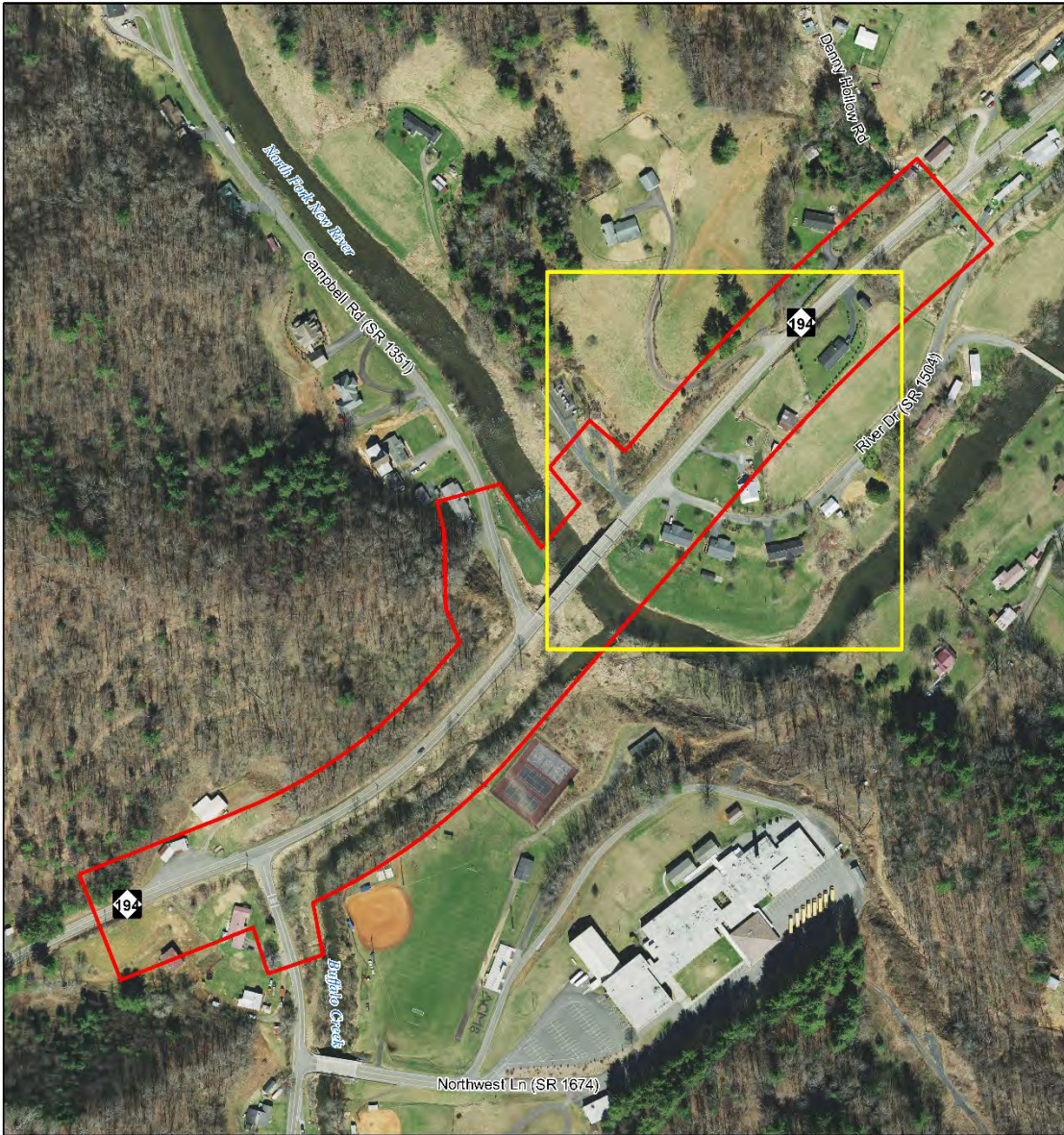

 NORTH CAROLINA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STIP Project BR-0002

 Ashe County

*Replace Bridge No. 08 over
 North Fork New River on NC 194*

Figure 1 - Project Vicinity



- Evaluated Property Inset
- APE Boundary

300 150 0 300 Feet

Source: NC OneMap, CALYX Engineers and Consultants
Figure Date: 4/25/2019



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION





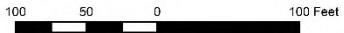
STIP Project BR-0002

Ashe County

*Replace Bridge No. 08 over
North Fork New River on NC 194*

Figure 2 - Area of Potential Effects (APE)



<p>  Evaluated Property </p>	<p>  APE Boundary </p>	<p>  Parcel Boundary </p>	<p>  NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION </p>
<p>  </p> <p> <small>Source: NC OneMap, CALYX Engineers and Consultants Figure Date: 4/25/2019</small> </p>		<p align="center"> STIP Project BR-002 Ashe County <i>Replace Bridge No. 08 over North Fork New River on NC 194</i> </p> <p align="center"> Figure 3 - Evaluated Property Inset </p>	

Methodology

On March 28, 2019, CALYX Architectural Historian Kenneth Zogry visited Ashe County, surveyed and photographed the study property, interviewed the property owner, and drove through the area to locate comparable building types. Dr. Zogry undertook further research via telephone interviews with several long-time local residents with knowledge of the property, and in the files of the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO). A variety of online research tools and resources were also utilized, including Ashe County Tax Records, Ashe County Register of Deeds Records, U.S. Federal Census Records, and North Carolina Death Certificates (the latter two sources via Ancestry.com).

CALYX 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*.

Evaluation: Thompson-Barr House

Resource Name	Thompson-Barr House
HPO Survey Site Number	AH0372
Street Address	6256 NC HWY 194, N. Warrensville
PIN	02219033
Construction Dates	ca. 1930
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



Description

The Thompson-Barr House sits on a hillside just north of the New River at the intersection of NC Highway 194 and River Road (SR 1504) in North Warrensville, an unincorporated township in Ashe County. The area is mountainous with forested hillsides and valley fields, and the location of the property affords views to the surrounding hilly terrain and the New River to the south.

The overall form is a Craftsman style side-gable one-and-one-half story bungalow with a shed dormer on the front (south) façade. The porch roof on the front façade is fully engaged with the main roof, and the porch roof on the eastern elevation is hipped. Exposed rafter tails are present under the eaves of both porch roofs, and the along the south facing eave of the shed dormer. Five knee braces are placed under the eaves of each side gable. The standing seam metal roofs on all portions of the house are believed to be original. A brick central chimney stack rises from the center of the house and exits along the central ridgeline. The house is sheathed in German siding, painted white, which is believed to be original.

The south façade is accessed by a replacement, central single leaf door. Two pairs of bungalow style double-hung sash windows, with a three-over-one design, flank the door. Three smaller bungalow windows, of the same design, are present in the shed dormer. The porch ceiling and floor are wooden plank. The narrow wooden posts are constructed of vertical plank and are capped by a quarter-round molding at the base and top. The porch balustrade is constructed of simple vertical posts held in place by top and bottom railings, and the house's foundation is covered by wooden lattice.

On the east elevation, one bungalow style window is present on the first floor's south end, and a pair of similar, smaller windows are located on the second floor under the gable. The hipped roof porch on this elevation terminates at a one-room addition on the north end. At some point, a door was cut into the one-room addition to access the porch and was subsequently later removed and the opening sealed with siding.

The north, or rear, elevation has asymmetrical fenestration. A total of seven bungalow style windows are present and of various sizes and placement. The land rises sharply at the rear of the house.

The west elevation's gable end features a single bungalow style window on the first floor's south side, and another similar single window centered in the gable on the second floor. A small addition, sheathed in weatherboard rather than German siding, extends from the northern end of this elevation. The addition is accessed via a single-leaf door with a diamond pane pattern on the upper half. A white-painted cinderblock exhaust stack rises from between this addition and the main house.

One modern shed is located within the parcel boundary and west of the house. However, two ca. 1930-1940 wooden tobacco barns historically associated with the property are extant just northwest of the existing parcel boundary.

The interior first floor of the house was examined. The floorplan is basically a modified foursquare arrangement, though the central placement of the chimney stack, which provides back-to-back fireplaces in both front rooms, is somewhat atypical and allows space for only a very small entry. The placement of the staircase is also unusual, along the north rear wall of the front western room (likely either the original living room or dining room). Originally a door leading past the foot of the enclosed staircase provided access to the rear interior kitchen. Later remodeling makes an understanding of the original use of the rooms difficult to discern. Currently the 1970s kitchen and dining room are located directly behind the two front rooms, but at least one wall has been removed. The first-floor full bathroom, under the shed roof of the eastern porch, is accessed from the current dining room. In all, there are four rooms and a bath on the first floor, and three rooms and a later bath on the second floor.



Figure 1: Detail Map



Figure 2: Looking northeast. Two original barns historically associated with the property to the northwest behind the house are extant, though now located on a subdivided adjacent parcel.



Figure 3: South (front) elevation



Figure 4: East elevation



Figure 5: Looking north on the front porch. An area of patched siding can be seen on the far wall where a door was once present.



Figure 6: North (rear) elevation



Figure 7: West elevation



Figure 8: Interior fireplace surround, first-floor west room (identical surround in east room)

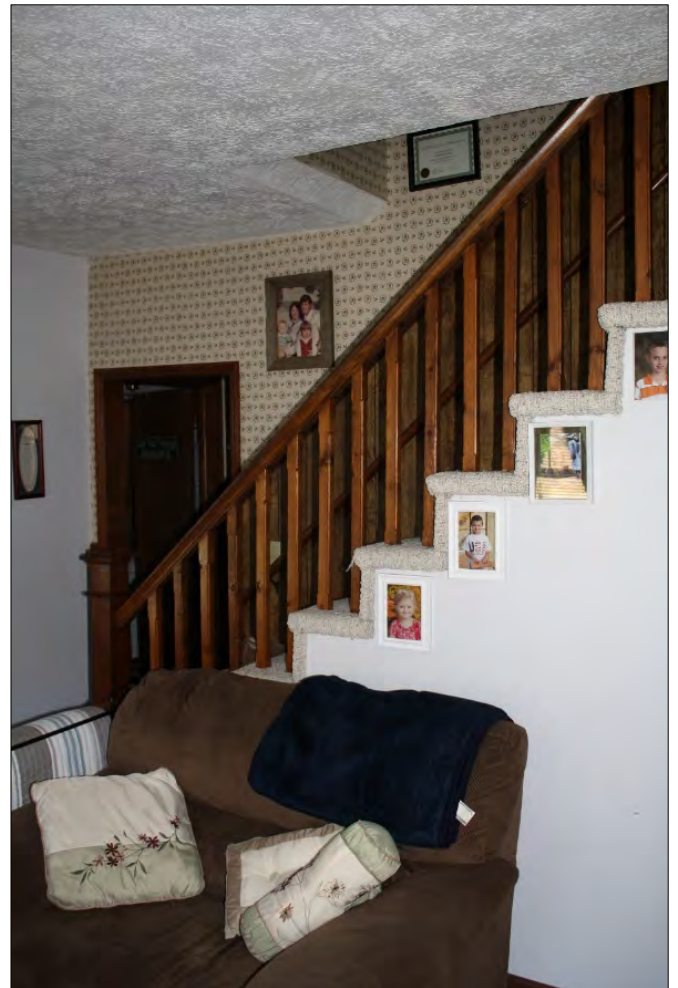


Figure 9: Exposed interior stairs (replacement) in first-floor west room



Figure 10: Two original outbuildings, now on adjacent subdivided parcel, looking southwest



Figure 11: Looking southwest from the driveway toward the New River and Bridge No. 08



Figure 12: Looking southeast across NC HWY 194 (foreground) and River Road (SR 1504); showing ca. 1960 modern brick ranch houses. The New River is just beyond these houses to the south.



Figure 13: Looking south along NC HWY 194 across North Fork New River Bridge. The Thompson-Barr House is due east of the photographer's location.



Figure 14: Looking west from the front porch across NC HWY 194

History and Architectural Context

Ashe County is rugged, rural, and sparsely populated; with just under 27,000 residents, it is one of the least populated counties in North Carolina. The area is known for small family farms, cheese production, and Christmas tree production. Warrensville, the area in which the study property is located, is an unincorporated community within the township of West Jefferson.¹

The early history of this property is unclear, and the county records are incomplete. Several local residents state that the house was built by a member of the extended Johnson family about 1930 (the Ashe County Tax Records list 1931 as year built) but disagree on the exact individual. The Johnsons were farmers, growing subsistence crops and some burley tobacco (as opposed to bright-leaf, grown to the east) as a cash crop. At least one of the extant barns just north of the current property line was originally constructed for tobacco. Family members were also blacksmiths and small-scale merchants.²

In 1948 the property was purchased by Virgil (1878–1964) and Bessie Thompson. In the 1940 Census, Virgil Thompson's occupation was recorded as farming. According to area residents, the Thompsons had a child with special needs, and the exterior door to the small room at the eastern side porch's

¹ "Ashe County," NCpedia.com.

² Author's interview with Janet Barr, March 28, 2019; Author's interview with Sam Shumate, April 18, 2019; Author's interview with Billy Bob Johnson, April 18, 2019; Ashe County Tax Records, accessed online.

northern end was enclosed to create a first-floor bathroom. The adjoining room, now used as a dining room, was apparently a first-floor bedroom for the child.³

No other significant remodeling was done before the house was sold to David and Janet Barr, the current owners, in 1977. The Barr's undertook a major interior renovation, gutting and replacing the kitchen and first floor bath, adding a second-floor bath, replacing the original enclosed stairs, and painting and updating other elements of the original interior. As a result of this remodeling, the only significant interior architectural elements that remain are two fireplace surrounds and some of the flooring.⁴

Despite the extensive interior remodeling, little of the exterior was disturbed, with the exception of removing a small "springhouse" attached to the mud room off the kitchen and adding lattice skirting around the foundation. The house retains its original siding (in most locations), bungalow style windows, and standing seam metal roof.

"Bungalows suited North Carolina's needs and habits," architectural historian Catherine Bishir writes in *North Carolina Architecture*. "They were cheaply and easily built. They ranged in size and elaboration to accommodate all economic levels, and they communicated a message of simplicity, unpretentious coziness, and modernity." Bungalows were equally at home in town or on the farm, and stylistically they often displayed elements of the Craftsman movement, which sought to strip away excess Victorian ornament in architecture and decorative arts. Architecturally this meant revealing the "purity" and hand crafting of construction in details such as exposed rafter tails, knee braces under eaves, and even, where possible, exaggerating joinery methods (such as extended through-tenons on mortise-and-tenon joints). In North Carolina, bungalows of various styles were built from the early twentieth century well into the 1930s.⁵

³ Barr interview; Shumate interview; Ashe County Register of Deeds Records, accessed online; 1940 United States Census for Ashe County and North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-1976, accessed via Ancestry.com.

⁴ Barr interview.

⁵ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (UNC Press: 1990), p. 426.

Comparable Examples

Despite the county's sparse population, comparable buildings to the Thompson-Barr House were relatively easily located within a three-mile radius of the study property.

The earliest example (Figure 18), is a ca. 1915 rural interpretation of a side-gable bungalow, with an unusual clipped gable roof and truncated semi-engaged shed porch roof.

Very near the Thompson-Barr House is a more sophisticated side-gable bungalow (Figure 19), ca. 1925, with a sloping engaged porch roofline, wide shed dormer with four double-hung sash windows set in two pairs, and brick end and interior chimney stacks. The porch balustrade is of the same design as the study property. At some point, this house was clad in vinyl siding.

Two other examples on Highway 88 (Figures 20 and 21) are likely the latest chronologically, ca. 1930, and present a simplified, sturdy, aesthetically simple appearance similar to the Thompson-Barr House. Both of these examples feature triple windows in the shed dormer, though one is under a shed roof, and the other under a gable.

While the bungalow style was ubiquitous across the United States in both rural and urban settings during the first third of the twentieth century, there are occasionally regional variations. An interesting feature shared by the Thompson-Barr House and all four comparable examples are the slim, somewhat spindle-like porch posts, whether on brick piers (as in three of these), or full posts that extend to the porch floor. Typically, bungalow porch posts are known for being much larger, usually in a trapezoidal form.



Figure 15: Bungalow, ca. 1915, 5257 NC HWY 88, Warrentonville



Figure 16: Bungalow, ca. 1925, 139 Northwest School Road (SR 1505), N. Warrensville



Figure 17: Bungalow, ca. 1930, 2556 NC HWY 88, W. Jefferson



Figure 18: Bungalow, ca. 1930, 1799 NC HWY 88, W. Jefferson

National Register Evaluation

Integrity

The Thompson-Barr House retains integrity of location, and to a lesser extent integrity of setting and association. It remains on its original site, which is largely rural and mountainous in character. However, the property was subdivided about 1960, and the house ceased functioning as the center of an active farm. Two barns originally associated with the property remain but are now on an adjacent parcel. Further, while the view south and downhill to the New River remains, a row of mid-twentieth-century ranch houses now occupies the opposite side of River Drive (SR 1504) which curves around the southern and eastern sides of the property.

The Thompson-Barr House retains a high level of integrity regarding its exterior design, original materials, and workmanship. The Craftsman bungalow form is intact, as are many exterior features including much of the siding, windows, and the standing seam metal roof. Far less integrity remains on the interior. Two original locally made pine fireplaces surrounds, of simple design, survive, and some of the original flooring. However, an extensive remodeling in the late 1970s completely removed the original staircase, kitchen, bathroom, and other interior elements.

Criteria Evaluations

The Thompson-Barr House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for an association with an event or broad pattern of history. The house is not associated with any specific significant historical event and is no longer at the center of a functioning farm typical of the area about 1930 when it was built.

The Thompson-Barr House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B. No one associated with the house was a significant figure in history.

The Thompson-Barr House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. While the exterior is largely intact and it is an example of a later Craftsman-style bungalow, it is not an outstanding example of this common type, and most of the original interior features (aside from two mantelpieces and some flooring) have been removed.

The Thompson-Barr House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yet yielded nor is likely to yield information important to history or prehistory.

Works and Sources Cited

“Ashe County.” NCpedia.com.

Ashe County Tax Records

Ashe County Register of Deeds Records

Barr, Janet. Author’s interview, March 27, 2019.

Bishir, Catherine W. *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1990.

Johnson, Billy Bob. Author’s interview, April 18, 2019

North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-1976. Accessed via Ancestry.com.

Shumate, Sam. Author’s interview, April 18, 2019.

United States Census for Ashe County, 1930. Accessed via Ancestry.com.

United States Census for Ashe County, 1940. Accessed via Ancestry.com.