NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior**
**National Park Service**

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# 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 any 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 Yelverton, Dred and Ellen, House

other names/site number

## 2. Location

street & number 1979 NC Highway 222 E not for publication N/A

city or town Fremont vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county Wayne code 191 zip code 27830

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ____ nationally ___ statewide X locally. ( ___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPO 7/1/09
Signature of certifying official 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 Edson H. Beall Date of Action 8.27.09

Yelverton, Dred and Ellen, House
Name of Property

Wayne County, N. C.
County and State

## 5. Classification

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

_X_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

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

X_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

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

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

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**
N/A

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

| Cat: | Sub: |
|---|---|
| Domestic | Single dwelling |
| Domestic | Secondary structure |

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

| Cat: | Sub: |
|---|---|
| Domestic | Single dwelling |
| Domestic | Secondary structure |

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)
Colonial Revival
Queen Anne

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation brick
roof slate
walls weatherboard
other tin
asphalt

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

Yelverton, Dred and Ellen, House
Name of Property

Wayne County, N. C.
County and State

## 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.

__X__ 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.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a 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. 1913

**Significant Dates**
ca. 1913

**Significant Person**
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**
N/A

**Architect/Builder**
Barber & Kluttz, architects
Dickerson, Claude, contractor

**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**
__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
__X__ Other
Name of repository: North Carolina State University Special Collections

Yelverton, Dred and Ellen, House
Name of Property

Wayne County, N. C.
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 8.4 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 18 | 235860 | 3935830 |
| 2 | __ | _____ | _____ |
| 3 | __ | _____ | _____ |
| 4 | __ | _____ | _____ |

__ 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 M. Ruth Little

organization Longleaf Historic Resources date February 2009

street & number 2312 Bedford Avenue telephone 919.412.7804

city or town Raleigh state N.C. zip code 27607

## 12. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Kent and Connie Yelverton

street & number 1979 NC Highway 222 E. telephone 919-242-7185

city or town Fremont vicinity state NC zip code 27830

**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 listings. 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 the 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.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

## Section 7: Description

Four miles east of the town of Fremont, in the eastern North Carolina county of Wayne, the Dred and Ellen Yelverton House stands on the north side of Highway 222 East in a grove of pine and hardwood trees. Set back approximately 150 feet from the highway, the transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style house looms large in the flat, open countryside. The house faces south from the center of its rectangular 8.4 acre parcel of land. East of the house is a dirt driveway, parking area, a frame garage, and a modern carport. Behind the house are a generator house and a concrete block pump house. Cultivated fields surround the home tract on the rear and sides, with the tree line of the forest visible in all three directions.

The two-story weatherboarded house, painted white, features a steep deck-on-hip slate roof, over a large unfinished attic, four interior chimneys, including one in the rear ell, and a wraparound veranda with a metal roof that is two-story across most of the south front façade and wraps one-story around the east side to the rear wing. The main entrance, a pair of double glazed and paneled doors, has flanking sidelights set above paneled aprons. A three-part transom surmounts the door. Slender colonettes decorate the wide surround, and a heavy molded cornice surmounts the entire entrance. The screen doors at the entrance are original. Above this entrance, the entrance to the upper veranda is a glazed and paneled door with flanking diamond-paned sidelights and a transom. Two-story bay-windows project from the front bay of the west elevation and the rear bay of the east elevation. A pedimented cross-gable with rectangular louvered vent and rectangular eave brackets with a decorative front edge surmount each bay wing. Above the central bay of the façade is a large gabled dormer with a round-arched one-over-one sash window and cornice returns, with smaller flanking pedimented gable dormers. Behind the main block is a one-story gabled ell containing the dining room and kitchen.

The wide veranda extends almost completely across the façade and down the east side of the house. It features pillars of beige brick with paired and single wood columns and a turned wooden railing on the first story. The upper-story porch, with paired and single wood columns and a turned wooden railing, extends three bays across the facade. Over the center of the upper porch is a pedimented gable.

All exterior fabric of the 5,400 square foot house is original. Weatherboard covers the walls. The original tall and narrow one-over-one sash windows have wide plain surrounds. Original slate tiles cover the roof. The high foundation and the tall interior chimney stacks with decorative corbelled caps are of beige brick like the pillars of the veranda. The boxed eaves have original built-in metal gutters.

The interior is virtually unaltered. Rooms are large, with eleven-foot-high ceilings on the first floor and ten-foot ceilings on the second floor. See Figs. 1 and 2 for floor plans. Inside the double-door entrance is a wide hall divided by the staircase into a front reception hall and a rear stair hall. The stair rises from the middle of the hall to the east to a landing a few steps up from the floor, and then ascends to the north along the east wall to the second floor. The balustrade contains turned balusters, a molded handrail,

boxed newels with urn-shaped finials, and pendants at the upper level. The base newel is surmounted by a wooden column with Ionic capital that extends to the ceiling. Corresponding pilasters flank this column on the side walls of the hall, creating the sense of a screen that divides the space. Paneling along the staircase matches the wainscot. At the rear of the hall, an Arts-and-Crafts-style dark wooden bracketed mantelpiece creates a cozy space that resembles the inglenook that became popular in halls of 1880s Queen Anne-style houses.

Four large rooms flank the center hall: the front west room, labeled "parlor" on the Barber and Kluttz plan; the front east room, labeled "chamber;" the rear west room, labeled "library;" and the rear east room, labeled "chamber." The front west room continues to be known as the parlor, the front east room is known as the sitting room, the rear west room has always been the guest bedroom, and the rear east room has always been the master bedroom. A transverse stair hall with beadboard wainscot at the rear of the main block contains a narrow rear stair that rises in a straight run to the west along the north wall. The balustrade, newel, and pendants of this stair match those of the main stair.

The one-story rear ell contains a large rectangular dining room and a narrow rectangular kitchen, as well as other smaller rooms. On the Barber and Kluttz plan, small rooms at the rear corners of the flanking porches were labeled "pantry" on the west and "plunder room" on the east. These rooms are intact. The pantry (now functioning as a laundry) still opens off the kitchen. The plunder room (labeled closet on Figure 1) opens off the 1950s pine-paneled den created by expanding the 1930s sunroom. A large stone fireplace occupies the east wall of the den.

Upstairs, the floor plan is unaltered. A center hall as large as the first-floor hall contains a front space, labeled as "sewing room" on the plan, set off from the rear of the stair hall by a partition wall with a wide arched opening. Four large bedrooms flank the hall. To the rear of the main block, the east end of the service stair hall contains an original bathroom with capped beadboard wainscot. Access to the large unfinished attic is via a ladder in the closet of the front west bedroom.

A hierarchy of finish woodwork, with original dark stain in the reception hall, service stair hall, and parlors, and painted surfaces in the remaining rooms, is articulated in the large volumes of the Yelverton House. Every room has a fireplace with a mantel of different design. The west parlor contains the most ornate mantel, a very tall Italianate design with a high arched opening, paneled pilasters, a bracketed molded shelf, and an arched pediment with a central cartouche. The opposing east parlor/sitting room contains a Greek Revival-style mantel with fluted colonettes supporting a frieze with triglyphs and a shelf with high backboard. The center hall contains a narrow, tall Arts-and-Crafts-style mantelpiece with pedestal-topped pilasters, a bracketed shelf, and a high paneled backboard. The guest bedroom contains a Neoclassical Revival-style mantel with Ionic colonettes supporting a molded shelf; the master bedroom a similar mantel with Doric colonettes, Adamesque sunbursts and triglyphs on the frieze, and a molded shelf. The dining room, the largest room in the house, has twelve-foot ceilings, a tall beadboard wainscot with chair rail, and a heavy cornice molding. The mantel has an Arts-and-Crafts design similar to the

main hall, but contains a set of three leaded-glass china cupboards across the top. The four upstairs bedrooms contain painted Neoclassical-style mantels with slender free-standing Doric colonettes, each with a heavily molded shelf, a molded backboard, and applied detailing on the frieze. The hall and parlor mantels contain tile surrounds with matching hearths. The first floor bedroom mantels have tile surrounds with painted stone hearths. Eight original hanging light fixtures remain: chandeliers in the front hall and parlor and simpler fixtures elsewhere.

The most ornate woodwork adorns the hall and flanking front rooms. Each has an intricate parquet floor with a Greek key-patterned perimeter border and a central square-framed pinwheel design. The windows in the parlor and sitting room have paneled wooden aprons. Wide flat surrounds with cap molding enclose the windows and doors. All walls and ceilings are plastered; most doors are original five horizontal flat-panel designs. The dining room has a French door in the east wall leading to the den, and a six-panel swinging door in the north wall to the kitchen. Other than the front rooms, rooms have simple pine flooring. Doors into second-floor bedchambers and into the dining room have single-pane operable transoms. Pocket doors lead from the reception hall to the parlors.

The dining room connects directly to the adjacent kitchen through a convenient china cupboard and food pass-through built into the north wall beside the fireplace. The lower half has closed cupboards and drawers; the upper half has shelving with glass doors. The cupboard projects into the kitchen to the rear, with solid cupboard doors. The upper sections of the kitchen-side doors have screened wire panels for ventilation.

**Integrity assessment:** The remarkably intact Yelverton House has minor additions and alterations. The original leaded glass of the front entrance transom and sidelights has been replaced with opaque glass. The original widow's walk around the deck of the main roof has been removed. The short hip-roofed porches that flanked the kitchen/dining room ell have been enclosed. Both have standing seam metal roofs. Along the east side, the porch was enclosed as a sunroom in the 1930s. In the 1950s this was enlarged by one bay to create a flat-roofed den with plain weatherboard, a red-brick exterior chimney, and pairs of one-over-one wood sash windows. At the rear of the den is a door sheltered by a shed roofed-stoop with square posts. The den addition harmonizes well with the original massing of the house. The west rear porch was enclosed in the 1930s as a bathroom and office, with plain weatherboard, an exterior door, and a row of four one-over-one wood sash windows. Access to the west porch from the entry hall was blocked by the creation of this bathroom, although the door remains in place.

Contributing structure Carbide House. ca. 1913. Small red brick building with a side-gabled, asphalt-shingled roof and a batten front door. This was converted to an oil-fired hot water heating system in the 1940s. The tall concrete-block exterior chimney was added at this time.

Non-contributing building Garage. ca. 1955. One-story hipped-roof garage covered with weatherboard,

containing two garage doors on the east half of the south elevation. The west half is a storage room with two paneled doors on the west elevation and one-over-one wood sash windows on the front and rear elevations. Some materials were salvaged from a mule barn on the property which was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel.

Non-contributing structure Pumphouse. ca. 1960. Small concrete block pumphouse.

Non-contributing structure Carport. ca. 1990. Modern metal carport.

## Section 8: Statement of Significance

The distinguished two-story transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style house of Dred and Ellen Yelverton on NC Highway 222 east of Fremont, North Carolina is the largest and most stylish house in Wayne County outside of Goldsboro, the county seat. Wealthy farmer Dred Yelverton ordered the plans from the Knoxville, Tennessee architectural firm of Barber and Kluttz, pioneers in mail-order design. Founder George F. Barber supplied fashionable Queen Anne- and Colonial Revival-style house plans for clients throughout the United States from 1887 to about 1908. The Yelvertons occupied the house ca. 1913, the estimated date of the completion of construction and period of significance. The house with its wraparound veranda, slate roof, bay windows, pedimented dormers, and intricately finished interiors has been lovingly maintained. Inside, spacious parlors flank a reception hall with formal staircase and fireplace. Finished with ornate parquet floors, decorative mantels, and paneled window aprons, these reception rooms create an atmosphere unequalled in rural Wayne County. The Yelverton House meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion C for its architectural significance as one of the most distinctive early twentieth-century houses in Wayne County and as an exceptionally intact example of the design of nationally-significant architect George F. Barber.

## Historical Background:

Etheldred "Dred" Yelverton (1855-1931), builder of the Yelverton House, is the fifth generation of Yelvertons in northeast Wayne County, centered around the small town of Eureka. The Yelverton and Aycock families, Baptists of English descent that settled in Virginia in the 1700s, moved into Bertie County, North Carolina, and spread into the Nahunta Swamp region of northeast Wayne County in the later eighteenth century.[1] The first generation to do so, John Yelverton Jr., moved to this area of Wayne County in 1756. His son Hardy Yelverton (d. 1829) had three sons: James, Jason, and Etheldred (born before 1790). Etheldred died in 1851, leaving eight sons including Thomas W. Yelverton (1812-1890).[2] During the antebellum period the Yelvertons were large land and slave owners. About 1850, prosperous farmer Thomas W. Yelverton built his house on the road between Fremont and Eureka, in the center of his more than 1,000 acres of fertile land extending from Nahunta Swamp north to Aycock Swamp. According to family tradition, Thomas had acquired a portion of the farm from his father Etheldred Yelverton in 1839 and enlarged his land holdings in subsequent years. The census taker of 1880 found Thomas and his wife Nancy Cumi living in their farmhouse, with son Dred, aged twenty-three, helping his father on the farm. Dred's twin sister Nannie and Thomas's sister, Polly Yelverton, also lived in the household. Thomas died in 1890, his wife Nancy in 1896. [3]

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[1] Pezzoni and Smith, *Glimpses of Wayne County, North Carolina: An Architectural History,* 6.
[2] "The Yelverton Family," Stephen T. Yelverton, in *The Heritage of Wayne County,* Entry 972.
[3] 1880 Population Schedule, U.S. Census, Wayne County, North Carolina: Nahunta township. Ancestor.com; accessed Jan. 22, 2009; Yelverton family cemetery inscriptions. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Yelvertons continued to farm large acreages and to be

At the end of the nineteenth century, Thomas and Nancy's farmhouse burned. According to family tradition, Dred Yelverton hired a Fremont contractor, Claude Dickerson, to construct a new house about 1900, following undated architectural blueprints, drawn by the Knoxville, Tennessee firm of Barber and Kluttz, which remain in family ownership. According to Dred's son David, the heart pine framing came from a sawmill on the farm. Dred encountered a problem with Mr. Dickerson and filed a lawsuit, but lost. The house is said to have stood unfinished for a number of years.

The census taker of 1910 recorded Dred and his twin Nannie Yelverton, aged fifty-two, living together in another house, perhaps the one-story weatherboarded tenant house directly across the main road from the site of their homeplace, and together operating their large farm.[4] In 1912 Dred married Cherry Ellen Davis, from the Fremont area. The marriage spurred Yelverton to hire a new contractor to complete his palatial residence. The couple's first child was born in 1913 just before the new house was completed. The rest of their six children were born in the new house.

The worn blueprints for the house, labeled "Res for Mr. T. E. Yelverton, Fremont, NC" with the firm name "Barber & Kluttz" remain in family ownership. No date appears on the plans, which are in such fragile condition that no copies have been made. The date when Dred Yelverton obtained the design for his house from George Barber is uncertain. Family tradition maintains that Dred Yelverton built the house about 1900. By this time Barber's style books had begun to include the Colonial Revival style along with the Queen Anne style. Yelverton probably ordered the plans from a published catalogue, either *Art in Architecture,* 1902-1903; or *Modern Dwellings,* 1901 to 1907; or from the monthly magazine, *American Homes,* begun in 1895. By 1908 the firm's mail-order practice ended due to Barber's preoccupation with local construction in Tennessee; Barber died in 1915.[5] Yelverton apparently ordered the plans and began construction between 1900 and 1908.

In the earliest surviving photograph of the house, taken about 1920, Dred and Ellen stand at the gate of a picket fence in the front yard with their children Thomas Whitney and Nancy Cumi and the baby, John Thomas (Jack), in his father's arms. In 1930 the couple's family was complete: Thomas Whitney (Tommy), age 16; Nancy, age 13; Jack, age 11; Mollie, aged 8; Judy, aged 6; and David Etheldred, age 2.[6]

In the farming system typical of Wayne County, Dred's acreage was divided into a number of tenant farms. Two of the tenant houses that stand near the main residence are late nineteenth-century one-story,

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prominent citizens. A member of the clan, William T. Yelverton, operated in Goldsboro one of the largest farm implement dealerships in North Carolina. *The Heritage of Wayne County,* 22, 25.

[4] 1910 Population Schedule, U.S. Census, Wayne County, North Carolina: Nahunta township. Ancestor.com.

[5] Tomlan, *Victorain Cottage Architecture,* introduction, xv-xvi.

[6] 1930 Population Schedule, U.S. Census, Wayne County, North Carolina: Nahunta Township. Ancestor.com.

side-gable weatherboarded dwellings with well-built gable-end chimneys. Cotton was a principal crop, although in decreasing amounts from the 1920s to 1944, the last year it was planted on the farm. Corn, soybeans, and tobacco were other principal crops grown by the Yelverton tenants.[7] Dred constructed a number of farm outbuildings near the house, including a smokehouse and a two-story mule barn that were destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. His large one-story frame cotton gin stands across the highway. Behind the house was a log cabin where an African American hired hand named George Daniel lived. Daniel kept fires burning in the house's chimneys, helped with some of the cooking, and performed other farm duties. In later years his son Bud Daniel lived in a small frame house located beside the main house, on the present site of the garage. Bud worked as a handyman for Mrs. Yelverton after Dred's death.[8] Across the road, the family graveyard, enclosed by a decorative cast-iron fence, contains the graves of Dred and his parents.[9]

At Dred's death in 1931 at the age of seventy-six, he willed his wife Ellen a life estate in the homeplace, along with other real estate and property. He willed his six children equal shares in his over 1,000-acre farm, other farm acreage, and houses and lots in the towns of Fremont, Wilson, and Goldsboro. The children ranged in age from seventeen to three years old and did not receive their inheritance until they turned twenty-one. In the will, Dred appointed the Bank of Fremont to subdivide his real estate one year after his death into equal shares for the children, stipulating that his youngest son David was to receive the house and an equal share of the acreage surrounding the homeplace as his share, as it was traditional in North Carolina that the youngest child inherited the homeplace. Dred specified that the house was not to be valued in making the division.[10] A detailed land survey prepared in 1932 divided the farm into five tracts.[11] David's share, the homeplace and 236.26 acres around it, extended from the highway in front of the house north to the run of Aycock Swamp. Among the cultivated fields and woodland of David's acreage were four tenant houses, two located on or close to the main road and the rest toward the rear of the property. Each tenant house had associated barns, smokehouses, packhouses and tobacco barns.

Ellen Yelverton remained in the house until 1945, when she moved into a house in Fremont that Dred left to her in his will. In the later 1930s she enlarged the rear section of the east porch as a sunroom and installed a first-floor bathroom in the west side porch. Her youngest son David remained at home and farmed the acreage with his siblings. He married Georgie Lee Garris in 1945. After David returned from Army service in Japan, they raised three sons in the house: David Etheldred Yelverton Jr., Philip Whitney Yelverton, and George Kent Yelverton. David farmed his 236-acre share of the farm

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[7] Author interview with Georgia Lee Yelverton and Kent Yelverton, January 20, 2009.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Thomas Yelverton (1812-1890) and his wife Nancy (1819-1896) have tall decorative marble headstones. Dred Yelverton's grave is marked by a tall marble headstone as well. Adam J. Whitley (1856-1885), Thomas and Nancy's son-in-law, is buried here also.
[10] T. E. Yelverton Will, Wilson County, date of death Sept. 10, 1931; Wayne County Deed Book 232, page 365: subdivision of Dred Yelverton farm to heirs, Oct. 17, 1932.
[11] Map of Lot 1A, David E. Yelverton's share of the T. E. Yelverton Estate, recorded October 4, 1933, Wayne Map Book 4, page 96.

throughout his life. David and Georgie Lee installed the first central heat in the house in the 1940s by converting the original brick carbide house into an oil-fired hot water system. They remodeled the sunroom into a den about 1954, adding a brick chimney with large fireplace, and updated the kitchen with pine paneling and pine cabinets. Ellen died in 1973 and David died in 2006 at the age of seventy-six.

Continuing the tradition of the youngest child inheriting the homeplace, in 2007 George Kent Yelverton subdivided an 8.4 acre homeplace tract out of the 236-acre farm so that he and his wife Connie could purchase the house separately from the rest of the farm, owned jointly by George Kent and his two brothers. Kent and his wife Connie bought the brothers' share of the homeplace and have lived in the house since 2007 with their two children. They intend to preserve and maintain Kent's ancestral homeplace with the same respect as the previous generations.

**Architecture Context: Early Twentieth Century Wayne County Architecture**

The Dred and Ellen Yelverton House, completed about 1913, has no peer outside of Wayne County's towns of Goldsboro, Fremont, and Mount Olive. Farmhouses of this era in the county tend to be plain one- and two-story frame dwellings with little style. Beginning around 1900, prosperous town dwellers built some fashionable late Victorian and Classical Revival-style residences. The Farrior-Wooten House, located at 107 North Chestnut Street in Mount Olive, built about 1900, has a picturesque two and one-half-story Queen Anne design with a pyramidal hip roof, a turreted bay window over the entrance, and a wraparound veranda with multiple gables.[12] The DeBrutz English House at 604 North Center Street in Mount Olive, built about 1900, has a two-story Queen Anne design with bays with cutaway sawnwork corners, gables, and a wraparound veranda with gabled entrance, spindle frieze, and turned posts with sawnwork brackets.[13] By far the largest and most splendidly detailed house outside of Goldsboro is the Charles L. Rose House located at 503 East Main Street in Fremont. Built in 1908, the two-story frame house has a pyramidal hip roof, a central three-story turret, large flanking cross-gables, and a wraparound veranda with a corner turreted gazebo and porte-cochere.[14] The Rose House marks the apogee of the Queen Anne style in Wayne County.

In the country, the typical farmhouse tended to follow vernacular forms, although a number of one-story Queen Anne-style cottages were built. Large two-story rural houses of this style are rare. Eureka farmer Calvin Edmundson built his house at 777 Lindell Road about 1900. The two-story side-gabled main block, with traditional center front cross-gable, follows a standard I-house form that was built throughout the county during much of the nineteenth century. A Queen Anne-style two-story wing

[12] *Glimpses of Wayne County, North Carolina*, 134.
[13] Ibid., 213.
[14] Ibid., 155.

extends out from the main block, terminating in a stylish two-story bay window and wrapped by a polygonal veranda. Likely the main block dates from the late 1800s and the front wing was added in the early 1900s. The most impressive farmhouse in rural Wayne County until the construction of the Yelverton House is the Queen Anne-style house built about 1900 for Oscar Jarman Howell Sr., Wayne County's second Farm Extension agent. Located at 3045 Salem Church Road near Goldsboro, the two-story house with pyramidal roof features such popular elements of the style as an asymmetrical two-story gabled bay window with sawnwork detailing, Queen Anne-style multiple-light windows, and a wraparound veranda.[15] Even during the second decade of the twentieth century, when the Colonial Revival style became popular in Wayne County towns, farmhouses continued to be vernacular in design. Introduction of the Arts and Crafts bungalow in the late 1910s marks the first general incursion of popular architecture into the countryside.

**Architecture Context: George F. Barber, Mail-Order Architect**

George F. Barber, carpenter, architect, and publisher, was born in DeKalb, Illinois, in 1854 and moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1888. In the late 1800s he became one of the most successful architects in the United States. Emulating George Palliser of Connecticut, who published the earliest mail-order architectural catalogue in 1876, Barber produced his first catalogue, *The Cottage Souvenir,* about 1887. Ultimately Barber published nine catalogues. In 1895 he began publication of a monthly magazine, *American Home.* Victorian designs appeared exclusively until 1893. About 1895, Thomas A. Kluttz of Georgia replaced Barber's first business manager, J. C. White. Barber's 1898 catalogue, *Modern Dwellings,* 1901 *Barber's Turn-of-the-Century Houses,* and 1903 *Modern American Homes* reflected the shifting of American taste toward colonial American styles. By 1900 the firm employed some thirty draftsmen and twenty secretaries. Barber's company produced over 800 designs before his death in 1915. Their mail-order practice ended in 1908 because of their preoccupation with local construction projects in Knoxville. The rising middle class—bankers, businessmen, and professionals—enthusiastically embraced Barber's mail-order plans, which satisfied their desires for modern, modish architecture. Barber's phenomenal success may reflect the relative scarcity of local architects during this era. Barber counseled his clients to negotiate slight changes to his drawings with their builders. If major alterations were needed, the firm would provide them at additional cost. The firm also offered custom design carried out through correspondence.[16]

Two dozen houses are documented in North Carolina as Barber designs; the true number is likely much larger. A few stand, but most have been demolished. Two of the most splendid extant examples are palatial frame Queen Anne-style villas built in 1897 for industrialist Charles T. Holt at 228 Holt Street, Haw River and for Alexander Martin Smith at 131 Gwyn Avenue, Elkin. The three-story Holt House has

[15] Ibid., 136.
[16] Introduction by Michael A. Tomlan to Barber, *Victorian Cottage Architecture: Toward the Growth of an Artistic Taste.*

a complex design with gabled cutaway bays, a polygonal corner turret, a deep hip roof, wraparound veranda, balconies, and freely handled Queen Anne-style and classical motifs. The three-story Smith House features even more eclectic features, including a corner dome-shaped turret, a corner pointed turret, and a large front cross-gable with medieval half-timbering. The Holt and Smith Houses may be the grandest examples of this exuberant style in North Carolina.[17] A smaller but still impressive design is the William Howard House, built about 1906 at 108 E. Park Avenue, Tarboro. The transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style house has a two-story front-gabled main block with front and side bay windows, an ornate veranda, and a central hall with elaborate staircase. The design, called "A Suburban Beauty," was published in *Modern Dwellings,* printed from 1901 to 1907 by Barber.[18] Other extant Barber houses are the Pearsall House, a hip-roofed one-story Queen Anne cottage with wraparound veranda of ca. 1900 at 111 W. Pearsall Street, Dunn, and the James L. Fleming House, a splendid two-story Queen Anne-style house of 1902 built for the founder of East Carolina University at 302 S. Greene Street, Greenville.[19] The Fleming House features cutaway bay windows, a corner turret, a patterned slate

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[17] Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture,* 353; Bishir, Southern, and Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina,* 54.

[18] Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture,* 350-351; www.historictarbobo.com/108park.htm. accessed Feb. 17, 2009.

[19] Pearsall House (HT 11) Survey File, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh; Cotter, *The Architectural Heritage of Greenville, N.C.,* 87. Houses designed by Barber that are demolished include J. Q. Gant House, Elon College, ca. 1892; Matthew H. White House, Hertford, 1893; Benjamin N. Duke Mansion, Durham, 1895; R. J. Reynolds House, Winston-Salem, ca. 1895; Thomas H. Briggs House, Raleigh, 1896; Lawrence S. Holt House, Burlington, ca. 1896; Joseph L. Holt House, Burlington, ca. 1896;the Ashley Horne House, Clayton, 1897; Lester Turner House, Salisbury, ca. 1897; Thomas Murphy House, Salisbury, ca. 1898; David L. Gaskill House, Salisbury, ca. 1899; W. A. Blair House, Winston-Salem, 1901; Bullock-Dew House, Sims, ca. 1902; and the J. Ottinger House, Wilson; E. F. Aydlett House, Elizabeth City; W. A. Blair House, Winston-Salem; Dr. J. C. Brown House, Durham; and C. B. Edwards House, Raleigh, all of unknown date. This list is compiled from information supplied by Michael Tomlan and others collected in the Charlotte Vestal Brown Papers, Box MC219.8, North Carolina State University libraries Special Collections, Raleigh.

hip roof, and a wraparound veranda with ornate ironwork porch posts and balustrade.[20]

Copies of Barber's later plan books are scarce. The Yelverton House is undoubtedly based on a Barber plan, since the signed blueprints survive. The exact Barber house design from which the Yelverton House was built has not been located, but similar designs are published in *Modern American Homes* (1903). Described as the "square Colonial home" whose chief features were "simplicity of design and good proportion," these two-story frame houses have deep hipped roofs with conspicuous dormer windows, front and side bay windows, and handsome one-story classical verandas with roof balustrades.[21] The Yelverton House could be a custom adaptation since it differs from these examples.

Barber's architecture has received little attention other than a 1982 essay by Michael Tomlan written for the Dover republication of Barber's *Victorian Cottage Architecture* catalogue. In the essay, Tomlan includes a Neoclassical Revival-style residence designed by Barber for J. B. Galloway in 1906 in Clarendon, Arkansas. The house was completed in 1910.[22] The two and one-half-story main block is crowned by a hip roof with balustraded widow's walk and gabled dormer windows. A massive pedimented portico with coupled Doric columns and balcony dominates the house. A single-story veranda is woven through the portico and wraps around both side elevations. This is clearly a house designed to evoke the antebellum plantation houses of the Deep South, with their classical porticos and enveloping verandas. The Yelverton House design does not include the classical portico, but its double veranda across the façade and wraparound single-story veranda recalls the antebellum South as well as provides ample outdoor living spaces for a hot eastern North Carolina climate. The Yelverton House, indisputably the work of George F. Barber and undoubtedly one of the most intact Barber residences in North Carolina, merits listing in the National Register for its strong architectural significance.

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[20] For more information on the architecture of George T. Barber in North Carolina, refer to his biography, written by Ruth Little, at the web site North Carolina Architects & Builders: A Biographical Dictionary [http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/].
[21] Introduction by Tomlan to Barber, *Victorian Cottage Architecture: An American Catalogue of Designs*, xiv.
[22] Ibid., xxxi.

## Section 9: Bibliography

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Wayne County Deeds

Author interviews in person with:

Georgie Lee Yelverton, January 20, 2009

Kent Yelverton, January 20, 2009

## Section 10: Boundaries

### Boundary Description:

The nominated acreage consists of the 8.4-acre parcel that comprises the homeplace tract, owned by George Kent and Cornelia W. Yelverton, Wayne Deed Book 2520-494. The parcel, Tax ID No. 362-5305746, is shown in the attached Tax Map with a heavy black line.

### Boundary Justification:

The nominated area is a portion of the acreage historically associated with the Dred and Ellen Yelverton House and provides an appropriate setting.

**Photographs:**

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Yelverton, Dred and Ellen, House
1979 NC Hwy 222 E, Fremont vicinity, Wayne County, North Carolina
Photographer: M. Ruth Little
Date: January 2009
Location of Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

1. View of parlor

2. View of reception hall

3. View of rear section of reception hall

4. View of west first floor bedroom (guest bedroom)

5. View of dining room

6. View of upper hall

7. Front view from south

8. West elevation from west

9. Rear elevation from north

10. Carbide House

11. Pump House and Garage

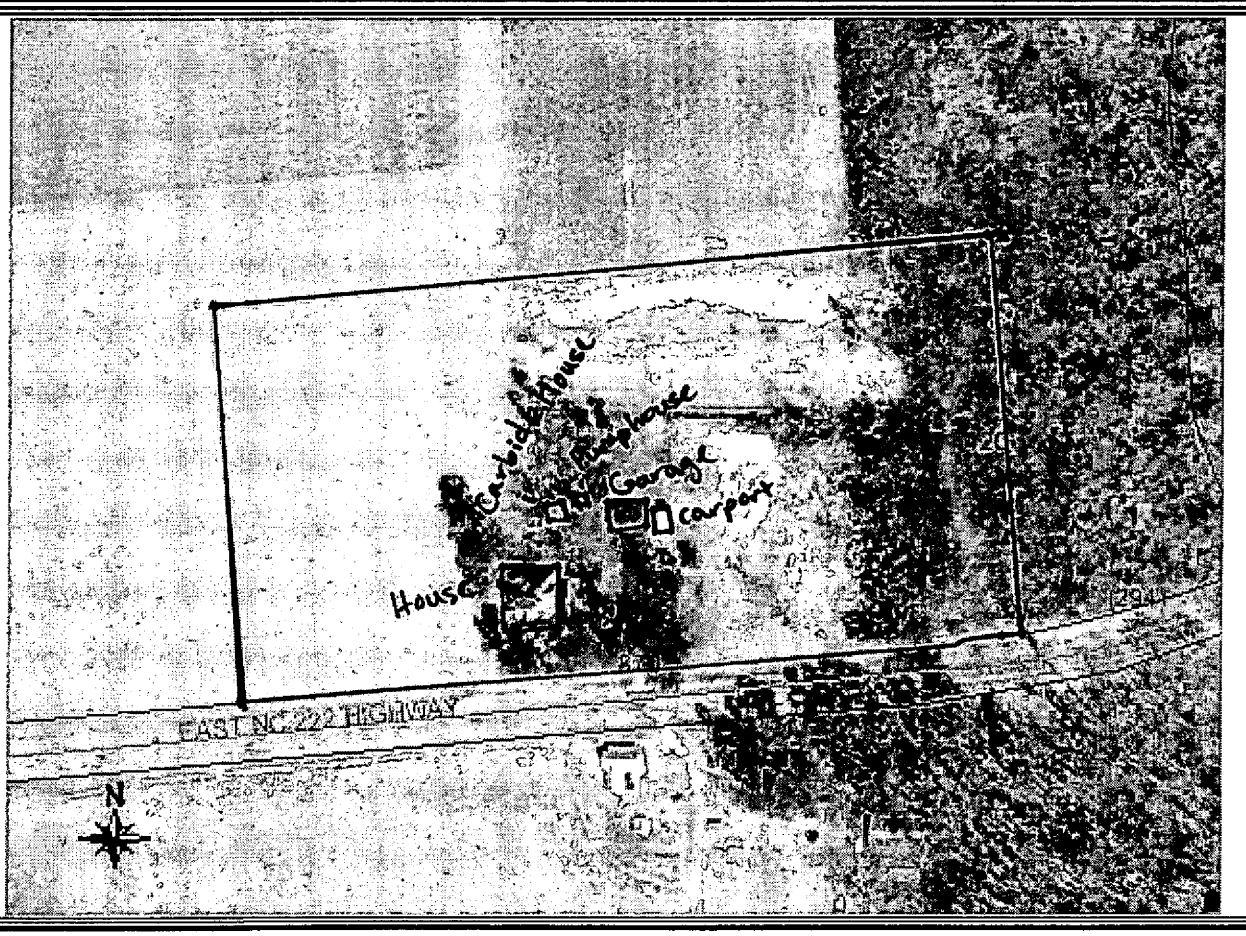
12. East elevation from east

13. View of front entrance from south

# Parcel Print Display

## Parcel Information

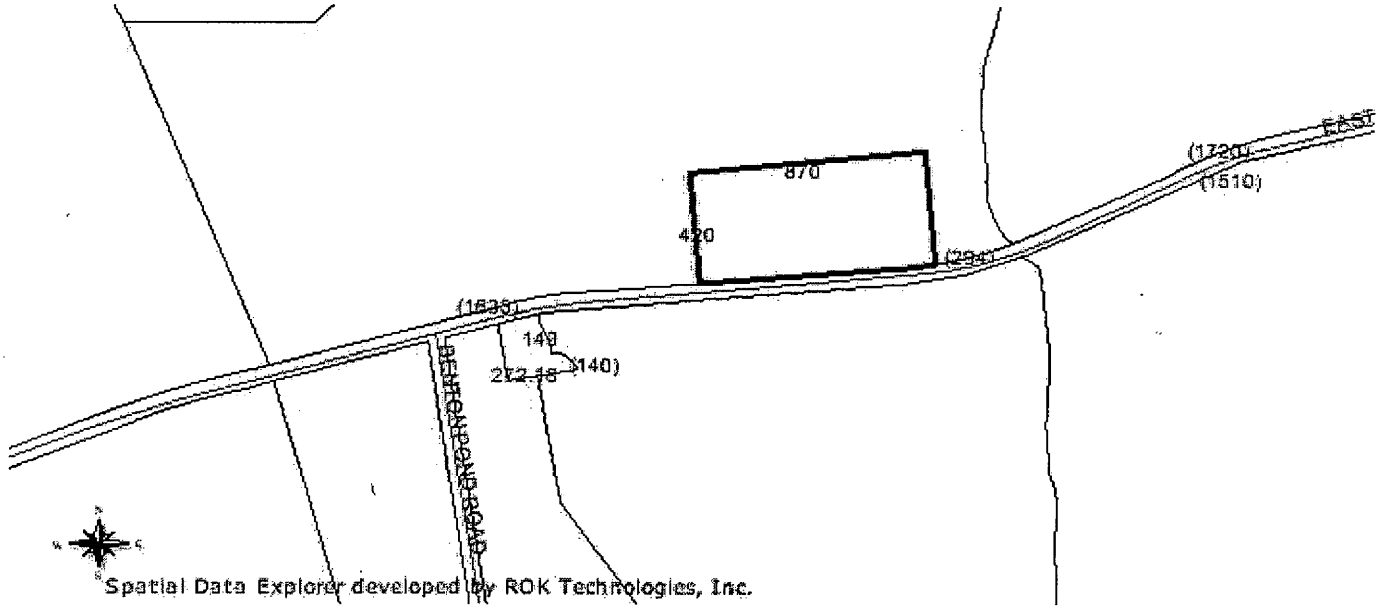
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PIN Number | 3625305746 | Sale Price | $150,000.00 |
| Acreage | 8.40 | Flood Zone | |
| Owner Name | YELVERTON GEORGE KENT & W CORNELIA | Zoning Code | |
| Owner/Address 1: | 2846 NC HIGHWAY 231 | Block Number | 371910002001017 |
| Owner/Address 2: | | Water District | BELFAST-PATETOWN |
| City | WENDELL | Fire District | EUREKA |
| State | NC | Subdivision/Lot Information: | 1979 E NC 222 HY |
| Zip | 27591 | Land Value | $37,540.00 |
| Property Address: | 01979 E NC 222 HY | Building Value | $79,340.00 |
| Deed Book-Page | 2520-494 | OBXF Value | $2,110.00 |
| Year Built | 1911 | Deferred Value | $0.00 |
| Neighborhood | 11901 | Total Value | $118,990.00 |
| Sale Year | 07 | | |




DISCLAIMER: THIS MAP IS PREPARED FOR THE INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY FOUND WITHIN THIS JURISDICTION AND IS COMPILED FROM RECORDED DEEDS, PLATS, AND OTHER PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA. USERS OF THIS MAP ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED PUBLIC PRIMARY INFORMATION SOURCES SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR VERIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP. THE COUNTY AND THE MAPPING COMPANIES ASSUME NO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP. GRID IS BASED ON THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM 1983 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM. INTERNATIONAL FOOT CONVERSION. **May 6, 2009 :**

Dred and Ellen Yelverton House
1979 NC Hwy 222 E.
Fremont vicinity, Wayne County, NC

Site Plan
— National Register Boundary
not to scale

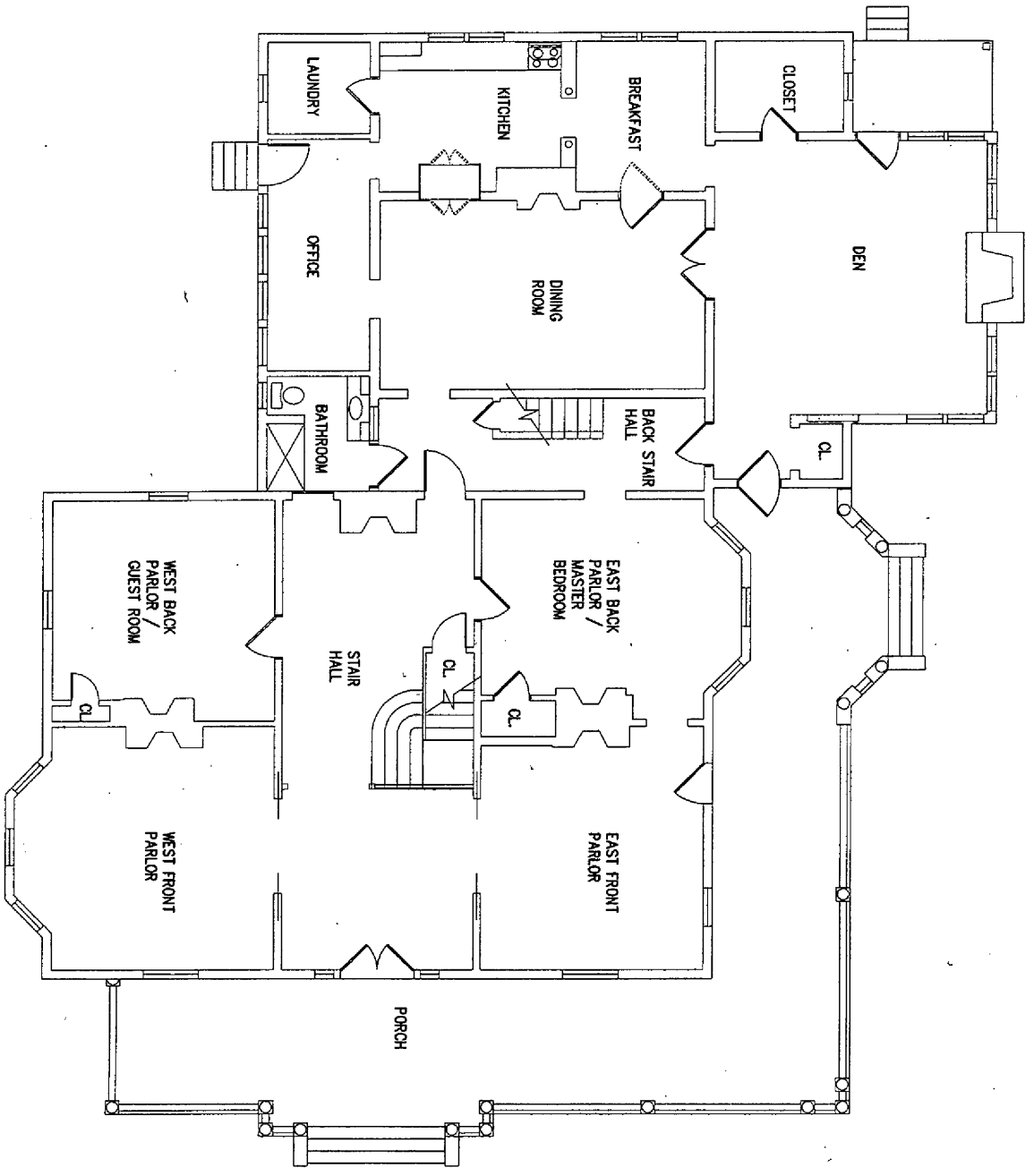



**DRED & ELLEN YELVERTON HOUSE TAX MAP**
**Tax Parcel 3625305746**
**1979 NC Highway 222 E**
**Fremont, Wayne County, North Carolina**

**8.4 acres**
**Owners George Kent and Cornelia W. Yelverton**
**Wayne County Deed Book 2520-494**

**Wayne County GIS, Jan. 27, 2009**

**National Register Boundary**




01 FIRST FLOOR PLAN

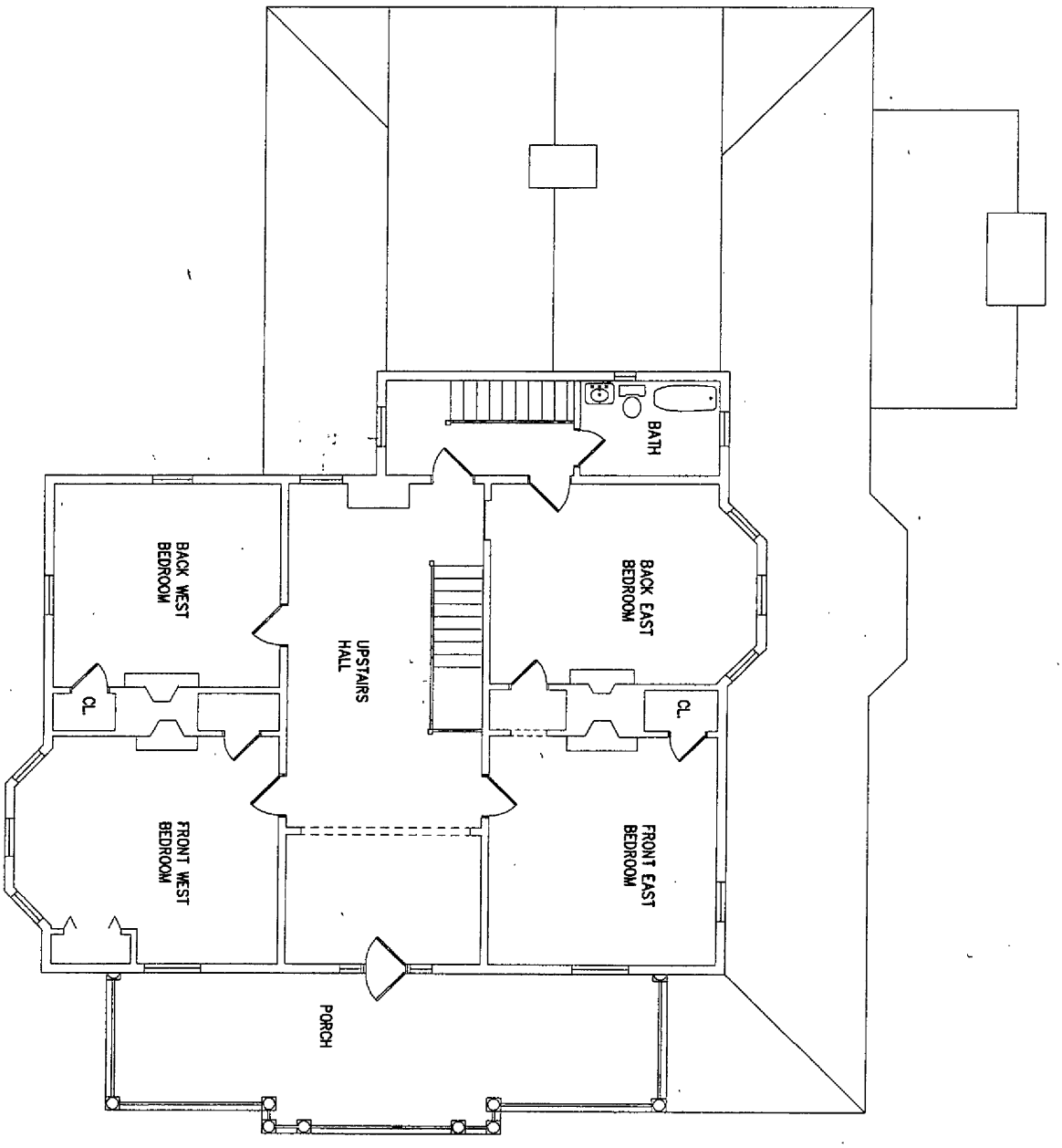
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

N

A-101

Figure 1.
Dred & Ellen Yelverton House
1979 NC Highway 222 E
Fremont, Wayne County, N. C.

HH ARCHITECTURE




01 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

N

A-102

Figure 2.
Dred & Ellen Yelverton House
1979 NC Highway 222 E
Fremont, Wayne County, N. C.

1979