

993

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Barker House

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 1785 Barker Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Henderson

vicinity

state North Carolina

code NC

county Vance

code 181

zip code 27565

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kevin Cherry, SHPO  
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/8/2014  
Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature]

12-1-2014

Barker House  
Name of Property

Vance County, NC  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	3	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary structure

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary structure

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Hall-parlor plan, heavy-timber frame house

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof WOOD: Shingle

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1764

ca. 1774

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1764

ca. 1774

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Barker House  
Name of Property

Vance County, NC  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 30 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

See Latitude/Longitude coordinates continuation sheet

1	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
					See continuation sheet		

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heather Fearnbach  
organization Fearnbach History Services, Inc. date 5/12/2014  
street & number 3334 Nottingham Road telephone 336-765-2661  
city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name James M. Barker and William D. Barker Jr.  
street & number 339 Whisperwood Close telephone 919-542-4021  
city or town Pittsboro state NC zip code 27312

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

## Section 7. Narrative Description

### Setting

The Barker House stands on a 107.72-acre parcel that was part of a much larger farm that has been owned by six generations of the Barker family and two generations of O'Briens since the eighteenth century's third quarter. However, the National Register boundary comprises only an approximately thirty-acre tract, the maximum acreage permitted as setting for properties nominated under Criterion C for architectural significance. The farm is located 8.7 miles northwest of Henderson in Dabney Township on Vance County's western edge. The mailing address—1785 Barker Road, Oxford—reflects its proximity to the post office just under eight miles to the southwest in Granville County's seat. Neighboring crossroads communities include Dexter, initially called Asylum and then Midway, about one mile northwest in Granville County, and Dabney, which is 2.3 miles northeast in Vance County. Although some large agricultural and wooded tracts remain in the immediate vicinity, residential development continues to encroach upon the rural setting.

Acreage encompassed within the farm flanks Barker Road, which runs north-south through the parcel's northeastern section and serves as part of its southeastern boundary. The north-south line dividing Granville and Vance Counties is about eighty-one feet west of the residual Barker property's west edge. The Barker House faces east toward a grass lawn. A three-hundred-foot-long gravel drive leads west from Barker Road to a gravel parking area east of the house and unpaved farm roads extend to the outbuildings and fields. The thirty-acre National Register tract consists of land surrounding the house on Barker Road's west side.

As part of the rehabilitation, brothers James, Robert, and William Barker engaged restoration contractor Dean Ruedrich to move a frame wash house to a site southwest of the dwelling. The outbuilding once stood on the grounds of a no-longer-extant 1830s Barker family residence in the Dexter vicinity. Ruedrich Restorations also constructed the open-sided, gable-roofed, frame well house that shelters the historic stone-lined well north of the house and the front-gable-roofed, weatherboarded pump house southeast of the dwelling.<sup>1</sup>

Aerial photographs indicate that the distribution of wooded and cultivated acreage has been relatively consistent for the past sixty years, although cash crop production ceased in the early 1980s. Adjacent to the domestic complex, almost six acres once utilized as fields and an orchard remain open and are surrounded by the wooded areas that comprise the rest of the tract. As of 2014, slightly less acreage near the house and outbuildings is cleared than shown in a 1955 aerial photograph and the wooded

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<sup>1</sup> James M. Barker and Dean Ruedrich, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, February 26, 2014.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

areas have denser growth.<sup>2</sup> The multi-acre fields' and pastures' irregular shapes, which conform to the landscape contours, are still visible on adjacent tax parcels.

Flat Creek is just north of the Barker House's National Register boundary, but its tributaries flow south and west through the property, feeding springs, contributing to the area's gently rolling topography and rich soil, and allowing for the creation of several farm ponds. Several other farms owned by the Barker family and their relatives by marriage were located in close proximity to each other and Flat Creek.

### Barker House Exterior

The Barker House is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay, single-pile, weatherboarded dwelling with a relatively steep side-gable roof. The heavy-timber-frame structure comprises a circa 1764 three-bay, twenty-foot-wide by sixteen-foot-deep, single-room house and a circa 1774 twelve-foot-wide by sixteen-foot-deep south addition. The renovation completed in 2014 included reconstructing the engaged full-width porch on the east (front) elevation and the five-foot-wide by eight-foot-deep pent room that extends from the east side of the 1774 addition's chimney to the porch's south end. The scope of work also involved recreating the one-story, single-bay-deep, shed addition with an inset corner porch at its north end that extends across the west (rear) elevation. The addition occupies the same footprint as the earlier rear shed rooms and porch.

Dendrochronologist Michael Worthington sampled a yellow-pine collar beam, floor joist, three posts, and four rafters from the dwelling's original room and concluded that the trees used to create them were felled in the winter of 1763-1764. His tree-ring analysis indicates that carpenters felled the twelve-foot-wide by sixteen-foot-deep south addition's white oak sills during the winter of 1773-1774.<sup>3</sup> The room was likely completed soon after, creating a hall-parlor plan. Evidence such as almost identical construction techniques in the two sections and minimal weathering on the riven white oak weatherboards on the original building's south gable end, which was encapsulated during the addition's construction, supports the premise that carpenters executed the rooms within a decade of each other.

During the nineteenth century, the Barker family likely replaced much of the original riven white oak siding with weatherboards secured by cut nails. In the early twentieth century, either the Barkers or the O'Briens installed what was probably the third generation of siding—circular-sawn yellow-pine

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<sup>2</sup> Granville/Vance County line near Dexter, aerial photograph, North Carolina Geological Survey, April 8, 1955, and aerial photograph, Vance County ConnectGIS, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Michael J. Worthington and Jane I. Seiter, "The Tree-Ring Dating of Barker Farmhouse, Henderson, North Carolina," unpublished Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory archive report, July 2012; Michael J. Worthington, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, August 1, 2014.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

weatherboards with wire nails—in all exposed locations. As the siding had deteriorated by 2013, Ruedrich Restorations milled western red cedar replacement weatherboards with square edges and attached them with cut nails and an approximately 5 ½” exposure on the side and rear elevations. Under the porch roof, where a small section of riven siding remains intact on the façade’s upper edge, Ruedrich replicated the original sheathing’s appearance in western red cedar. Wrought rose-head nails secure the original and replacement weatherboards. Flat, unadorned fascia and soffit boards cover the rafter ends. Ruedrich and his crew also removed twentieth-century pressed-tin shingles and 5-V crimp tin panels from the house and porch roofs and installed hand-dressed, round-edge, western red cedar shingles, emulating a single round-edge yellow-pine shingle discovered in a wall cavity during the restoration.<sup>4</sup>

Wrought nails attached the porch rafters to the house plate, indicating that the Barkers expanded their living space in the eighteenth century to include an engaged front porch. The O’Briens erected a hip-roofed replacement porch as part of their improvement campaign after acquiring the property in 1934. As the porch was in poor condition by 2013, Ruedrich Restorations executed a new structure emulating the eighteenth-century porch. The floor system—yellow-heart-pine sills, joists, and wide square-edge floor boards—rests on stone piers. The tapered porch posts with molded capitols are based upon residual architectural evidence and comparable examples such as the 1775 Lane-Bennett House in Wake County, and, in Granville County, the early nineteenth-century William T. and Frances Rice House and the 1807 section of Red Hills, a dwelling built in three phases.

The reconstructed front porch shelters two raised-six-panel doors and three four-over-four wood sash windows crafted from yellow heart pine and sized to fit the original openings. The approximately three-and-one-half-inch wide door surrounds have beaded interior edges and mitered corners, as do the about two-inch wide window surrounds. Sections of surviving trim on the façade’s central window and north door provided the architectural evidence necessary to recreate these elements.

As previous owners had replaced most of the original windows with larger Craftsman-style sashes in the early twentieth century, Ruedrich Restorations based the reproduction window size upon extant window framing in two locations where window openings had been enclosed rather than enlarged: the façade’s center and the west elevation’s north end. Carpenters emulated the muntin profile found in window sashes of the late eighteenth-century, dovetail-plank Daniel Stone House for the Barker House’s new windows.<sup>5</sup> A square, operable, four-pane window pierces each gable end in the attic as well as the south elevation’s first-story on the chimney’s west side. The shed addition’s three small

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<sup>4</sup> Dean Ruedrich provided the information about the restoration referenced throughout the description in conversations with Heather Fearnbach on February 26 and May 23, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> The late eighteenth-century Daniel Stone Plank House stands five miles west of Henderson on the south side of what was the Oxford-to-Warrenton Road, now the US 158 Business corridor, but is in ruinous condition as the roof has collapsed. Catherine W. Bishir, “Daniel Stone Plank House,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1982.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

rooms are illuminated by four-over-four wood sash windows on the north and west elevations and two square, operable, four-pane windows on the south elevation. The four-pane windows slide vertically into the wall cavity above.

The raised-six-panel doors and wrought-iron hinges and latches replicate period examples. In order to hang the doors, blacksmith Peter M. Ross fabricated the reproduction "H-L" door hinges, so named due to their shape, that are attached with wrought nails and leather washers. He also reconditioned the existing box locks with brass knobs and crafted wrought keepers and plate latches with brass knobs for interior doors that do not require locking. Dean Ruedrich located a salvaged plate latch for the stair closet door.

Three single-shouldered, variegated-stone, exterior end chimneys with corbelled, square, red brick stacks serve the dwelling. The free-standing stack design, which leaves open space between the brick and the weatherboard wall, was intended to reduce fire risk. The chimney at the 1774 addition's south end is original. Carolina Chimney Restorations of Selma, N. C., lined the stone structure and University of North Carolina at Greensboro graduate students repointed it as part of the 2012 restoration field school. The north chimney and the chimney at the shed room's south end were in such poor condition that masons carefully documented, dismantled, and rebuilt them using the original stone and brick. Norwood and Tuck Masonry of Oxford, N. C., reconstructed the chimney at the shed room's south end. Louisburg, N. C., mason Eugene Yarborough executed the north chimney and the continuous stone foundation that emulate the original, which had no mortar. The replacement foundation has lime-based mortar and concrete footings. A short section of the original dry-laid stone foundation remains intact under the 1764 house's west elevation, protected by the reconstructed shed addition.

Intact original shutters do not survive. However, the nail hole pattern for pairs of wrought hinges is readily apparent on the surviving window framing on the 1764 house's west (rear) elevation near the north end, providing evidence that shutters secured the windows. The rear shed room additions would have made shutters unnecessary on that elevation, so they may have been removed at that time. Given the indications of original raised-panel doors throughout the house, Ruedrich Restorations elected to replicate eighteenth-century-style shutters that manifest a similar high level of craftsmanship in their two-raised-panel configuration. Wrought-iron staples attached to the center of the original window sills likely anchored the iron hooks that were mounted on the shutters to hold them in the closed position. Each pair of shutters would have also been fitted with hooks fastened to staples in the weatherboards to make it possible to secure them in the open position. Ruedrich Restorations based the new shutter dimensions and construction method on period examples, and, with Peter M. Ross, extrapolated the wrought-iron H-shutter hinge, hook, and staple dimensions from the relevant nail hole evidence.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

### Barker House Interior

The Barker House has two primary first-floor rooms, manifesting a hall-parlor plan common in eighteenth-century dwellings. The south room, or parlor, is narrower than the original north room, or hall, where a partially enclosed stair rises from the southwest corner. Four steps lead to the reproduction raised-six-panel door at the base of an enclosed upper run beginning with two tight winder stairs. The stair components—framing, treads, risers, and exterior sheathing boards—are pit sawn and attached with wrought nails, indicating that the stair is original to the 1764 house. The original sheathing boards inside the stair enclosure are sash-sawn with cut nails. On the stair enclosure's south wall, Ruedrich Restorations installed poplar boards milled to emulate the first-story wall sheathing and a simple wood handrail. There is no evidence of early railings on any part of the stair. A reproduction raised-six-panel door secures the under-stair storage space. The door hangs on reproduction H-L hinges and is held closed by a salvaged eighteenth-century plate latch and a reproduction wrought-iron keeper.

Sash-sawn, hand-planed, and painted horizontal boards cover the hall and parlor walls. It is likely that the hall's heavy-timber frame was exposed for some time before its wall sheathing was added, as the straight-edged boards are attached with cut nails. This evidence suggests a second-quarter-of-the-nineteenth-century installation date. The parlor (1774 addition) wall boards, which feature beaded lower edges, are secured with wrought T-head nails, indicating that the sheathing was an original or early finish.

The window and door surrounds, comprised of original and reproduction sections, have beaded interior edges and mitered corners. Wrought nails secure the original, pit-sawn, yellow-heart-pine hall and parlor floor boards. The exposed ceiling joists and the undersides of the second-story floor boards, which match those in the primary spaces, have not been painted.

Stone lintels span the fireplace openings above exposed-stone fireboxes and stone hearths. The north room retains a vernacular mantel likely installed at the same time in the early nineteenth century as the wall sheathing. The mantel imitates high-style classical examples in its simple, delicate, chamfered pilasters on plinth bases that frame the firebox below a tall flat lintel capped by a shelf with curved corners. In the south room, the chimney wall above the firebox remains parged as it was historically. The classical mantel, which appears to be an early twentieth-century addition, is crafted with sawn lumber and wire nails and features a stepped plinth base and straight pilasters that support a tall, two-horizontal-board lintel.

East of the chimney, a reproduction raised-six-panel door opens into the reconstructed five-foot-wide by eight-foot-deep pent room that extends east to the porch's south end. Ruedrich Restorations installed pine floor boards milled to emulate those found elsewhere on the first-story.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

On the west walls of the hall and the parlor, reproduction raised-six-panel doors fill two openings between the main house and the rear shed rooms, which replaced a series of earlier additions. The shed addition, completed in 2014, encompasses a south room with a fireplace, a central bathroom on the west side of a short passage, and a north kitchen. Ruedrich Restorations recycled from earlier rear additions the beaded, tongue-and-groove, horizontal boards that sheathe the south room's north, east, and south walls and installed matching reproduction boards on the west elevation. Newly sawn six-inch-wide yellow-pine boards cover the passage, bathroom, and kitchen walls. A door on the kitchen's north elevation provides access to the corner entrance porch, which is slightly narrower than the earlier porch.

The two open second-story attic spaces have the same floor dimensions as the rooms beneath them and continue to serve as bedrooms. The attic walls and ceilings were not historically finished with sheathing boards. In order to improve functionality and energy efficiency, Ruedrich Restorations covered them with poplar boards milled and beaded to emulate the first-story wall sheathing, creating short kneewalls in the process. The wide, pit-sawn, yellow-heart-pine floorboards are secured with wrought nails.

The high velocity mini-duct Unico HVAC system is remarkably inconspicuous, with the vast majority of the system located in the shed addition's attic. The original room's northwest corner has been enclosed with painted plywood installed at an angle to hide ductwork. A corner cupboard fabricated by Ruedrich Restorations further disguises the modification. The attic's northwest kneewall contains that room's duct.

### **Outbuildings**

The Barker House and associated outbuildings stand on the residual 107.72 acres of the family's once much larger holdings. The farm size fluctuated as it supported five generations of the Barker family through 1934, after which two generations of the O'Brien family owned the property until selling it back to the Barkers in 2011. The O'Briens also cultivated another nearby farm that is still occupied by O'Brien descendants and leased the Barker acreage to tenant farmers during much of their tenure. Although no early outbuildings remain, a sizable domestic and agricultural complex once existed in order to support the farm.

Linda O'Brien Watkins remembers that just west of Barker Road an unpaved farm road extended south from the main driveway leading to the house. Three frame barns lined the road and a three-room weatherboarded house occupied at different times by O'Brien family members and African American tenant farmers stood at its south end. Closer to the primary residence, a large tobacco packhouse and a tobacco strip house stood on the driveway's south side. Two one-story, weatherboarded, one-room buildings, one of which served as a kitchen, stood west of the house near the well. The privy was

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   7   Page   7   Barker House  
Vance County, NC

southwest of the other dependencies. The vegetable garden and orchard were north of the house, with outlying fields, including those on Barker Road's east side, planted in tobacco and other crops.<sup>6</sup>

### **Washhouse, mid-nineteenth century, 2014, noncontributing building**

In 2014, Ruedrich Restorations completed the rehabilitation of the weatherboarded frame washhouse that the company had moved the previous year to a site southwest of the dwelling. The front-gable-roofed outbuilding originally stood on the grounds of a no-longer-extant 1830s Barker family residence at Huntsboro and Chewing roads' northwest corner in Dexter. The washhouse's hewn sills and some wall framing appear to have been salvaged from an earlier structure. The use of cut nails rather than pegged mortise-and-tenon joints to secure framing elements supports a mid-nineteenth-century construction date. The window openings at the north and south elevations' centers each contain a single nine-pane sash that slides up into the space created by the framing members. The door on the east elevation comprises salvaged vertical boards and replacement battens. Wide pine roof sheathing boards span the pole rafters, providing ample nailing surfaces for the replacement western red cedar shingles. The hung flue, mounted on metal brackets attached to ceiling joists, likely served a wood-burning stove. However, the small square brick stack that rises from the roof's peak near its west end is the only remaining chimney element. Norwood and Tuck Masonry laid the continuous stone foundation.

### **Pump house, 2014, noncontributing building**

Ruedrich Restorations constructed the small west-facing pump house that stands southeast of the Barker House. The weatherboards and square-edge shingles are western red cedar. The front-gable roof, supported by tapered posts crafted to match those on the dwelling's front porch, extends past the enclosed room to shelter an open area with a stone floor. The building rests on a continuous stone foundation executed by mason Eugene Yarborough.

### **Well house, 2014, noncontributing structure**

Ruedrich Restorations also erected the open-sided frame well house that shelters the historic stone-lined well north of the house. Western red cedar weatherboards fill the gable ends and square-edge shingles cover the roof. Square posts and braces support the roof structure. The stone well below grade is original, but Eugene Yarborough erected the round stone structure above ground and the stone-paved area that surrounds it.

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<sup>6</sup> Linda O'Brien Watkins, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, July 31, 2014.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

### General Statement Regarding Archaeological Potential

The Barker House is closely related to its surrounding environment. Archaeological remains such as trash pits, privies, wells, and other structural elements which may be present can provide evidence that contributes to the understanding and interpretation of the contributing structures. Information including land-use patterns, agricultural practices, social standing, and social mobility, as well as structural details, is often apparent only in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological evidence may well be an important component of the property's significance. Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc., attempted to discern outbuilding placement west of the Barker House through test sampling on April 24, 2012, but their work was inconclusive.<sup>7</sup> However, artifacts and features undoubtedly exist and further investigation should be undertaken as part of the property's future development.

### Integrity Statement

The Barker House possesses a good degree of integrity due to its retention of an eighteenth-century hall-parlor plan, heavy-timber framing, a partially enclosed corner stair, horizontal-board wall sheathing, wide floor boards, small sections of window and door trim, and hall mantel throughout many generations of residential use. The meticulous rehabilitation executed by Ruedrich Restorations meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Sections of original riven yellow-pine weatherboards and window and door surrounds provided the necessary evidence for reproduction siding and window and door trim. A single round-edge yellow-pine shingle discovered in a wall cavity during the restoration served as the model for the hand-dressed western red cedar roof shingles. The tapered porch posts with molded capitals are based on local precedent, as is the window muntin profile, which emulates the window sashes of the demolished, late eighteenth-century, dovetail-plank Daniel Stone House. The raised-six-panel doors, shutters, and wrought-iron hinges, latches, keepers, hooks, and staples also replicate period examples.

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<sup>7</sup> James M. Barker, email correspondence with Heather Feambach on May 22, 2014.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

## Section 8. Statement of Significance

The Barker House, one of Vance County's oldest extant dwellings, is a remarkably intact rural North Carolina plantation house built during the eighteenth century's third quarter. The modest one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, weatherboarded residence manifests the lasting influence of traditional building practices brought south from tidewater Maryland and Virginia as settlers from those colonies populated North Carolina's northeastern counties. Surry County, Virginia, native Ambrose Barker is the earliest identified owner of the heavy-timber-frame dwelling that has been known as the Barker House for most of its history. He likely occupied the original one-room house soon after its construction around 1764. Dendrochronology results indicate that carpenters expanded the residence with a second room ten years later, perhaps coinciding with Ambrose Barker and Mary Ann Ragland's November 1773 marriage. The period of significance reflects the one-room dwelling's circa 1764 construction and its addition's circa 1774 completion. The Barker House meets National Register Criterion C for architecture for its significant original or early elements, including the partially enclosed corner stair, horizontal-board wall sheathing, wide floor boards, small sections of window and door trim, and hall mantel, as well as its age, plan, and heavy-timber-frame construction.

## Historical Background

Surry County, Virginia, native Ambrose Barker, born in 1750 to John and Lucy Ricks Barker, is the earliest identified owner of the residence that has been known as the Barker House for most of its history. Around 1771, Ambrose moved to Granville County in pursuit of relatively inexpensive acreage, availing himself of the opportunity to live in close proximity to his uncles Thomas and Philip Ricks.<sup>8</sup> Barker likely initially resided in Thomas Ricks's household, but appears to have soon occupied the original one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, one-room house thought to have been constructed around 1764 at what is now 1785 Barker Road. The property may have originally belonged to neighboring plantation owners Evan and Amey Merritt Ragland, whose twenty-year-old daughter Mary Ann married Ambrose Barker on November 18, 1773. The young couple's wedding date coincides with dendrochronology results indicating that builders felled the south addition's white oak sills during the winter of 1773-1774. The Barkers soon enjoyed the space and privacy afforded by a hall-parlor plan residence.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The surname "Reeks" is also spelled "Ricks" in primary source documents. In 1746, the North Carolina Legislature created Granville County from a portion of Edgecombe County.

<sup>9</sup> Ambrose Barker and his brother-in-law Evan Ragland Jr. signed Ambrose and Mary Ann's marriage bond with Reuben Searcy as the witness. Granville County marriage records; Worthington and Seiter, "The Tree-Ring Dating of Barker Farmhouse, Henderson, North Carolina."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

Ambrose Barker, like most other prosperous early settlers, was entrepreneurial, speculating in real estate and other endeavors as well as farming.<sup>10</sup> According to family tradition, the Barkers inherited several hundred acres in the Ragland District upon Mary Ann's father's Evan Ragland's death in 1778, contributing to their rising status and increasing wealth. On May 2, 1780, Barker applied for a license to operate an ordinary at his residence, presumably in order to provide travelers with meals and lodging. This function, along with the family's growth, may have necessitated the dwelling's expansion with the south pent room and rear shed addition. Barker served as the North Carolina census taker in 1784, reporting that his household then comprised fifteen people, ten of whom were white (ostensibly family members) and five slaves.<sup>11</sup>

Ambrose Barker retained the Granville County property bordering Flat and Lick Creeks that he inherited in 1802 from his uncle Thomas "Reeks" [Ricks] until December 26, 1807, when he conveyed it to his eldest son John Barker. At that time Ambrose and Mary Ann Barker resided in Montgomery County, North Carolina, but they moved by 1812 to Franklin, Tennessee.<sup>12</sup> John Barker and his wife Sarah Tilman, known as Sally, remained in Granville County, residing in his parents' former home near Flat Creek and continuing to farm the surrounding acreage. The couple, who had eleven children, does not appear to be enumerated in the federal census until 1830, when their household comprised nineteen people, ten of whom were white and nine who were enslaved. Prior to his death on December 22, 1839, John Barker drafted a will conveying his property to his wife for her lifetime and then bequeathing the land to their sons John, Charles, and David.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Ambrose Barker's early transactions included purchasing 108 acres from Michael Wilson and 150 acres from James Willis on November 4, 1777, and selling all 258 acres to Lin H. Bullock on December 4, 1778. Granville County Deed Book B, p. 195.

<sup>11</sup> Evan Ragland's April 27, 1778, will denotes that his sons were to inherit his land. William Ragland's bequest included 320 acres on Flat Creek where he (William) then lived. George Ragland inherited the two-hundred-acre tract where his parents (Evan and Amey Ragland) resided. Evan bequeathed two enslaved children—Harry and Dorcas—and a walnut table to his daughter Mary Ann Barker, who may have already received a gift of land that included the house in which she and Ambrose lived. Ambrose Barker and William Glass were to serve as guardians for Evan and Amey Ragland's children if needed. Granville County Minute Books, Volumes 5 and 6; A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries: Granville County, NC, 1778-1877* (S.I.: s.n., 1988), 51, 58; Alvaretta Kenan Register, *State Census of North Carolina, 1784-1787* (Genealogical Publishing Company, Incorporated, 1973), 48; Granville County, NC, Tax List, 1788.

<sup>12</sup> It has thus far proven to be impossible to delineate the exact locations and boundaries of land grants and inherited tracts related to the Ragland, Ricks, and Barker families. For example, on May 28, 1778, Thomas Ricks claimed a two-hundred-acre grant on Flat Creek's east side in Granville County adjacent to other property he owned, Lick Creek, and land belonging to "Jeter, Person, [and] Sneed." In his September 9, 1802, will, Ricks bequeathed this tract to Ambrose Barker along with "the plantation where I [Ricks] now live." He died on October 12, 1802. Granville County Deed Book 0, p. 478; Deed Book P, p. 9; Deed Book T, p. 284; "Franklin, 1812," Early Tax Lists of Tennessee, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee; Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries*, 6.

<sup>13</sup> Granville County Deed Book 9, pp. 404, 444-447; Zae Hargett Gwynn, *Abstracts of Wills and Estate Records of Granville County, North Carolina, 1833-1846* (Berwyn Heights, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2005), 64.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

The 1840 federal census enumerates Sally Barker as the head of an eleven-person Tar River District household comprising eight slaves and two white men between the ages of fifteen and twenty-nine, likely her sons David and Ambrose. David Tilman Barker, the youngest of John and Sally's children, married Martha Allen in Granville County on January 2, 1847. The couple resided with his mother in what was by 1850 called the Ragland District and facilitated the farm's operation. In 1860, census takers reported that Sally Barker's farm encompassed 200 improved and 385 unimproved acres with an assessed value of \$2,140. Her personal property, worth an estimated \$4,500, included five slaves (two males, three females) who assisted with the farm's production.<sup>14</sup>

After Sally Barker died in August 1869 at the age of ninety-one, David and Martha Barker inherited most of his mother's holdings, including the family home. In 1870, federal census takers valued their real estate at \$1,800 and their personal property at \$200. Four of the couple's children, including their eldest daughter Cornelia and her husband Robert A. Wilson, and Collins Satterwhite, a thirteen-year-old African American boy identified as a "nurse" by census takers, resided in the Barker's house. Robert assisted with the farm's operation.<sup>15</sup>

In 1880, federal census takers assessed David and Martha Barker's farm, which comprised 100 improved acres, 15 wooded acres, and 385 unimproved acres, to be worth \$2,500. The family planted and harvested tobacco, Indian corn, oats, wheat, hops, and Irish and sweet potatoes. Fifteen-year-old Oliver, called "Ollie," remained at home to help on the farm while his eleven-year-old sister Dora attended school. Sally Lewis, an eleven-year-old mulatto servant, assisted with household tasks. Adjacent African American families headed by farm laborers may have worked on the Barker farm. Ted and Lucy Ragland and their children and James and Molly Crowder and their children are enumerated between David T. and Martha Barker and their daughter Cornelia, her husband Robert A. Wilson, and their five children. The Raglands and Crowders likely resided in the small frame tenant houses that stood on Barker Road's west side near the entrance to the Barker House driveway. Eighteen-year-old African American servant Absoline Marrow lived and worked in the Wilson household.<sup>16</sup>

In 1881, North Carolina legislators created Vance County from Franklin, Granville, and Warren Counties. David Barker owned 535 acres in 1886, the year that his four surviving children and their spouses—Dora Barker, Ollie Barker, Ella and James Glover, and Cornelia and Robert Wilson—agreed

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<sup>14</sup> U. S. Census, Population and Slave Schedules, 1850-1860; Granville County Deed Book 15, pp. 326, 462, 709; Deed Book 16, pp. 8 and 394; Deed Book 18, pp. 31, 56, 208; Elizabeth Hick Hummel, *Hicks History of Granville County, North Carolina* (Oxford, N. C.: E. H. Hummel, 1965). The location of houses and cemeteries associated with the Barkers' enslaved communities has not been determined.

<sup>15</sup> U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1870.

<sup>16</sup> U. S. Census, Population and Agriculture Schedules, 1880; William David Barker Jr., telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 22, 2014.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

to the division into four tracts of their mother Martha's 131-acre estate. That property was comprised of land "mostly in Vance County" adjacent to Flat Creek that Martha had inherited from her father, Reverend Chasteen Allen.<sup>17</sup>

Ollie Barker continued to live and work on his parents' farm. On November 16, 1888, the family celebrated his marriage to twenty-nine-year-old Susan Caroline Rice. The couple resided in his father's household, which grew by 1900 to include five of the couple's six children—Norman Vanderbilt, Lydia Martha, William David, Charles Macon, and Lucius Leon. Ollie's sister Dora also remained in the home. The next year, Ollie and Susan moved to Dexter, where their youngest daughter, Ossie Caroline, was born. Given the farm's size, it is likely that the adjacent African American households comprising farm laborers facilitated the Barker farm's production. Flanking the Barkers, federal census takers in 1900 listed Thomas and Laura Griggs and their three children and Lewis and Bettie Taylor and their ten children.<sup>18</sup>

Following David T. Barker's death on September 14, 1902, his children Dora Alice Barker, Ollie T. Barker, Ella Lewis Glover, and Cornelia Ann Wilson inherited his holdings. Robert and Cornelia Wilson's tract included property on the east side of Barker Road opposite the Barker House where they had lived for many years. Dora Barker and Ollie and Susan Barker, who inherited land, furnishings, farm equipment, livestock, and field crops, resided together in Dexter with Ollie and Susan's six children, all of who remained at home in 1910. However, in 1920 only two of Ollie and Susan Barker's children—William David and Ossie Caroline—remained in the family's Dexter home along with Dora.<sup>19</sup>

The Barker's Salem Township neighbors included farmer Lucius G. O'Brien, known as "Dutch," who rented the house where he resided with his wife Jessie Lee Satterwhite, their two children and a niece. Next to the O'Briens, Ollie and Susan Barker's sons Norman and Lucius and their families operated farms. Norman and Mattie Barker owned the house in Dexter where they resided with their five children and operated the general store established by Norman's father. The 1920 federal census indicates that Lucius and Marie Barker rented a neighboring dwelling that year, but family tradition dictates that the couple soon occupied his grandparents' house on Barker Road. On May 11, 1923,

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<sup>17</sup> Martha Barker died on July 23, 1882. Granville County Mortgage Book 13, pp. 238-240; Charles Emerson, *Charles Emerson's North Carolina Tobacco Belt Directory: embracing the counties of Alamance, Durham, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Orange, Rockingham, Vance and Wake* (Greensboro: Charles Emerson, 1886), 589; marriage records; William David Barker Jr., telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 22, 2014.

<sup>18</sup> U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1900.

<sup>19</sup> Lucius Barker inherited this property upon his father's 1930 death. Robert and Cornelia Wilson's house is no longer extant, but the site contains a very large stone-lined well. Granville County Will Book 27, p. 524; U. S. Census, Population Schedules, 1910 and 1920; Barker Family Bible, in the possession of Dan and Ellenor T. Barker, Fayetteville, N. C.; William David Barker Jr., telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 22, 2014.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

Ollie and Susan sold for \$7,500 two tracts totaling one hundred and fifty acres to Lucius, who with Marie assumed a mortgage on that property on May 28, 1923. The transaction comprised a 111-acre parcel.<sup>20</sup> The Barkers' agricultural productivity was low in 1925, when Ollie reported owning a one-acre tract where a tenant farmer resided and cultivated a home garden.<sup>21</sup>

After Ollie Barker died on August 10, 1930, his wife Susan retained their farm, while his children inherited some of his outlying land holdings. The Barkers shifted ownership of some acreage within the family and sold other tracts outright. Norman and Mattie Barker conveyed on September 11, 1934, a thirty-nine-acre parcel to Philadelphia resident William D. Barker. On November 24, 1934, following Lucius Barker's default on a Greensboro Joint Stock Land Bank loan on the 111-acre tract that he had inherited from his father, Lucius and Jessie Lee O'Brien bought the property that included the Barker's mid-eighteenth-century house. The O'Briens subsequently leased the former Barker residence and fields to tenant farmers. In 1935, Lucius O'Brien owned a fifty-five-acre Salem Township farm where tenant farmers planted and harvested seventeen acres.<sup>22</sup>

Until her death on June 28, 1938, Dora Barker resided with her sister-in-law Susan Barker. Susan died just over a year later, on July 17, 1939. Dora bequeathed her property to her nieces and nephews. Lucius and Jessie Lee O'Brien had five children, two of whom married in 1937, leaving three of their daughters, including Dorothy, who worked in a hospital as a nurse, at home in 1940. Five years later, only two people resided on the O'Briens's 111-acre farm, cultivating twenty-five fruit trees and twenty acres of corn, tobacco, oats, hay, Irish and sweet potatoes, and a home garden.<sup>23</sup>

Lucius and Jessie Lee O'Brien continued to operate their farm until their respective deaths on September 27, 1960, and October 13, 1967. The O'Briens are buried in Dexter Baptist Church cemetery. Their neighbors and friends Lucius and Lucy Marie Barker died on February 4, 1975, and

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<sup>20</sup> U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1920; Granville County Deed Book 98, p. 636; Mortgage Book 119, p. 25; William David Barker Jr., "David Tilman Barker Family," and "Oliver Tilman Barker Family," *Vance County Heritage, North Carolina* (Henderson, N. C.: County Heritage, Incorporated, and Vance County Heritage Book Committee, 2011), 168-170.

<sup>21</sup> North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Statistics Division, *Farm Census Reports*, 1925, Box #12 (Gaston-Granville Counties) and Box # 31 (Tyrell-Vance Counties), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

<sup>22</sup> Ollie Barker is interred in Harris Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery in Dabney. William D. Barker conveyed the thirty-nine acre tract to N. V. Barker along with an additional twenty-five acres on October 29, 1942. Death certificate; Granville County Deed Book 181, p. 277; Deed Book 228, p. 529; Will Book 27, p. 524; North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Statistics Division, *Farm Census Reports*, 1935, Box #53 (Gates-Granville Counties) and Box # 81 (Union-Vance Counties), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

<sup>23</sup> Granville County Will Book 28, p. 419; U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1940; North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Statistics Division, *Farm Census Reports*, 1945, Box #101 (Graham-Guilford Counties) and Box # 119 (Vance-Wake Counties), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

July 31, 1984. The Barkers also attended Dexter Baptist Church and are buried in the cemetery at 4549 Chewning Road near Oxford.<sup>24</sup>

Lucius and Jessie Lee O'Brien's son James H. O'Brien purchased the 111-acre Barker Road property for \$15,000 at the auction of his mother's estate. James was a farmer, the proprietor of the Golden Leaf Warehouse, and a Hicksboro Fire Department director. James and his wife Mary Lee Matthews owned the farm until their respective deaths on February 1, 1990, and October 14, 2008, after which their daughter Linda Lou O'Brien Watkins inherited the property. In February 2011, she conveyed it to James M. Barker and William D. Barker Jr., who became the six generation of the Barker family to own the house that Ambrose and Mary Ann Barker likely occupied after their 1773 marriage.<sup>25</sup>

### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

In its side-gable form and heavy-timber-frame construction, the Barker House demonstrates a strong kinship to the once numerous one- and two-room dwellings built in North Carolina's Pamlico and Albemarle regions during the eighteenth century. The house is one of only a few comparable extant northeastern North Carolina residences that reflect the lasting influence of traditional building practices brought south from tidewater Maryland and Virginia by immigrants from those colonies. Land acquisition in the Roanoke River Basin of Granville County, where the Barker House was constructed in the 1760s, and the Tar-Pamlico River Basin to the south, gained momentum rapidly after two decades of unrest in the wake of the disruptive Tuscarora wars. As settlement increased, residents included house carpenters and joiners who perpetuated common architectural treatments throughout the area.<sup>26</sup>

The Barker House's construction method, a hewn frame with corner braces secured with mortise-and-tenon joints, was almost universal in the American colonies during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Likewise, the use of riven weatherboards for the exterior siding was typical for urban and rural houses throughout the region until the 1750s and predominated in rural settings for several subsequent decades. Only the material used for siding varied, depending on the availability of relatively straight-grained stock. The Barker House's builder utilized white oak from the vast forests flanking the Tar River for the riven weatherboards and yellow pine for the hand-dressed roof shingles.

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<sup>24</sup> Death certificates; Dexter Baptist Church cemetery records.

<sup>25</sup> Lucius Green O'Brien was born to Lucius and Betty Hart O'Brien on December 25, 1881. James H. O'Brien and Isobel O. Green, the administrators of Lucius G. O'Brien's estate, executed a deed for 111 acres to James H. O'Brien on April 4, 1968. "Green" and "Hart" are spelled without a final "e" in public records, but family members sometimes add the vowel. Granville County Deed Book 442, p. 433; Deed Book 645, p. 19; Deed Book 1226, p. 935; Linda Lou O'Brien Watkins, "James Harte [sic] O'Brien," *Vance County Heritage*, 343.

<sup>26</sup> Heather Fearnbach and Peter Sandbeck, "Robson House Historic Structures Report," prepared for the Exhibit Design Section of the North Carolina Museum of History, 2002.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

The circa 1764 building program produced a one-room, one-and-one-half-story dwelling sheltered by a relatively steep gable roof and served by a single-shouldered stone end chimney with a brick stack. The construction techniques and details manifest the builder's mastery of the traditional heavy-timber-frame joinery prevalent during the eighteenth century. The Barker House's hewn yellow-pine structure encompasses robust, rectangular corner posts and pairs of equally substantial door posts supporting a stout plate, with standard corner- or down-braces on all elevations. Non-structural infill studs, averaging two inches wide by three inches deep, serve primarily as nailers for the exterior weatherboards. These framing members rise from substantial hewn sills, which rested on a continuous foundation, as was customary in the area at that time.

The Barker House's original room measures twenty feet wide by sixteen feet deep and features a partially enclosed corner stair leading to the attic. Archival research and architectural and archaeological investigations have demonstrated that one-room dwellings of this type were widespread for small to middling planters in the region during the eighteenth century's first half.<sup>27</sup> Around 1774, the Barkers almost doubled the dwelling's size with the addition of a second heated room measuring twelve feet wide by sixteen feet deep. This created a hall-parlor plan, coinciding with the owner's marriage and reflecting the couple's rising status and increasing wealth. Similarly, the addition of neatly-detailed horizontal-board interior wall sheathing and raised-six-panel doors and shutters brought the finish to a level appropriate for an established plantation.

With the addition's completion, the Barkers enjoyed a house that provided increased privacy and separation of activities in its plan. The use of the term "hall," as it was called in period inventories and accounts, refers to the great multi-purpose room entered from the outside. This was usually the largest space in the house and accommodated activities including cooking, eating, domestic chores, and gathering. The terms "parlor" or "chamber" were consistently used in the eighteenth century to describe the smaller and more private of the two spaces, which typically served as the master bedroom. This room often also had an exterior door and served as a place where the owner might entertain important guests.<sup>28</sup>

Careful investigation of plane and saw marks on frame building components provides important clues to their dates. Straight rather than radial saw marks indicate the use of pit or sash saws. Pit-sawn lumber is distinguished by irregular saw marks, while water-powered sash-sawn boards are characterized by more regular, albeit still jagged, saw marks. Circular saws were not in general use in North Carolina until the 1840s. Builders hand-planed boards to create more finished surfaces, as often

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<sup>27</sup> Carl Lounsbury, "The Development of Domestic Architecture in the Albemarle Region," *North Carolina Historical Review*, Vol. 54, January 1977, pp. 18-24.

<sup>28</sup> Dell Upton, "Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Eighteenth-Century Virginia," in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986), 317-320.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

seen on doors, wall, and ceiling boards. Craftsmen utilized molding planes with a variety of profiles to ornament exposed framing beams, baseboards, window and door surrounds, door and shutter panels, and window sashes. By the late nineteenth century, builders replaced timber-frame and wood-shingle roof systems with circular-sawn rafters and nailing strips topped with standing-seam metal roofs comprised of panels folded, crimped, and soldered together.

The Barker House's significant early features include flush-board interior sheathing with a straight edge in the 1764 room and a beaded lower edge in the 1774 addition. Thick paint coats obscure plane and saw marks on the wall boards, but raking light reveals hand-planing on the exposed faces. On the rear surfaces, small sections of which are visible underneath the stair enclosures and in the shed room's attic, and on the undersides of the floor boards, sash saw marks are apparent. The wide yellow-pine floor boards are pit sawn.

Nail type analysis is another useful dating mechanism. Carpenters utilized nails wrought by blacksmiths until the late eighteenth century, when nails with machine-made shafts and hand-applied heads became available. Machine-headed cut nails were common by the 1840s and machine-made wire nails by the 1890s. In the Barker House, wrought nails secure early elements such as the riven siding, pit-sawn floorboards, and enclosed stair. Cut nails secure the 1764 room's wall sheathing, while wrought T-head nails attach the beaded boards to framing studs in the 1774 addition.

Corner pegs and robust muntins hold the reproduction heart-pine four-over-four sashes together. Although double-hung windows illuminate most of the interior, small four-pane windows in the gable ends and flanking the shed addition's chimney slide vertically into the wall cavities above them. As common in homes of the period, reproduction wood "stops" rotate to hold lower sashes up in an open position.

The six-raised-panel doors and two-panel shutters emulate those found in finely-executed eighteenth-century dwellings. Door hardware varied widely during the period. Raised-panel doors typically hung on wrought-iron H-L hinges attached with wrought nails and leather washers, as cast-iron fixed-pin butt hinges manufactured in England were not available in the United States until the end of the eighteenth century. Blacksmith Peter M. Ross crafted the Barker House's reproduction wrought-iron door plate latches, keepers, and H-L hinges, and shutter H-hinges, hooks, and staples. He also reconditioned existing box locks with brass knobs. Dean Ruedrich located a salvaged plate latch with a brass knob to secure the under-stair door.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

## **Eighteenth-century Vance and Granville County Architecture**

Evaluating the Barker House in the context of North Carolina's surviving eighteenth-century heavy-timber-frame dwellings demonstrates its significance. Intact residences of that age are exceedingly rare and dendrochronology has only recently provided definitive evidence regarding construction dates for some of the buildings long-thought to be among the state's earliest. As of 2014, the house with the oldest documented framing members is the one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, heavy-timber-frame residence at 304 Queen Street in Edenton, where dendrochronology revealed that builders felled some of the original structure's timbers in the winter of 1718-1719. Like the Barker House, owners updated the Edenton dwelling over time with an engaged front porch and a series of rear additions.<sup>29</sup>

Sizable and elaborately finished residences survive in greater quantities than modest but well-crafted homes such as the Barker House, which were typically erected by planters of moderate means. Examination of North Carolina Historic Preservation Office survey files delineated houses of similar age and execution in rural Granville and Vance counties. Some initially had only one room, but most display the more fully developed hall-parlor plan that became standard by the eighteenth century's last quarter. The range within this sample reflects variations in builder technique and owner preference. Some of these resources have been so modified by successive expansions that the original eighteenth-century dwelling is no longer recognizable. Others have been moved, greatly altered, or have deteriorated in condition since being documented as part of architectural surveys or to facilitate National Register listing, thus making the Barker House's integrity even more significant.

Vance County's historic architectural resources have never been comprehensively surveyed, so limited information regarding properties analogous to the Barker House is available. Since the 1975 reconnaissance survey, eighteenth-century dwellings including Locust Hill (ca. 1740), the Thomas Satterwhite House/Williamsboro Tavern (ca. 1760), Nine Oaks (1770), Grissom Place (late eighteenth century), and the Reavis House (ca. 1790, ca. 1825) have been demolished. Vance County's earliest identified surviving residences, Ashland and Pleasant Hill, are each thought to comprise a mid-eighteenth-century heavy-timber-frame dwelling, but both have been expanded with later additions. The late eighteenth-century heavy-timber-frame Sneed's Mansion in Williamsboro also received updates in the nineteenth century's second quarter. The resulting two-story Greek Revival-style residences were significantly larger and more architecturally sophisticated than the Barker House, displaying the owners' wealth and prominence. A few smaller surveyed late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century dwellings featured massive stone chimneys, raised-panel doors, and enclosed stairs like the Barker House.

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<sup>29</sup> Michael J. Worthington and Jane I. Seiter, "The Tree-Ring Dating of 304 Queen Street, Edenton, North Carolina," unpublished Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory archive report, 2011.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

Historians have attributed Ashland's two-story, two-bay-wide and two-room deep north section to Virginia native Samuel Henderson, who likely commissioned its construction soon after relocating to North Carolina around 1740. The expansion and remodeling, executed between 1820 and 1827, left only a few eighteenth-century elements—wrought rosehead nails, flat-panel wainscoting, and a board-and-batten door hung on wrought-iron strap hinges and secured by a wood lock—exposed in the dwelling's attic and basement. Flat hoods surmount the six-over-nine sash windows that illuminate the original dwelling's interior and the large nine-over-nine sash windows that light the taller two-story, three-bay, double-pile, south addition. Robust Tuscan columns ornament the Greek Revival-style pedimented portico, which shelters a double-leaf paneled door and a multi-pane transom and sidelights. Beaded weatherboards sheath the exterior and two single-shouldered brick chimneys with tall corbelled stacks rise on each gable end. Ashland [NR 1973] stands on Satterwhite Point Road's west side northwest of Interstate Highway 85 in northeastern Vance County. The property occupies a peninsula surrounded by the John H. Kerr Reservoir.<sup>30</sup>

Like Ashland, Pleasant Hill, also known as Riveoak, is located in northeastern Vance County and has been listed in the National Register due to its architectural significance since 1979. The two-and-one-half-story, five-bay, double-pile, center-hall plan house retains mid-eighteenth-century elements, including narrow nine-over-nine sash windows and mitered and molded window and door surrounds on the rear elevation, wide board floors, beaded weatherboards, and, on each gable end, two double-shouldered, Flemish bond brick end chimneys ornamented with glazed headers. Three gabled dormers pierce the front roof slope. During the circa 1830 Greek Revival-style remodeling, builders installed large six-over-six sash windows on the façade as well as a pedimented portico, which has been reconstructed. Pleasant Hill occupies an almost four-acre parcel on Fleming Town Road's east side northwest of Interstate Highway 85 and Middleburg.<sup>31</sup>

The one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, heavy-timber-frame Wright-Southerland House, located just west of the Warren County line on Southerland Mill Road's west side northeast of Epsom and Weldon's Mill, retains more mid-eighteenth-century elements. The dwelling is most comparable to the Barker House among surveyed Vance County resources in terms of size and execution, although its plan, a three-room main block with an enclosed rear porch and a two-room rear ell, is very different. The Wright-Southerland House features raised-panel doors, some of which are hung with H-L hinges, nine-over-nine sash windows, three narrow gabled dormers on the front roof slope, beaded weatherboards, and stone end chimneys with paved shoulders. The mantels are particularly noteworthy, including one with three raised panels surmounted by a denticulated band and a molded and stepped shelf as well as a simpler three-panel example. The shed-roofed front porch appears to

<sup>30</sup> Survey and Planning Unit Staff, State Department of Archives and History, "Ashland," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1972.

<sup>31</sup> Catherine W. Bishir, "Pleasant Hill," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1979.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

have been constructed in the late nineteenth century. The house rests on a continuous stone foundation and is protected by an asphalt-shingle roof.<sup>32</sup>

Quite a few one- and one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, weatherboarded, early nineteenth-century dwellings documented during the 1975 survey featured massive stone chimneys like those of the Barker House. The Coghill-Reavis House, located on Satterwhite Point Road's west side northwest of its junction with Floyd Road northeast of Henderson, rests on a raised basement with stone foundation walls and has stone steps leading to the front porch and two single-shouldered stone end chimneys. The Floyd House, which stands on Edward Roads' east side southeast of Bearpond, has one double-shouldered stone end chimney and one single-shouldered stone end chimney. A cursory examination of survey files revealed ten more similar demolished houses that had been served by stone chimneys, and there are likely others.<sup>33</sup>

Architectural historian Marvin A. Brown completed a survey of neighboring Granville County's historic resources in 1986. Assisted by historians Andrew J. Carlson and Patricia Esperon, he authored the resulting publication, *Heritage and Homesteads: The History and Architecture of Granville County*, and the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), "Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville County, North Carolina," in 1988. The MPDF covers the years between 1746 and 1937, which, at the time it was written, was the National Register's fifty-year cut-off date for historical significance. Only a few eighteenth-century residences are included.

Red Hill, a weatherboarded, heavy-timber-frame dwelling erected in three phases—1776, 1807, and 1820—is one of the most architecturally distinctive. The residence has the appearance of a "telescope house" as it comprises three sections of gradually increasing size. The smallest section, the one-and-one-half-story, two-bay, side-gable-roofed east addition, abuts the original one-and-one-half-story, two-bay, gambrel-roofed central section, which is adjacent to the two-story, three-bay, side-gable-roofed west wing. The one-bay-wide entrance porch erected at the time of the east wing's 1807 construction features tapered posts with molded capitols, a treatment commonly seen in the area and replicated at the Barker House in 2013. The finely-crafted 1776 section's interior includes six-raised-panel doors, paneled mantels, and a partially enclosed corner stair.<sup>34</sup> Red Hill stands on Townsville Road east of U. S. Highway 15 near the Bullock community.

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<sup>32</sup> Description based on photographs and annotated sketch floor plans in "Wright-Sutherland Place," survey file, 1975, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh.

<sup>33</sup> Vance County survey files, 1975, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh.

<sup>34</sup> Patricia S. Dickinson, Cynthia A. Craig, "Red Hill," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1986.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

At the conclusion of the 1986 survey, Marvin Brown noted that far fewer modest late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Granville County houses remained than larger residences. He identified the dwelling likely erected in the early 1800s by middling plantation owner William Ellixson on what became Joe Currin Road in the county's northwest corner as the earliest small, well-crafted residence. Like the Barker House, the one-story, side-gable-roofed, weatherboarded, heavy-timber-frame William Ellixson House [NR 1988] had a hall-parlor plan, six-raised-panel doors, exposed ceiling joists, a stone foundation, and two single-shouldered stone end chimneys.<sup>35</sup>

The one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, heavy-timber-frame John Peace Jr. House [NR 1988], built around 1801 on what is now Moss Ledford Road in southeast Granville County, is quite similar to the Barker House in form and finish although the three-room plan is very different. The house features raised-six-panel doors, some of which are hung with H-L hinges, nine-over-nine and four-over-four sash windows, and beaded weatherboards. The dwelling retains an engaged front porch, although it has been partially enclosed, as well as rear shed rooms; rests on a stone pier and infill foundation; and is served by a substantial double-shouldered stone chimney.<sup>36</sup>

These examples of eighteenth-century Vance and Granville county dwellings illustrate the diversity of housing stock that existed during the late Colonial period. The most ephemeral earth-fast and log buildings constructed by the average settler are long gone from the landscape, but a number of well-built houses constructed for the emerging planter class remain. Pervasive eighteenth-century house forms included one-room and hall-parlor-plan dwellings with gable and gambrel roofs, often augmented with front and rear shed porches and rooms. Despite the prevalence of these dwelling throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, northeastern North Carolina counties retain surprisingly few intact examples, making the Barker House extremely significant.

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<sup>35</sup> "William Ellixson House," survey file, 1986, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh; Marvin A. Brown and Patricia Esperon, "William Ellixson House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1987.

<sup>36</sup> "John Peace Jr. House," survey file, 1986, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh; Marvin A. Brown and Patricia Esperon, "John Peace Jr. House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1987.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 21 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page  22  Barker House  
Vance County, NC

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page  23  Barker House  
Vance County, NC

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 24 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

### Section 10. Geographical Data

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 36.379840  
Longitude: -78.502331

2. Latitude: 36.380203  
Longitude: -78.502489

3. Latitude: 36.376147  
Longitude: -78.504241

4. Latitude: 36.376677  
Longitude: -78.500340

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Barker House are indicated by the bold line on the enclosed map. Scale: one inch equals approximately two hundred feet.

### Boundary Justification

The Barker House stands on a 107.72-acre tax parcel. However, the National Register boundary comprises only an approximately thirty-acre tract, the maximum acreage permitted as setting for properties nominated under Criterion C for architectural significance. The boundary encompasses the house, outbuildings, farm roads, cleared and wooded acreage, and creeks historically associated with the farm, thus providing an appropriate setting.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 25 Barker House  
Vance County, NC

## Section 11. Additional Documentation

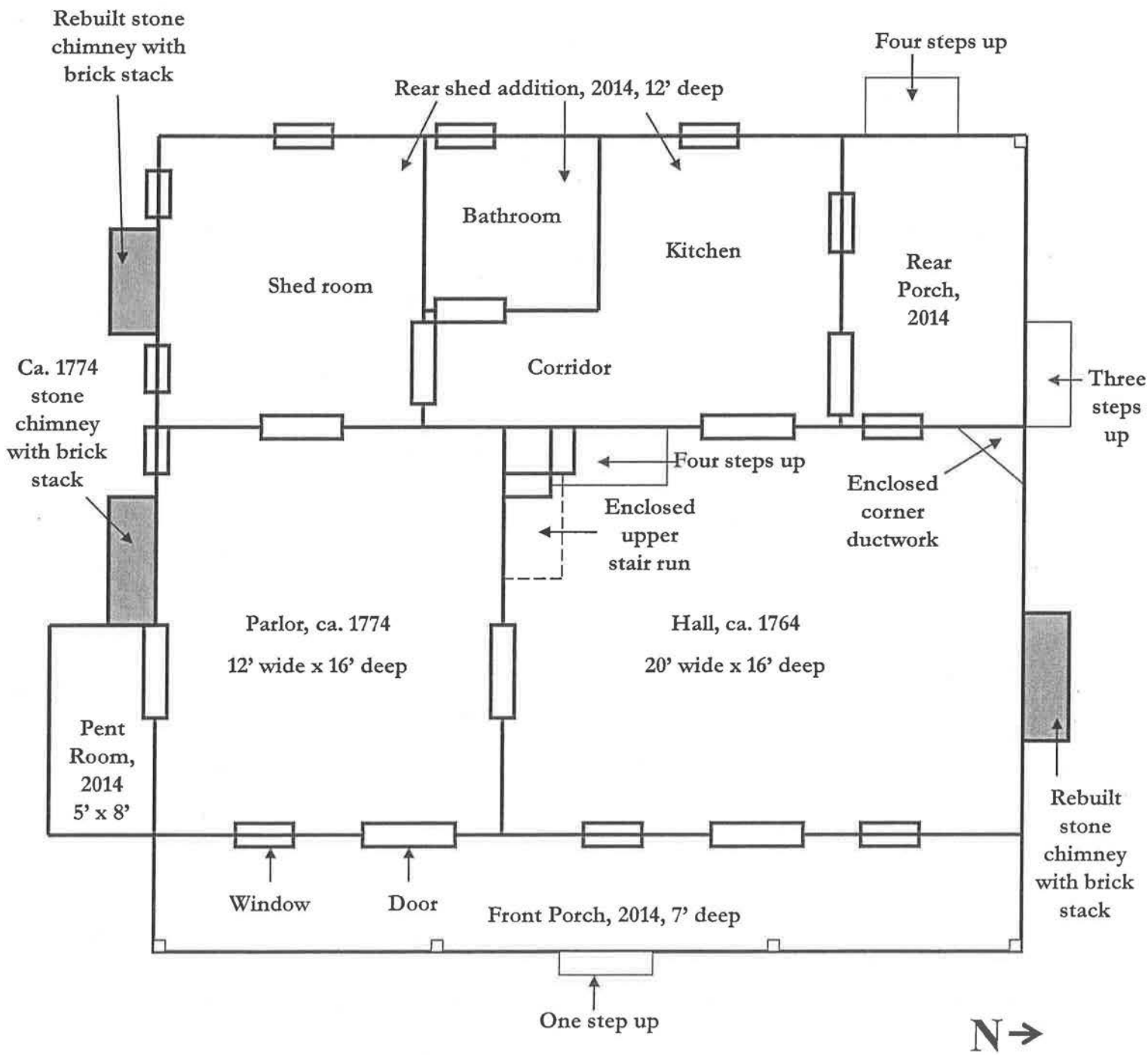
### Photo Catalog

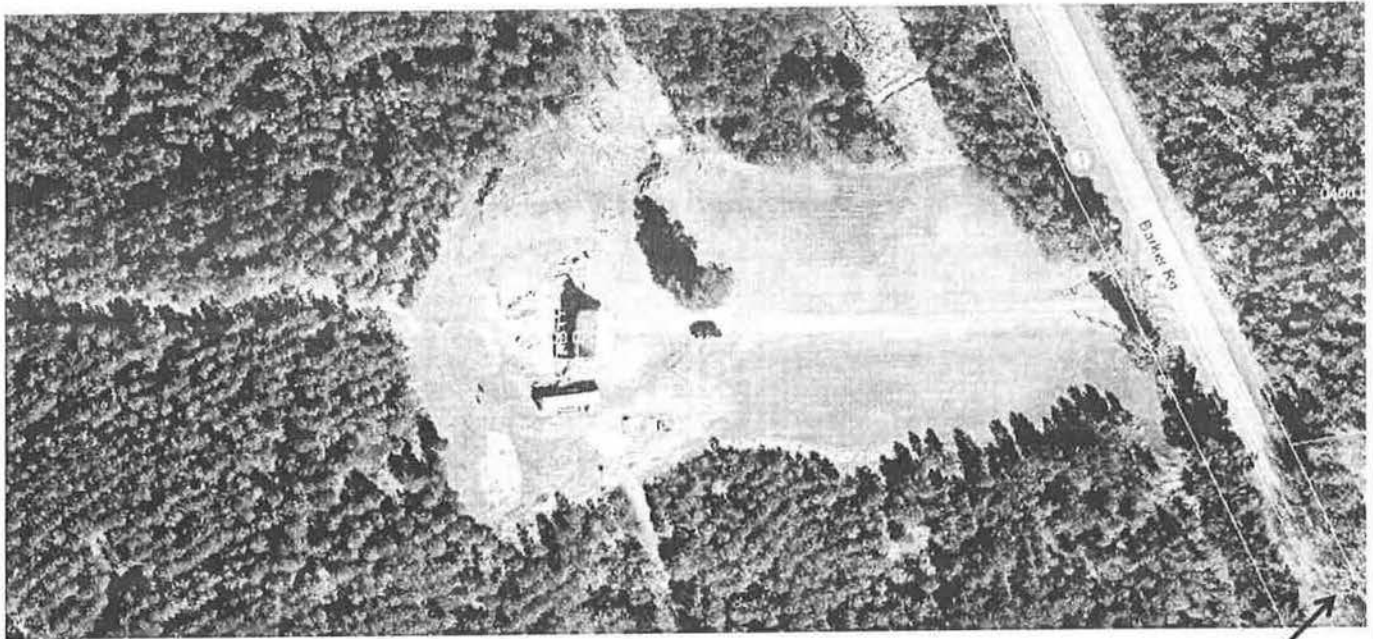
Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27104, on July 31, 2014. Digital images located at the North Carolina SHPO.

1. Façade (east elevation)
2. North elevation
3. West elevation
4. South elevation
5. Circa 1764 room, looking northeast
6. Circa 1764 room, looking southwest
7. Circa 1774 room, looking southeast
8. 2014 shed addition, south room, looking southwest
9. 2014 shed addition, north room, looking northwest
10. Second floor, looking north from 1774 room into 1764 room with original exterior riven siding at left

Barker House, First Floor Plan  
 1785 Barker Road, Henderson vicinity  
 Vance County, North Carolina

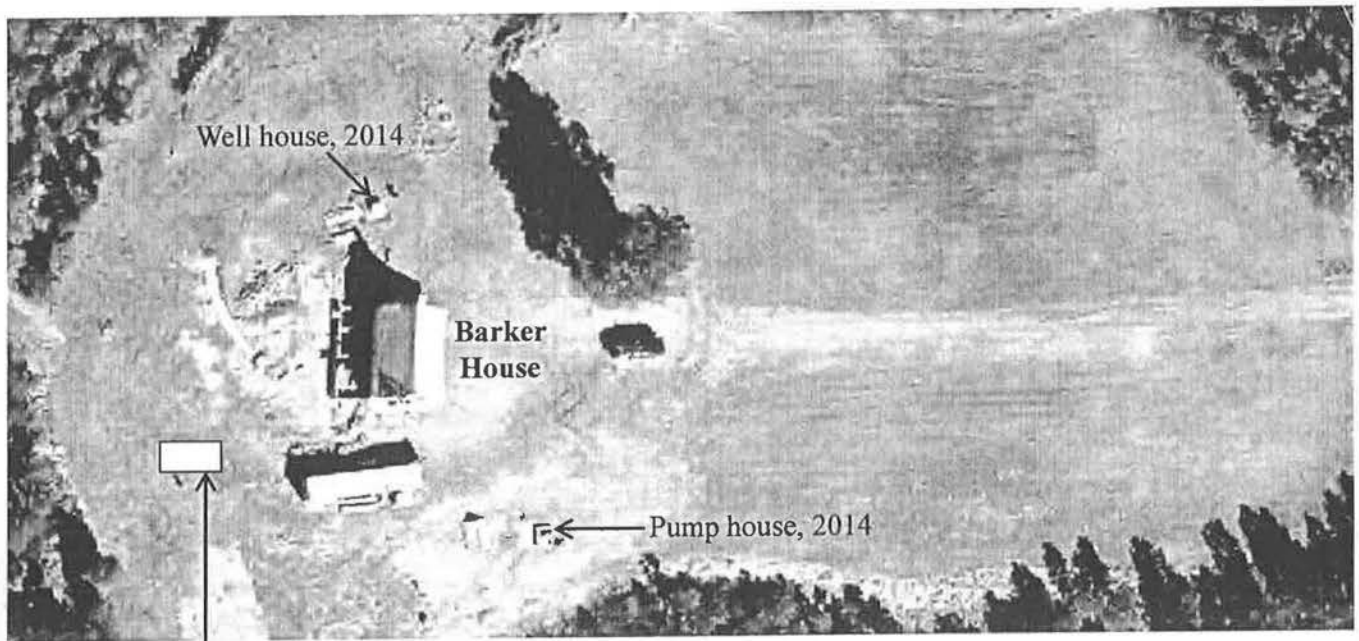
Drawn by Heather Fearnbach, August 2014  
 Not to Scale





Barker Road

**Barker House, circa 1764, circa 1774, 2014  
1785 Barker Road, Henderson vicinity  
Vance County, North Carolina**



Washhouse,  
mid-nineteenth century,  
moved to this site in 2013  
and restored in 2014

\*All outbuildings are noncontributing.



**Barker House (approximately 30-acre tract)  
1785 Barker Road, Henderson vicinity  
Vance County, North Carolina  
National Register Boundary Map**

1. Latitude: 36.379840  
Longitude: -78.502331

2. Latitude: 36.380203  
Longitude: -78.502489



4. Latitude: 36.376677  
Longitude: -78.500340

3. Latitude: 36.376147  
Longitude: -78.504241

**National Register Boundary = heavy dark line  
Scale 1" = approximately 200'**



























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Barker House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH CAROLINA, Vance

DATE RECEIVED: 10/17/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/12/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/28/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/03/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000993

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 12-1-2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Excellent example of type & excellent example of  
well-researched Restoration.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER J. Gublat DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.