State of North Carolina  
Division of Archives and History  

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR  

X MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEROMATIC NOMINATION  

1 NAME  
HISTORIC  
Dr. E. H. Ward Farm  
AND/OR COMMON  

2 LOCATION  
CITY, TOWN Bynum  
STATE North Carolina  
CODE 037  

3 CLASSIFICATION  
CATEGORY X DISTRICT  
BUILDINGS) X PUBLIC  
STRUCTURE PUBLIC ACQUISITION  
SITE N/A  
OBJECT N/A  
OWNERSHIP X PRIVATE  
PRIVATE  
PUBLIC  
BEING CONSIDERED  
STATUS X OCCUPIED  
X UNOCCUPIED  
NO  
WORK IN PROGRESS  
YES  
NO  
ACCESSIBLE  
YES RESTRICTED  
YES UNRESTRICTED  
PRESENT USE X AGRICULTURE  
X COMMERCIAL  
X EDUCATIONAL  
X ENTERTAINMENT  
X RELIGIOUS  
X GOVERNMENT  
X INDUSTRIAL  
X TRANSPORTATION  
X MILITARY  
OTHER  

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY  
NAME Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Brown  
STREET & NUMBER 115 Dry Street  
CITY, TOWN Cary  
STATE N. C.  

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE Chatham County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Pittsboro  
STATE N. C.  

6 FORM PREPARED BY  
NAME / TITLE Ray Manieri  
ORGANIZATION Urban Research Associates  
STREET & NUMBER 1301 Cornwallis Drive  
CITY OR TOWN Greensboro  
DATE July 1, 1983  
STATE N. C.  
TELEPHONE
The Dr. E. H. Ward Farm sits atop a small knoll at the end of a short dirt drive on the southwest side of SR 1700. The farm consists of a main house, composed of several sections built at various times during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, surrounded by several outbuildings of various types of construction and use. The area around the main house, once attractively kept, is now overgrown. Two large boxwoods obscure much of the main house. According to the owner of the property, these boxwoods are over one hundred years old and are part of a landscaped walkway that once led to the house. Other boxwoods which originally lined the walk were moved to the Chinqua-Penn Plantation in the 1930s.

The main house is an interesting combination of additions built over a period of almost one hundred and thirty years. The most impressive part of the main house is a one story, gable-roofed frame front portion reported by the owner to have been built ca. 1870. It has a central-hall, single-pile interior plan. The most noticeable feature of this three-bay facade is the simple gable-front porch sheltering the central entrance. This portico features modestly decorated bargeboards and curved brackets. The portico shelters a double-leaf doorway, each with a narrow vertical panel, protected by a decorative screen door. Six-over-six windows with louvered shutters flank the entranceway. The southeastern side of this section of the main house features four-over-four windows with plain surrounds and a brick chimney with one corbeled shoulder and a stone base. The interior of this 1870s section of the house consists of two large rooms on either side of a central hall. The southeast room has a heavy mantel which survives, although the fireplace has been altered. The walls in this room have been replastered, but original hand-planed ceiling boards remain. In the hallway and northwestern room original wide boards sheathing the interior walls can still be seen. The hallway leads to a rear double-leaf doorway with transom and side lights, which for some reason is more elaborate than the front doorway. Original doors with ceramic handles still remain.

This weatherboard structure was built onto an older log cabin, which now forms the rear of the main house. This section was originally a one-and-a-half story, gable-roofed, two room log structure, which is now covered with weatherboards similar to the front section. This older section reportedly dates from the 1840s. The southwest end of this section features a large stone and brick chimney, so popular in rural Chatham County, and four-over-four windows. The southern facade of this former log cabin contains a door providing access to each room and four-over-four windows flanking each door. Some of these openings have been modified probably in connection with a wooden porch, now screened, that extends along the front of the older section and along the rear of the 1870s section. This porch may have been added in the 1870s when the front section of the house was built and the older log structure was weatherboarded. An interesting construction technique can be seen in certain places along the

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porch where the base of the porch posts have fallen off. Each post has an iron spike driven into its base. This spike sits on a small iron square mounted on the porch floor. This technique retarded the rotting of the wooden porch posts.

Some remodeling of the interior of this older log structure has taken place. Some walls have been replastered, but the original flooring remains. A mantel similar to the one in the 1870s section of the house surrounds the fireplace. It was probably added when the 1870s addition was completed. A closed stairway leading to an attic sleeping loft is located in one corner. Original walls which can still be seen are constructed of flush mounted boards nailed with square-headed nails. A partially dug out cellar can be found under this older log section. It has hand-hewn log beams and sills and stone foundation.

A one-story board-and-batten ell has been appended to the rear of the older log section. This section, reportedly built about 1900, has four-over-four windows and a stone and brick chimney. Later exterior remodelings have added newer window and door openings and added weatherboard additions to the front of the ell. Some of its original flush-mounted wall boards may still be seen on its interior.

A number of interesting outbuildings surround the main house of the Ward Farm. The most interesting is a one-story, one-room weatherboard structure reportedly used as the office of Dr. Ward, occupant of the main house. This small one-room structure is constructed of weatherboards and has a gently sloped pyramid roof, four-over-four windows and a door with two wide narrow panels. A weatherboard carriage house and gear room is located in front of the main house and one room office. It has a large central passage and door with iron strap hinges. A board-and-batten barn and log cribs with saddle notching sit between the main house and SR 1700. A weatherboard smokehouse and pen covered with weatherboards are located behind the main house near a small brick well house. The log pen features saddle and diamond notching.
NOTES

1. C. R. Brown Interview, February 9, 1983. Brown's father lived in the older log house as a small boy in 1868 before additions were added.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.
The development of the Dr. E. H. Ward Farm is characteristic of the development of small Chatham County farmsteads during the last half of the nineteenth century. The complex was established by Dr. E. H. Ward ca. 1850 when he moved a story-and-a-half log cabin to the site. As the success of his medical practice increased, Ward added to and remodeled his original cabin. He also constructed several outbuildings around his main house, one of which served as his medical office. Following Ward's death the farm was passed down through his remaining descendants.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. Representative of the establishment and development of small central North Carolina farmsteads during the nineteenth century.

B. Associated with the life of Dr. E. H. Ward, an early physician in eastern Chatham County, North Carolina.

C. Embodies the vernacular building traditions and techniques popular in the rural areas of central North Carolina.
According to family tradition, Dr. E. H. Ward came to Chatham County to establish his medical practice about 1850. Upon arriving in Chatham County, Ward settled into a two-room log cabin on the banks of Ward's Creek, near the present site of his farm complex. This site was only a short distance from Hackney's Crossroads, which was located approximately one mile south of the present site of the Ward Farm Complex, on what is now SR 1700. The existence of a large farm, post office, and general store, located at Hackney's Crossroads, in 1850, probably induced Dr. Ward to settle nearby.

Although family tradition provides the only information about Ward's background as a physician, his training and practice was probably similar to other rural North Carolina doctors during the middle of the nineteenth century. Ward was born in 1829, perhaps in Orange County. Prior to 1850 there were at least fifteen medical apprenticeship schools in North Carolina where Ward could have begun his medical training. Two of these were located in the piedmont region, close to Orange and Chatham Counties, and Ward may have attended one of these. Family tradition states that at some point during his career, Ward studied at John Hopkins University. It is not possible to confirm this tradition, but North Carolina physicians and medical students did attend out of state medical schools. In 1840, eighty-seven North Carolinians were studying medicine in other states.

A few years after his arrival in Chatham County, Dr. Ward established a small farmstead. He may have done this to supplement his income as a rural physician, many of whom only realized about $300 a year in income. Ward, according to family tradition, purchased the land, where the farm complex is now located, just before the Civil War and moved his two-room cabin there. By 1860 he owned five slaves, which he housed in a nearby slave cabin.

The Civil War only briefly interrupted Ward's career as a physician and small farmer. He enlisted in March of 1862 as the Captain of Company B, Forty-Ninth North Carolina Regiment. This company was formed with men from the area of Jones' Grove on the east side of the Haw River between Bynum and Chapel Hill. Ward, the company's first commander, resigned...
soon after assuming command. Ward's reason for resigning is unknown, but family tradition speculates that he may have hired a conscript to take his place.

Following the Civil War, Dr. Ward continued his medical practice as well as his farming activities. The combination of a medical practice and a farming operation was not uncommon in rural North Carolina according to Dorothy Long, author of Medicine in North Carolina, "...an adequate livelihood for the physician and his family was frequently dependent upon his activities in agriculture, since the practice of medicine was not an impressively lucrative business." Ward married Savannah Horton during the mid 1860s and fathered his first of eight children at the age of thirty-eight in 1867.

During the late 1860s or early 1870s, as his family began to grow, Ward probably began to expand and remodel his older log home. The cabin was covered with wooden weatherboards and a similar one-story weatherboard section was added to the front of the older section. Ward also probably constructed the one-story office structure in the late 1860s or early 1870s to give himself more privacy in the practice of his profession.

Evidently Dr. Ward's farming operations and medical practice were successful, for by the time Ward was fifty years of age, in 1880, he had amassed an estate that was larger than most of his Chatham County neighbors. In 1880, when the average farm in North Carolina contained only 142 acres, Ward owned 230 acres of land valued at $1,200. Including his other property, Ward’s total estate was valued at $1,732 in 1880. At a time when the size of many farms in the state was decreasing, Ward was expanding his land holdings. By the time of his death in 1896, when the average North Carolina farm contained only 142 acres, Ward's estate contained 344 acres.

Following Ward's death, several of his sons and daughters occupied the farm's main house. His only daughter, Jenneverette, occupied the house for some time and then one of Ward's seven sons rented the house from Ward's estate. It was during this period in the early twentieth century that the rear ell and some of the outbuildings were probably added. The son, J. B. Ward eventually purchased the house from the estate and raised his family there. His daughter, Mrs. C. R. Brown, is the present owner of the property.
1. Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Brown, interviewed February 9, 1983. Mrs. Brown is Dr. Ward's granddaughter.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. The 1880 census lists his age as 51 in that year and the 1896 Chatham County Tax List states his age as 67. This would require him to have been born in 1829.


8. Ibid.


10. Long, Medicine in North Carolina, p. 60.


15. Ibid.


18. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880.

19. Brown Interview, February 9, 1983. Mr. Brown recalls his father telling him that when he was a young boy, in 1868, the expansion of the older log cabin had not taken place.
20. Chatham County Tax List, 1880.

21. Ibid.


23. Chatham County Tax List, 1896.

Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Chatham County, North Carolina, Williams Township.


Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. Chatham County, North Carolina Williams Township.
Dr. E.H. Ward Farm
CH 275
Tax Map # 9773