State of North Carolina  
Division of Archives and History

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR  
Fayetteville

X  MULTIPLE RESOURCE  OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME  
HISTORIC  
Barge's Tavern  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION  
STREET & NUMBER  
Belden-Horne House Site, 519 Ramsey Street
CITY, TOWN  
Fayetteville
STATE  
North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION  
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF  
Fayetteville  
Cumberland

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY  
NAME  
City of Fayetteville  
STREET & NUMBER  
Finance Department, Room 216
CITY, TOWN  
Fayetteville
STATE  
North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE,  
Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 2039
CITY, TOWN  
Fayetteville
STATE  
North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY  
NAME / TITLE  
Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, City of Fayetteville  
ORGANIZATION  
Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch  
DATE  
March 31, 1982
STREET & NUMBER  
Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street  
TELEPHONE  
1-919-733-6545
CITY OR TOWN  
Fayetteville  
STATE  
North Carolina

# 1  
COUNTY  
Cumberland
QUAD  
Fayetteville
Known locally as Barge’s Tavern, the small one-and-one-half story frame building is a rare survival of Fayetteville’s late eighteenth/early nineteenth century architectural fabric. Its main lower floor rooms, accessible through a small entrance vestibule, revolve around a center chimney. This building form, characteristic of the Upper Cape Fear River region and possibly derived from Scottish antecedents, was prevalent in Fayetteville around 1800 as the city developed into an important inland port and commercial center for North Carolina. Today, the form is shared by only one other extant structure, the Baker-Haigh-Nimocks House (NR). In addition, local tradition maintains that Barge’s Tavern formerly served as the “spirits room” for a hostelry—now the John A. Oates House, #17—both of which stood at the northeast corner of James Square in the shadow of the early county courthouse. Although Barge’s Tavern has been twice relocated, it still maintains its important period historical associations and architectural significance.

Basically a three-bay gable-roof dwelling, Barge’s Tavern has such notable features as an asymmetrical facade and a front entrance capped by a two-light transom. Supporting a building date of c. 1800 are the exterior walls sheathed with beaded weatherboard terminating in plain cornerboards and the very steeply pitched gable roof which is skirted by a simple box cornice. Evidence of alterations spanning the Greek Revival, Victorian, and early twentieth century are visible, however. Original 9/9 or 9/6 window sash, for example, has been replaced with 6/6 sash. Several late nineteenth-century additions overshadow the diminutive proportions of the tavern such as the pedimented gable-roof porch and the rear ell. This attached porch replaced a smaller one, but with features like turned posts, a diamond-shaped gable ventilator, and a plain frieze band, it is representative of those being built in Fayetteville during the late nineteenth century.

On the interior, the front entrance opens into a small vestibule. Doors lead from it into flanking parlors. Signs of an early building date are evident in these main first-floor rooms; for example, a simple Federal mantel rests in the south parlor and six raised-panel doors with HL hinges are scattered throughout. The north parlor or common room runs almost the entire length of the original section while that on the south is partitioned. An enclosed stair behind the chimney flue rises to the two-room attic (originally it was one large, open room and divided into two in the late nineteenth century). Additions to the rear are outfitted with modern kitchen and plumbing fixtures.

Currently, the Fayetteville Historic and Scenic Sites Committee oversees the maintenance of Barge’s Tavern, and a restoration specialist was retained early in 1981 to perform an architectural and structural analysis of the building and to make recommendations for restoration. In addition to retaining as much of the original structural fabric as is possible, the following recommendations were made: 1) that the present porch be removed and another reconstructed more closely following the lines of the original (based on the conclusions of the study this would mean one approximately 10'-4" across and 8' in depth with a pedimented roof, corner posts, and rail); 2) replace windows with period sash (9/9 front and sides, 9/6 rear and attic) as necessary; 3) substitute wood shingling or a tin cover for the modern asphalt shingle roof; 4) preserve and repair exterior siding; 5) make interior improvements which include cleaning floors, wall rehabilitation, and establishing original placement of doors. In addition, a paint color analysis was performed and recommendations were made on an appropriate color scheme for exterior weatherboarding and trim.
Built in the shadow of the old courthouse at James Square, Barge's Tavern (c. 1800) is a rare example of a one-and-a-half-story frame building with a central chimney, a late eighteenth-century/early nineteenth-century building form once prevalent in Fayetteville. Closely associated with his adjacent residence, George Barge obtained ownership of the structure in 1807. Local tradition holds that it served as a place where persons who were transacting business nearby could get refreshment. Even though it has been relocated twice and undergone various alterations, the tavern's basic architectural form remains intact and it stands as a reminder of a period when Fayetteville was important in North Carolina as a late eighteenth-century and early nineteenth-century inland port, trade center, and courthouse town.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. Barge's Tavern is associated with the late eighteenth-century/early nineteenth-century political, social and commercial development of Fayetteville, North Carolina's principal inland port.

C. Barge's Tavern embodies the distinctive form, plan and construction techniques characteristic of late eighteenth-century/early nineteenth-century building practices. The diminutive three-bay gable-roof one-and-one-half-story frame structure has a double-pile plan oriented around a central chimney and entered through a small vestibule. The simple interior features are representative of the Federal style. The tavern is one of only two such buildings remaining in Fayetteville today and is currently undergoing restoration.
The early history of Barge's Tavern dates to c. 1800 when it was erected at the northeast corner of James Square, a significant site in early Fayetteville. There, at the convergence of four main roads, Green, Grove, Ramsey, and Rowan, stood the county courthouse and nearby, the county jail. A bustle of activity, created by traffic and those who came to transact business, was sure to have characterized the site in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It was these very people who are said to have paused at Barge's Tavern for refreshment.

Records show that a structure—several, in fact—did stand at the "Court House Square on the North East Corner thereof" as early as 1801. A quarter-acre parcel bordering Grove Street on the south and the square on the west with a house thereupon—the present day Barge's Tavern—was transferred from James Hogg (benefactor after whom the square was named) to George Hooper in 1801 and from George Hooper to George Barge in 1807. It was closely associated with a house immediately to the north which George Barge occupied. This house appears to have been owned at the time by George's father, Lewis, who lived across the street and comes into importance later in the decade.

George Barge relinquished his claim to a total of one-half acre of land at courthouse square in 1813. This consisted of the quarter acre tavern lot coupled with the house lot just north of it (George Barge obtained the latter by will from his father dated 4 May 1808). In 1826, James Millar obtained title to the half acre parcel in whose family it remained until 1858. Even after, the name "Millar Place" or "Mill(e)r property" was affixed to the property as it changed hands.

John Council became the next owner in 1858 and then Julia Ellen Cain, by settlement, ten years later. During Mr. Council's period of ownership, a Richard S. Cain (presumably Julia Ellen's grandfather) occupied a structure on the premises up until the time of his death. This is thought to be the former Barge (now John A. Oates) House. As for the tavern, it seems logical that it too, was used for residential purposes by this time. Certainly, architectural evidence—with middle and late nineteenth century changes and additions applied to the original building fabric—suggests occupancy over a long span of years. Residential use was probably its originally intended purpose anyway, with a light commercial use as a tavern only a "sideline".

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY  Belden-Horne House (NR) Site: 1.63 acres

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<th>UTM REFERENCES</th>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of Lot 2, Block F, Map 78-2-1, Cross Creek Township, as outlined in red on map. See map section.
The Cains ushered in a chain of ownership which, though complex, continues unbroken to the present. Emiline Cain married W. Murphy Dodd, and he obtained property rights from Julia Cain in 1875. After being left as a widow, Emiline Cain Dodd married John A. Oates, and officially transferred her property at the corner of Grove, Green, Ramsey, and Rowan Streets to him in 1923. Today, Oates' widow, now Mrs. David Hunter, and his children, retain ownership of the lot and all appurtenances thereupon.

Barge's Tavern no longer stands there, however. It is twice removed from its original site. The first one was short—to the corner of Grove Street and Barge's Lane—and was carried out in 1909. Then, late in the 1970s, John A. Oates's widow, Isabelle, donated the historical structure to the City of Fayetteville. It was moved to its present, sheltered site behind the historic Belden-Horne House (NR) in 1978 and is in the process of being restored.
Reference Notes:

4. Cumberland County Wills, Book A, Page 139.
8. Cumberland County Deeds, Book 64, Page 240.
10. See Cumberland County Wills, Book 0, Page 232.