

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 Bray, Cadmus N., House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 229 East Second Street N/A not for publication

city or town Siler City N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Chatham code 037 zip code 27344

## 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 forth 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.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 11/22/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Bray, Cadmus N. House  
Name of Property

Chatham Co., NC  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
	1	sites
		structures
		objects
3	2	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**

**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)

Queen Anne  
Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls Weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

3. 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

1906

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Turner, James W. (builder)

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.27 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	02	639130	395400
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
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 Beth Keane (research assistance from Kaye Graybeal)

organization Retrospective date July 26, 1999

street & number 321 N. Front St. telephone 910-341-3000

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28401

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 Grady Jones, Jr.

street & number 229 E. Second St. telephone 919-663-6200

city or town Siler City state NC zip code 27344

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 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 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The 1906 Cadmus N. Bray House is an elegant Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style frame residence located immediately west of Siler City's historic commercial district in Chatham County. One of the first residential areas to be developed in Siler City, this once exclusive neighborhood currently comprises a mix of single family residential homes along with several commercial buildings. Surrounded by mature oak, pecan, pine, and magnolia trees, the house sits on a large corner lot facing south. Along the driveway north of the house are three small outbuildings: a frame storage shed/smokehouse, a brick garage, and a small log structure. The rear property extends the length of the block to East Third Street.

Constructed in 1906 by local builder, J. W. Turner, the main block of the house is a two-and-one-half-story, irregularly-massed frame dwelling with multiple bay projections covered by a steeply pitched and cross-gabled hipped roof surmounted by a square frame balustrade. Decorative elements evident in the pented cross gables crowning the intersecting bays of the house include gable shingling, bargeboard, and roof line crockets. The original standing-seam metal roof of the main block of the house has been replaced with shingles. The house is served by three internal brick corbelled chimneys.

A concrete walkway leads from a sidewalk on East Second Street up three steps to the main entrance. The half-glass door includes a carved decorative panel and is surmounted by a one-light transom. The first level of the facade is sheltered by a hipped-roof wrap-around porch. Graceful Ionic porch columns raised by rusticated stone piers support the porch roof. Early documentary photographs depict a turned balustrade linking the stone piers (SHPO files). A gabled intersection in the seamed tin porch roof above the main entry door is embellished with a cross-timbered pattern and is crowned by an ornamental crocket.

The main entrance is located off-center at the termination of an angled bay which defines the western edge of the front facade. A one-over-one sash window is centered on both the first and second levels of the angled bay. The second-level bay window is crowned with sawn gableboards joined by a drop pendant. To the east of the main entrance is a projecting two-level bay with

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

---

matching paired one-over-one sash windows on each level. A small square window is centered in the shingled gable above the bay.

The porch wraps around to the east elevation and terminates at a later-added porte-cochere supported by Ionic columns. A two-story projecting three-sided central bay on the east facade is crowned by a pented gable similar to that of the front facade. One-over-one sash windows are set within each side of the second level of the bay. The window angled to the front of the house is embellished in similar fashion to that of the west facade.

Extending from the northeast corner of the main block of the house is a two-story kitchen/bedroom ell. The eight original four-over-four sash windows of the ell have been replaced by one-over-one sash windows. A small square window is centered in the middle of the pented gable on the north end. An enclosed sleeping porch with multiple four-over-four sash windows and a shed roof is attached to the west side of the ell.

The west elevation features a projecting two-story bay topped with a pented gable similar to those on the remaining facades. Double one-over-one sash windows are positioned on each level behind the bay and also on the second level of the bay. A one-story polygonal bay attached to the west facade features one-over-one double-hung sash windows in each side, while the roof is surmounted by a cross-braced balustrade.

The interior of the house follows a variation of the center-hall plan that was persistently popular in Chatham County at the turn of the twentieth century. The main entrance off the front porch leads to a central hallway which is embellished with a beaded spindlework frieze at the stair opening. Original plaster walls remain above original beadboard wainscoting. The stair is a semi-enclosed straight-flight run. Wainscoting continues along the stair wall to the second floor. A delicately-turned stair balustrade terminates in a robust turned newel. A segmental arch spans the second-floor stair hall ceiling.

Period woodwork throughout the interior includes fluted door and window surrounds joined by a plinth-like base at the lower corners and a bull's-eye corner block at the upper corners. The original mantels in both the east and west first-floor parlors feature Ionic colonettes resting on plinth bases, mirrored overmantels, shelves supported by heavy brackets, and ceramic

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

---

brick fire surrounds. The original tongue-and-groove four-inch-wide oak floorboards, six-inch-high molded baseboards, and beadboard ceilings remain throughout.

**Outbuildings**

1. Storage Shed/Smokehouse, c. 1906, contributing outbuilding

A frame gable-front storage shed or smokehouse is located behind and north of the house. The shed is sheathed with weatherboard and has a central door. The building is covered with a standing-seam metal roof. A shed addition is attached to the west side.

2. Garage, c. 1940, non-contributing outbuilding

A gable-end brick garage with an attached washhouse is situated west of the storage shed. The building has a hipped roof and an exterior-end chimney. Two entrances are situated on either side of the chimney. The building is in a deteriorated condition and the present owner plans on removing it.

3. Log outbuilding, c. 1906, contributing outbuilding

A gable-end one-room log house is located west of the garage. The building employs saddleback notching and is covered with a standing-seam metal roof. It has been reported that the log house was built to provide shelter for a servant of the Bray family (interview with Jim Jones, current owner).

**Site**

1. Barn foundation, c. 1906, non-contributing site.

The stone foundation of a barn is visible behind the outbuildings. The barn was originally used to shelter a cow owned by the Bray family.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The 1906 Cadmus N. Bray House, a two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne/Colonial Revival residence, was built for Siler City businessman and town mayor, Cadmus (Cad) N. Bray, during the early twentieth century. Bray contributed to the industrial development of Siler City, running a profitable brick yard which supplied bricks for several early buildings in the town. He served as mayor from 1905 to 1909 and also in 1937. He was instrumental in establishing the first public electric power and telephone company in Siler City.

John W. Turner, a local builder, constructed the house for Cad Bray, and it remains a nearly unaltered representative of early-twentieth-century architectural preferences in a small North Carolina rail town. This imposing home follows turn-of-the-twentieth-century architectural fashion. Its transitional design, which mixed the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, was the inspiration for two later notable dwellings in Siler City constructed by the same builder for two of Bray's relatives: the 1912 Robert W. Dark House and the nearby N. B. Bray House, built in 1911 on East Second Street.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Cadmus (Cad) Nathaniel Bray, son of Jasper N. Bray and Henrietta Bridges, was born in Chatham County on June 16, 1872. He married Susan Eulalia Jordan in Siler City on October 11, 1907. Eulalia, also a native of Chatham County, was born on September 2, 1882, the daughter of Adolphus C. Jordan and Callie Matthews (Chatham County Vital Statistics). Cad Bray came of age at a time when Siler City's economy was beginning to prosper. The town had grown from a rural crossroad and stage coach stop in the early nineteenth century to a thriving community by the 1880s.

Initially known as Matthews Crossroad, the name was changed to Energy in 1880 when a new post office was established. The Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway completed a track from Sanford to Greensboro and began regular train service between those points on April 16, 1884. A local depot was built that same year, and the community became known as Siler Station, after Samuel Siler, who donated the land on which it was located. In

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

---

1886, the name of the town was changed to Siler City (Hadley, et. al, p. 211).

A period of growth which was to produce Chatham County's largest town was underway. The town streets and lots were laid out in 1884 and two mercantile houses were opened. An act to incorporate Siler City in Chatham County was ratified on March 7, 1887. By 1890 the population of Siler City had grown to 254. Businesses in the town included several general merchandise and produce companies, a hotel, several livery stables and blacksmiths, a physician, a tan yard, a saw and planing mill, a photographer, a cotton gin, a shoe shop, a dry goods and millinery shop, and a general merchandise and harness shop (Hadley, et. al., p. 212, 216-17).

By 1900, Siler City's population had increased to 440. The first ten years of the twentieth century marked the emergence of several important industries, including the establishment of the Siler City Bending Company (1901), the Chatham Manufacturing Company (1909), later incorporated as the Oval Oak Manufacturing Company, and the Siler City Milling Company (1910). Local telephone service was established in 1902, the same year the Chatham Bank opened for business. The town population again doubled during that decade reaching 895 by 1910 (Hadley, et. al., p. 216-217).

Cad Bray contributed significantly to the establishment of the town as a commercial hub within a rural county. The growth of industry in the area and the growing numbers of settlers in Siler City meant that the practice of opening temporary brick yards to supply brick for specific buildings was outmoded by the early 1900s. Cad Bray and his brother, Nicholas, filled the need for a more efficient supplier of the material by operating a permanent brick yard as early as 1904. It was located one mile west of Siler City on the south side of what is now West Raleigh Street extension. Several of the early twentieth-century buildings in Siler City are of brick from the Bray Brothers plant (Hadley, p. 37).

Capitalizing on his business acumen and local renown, Bray joined in partnership with fellow entrepreneurs, the Wrenn brothers, who owned the area's major lumber plant. Bray later opened a furniture store in Siler City. In 1913, he helped

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

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organize the first public electric power and telephone company in Siler City (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 143).

On August 31, 1905, while at the height of his business success, Bray purchased a lot on the corner of Jordan Street (now North Third Avenue) and McLean Street (now East Third Street) (Chatham County Deed Book E-B, p. 58). The following year, he hired local builder, J. W. Turner, to execute an architectural edifice which would reflect his prosperity. Turner responded by constructing an imposing transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house. The following year, Bray moved his new bride into the large house on the hill. The Brays raised two daughters, Berta and Nathalia, in their new home. A log outbuilding was constructed in their backyard for the family servant. The foundation of an old barn, in which the family kept a milk cow, along with an extant smokehouse, indicate the rural nature of the area during the early twentieth century (interview with current owner, James Grady).

Upon Cad Bray's death on October 25, 1960, at the age of 88, his wife, Eulalia, continued in residence. Upon her death on November 2, 1981, age 99, she left the property to her two daughters, Berta B. McMasters and Nathalia B. Thomas (Chatham County Vital Statistics and Will File 81 E 208). The sisters, both widows, lived in the house until 1990, when they sold the property to James Grady Jones, Jr., and his wife, Susan Kilgore Jones (Chatham County Deed Book 556, p. 300). The Jones have begun rehabilitation of the house.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

By the 1890s the Queen Anne style had gained tremendous popularity for both large and small houses in towns across North Carolina. These houses exhibited irregular massing and typically flaunted mass-produced millwork. The appearance of these houses coincides with the height of rail travel, a mode of transport that made building material and millwork more accessible to builders in towns along the right of way. By the early twentieth century, some architects and builders began grafting more classical elements onto Queen Anne houses. This period was the beginning of an outright rejection of what many saw as the excesses of the picturesque Queen Anne style with its lavish millwork and fanciful embellishments. Later, in the teens, the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

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Colonial Revival took stronger hold in not only decorative elements, but also in form.

Among Chatham County's towns, Siler City, in particular, reflected the emergence of the fully-evolved Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. By the first decade of the twentieth century, a group of stylish residences had sprung up east of the central business district. The 1906 Cadmus N. Bray House, designed by John W. Turner, a popular local builder, features design elements from both styles. While remaining primarily a Queen Anne-style house with its asymmetrical massing, picturesque roof line, polygonal bays, decorative gable shingling, bargeboarding, and roofline crockets, the house exhibits Colonial Revival features in its Ionic porch columns, the shallow pediment on the porch roof, and a porte-cochere supported by Ionic columns.

John W. Turner (1867-1940) was an outstanding builder of homes in Siler City during the period from 1900 to 1920, at a time when the town's population rose dramatically from 440 to 1,253 residents. The Cadmus N. Bray House served as the model for two later dwellings constructed by Turner for Bray's relatives: the 1912 Robert W. Dark house and the 1911-1912 Nicholas B. Bray house. Virtually identical in plan, each house features an asymmetrical high-hip-roof with irregular massing and tall interior corbelled brick chimneys, recalling the preceding Queen Anne period, while the blocklike form and pedimented wrap-around porches with Tuscan columns typify the Colonial Revival style (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 143).

Turner was also responsible for the imposing 1916 Matthews-Wren House at 216 East Fourth Street. Built somewhat later than the previously mentioned houses, the Matthews-Wren House was executed as a more traditional Colonial Revival. The dominant feature of the high-hip-roof double-pile-plan house is a two-story Neo-Classical Revival flat-roof entrance portico supported by two pairs of massive Ionic columns. Smaller complementary Ionic columns carry the original expansive one-story wrap-around porch to which the portico was added. The single-leaf entrance frames a six-panel Colonial Revival door (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 144).

The interiors of these early twentieth-century houses are generally far less elaborate than their ornate exteriors might

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

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suggest. They tend to have large entrance foyers with open or semi-enclosed staircases. The principal rooms are simply finished with plaster walls and ceilings and simple two-part molded door and window surrounds. The stairs, often the most important interior element, tend to have heavy turned or paneled newels, turned balusters, and paneled spandrels. The woodwork is usually of natural oak or pine stained and varnished to give the effect of finer wood. Mantels may exhibit Colonial Revival detailing with colonettes and mirrored overmantels.

The Cadmus N. Bray House is one of Siler City's most intact early twentieth-century homes. While many of the former, once glorious homes built by Siler City's prominent business leaders have been demolished, the Cadmus N. Bray House retains nearly all of its original elements and finishes. Inherited by Cadmus Brays' daughters, the home has been associated with the Bray family throughout most of its history. The house continues to provide an enduring link between the prosperity of early industry and the development of housing in this North Carolina town.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Cadmus N. Bray House  
Chatham County, NC

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the boundaries delineated for lot SC-7192 on the accompanying Chatham County tax map index number 8761.06.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries encompass the original plot of land on which the house was erected given that the parcel retains its integrity of historic setting.



CADMUS BRAY HOUSE  
229 E. Second Street  
Siler City, North Carolina  
CHATHAM COUNTY



