NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

George E. Barnhardt House
Mocksville vicinity, Davie County, DE0029, Listed May 4, 2009
Nomination by Beth Keane
Photographs by Beth Keane, May 2008

Façade view

Side and rear view
1. Name of property

historic name  Barnhardt, George E., House

other names/site number ____________________________

2. Location

street & number 291 Hartley Road not for publication N/A

city or town Mocksville vicinity x

state North Carolina code NC county Davie code 059 zip code 27028

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 _X_ meets _ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _N/A_ nationally _X_ statewide _X_ locally. ___ See continuation sheet for additional comments. ___

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: ________________

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action __________________________

__ 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): __________________________

__________________________
**Name of Property**  
Barnhardt, George E., House  

**County and State**  
Davie County, NC  

## 5. Classification

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<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)</td>
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<td>Contributing</td>
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**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: DOMESTIC  
Sub: Single dwelling  

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Cat: WORK IN PROGRESS  
Sub:  

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Other: I-house  

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation: Stucco  
roof: Asphalt  
walls: Brick  
other: Weatherboard  

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

### Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark “x” in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- **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.

### Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Architecture**

### Period of Significance
**ca. 1880**

### Significant Dates
**ca. 1880**

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

### Cultural Affiliation
**N/A**

### Architect/Builder
**Unknown**

### Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

### Previous documentation on file (NPS)
- **X** preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- **X** previously listed in the National Register
- **X** previously determined eligible by the National Register
- **X** designated a National Historic Landmark
- **X** recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- **X** recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Primary Location of Additional Data
- **X** State Historic Preservation Office
- **X** Other State agency
- **X** Federal agency
- **Local** government
- **X** University
- **X** Other

Name of repository: ________________________________
Barnhardt, George E., House

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  approximately twenty-one acres

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

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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

organization  Retrospective  date  December, 2008

street & number  6073 Gold Creek Estates Drive  telephone  828-328-8147

city or town  Hickory  state  NC  zip code  28601

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

(name  Robert R. Jeter, trustee and Andrew S. Jeter  

street & number  2411 Ramble Wood Lane  telephone  704-554-6255  

city or town  Charlotte  state  NC  zip code  28210  

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.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.)
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The ca. 1880 George E. Barnhardt House is located approximately twelve miles southeast of Mocksville, the county seat of Davie County, North Carolina, and its largest town. The house is situated in Jerusalem Township on the north side of Hartley Road (SR 1820) in a largely rural section of the eastern part of the county, and sits well back from the road on approximately twenty-one acres carved out of an approximate 126-acre tract. The boundary encompasses the Barnhardt House and several non-contributing early-twentieth-century frame outbuildings including a smokehouse, a potato house, a wood shed, and a well house, in addition to a 1950 tool shed and a 2005 metal garage and pole barn. The outbuildings surrounding the Barnhardt House are considered noncontributing because they post-date the period of significance, but are unobtrusive and compatible with the farm setting of the property. Four of these outbuildings are also located to the rear of the house. A former detached kitchen, a large center passage barn, a granary, and a corncrib are no longer standing.

Located in the western piedmont plateau section of the state in the fork of the Yadkin and South Yadkin Rivers, Davie County is dominated by gently rolling terrain, small farms, and extensive woods. The Barnhardt House property backs up to the Yadkin River, the longest river in North Carolina. The Yadkin flows in a general north-south direction through the county and is fed by numerous streams and creeks.

The two-story brick I-house with two-story rear ell faces south and is approached by a long straight gravel drive that cuts a swath through open fields, which are bordered by woodlands, and terminates on the east side of the house. Most of the property’s acreage fans out behind the house with a combination of woods and fields and is bordered on the north by the Yadkin River. In addition, the South Fork Creek meanders through a stand of woods along the west side of the property, draining into the Yadkin River. The stately George E. Barnhardt House, situated on a slight knoll, is shaded by a number of mature hardwood trees, along with several pine trees.

1. Barnhardt, George E., House  ca. 1880  Contributing Building

The George E. Barnhardt House is a rare surviving example of a post-bellum brick farmhouse in Davie County. The two-story, three-bay, I-house with two-story rear ell has a parged brick foundation, common bond walls, early twentieth-century replacement six-over-six, double-hung, sash windows, an asphalt shingle roof with boxed, overhanging eaves, cornice molding, and gable returns. A shingle roof replaced the original metal roof in the 1950s, and a new shingle roof was added in 1998. The rear ell and attached shed porch retain a 5-V metal roof.
A center-bay, two-tier, pedimented, front-gable porch supported by thin square posts with caps, grouped in threes, dominates the symmetrical three-bay facade. Several of the posts have recently been removed for repair and will be put back in place. The prominent porch gable is sheathed in horizontal flush boards, while the porch roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The porch ceiling at both levels consists of one- by six-inch tongue-and-groove boards. An original balustrade with slender, square balusters, along with crossed slats between the front posts that form an “X”, survives on the second tier. The first-level wood porch floor was replaced in the 1950s with a cement floor. At approximately the same time, a large flat stone used as a front porch step was replaced with brick steps. Multi-light sidelights at both levels frame the central four-panel doors.

Tall single-shoulder chimneys with corbelled stacks that pierce the eaves stand centered on the east- and west-side elevations and the north elevation of the two-story rear ell. Windows flank the chimneys at both levels on each side elevation. Corbelled hood molding frames the top portion of the windows on the façade and the east elevation at both levels, but only on the first level of the west elevation. The only original window in the house is positioned on the north wall of the first level, east-side room, but early-twentieth-century replacement windows fill the remaining original symmetrically-placed window openings.

A small, frame one-story, gabled addition with weatherboard siding has recently been added to the west side of the rear ell. The new addition contains a bathroom and laundry room separated by a short, narrow hall. A door, flanked on its south by a small window, is located on the west gable end of the addition. The door opens into the short hall and another door located on the opposite end of the hall opens into the kitchen. A window positioned south of the addition illuminates the dining room. A small frame structure with a gable roof, located south of the window protects steps that descend to a small dug-out basement.

A one-story, previously-enclosed, shed-roof porch, located on the east side of the rear ell and the north (rear) side of the main block of the house, has recently been opened to its original design. A 1950s-era bathroom located on the north end of the porch and a small electrical closet located at the east end of the main block were removed at the same time. The porch retains its original tongue-and-groove ceiling, although the original wood floor was placed in the 1950s with a cement floor. A 1950s-era door with six-lights-over-one-panel, accesses the dining room and a window located north of the door lights the kitchen. There is a single five-panel replacement door that opens into the central hall on the west end of the rear main block. A window is located to the east of this door. There are no windows on the north elevation of the rear ell.

The interior space has a typical I-house arrangement: a central hall with a staircase flanked on either side by two equal-sized rooms on both levels. The rear ell features two rooms
on each level. The open-string staircase rises along the west wall of the central hall almost to the second level where it makes a right turn at a landing and rises several more steps to the east. The west-side wall adjacent to the stair is sheathed with eight-inch flush horizontal boards, while the wall supporting the stair case features flush vertical boards. A small closet is positioned near the rear of the central hall, under the staircase, while the door opening to the rear porch is located at the back of the hall. The balustrade consists of slender square pickets with a square handrail anchored at the bottom and at the landing by square newel posts. A beveled geometric newel cap surmounts the post at the base of the stairs.

The outer walls throughout the house are plaster over brick, while the floors are mostly original random-width heart pine boards. The interior partition walls are plaster over lath. The original wide baseboard with a simple, top-edge, bead is found throughout the house. Windows throughout the first level reach almost to the baseboards, are slightly recessed, and are surrounded by two-part flat moldings. In the current restoration, the original two-by eight-inch floor joists in the east room have been replaced with two-by ten-inch treated joists, while the floor has been replaced with reclaimed heart pine boards. The original mantel in the east room consists of a thick flat mantel shelf and a wide frieze supported by fluted legs. The plaster ceiling in the east room was replaced in the 1960s with sheetrock.

The west-side room retains its original pine floor. Although the mantel is missing, the original hearthstone is still in place. An oil space heater, added in the 1950s, has recently been removed. The original plaster ceiling was replaced in the 1950s with a v-joint ceiling and covered with celotex acoustical tile. The dining room and the kitchen in the rear ell are of about equal size and retain their original pine floors and plaster walls. The original plaster ceilings were covered in the early twentieth century with tongue-and-groove boards. In the current rehabilitation, they have been covered with sheetrock. The original kitchen fireplace on the north wall was covered up soon after the house was built and a wood stove with a flue attached to an opening in the chimney was used for cooking.

At the second level, the south (front) wall of the central hall features an original four-panel door with sidelights that opens onto the upper level of the front porch. A window in the north wall illuminates the central passage and staircase. The preserved mantel in the second-level, east-side, room is composed of a thick, flat, mantelshelf, a wide frieze with a carved arch, and fluted legs resting on plinth blocks. The second-level windows are not recessed. The windows and doors retain their original two-part flat board moldings and original hardware. The second-level rooms also retain the original four-panel doors. The ceilings in the main block were replaced in the 1950s with sheetrock. The tongue-and-groove boards in the middle room ceiling have recently been covered with sheetrock. Only the rear bedroom in the ell retains the original plaster ceiling.
The George E. Barnhardt House is in the process of being rehabilitated. The posts on the front and rear porches are being repaired or replicated, while the wood trim around the eaves and cornice has been repaired where necessary and painted. The mortar surrounding the bricks has recently been cleaned and repaired. All the existing interior woodwork and plaster is being retained and repaired. Floor boards that were deteriorated beyond repair have recently been replaced with reclaimed heart pine boards of uniform five-inch width to distinguish them from the original floors. The remaining original floors will be gently cleaned. The ceilings throughout the house have recently been replaced with sheetrock. The kitchen will be remodeled with appropriate free-standing cabinets and appliances. A new bathroom is planned for the ell’s second-level rear room. An appropriate mantel will replace the missing mantel in the west-side room. Electricity and plumbing are being brought up to current code. Heat pumps will be installed at both levels. Rehabilitation work is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office.

2. Smokehouse ca. 1900 Noncontributing Building

A frame one-story smokehouse, measuring approximately fourteen by sixteen feet is located approximately thirty-two feet west of the rear ell of the house. The gabled building is sheathed with weatherboards and is covered with a standing-seam metal roof with exposed rafter tails. A vertical board door is centered on the east gable end.

3. Wood Shed ca. 1900 Noncontributing Building

A frame one-story wood shed is located approximately forty-two feet north of the house. The building measures approximately forty by ten feet and has a shed metal roof. Slender tree trunks support the forty-foot south side of the building, while the north side is faced with flush horizontal boards. The building is divided by horizontal boards into several sections and a small portion of the front is also faced with horizontal boards.

4. Potato House ca. 1900 Noncontributing Building

A one-story potato house measuring approximately sixteen by fourteen feet is located approximately one-hundred feet northeast of the house. The building sits on a brick foundation and is sheathed with weatherboards. A gabled roof with exposed rafter tails is covered with metal. A central vertical-board door is centered in each gable end, as is a small covered opening in the center of each gable.

5. Well House ca. 1880/ca. 1980 Noncontributing Structure
Two wells, situated adjacent to each other on a concrete pad, are located approximately twenty feet east of the rear ell of the house. The older well was hand-dug and lined with rock to a depth of approximately sixty feet. The stone wall above ground has been covered with stucco. The newer ca. 1980 well is surrounded by a concrete block enclosure. Both wells are covered by a single pole shed with a metal gabled roof.

6. Tool Shed  ca. 1950  Noncontributing Building

A small one-story frame tool shed, measuring approximately seven feet, six inches by six feet, three inches is situated approximately fifty feet east of the house. Built into a slight hill, the off-center plywood door is located on the north elevation, facing the potato house. The shed is covered with weatherboards and protected by a metal shed roof. A pole shed with a side-gable, asphalt shingled, roof with exposed rafter tails, measuring approximately eight feet, ten inches by six feet, three inches is attached to the west side of the tool shed.

7. Metal Garage and Pole Barn  2005  Noncontributing Building

A metal garage, resting on a concrete block foundation, with a metal front-gable roof, measures approximately twenty-four feet by twenty-three feet and is positioned approximately fifty feet east of the house. Two double-leaf wood doors are positioned on the west gable end of the building. An open pole barn with a metal covered shed roof, measuring approximately fifteen feet, six inches by twenty-three feet is attached to the north side of the garage.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The ca. 1880 George E. Barnhart House is locally significant and meets National Register Criterion C for architecture. The house is one of only a handful of late-nineteenth-century brick I-houses in Davie County and is a highly intact example of this house type with its distinctive two-tier, central, pedimented front porch. The house is unusual in the county in that it incorporates several stylistic elements of both the Greek Revival and the Gothic Revival styles including the porch and brick hood drip molding over the windows. The period of significance is ca. 1880, the approximate construction date of the house.

Historical Background

Settlers began moving west of North Carolina’s Yadkin River in the late 1740s. At that time, the entire western portion of state was part of Anson County. Rowan County, a large undefined section of the northwestern part of North Carolina, was formed from Anson County in 1753. The part of Rowan lying between the Yadkin and South Yadkin rivers, as far west as the present Wilkes County, was known as the Forks of the Yadkin. Davie County was formed from this portion of land in 1836. The county was named in honor of William R. Davie, a Revolutionary War leader, a governor of North Carolina, a minister to France, and one of the founders of the University of North Carolina (Wall, p. 21, 109).

The Yadkin River valley was settled rapidly, with many pioneers looking for relatively inexpensive, fertile land. Some migrated down the Pee Dee and Yadkin rivers. Others, particularly those from Pennsylvania, came down the “Great Wagon Road,” which was sometimes referred to as “The Carolina Road,” or “The Road to the Yadkin River.” This well-traveled road extended for a distance of approximately 435 miles from near Philadelphia to the Yadkin at the Shallow Ford. It came through Wachovia in North Carolina, and after 1756, extended beyond the Shallow Ford to Salisbury, passing through Davie County. Settlement of the Yadkin River area was accelerated by the Moravian purchase of Wachovia, approximately 99,000 acres in present-day Forsyth County, and by the establishment of the three thriving settlements of Bethabara, Bethania, and Salem. Many of the migrants were of English descent but there were also a good number of Germans and Scotch-Irish (Wall, pp. 21-22).

The Barnhardt family was among the early settlers to the region. Records indicate that Charles Barnhardt and his wife, Anna, grandparents of George Ephriam Barnhardt who built the Barnhardt House, lived in an area of Mecklenburg County that is now Cabarrus County, during the second half of the eighteenth century. Married in ca. 1768, the couple became the parents of eleven children. One of their children, George Barnhardt (b. June 10, 1877, d. October 19, 1844) married Sophia Litiker (b. October 25, 1807, d. November 14, 1855) on September 26, 1826.
The couple, who also lived in Cabarrus County, had five children, the youngest being George Ephriam Barnhardt (b. February 11, 1839) (Davie County Library, genealogical files).

George E. Barnhardt married Elizabeth Sarah Kindley (b. September 16, 1839) of Jerusalem Township in Davie County on September 10, 1857 (Davie County Library, genealogical files). The 1860 census for Jerusalem Township lists George E. Barnhardt, age 21, as a farmer. Members of his household included his wife, Elizabeth Barnhardt, age 20, and his children Mary J., age 2, and William L., age 4 months. The family is not listed in the population census for 1870. It is known that George E. Barnhardt enlisted in the army on July 15, 1862 at the age of twenty-three and served as a Private in the 63rd Cavalry Regiment. He was paroled at Salisbury, North Carolina, in 1865 (Manarin, *North Carolina Troops, a Roster*).

By the middle of the nineteenth century, a small town developed around the 1815 New Jerusalem Church in Jerusalem Township. By 1867, the village had grown to include a tobacco factory, a store, a shoe shop, a blacksmith shop, and a sawmill. Several general stores and at least five feed and flour mills were in operation in the vicinity in the late 1800s and early 1900s (*Davie County Heritage*, p. 14).

By 1880, George and Elizabeth had increased their family to nine children. The 1880 population census lists George E. Barnhardt, farmer, (42), and his wife Elizabeth, housekeeping, (41), and the following children: William L. (19), Charles E. (17), Sarah Elizabeth (14), Amelia Louise (11), Anne B. (9), John T. (7), Columbus Franklin (5), and James Francis (3).

Between 1880 and 1884, four siblings of Elizabeth Kindley Barnhardt sold their share of 372 ½ acres they had inherited from their father, John Kindley, to George and Elizabeth Barnhardt. The property was located on the western banks of the Yadkin River on a part of the river known as “Little Horseshoe Bend” in southeastern Davie County. The sale was contingent on the life estate of John’s widow, Milly Kindley (Amelia N. Wagoner), giving her the right to live on the property throughout the remainder of her life (Deed Book 5, p. 492; Book 7, p. 584, Book 9, p. 147; and Book 9, p. 150).

George and Elizabeth Barnhardt built a two-story brick house with two-story rear ell on this property ca. 1880 for their large family to live in. Hand-made bricks were formed from clay excavated from a pit located near the Yadkin River on the northern edge of their property. It is surmised that the brick mason was a man by the name of Mathias Bosch, who was known for his masonry skills in the area during the latter part of the nineteenth century (Wilson interview, May 15, 2008). Typical crops grown on their land would have included wheat, corn, oats, peas, beans, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. It is likely they also owned farm animals, including horses, cows, sheep, pigs, and chickens.
On November 15, 1893, Barnhardt put the property in his wife’s name (Deed Book 14, p. 88). The 1900 population census reveals that George, now age sixty-one, and Elizabeth, age sixty, were still farming in Jerusalem Township with four of their adult children living at home along with a grandson and a male servant. For the remainder of their lives, George and Elizabeth farmed their property on the western bank of the Yadkin River. Descendants of the couple recall that the couple also owned a government-issued still and were able to supplement their income by selling home-produced whiskey to their neighbors (Barnhardt interview, May 15, 2008). Before their deaths, George and Elizabeth Barnhardt sold off approximately 130 acres of the original tract.

On January 17, 1910, George E. and Elizabeth S. Barnhardt deeded the remainder of their property, containing 241 acres, to their son, John T. Barnhardt (Deed Book 21, p. 38). Six months later, Elizabeth died on June 10, 1910 at the age of seventy and George died one year later, on June 11, 1911 at the age of seventy-two (Davie County Library, genealogical files). A dispute among the Barnhardt children concerning the ownership of the property may have resulted in the 240-acre tract, referred to as the G. E. and S. E. Barnhardt “Home Place,” being auctioned off at the Mocksville Courthouse on November 3, 1913. Wiley J. Click, married to Amelia L. Barnhardt, was the highest bidder for the land at $4,985. Click immediately assigned his bid to his brother-in-law, John T. Barnhardt, who became the official owner of the property (Deed Book 23, p. 43).

Born on July 10, 1872, John T. was the seventh child of George E. and Elizabeth Barnhardt. He married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Cope (b. 1871) on December 8, 1895 (Davie County Marriages, p. 10). In 1914, soon after acquiring the homestead, John and Lizzie sold 59 ¾ acres of the property to A. E. Wilson (Deed Book 22, p. 140) and 59 1/10 acres to his brother, Charles E. Barnhardt (Deed Book 22, p. 158). John T. Barnhardt was killed in an automobile accident on December 3, 1923 at the age of fifty-one. His wife continued to live on the property until her death in 1932. On October 13, 1942, the heirs of John and Elizabeth sold the remaining property, referred to as the “G. E. and S. E. Barnhardt Home Place” to James Foy Cope for $2,500 (Deed Book 41, p. 429).

James Foy Cope was a sixth-generation descendant of Nicholas Cope (b. ca. 1718, d. 1785), who settled in the region in 1773 after receiving a land grant of 300 acres bordering the west side of the Yadkin River. Cope, born on November 4, 1910 in Davie County, was the child of Nathaniel and Mary Eliza Jarvis Cope (Davie County Library, genealogical files). Cope was a farmer and also worked for Erwin Textile Mills in Cooleemee. Later in life, he worked at Caudell Lumber Company. His wife, the former Margaret Estelle Carter, was a homemaker and a substitute teacher in the local school system for many years. The couple had four children: three boys and a girl. The Foy’s daughter, Joan Marie, remembers the family grew corn, watermelons, and cantaloupes on the land near the river and wheat, oats, corn, soybeans, and
cotton on the fields in front of the house. They also raised beef cattle and owned several cows, chickens and pigs (Cope interview, June 19, 2008). The Copes remained in the Barnhardt House until their deaths. James Foy Cope died on April 16, 1996 at home, while Margaret died five years later on July 27, 2001 (Davie County Enterprise, April 18, 1996 and August 2, 2001).

On August 29, 2005, the heirs of James and Margaret Cope sold their interest in the Barnhardt property, to include 124.445 acres, to Robert Russell Jeter and his son, Andrew S. Jeter (Deed Book 623, p. 420). The Jeters are in the process of restoring the house and plan to make it a second home for their family when restoration is complete.

Architectural Context

As North Carolina began to recover from the Civil War, a slowly improving economy and a growing population during the 1870s resulted in new construction of substantial houses throughout Davie County and many of the large plantations that existed before the war were divided into smaller farms following the demise of slave labor (Mohney, p. 14). The most popular house form between the Civil War and World War I in Davie County, as elsewhere in North Carolina, was the I-house, a traditional two-story dwelling that is one room deep and two rooms wide with a central passage. The two-story I-house became a symbol of economic achievement and social respectability. Restricted to prosperous planters before the Civil War, by the late nineteenth century, this form had become synonymous with middle-class status, and uniformly exhibited front symmetry and a central passage dividing the two main rooms on each level. It was typical to expand the house with a rear two- or three-room ell. The center hall often had a door on each end, creating a good ventilation system, making the plan especially suitable for the hot, humid summers of the south (Southern, p. 71).

The ca. 1880 Barnhardt House is an excellent example of a two-story brick house built for a prosperous farmer in the post-bellum era in Davie County. The house retains a traditional I-house form with gable-end chimneys, a symmetrical front elevation, and a rear two-story ell. The common bond brick walls rise above a parged brick water table to a side-gable roof with broad eaves and gable end returns. A two-tier, center-bay, porch with a pedimented front gable, sheathed in flush boards, and cornice molding dominates the façade.

The Barnhardt House incorporates several distinct stylistic details, combining elements of two distinct architectural styles. The front porch resembles a Greek temple; the central front doors at both levels are framed by multi-light sidelights, a common element of Greek Revival-style dwellings; and the wide-boxed eaves, gable cornice returns, and six-over-six double-hung sash windows are also holdovers from the earlier Greek Revival style. The Greek Revival style became widely popular across the United States and its territories during the 1830s. As its name suggests, ancient Greek architecture, principally temples, inspired the style. It quickly became,
in the minds of the leaders and citizens of the United States, a symbol of democracy and hard
won freedom. Davie County builders tended to incorporate elements of the Greek Revival style
in traditional house forms, rather than constructing formal interpretations of the style (Mohney,
p. 11). Surviving houses in the county featuring vernacular Greek Revival style forms date
primarily to the 1850s, although, as in the case of the George E. Barnhardt House, elements of
the style continued to be incorporated into residential houses as late as the 1880s.

Corbelled brick window hood drip molding on the façade and side elevations of the
Barnhardt House are an elaborate stylistic element for an otherwise very traditional house and
demonstrate the influence of the Gothic Revival style. The Gothic Revival style, which began in
England in 1749 when Sir Horace Walpole remodeled his country house, Strawberry Hill, in the
Medieval style, was introduced to America by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1832. His 1837
book, Rural Residences, was the first house plan book published in the United States and was
dominated by Gothic Revival examples. Ideas from the book were picked up by Andrew
Jackson Downing, who expanded them in Cottage Residences, published in 1842, and The
Architecture of Country Houses, published in 1850. Identifying features of the style include a
steeply-pitched roof, sometimes with steep cross gables, pointed arch windows, decorated
vergeboards in the gables, and bands of contrasting color or texture in the brick or stonework,
occurring principally around windows (McAlester, p. 200).

The interior space of the Barnhardt House retains the traditional central stair passage
flanked by equal-sized rooms. The first level of the two-story rear ell incorporates the dining
room and kitchen. The second level consists of four bedrooms: one on either side of the central
hall and two in the rear ell. In addition to four-panel doors throughout the house, the modest
interior woodwork features tall beaded baseboards, flat two-part window and door surrounds,
and mantels with wide friezes and flat shelves. The stairs are flanked by a plain picket
balustrade and wide, flush, horizontal boards can be found on the interior staircase wall.

Davie County retains several comparable houses built for well-to-do citizens during the
1870s and 1880s. Located in Mocksville, the Austin-Dwiggins House, located at 263
Wilkesboro Street, and built at approximately the same time as the Barnhardt House, is also a
two-story, three-bay, brick I-house with a dominant front porch and central front doors at both
levels. However, the first-level of the porch shields the center entrance and the flanking
windows, while the second level is a single bay porch. Similar to the Barnhardt House, the porch
features a prominent gable, originally sheathed with flush boards and cornice returns, although
wood shingles are now evident in the gables. The windows are framed by Gothic Revival-style
drip-moldings, more typical of the style than the corbelled brick found over the windows of the
Barnhardt House. The central doors of the Austin-Dwiggins House are framed by sidelights and
a transom, while the Barnhardt House features only sidelights. Further similarities include a
two-story rear ell and chimneys on the gable ends. Inappropriate round-arched replacement
windows and vinyl siding have recently been installed on the rear ell of the house. When surveyed by Kirk Mohney in 1986, it was reported that the interior finishes featured four-panel doors, an open-string stair in the center hall, and a bracketed mantel (Mohney, p. 191).

The 1879 Charles F. Anderson House located on the south side of SR 1612 in Calahaln, Fulton Township, is also a two-story, three-bay brick dwelling with a two-story brick ell. Its double-leaf, two-panel door is flanked by sidelights, similar to those of the Barnhardt House. The house also features a relatively flat, broad roof and broad gable end returns formed by a thin cornice (Mohney, p. 16).

An additional surviving I-house built by Philip Eaton in 1876 is located on the north side of SR 1434 in Farmington Township. Although of frame construction, its form and detailing are similar to the Barnhardt House. It features an L-shaped plan with the rear ell raised to two stories in the twentieth century. The house retains a single-pile form with gable-end chimneys, cornice returns, a symmetrical front elevation with a central entrance and flanking sidelights. The one-story wraparound porch has a central gable with cornice returns. Four-panel doors and mantels with sawn curvilinear decorative work on the frieze and pilasters are found on the interior of the Eaton House (Mohney, p. 16).

The Abraham M. Nail House, built in the 1880s and located at 768 North Main Street in Mocksville, is the only fully-realized Gothic Revival-style domestic building in Davie County. It is a tall two-story brick structure with a two-tier center bay porch capped by a steep gable, bay windows on the first story, and pointed-arched Gothic Revival windows. Similarities to the Barnhardt House include the I-house form, brick construction, a two-tier center bay porch, overhanging eaves with cornice returns, and exterior, gable-end chimneys. In addition, the windows of the Nail House also exhibit unusual corbelled drip moldings (Mohney, p. 215).

The ca. 1880 Barnhardt House stands as a rare and well-preserved example of a late nineteenth century brick farmhouse in Davie County. Although similar in form and detailing to several of Davie County’s extant houses dating to the late nineteenth century, the Barnhardt House is unique in its combination of elements from both the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles. The house retains a significant amount of architectural integrity and sits in a magnificent rural setting surrounded by acres of farmland and woods on the western banks of the Yadkin River.
Bibliography

Barnhardt, Minnie. Interview with Beth Keane, May 20, 2008.


Davie County Deeds and Vital Statistics, Davie County Courthouse Annex, Mocksville, NC.


Davie County Library Genealogical Files on the Barnhardt and Cope families, Martin-Wall History Room, Mocksville, NC.

Davie County Wills, Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Davie County Courthouse, Mocksville, NC

Ellis, Marie Cope. Interview with Beth Keane, June 19, 2008.


Geographical Data

The George E. Barnhardt House nomination includes approximately twenty-one acres of the southern portion of Davie County parcel number M600000049. The eastern, southern, and western boundaries follow the current legal property lines: extending 1467 feet north from Hartley Road; 836 feet of street front along Hartley Road; and 1325 feet north from Hartley Road, respectively. The northern boundary runs approximately 200 feet north of the potato house from the northern end points of the eastern and western boundaries. For reference the boundaries are shown by a black line on the accompanying reduced Davie County tax map originally created at a 1”=200’ scale.

Boundary Justification:

The property boundary for the George E. Barnhardt House entails an approximate twenty-one-acre tract of land containing the ca. 1880 Barnhardt House and six non-contributing outbuildings. The twenty-one acre parcel provides an appropriate setting and includes the open fields in front of the house edged by woods and a stream, while excluding the adjoining agricultural fields located north of the house.
The following information applies to all photographs:

Name of Property: George E. Barnhardt House
County and State where property is located: Davie County, North Carolina
Address: 291 Hartley Road, Mocksville, NC 27028
Name of Photographer: Beth Keane
Date of Photographs: May, 2008
Location of Original Negatives: North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh

Photographs:

Photograph 1: South elevation (façade); camera looking north
Photograph 2: West elevation; camera looking northeast
Photograph 3: North elevation; camera looking south
Photograph 4: East elevation; camera looking west
Photograph 5: Interior east front room, first level
Photograph 6: Interior east room, second level
Photograph 7: Interior, central staircase
Photograph 8: Smokehouse, camera looking northwest
Photograph 9: Woodshed, camera looking northeast
Photograph 10: Potato House, camera looking northeast
Photograph 11: Tool Shed, camera looking south
Photograph 12: Well House, camera looking northeast
Photograph 13: Metal Garage and Pole Shed, camera looking northeast