Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House
Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, FY1049, Listed 08/28/2019
Nomination by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc.
Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, February 2018
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 Womble, Bunyan S. and Edith W., House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 200 North Stratford Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Winston-Salem

N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Forsyth code 067 zip code 27104

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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☑ statewide ☑ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title __________________________ Date ____________

North Carolina Department of Natural and 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 certifying 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:) __________________________ Date ____________

Signature of the Keeper __________________________ Date of Action ____________
## 5. Classification

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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)

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)

Classical Revival

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: BRICK
- walls: STUCCO
- roof: TERRA COTTA
- METAL
- other

### Narrative Description

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

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<tr>
<th>Applicable National Register Criteria</th>
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<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
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<td>☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✗ 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.</td>
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<td>☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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#### Criteria Considerations

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<td>☐ B removed from its original location.</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ C a birthplace or grave.</td>
<td>Cultural Affiliation</td>
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<td>☐ D a cemetery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.</td>
<td>Architect/Builder</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ F a commemorative property</td>
<td>Keen and Wallace, architects</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.</td>
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#### Period of Significance

| 1927 |

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

| N/A |

#### Cultural Affiliation

| N/A |

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography**

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

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<td>☐ Other State Agency</td>
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  1.93 acres

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

Zone  Easting  Northing
1  ______  ______  ______
2  ______  ______  ______
3  ______  ______  ______
4  ______  ______  ______

Latitude: 36.099327  Longitude: -80.277094

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  Heather Fearnbach
organization  Fearnbach History Services, Inc.
date  3/14/2018
street & number  3334 Nottingham Road
telephone  336-765-2661

city or town  Winston-Salem  state  NC  zip code  27104

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  Gary G. and Sandra K. Poehling
street & number  200 North Stratford Road
telephone  336-409-7572

city or town  Winston-Salem  state  NC  zip code  27104

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 listing. 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 20303.
Section 7. Narrative Description

Setting

The Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House is situated on a 1.93-acre parcel at 200 North Stratford Road approximately two miles west of downtown Winston-Salem. The residence designed by the Philadelphia-based firm Keen and Wallace is one of four imposing 1920s dwellings facing east toward Stratford Road in the exclusive Stratford Place subdivision platted by Philadelphia landscape architect Thomas Sears. Members of the Chatham and Hanes families erected the other three homes.¹ The Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham House anchors the subdivision’s southeast corner at the Five Points intersection, where West First and Miller Streets and Runnymede, Stratford, and Country Club Roads meet. The Womble House stands at North Stratford and Warwick Roads’ northwest corner flanked by the homes of Lucy Chatham’s brothers Fred M. Hanes to the north and Robert M. Hanes on Warwick Road’s south side.

The adjacent area is residential and commercial. Developers expanded the eight-phase West Highlands neighborhood that surrounds Stratford Place through the mid-twentieth century. Commodious dwellings line winding streets in West Highlands’ second section, east of Stratford Place. Recreational areas include a series of landscaped medians along the creek at Runnymede Road’s center and a grass field on Stratford Road’s east side southeast of the Womble House.

In 1973, Keel Associates Limited reduced the original Stratford Place plat’s size by acquiring the western half of the Chatham and Robert Hanes lots to create Warwick Green Road, a cul-de-sac that contained eight houses by 1980. The cul-de-sac entrance is opposite the 1930 frame period cottage that Womble erected at 2137 Warwick Road, directly west of his home, for his parents William and Olivia Womble.

Commercial concerns proliferated south of Country Club Road in the 1950s with the construction of Thruway Shopping Center, a Howard Johnson’s Motor Lodge, and myriad other businesses. Architects Colvin, Hammill, and Walter Associates designed the striking precast concrete First Center Building (now Two Piedmont Plaza) completed in 1970 on property formerly owned by Pleasant Henderson and Lizora Hanes. First Center Building provided Winston-Salem’s first high-rise, suburban, speculative commercial space. McLean Trucking Company purchased the structure to serve as their corporate headquarters in 1976 and erected the adjacent identical building (now One Piedmont

¹ The date of the original Stratford Place plat is unknown. The May 1926 plat was the first to be recorded at the Forsyth County Register of Deeds. Forsyth County Plat Book 7, p. 20.
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Plaza) and a 625-car parking deck two years later. Commercial growth flanking Stratford Road and Miller Street has continued into the twenty-first century.²  

Landscape  

The Womble House’s sizeable lot encompasses elements from several development phases that provide an estate-like setting in keeping with the dwelling’s Classical Revival character. The planting and hardscape configuration has evolved and a greenhouse, cabana, and playhouse have been added over the past century.

The dwelling’s deep setback allows for a bluestone terrace, grass lawn, planting beds, pond, stone retaining wall, asphalt driveway, and concrete-paver motor court east of the house. The rear yard features a five-section formal garden, greenhouse, playground, cabana, grass croquet court, planting beds, brick and bluestone walkways, and asphalt, brick, and concrete-paver driveways and parking areas. Perennials and deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs including acuba, azalea, boxwood, camellia, clematis, euonymus, holly, hydrangea, laurel, lupine, mahonia, peony, rose, rhododendron, and viburnum fill planting beds and natural areas. Cedar, chestnut, crepe myrtle, dogwood, elm, ginko, hawthorne, magnolia, maple, pine, and oak trees punctuate the gardens and line the parcel’s perimeter, shielding the residence from proximate traffic and houses.

The following description provides an overview of the landscape’s gradual evolution.

Thomas Sears’ 1926 Stratford Place plat illustrates only a few landscape elements associated with the Womble property as the house was under construction at that time. Sizable trees punctuated the lawn. A straight sidewalk extended from North Stratford Road to the front terrace. A curving driveway with Warwick Road egress west of the house terminated at the garage wing at the dwelling’s north end. A large clay tennis court filled much of the rear lawn.³  

According to Bunyan and Edith Womble’s daughter Lila Jenkins, Sears designed a formal garden for Edith in 1928. His services and the garden’s installation west of the house were a gift from Bunyan to Edith in celebration of the birth of their sixth child, Ruth. Jenkins also remembered that her mother,


while traveling in Italy, obtained a garden soil sample in order to have it analyzed by the agricultural extension service upon her return home. She then replicated the soil composition in her planting beds.\footnote{Sandra Poehling, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, February 9, 2018.}

The configuration of the Sears-designed landscape is unknown as plans and documentary photographs do not survive. However, Jenkins attributed the five-section formal garden and the decorative metal-pipe trellis at its north end to Sears. Some bulbs and the brick-paver walkways that delineate the parterre remain from the Wombles’ tenure. Greensboro landscape architect Chip Calloway specified the plants in the north three sections for the current owners, Gary G. and Sandra K. Poehling. Calloway replaced the boxwood at the parterre’s center with a two-tier cast-iron fountain. Landscape designer Dawn Ohl planted and maintains the roses in the south two sections.\footnote{Ibid.}

Other historic landscape features include a pond in the lot’s southeast corner created by Bunyan and his son Bill in the 1930s and improved by the Poehlings. This section of the property is at a lower elevation than the front lawn and North Stratford and Warwick Roads, requiring a retaining wall along the sidewalks to ameliorate the grade differential. The random-course stone wall was likely installed in conjunction with the dwelling’s construction. The only significant landscape modification made by the Wombles was the tennis court’s removal and replacement with a vegetable garden.\footnote{Ibid,; Womble, “Homeplace of the B. S. Wombles.”}

The Poehlings have maintained the site’s historic character while executing a series of improvements since acquiring the property in 1981. In 1990, they installed a 1932 Lord and Burnham greenhouse from the Graylyn estate in the rear lawn. Soon after, they engaged Dawn Rogers to design the brick-walkway-bordered grass croquet court north of the greenhouse and west of the formal garden. Brick terraces extend from the greenhouse’s north and east elevations, linking the three areas. The Poehlings also added a brick-paved entrance drive and parking area west of the greenhouse, laid a stepping stone walkway north of the parking area, and planted shade gardens along the lot’s west edge. In June 2004 the Poehlings erected a playhouse at the garden’s northwest corner for their grandchildren, some of whom reside in the former Womble-Jenkins residence at 2137 Warwick Road.\footnote{Sandra Poehling, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, February 9, 2018; Sandra Poehling, “History of the Garden Since 1981,” ca. 2015.}

Myriad plantings and hardscape features were added in conjunction with the construction of the 2013 three-bay garage and guest suite addition designed by Mount Airy architect Christopher Price at the dwelling’s north end. The scope of work included enlarging the Pennsylvania bluestone front terrace and replacing its wood balustrade with a cast-stone balustrade. Swaim Ornamental Iron Works of Winston-Salem fabricated iron railings for the south and east terrace stairs. Chip Calloway’s landscape plan improved site drainage with foundation drains and a stone culvert at the lot’s southeast
corner. The asphalt driveway west of the house was extended to encircle the residence. The driveway intersects a concrete-paver parking area adjacent to the garage and rear entrance, continues through the porte cochere, wraps around the house to a concrete-paver motor court at the front entrance, and ends at Warwick Road. A low brick wall lines the rear parking area’s southwest edge, framing views of the garden and the hip-roofed 2009 cabana inspired by a Portuguese structure. Calloway also assisted Price with planning for the potting room at the 2013 addition’s west end.  

Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House, 1927, 2013, contributing building

Exterior

The Classical Revival-style Womble House conveys a refined, subtle sense of permanence and wealth. The spacious hip-roofed residence encompasses a 1927 two-and-one-half-story seven-bay-wide main block with a one-story flat-roofed south sunporch, a one-and-one-half-story north service wing, and a two-story 2013 garage and guest suite rear addition. The sunporch and north service wing are slightly offset. The main block’s exterior is little altered with the exception of replacement sash installation in 2001. A terrace was created on the sunporch roof in 2003. The north service wing was remodeled in 1981 and again in conjunction with the 2013 addition. The addition’s siting north and west of the service wing minimizes its visibility from Stratford Road. A consistent treatment approach—white stucco walls, a Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, and classical details such as a molded modillion cornice—unifies the sections. A tall, rectangular, corbelled red brick chimney stack pierces the main block’s north roof slope. Gutters are concealed within the eaves. Copper downspouts tie into underground drains.

The classical central entrance on the main block’s east elevation heralds the sophisticated tone of the reception area within. The shallow flat-roofed portico features a cast-iron roof balustrade, a denticulated cornice, fluted pilasters and columns on limestone plinths, and a slate floor elevated one step above the bluestone terrace. A leaded-glass fanlight surmounts the eight-raised-panel front door, which is protected by a wood-framed storm door. Eight-over-eight sash windows and multipane French doors on the façade’s first floor, six-over-six sash windows with wrought-iron balustrades on the second story, and hipped dormers illuminate the interior. The Poehlings replaced all of the dwelling’s original wood sash in 2001 with custom aluminum-clad-wood Pella windows.

The three-bay-wide and deep sunporch at the house’s south end is distinguished by multipane casement windows with round-arched multipane transoms, limestone quoins and impost blocks, and a limestone water table. The Poehlings added the rooftop terrace secured with a cast-stone railing that emulates the original wood roof balustrade in 2003. They utilized an entrance vestibule from the 1932

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8 Sandra Poehling, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, February 9, 2018.
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The Poehlings installed the four-section west window in 1990 to brighten the master bathroom, originally a sleeping porch. A central dormer pierces the south roof slope.

The gable-roofed north service wing originally comprised a porte cochere adjacent to the main block, a garage, and upper-level servants’ quarters accessed by a stair at the garage’s southwest corner. The 1981 remodeling included removing a portion of the main block’s north wall, the garage’s south wall (much of which was filled with sliding doors), and the stair to create a family room that encompassed the garage and porte cochere. An exterior stair was erected on the west end of the garage’s north elevation to provide upper-level access. The 1981 stair was demolished and the wing renovated in conjunction with the 2013 addition’s construction.

The service wing’s east elevation comprises two wide, inset, sliding, multipane doors with segmental-arched transoms ornamented with limestone keystones. The doors were installed in the former porte cochere and garage bays. Three hip-roofed dormers rise from the roof. The wood roof balustrade was removed in 2013.

The east elevation of the 2013 two-story addition’s hip-roofed northeast section projects slightly farther east than the service wing. Two six-over-six sash windows illuminate the first story. The four-section, multipane, second-story sliding door provides access to a small cast-iron balcony supplied by Swaim Ornamental Iron Works.

The main block’s seven-bay west elevation encompasses double-hung six-over-six sash on each level. The smaller four-over-four sash between the central second-story bay and the third bay from the south end illuminates a bathroom. The Poehlings installed the multipane, six-section, first-story casement window in the second bay from the main block’s north end. The kitchen door in the west bay of the main block’s north elevation was replaced with a six-over-six sash window in 1981. Three hip-roofed dormers light the attic.

On the sunporch’s west elevation, two multipane casement windows with round-arched multipane transoms flank a multipane French door. Two limestone steps and a brick walkway facilitate access to the rear yard.

The first story of the service wing’s west elevation encompasses two wide, inset, sliding, multipane doors separated by a small closet, the 2013 porte cochere’s south wall, and the family room fireplace chimney. The elevation originally comprised a south porte cochere, a central door that provided access to the stair to the upper-level servant’s quarters, and a double-leaf wood garage door with a paneled base and multipane upper sections. The doors were removed in 1981. Two hip-roofed dormers
Initially pierced the west roof slope. The north dormer and the wood roof balustrade were removed in 2013. The gabled bay projecting from the addition’s north elevation is blind on the first story and has a single second-story six-over-six sash window.

The 2013 addition’s two-story hip-roofed west wing comprises a two-bay-wide porte cochere at its east end, a three-bay garage, a potting room, and a second-story guest suite. The concrete-paver driveway extends through the porte cochere to encircle the house. Above the porte cochere, the expansive living room’s five-bay south elevation comprises four multipane windows and a central French door with segmental-arched transoms topped with a bracketed modillion cornice. A flat-roofed canvas awning supported by slender metal posts shelters the rooftop terrace, which has a cast-stone railing that emulates the service wing’s original wood roof balustrade. The west wing’s north section is protected by a standing-seam metal roof with a pale green finish that compliments the Ludowici-Celadon tile roofs of the 1927 house and the 2013 garage.

The one-and-one-half-story hip-roofed garage’s projecting south elevation comprises three double-leaf doors with paneled bases and multipane upper sections. Three hip-roofed dormers illuminate the upper-level guest suite. The central dormer includes a pair of six-over-six sash, while the other two have single six-over-six sash.

The projecting semicircular conical-roofed bay at the west wing’s west end encompasses a first-story potting room and an upper-level porch. Robust pilasters frame the single-leaf door at the potting room’s center and the two flanking eight-over-eight sash. The porch features substantial Tuscan columns spanned by an iron balustrade that matches those on the main block’s east elevation. Two single-leaf multipane doors connect the guest suite’s north room and the porch. Pale-green standing-seam metal sheathes the roof.

The addition’s north elevation is simply finished. Three dormers with single and paired six-over-six sash light the rooms at the guest suite’s north end. Above the porte cochere, two multipane casement windows with segmental-arched transoms flank a small metal living room fireplace vent. A double-leaf paneled door in the west bay of the garage’s north elevation bay and a single-leaf multipane door on the garage’s east elevation allow access. A multipane casement window is north of the east door.

**Interior**

**First Floor**

The Womble House is characterized by a finely crafted but unpretentious interior. Primary rooms in the double-pile main block retain original volumes and finishes. The first floor comprises a central reception and stair hall, a northeast corner library, a northwest corner kitchen, a west dining room, and
a south living room that spans the dwelling’s full depth and opens into the sunporch. A powder bath is located on the south side of the short corridor between the reception hall and library. Service stairs lead from the kitchen to the second floor and basement.

The formal spaces—the reception hall, dining room, living room, and library—feature classical cornices, wainscoting, paneling, door and window surrounds, and mantels. Single- and double-leaf raised-panel wood doors and wood-framed multi-pane French doors and transoms retain original hardware. Intact interior finishes include smooth plaster walls and ceilings, tongue-and-groove oak floors, and molded baseboards and chair rails. The large windows and doors provide ample light and views of the picturesque landscape, thus affording connectivity with the natural world.

In the reception hall and living room, narrow molding applied to the plaster walls above and below the chair rails creates a paneled wall and wainscoting effect. Keystones and impost blocks embellish round-arched molded door surrounds. Wood covers with painted metal screens disguise the radiators recessed in the walls beneath each window. The half-round, curving staircase at the reception hall’s southwest corner features slender twisted and straight cast-iron balusters capped by molded wood handrails that terminate in a spiral at the bottom. Closets flank the dining room entrance on the reception hall’s west elevation and the adjacent stair. The closet south of the stair contains an elevator to the master bedroom installed in 1972.9

The living room’s proximity to the sunporch and dining room facilitates entertaining. Tall multi-pane French doors and transoms—two on the east elevation and the single sunporch entrance at the south elevation’s center—provide ample light. The Poehlings removed and stored the original two-arm brass living room sconces. The sunporch’s original elements include square gray Cortona marble floor tiles and matching baseboards and smooth plaster walls. The Poehlings wallpapered the plaster ceiling. A door near the living room’s northwest corner leads to the dining room. In 2015, the Poehlings installed French wallpaper with a floral motif above the dining room chair rail and painted plaster wainscoting.

The Poehlings remodeled the kitchen east of the dining room in 1981 and 2001. The area originally encompassed a butler’s pantry with a refrigeration room at its northeast corner, a kitchen of equal size to the north, and a small intermediary prep room adjacent to the west elevation. The servants’ bell system rang in the pantry. The basement and second-floor stair entrances are on the pantry’s south elevation. The single-leaf basement door, which has a paneled base and a six-pane upper section, is the only original element remaining in the kitchen. The 1981 scope of work included relocating the cabinets and a work table to the basement; removing the interior walls, the closets flanking the dining room entrance, and the door to the second-floor stair; and replacing the exterior door at the west end of the kitchen’s north elevation with a window. The kitchen is now a single open room with a

9 Womble, “Homeplace of the B. S. Wombles.”
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wallpapered ceiling and walls, wood cabinets with ceramic tile backsplashes, a central island, and a hardwood floor. A large opening on the north elevation leads to the family room created in 1981 from the porte cochere and garage. Jerry Michael Long assisted with the 1981 renovation planning. Scottie Easter guided the 2001 work.

The library at the main block’s northeast corner is also accessible from the family room. All of the woodwork—cornices, wall panels, wainscoting, window and door surrounds, bookcases, doors, and the mantel—is executed in California gumwood. The mantel features a molded shelf, denticulated cornice, a central round frieze medallion painted with a rural village scene, and crosseted molding bordering the burgundy marble firebox surround. The bookcases recessed in the walls on either side of the fireplace have round-arched keystoned surrounds, echoing the entrances on the north and south elevations.

The powder room between the library and reception hall was originally divided into a dressing room and lavatory. The Poehlings removed the partition wall in 1981 and installed early-1950s hand-painted porcelain fixtures manufactured by the Richard Ginori factory in Italy and wallpaper with a floral motif.

Second Floor

On the second floor, five simply finished bedrooms, three full bathrooms, and a laundry room line the T-shaped central hall. The reception hall stair terminates in the second-story hall’s east section, where a railing with twisted and straight cast-iron balusters capped by molded wood handrails secures the opening. Molded cornices, plaster walls, six-panel doors with brass hardware, simple door and window architraves with mitered corners, baseboards capped with molded trim, and oak floors are intact throughout the second floor. Beneath the windows, wood covers with painted metal grates disguise radiators. Closets retain original built-in shelves, rods, and cedar-lined drawers. All of the woodwork is painted.

The Poehlungs made minor modifications to the original floor plan in 1981, 1990, and 2001. In 1981, they created a master suite encompassing what had been the southeast bedroom, the southeast and southwest corner sleeping porches, and the bathroom between the porches. The southeast porch’s north wall was removed to enlarge the bedroom, the bathroom became a closet, and the southwest porch was converted to a bathroom. The bathroom entrance at the master bedroom’s southwest corner was moved to the east end of a short corridor adjacent to the closet. In 1990, the Poehlungs added a door on the corridor’s south wall to provide access to a rooftop sunroom and terrace. In 2001, a four-section window was installed on the bathroom’s south elevation in an original opening that had been infilled with plywood in 1981.
The master bedroom’s original northeast corner closet features built-in drawers. The elevator closet at the bedroom’s northwest corner was installed in 1972. Bookshelves with pull-down writing desks were recessed in the walls on either side of the bed nook adjacent to the west elevation in 1981.

The 2001 scope of work planned by Scottie Easter included installing a laundry room in what had been a small closet and an adjacent linen and sewing room on the east hall’s north side. The closet’s east wall was removed in order to effect this change, creating an L-shaped room. The door opening at the linen and sewing room’s southeast corner was enclosed. The former closet door functions as the laundry room entrance. This allowed for the construction of a full-height three-section bookcase on the hall wall east of the door. The stair to the third floor is west of the laundry room entrance.

The southwest bedroom’s primary entrance is at the north elevation’s east end. A large closet is west of the entrance. The bedroom originally had doors on the south and east walls that led to the southwest sleeping porch and the southeast bedroom. The east door now serves the closet west of the master bedroom elevator closet created in 1972. The south door was removed when the master bathroom was installed in 1981. The door near the north wall’s west end leads to a bathroom shared with the central bedroom. The bathroom retains an original mirrored medicine cabinet, square pink ceramic-tile wainscoting with a rectangular gray tile accent band, a square gray ceramic-tile baseboard, a small square pink-and-gray ceramic-tile floor, a white ceramic toilet. A ceramic towel bar, toothbrush holder, and cup holder are mounted on the wainscoting at the shower and sink.

The bathroom opens directly into the central bedroom, which originally had a closet at its northeast corner. In 1981, the closet door and surround were moved to the closet’s north wall, shifting access to the northwest bedroom. A short corridor adjacent to the north elevation connects the central and northwest bedrooms. A closet with built-in shelves is east of the corridor.

The northeast bedroom contains the only second-floor fireplace. The classical mantel comprises a molded shelf, central and outer frieze panels with oval sunburst medallions, and a square gray ceramic tile firebox surround and hearth.

Third Floor

An enclosed staircase rises in a straight run between the second and third floors. A wood railing with square balusters and a molded handrail secures the opening. Although most of the attic was designed
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to provide storage, a servant’s room and full bathroom occupy the northwest corner. Heart pine floors
and plaster walls and ceilings are intact. Eight dormers illuminate the third floor. Cedar-lined closets
secured by a series of double-leaf five-panel lower doors and double-leaf one-panel upper doors line
the L-shaped main room’s southwest corner. A walk-in storage closet is southwest of the stair. The
storage room at the attic’s south end features two sets of drawers recessed in the south wall and built-in
closets matching those in the main room on the north elevation.

Basement

The utilitarian basement has concrete floors, brick walls, and paneled wood doors in what originally
served as boiler, coal storage, general storage, and laundry rooms. A straight run of stairs leads from
the kitchen to the basement’s center. The Poehlings moved the original kitchen cabinets and a marble-topped
worktable to the storage room east of the stairs in 1981. They also removed the south wall of
the laundry room west of the stairs to create a large storage room. Three windows and a door with a
nine-pane upper section pierce the west elevation. A small closet occupies the west room’s northeast
corner. The single-leaf entrance to the former boiler and coal rooms at the basement’s north end is
near the north elevation’s west end. The lower grade of those rooms necessitates two brick and
concrete steps. The Poehlings added central air conditioning in 1981 and converted the original steam
heating system to a hydronic system in 1996.

2013 Renovation and Addition

The 2013 scope of work included a second renovation of the north service wing and the construction of
a two-story addition north and west of the wing. The exterior stair that had been erected in 1981 to
provide access to the second-story guest rooms was removed. The addition at the service wing’s north
end encompasses an L-shaped pantry, a central stair, and a restroom on the first floor. The stair
empties into the corridor between two second-floor guest suites. In the east suite, the addition
providing a sitting room with a fireplace north of the original servants’ quarters in the north wing’s
upper level. The area initially contained two bedrooms and central bathroom, but is now a single
bedroom with a bathroom at its northeast corner. The expansive west guest suite features a large living
room with a vaulted ceiling and fireplace and a full kitchen, dining area, bedroom, bathroom, and
dressing room. The first story has a wide porte cochere at its east end, a three-car garage, and a west
potting room.

Lord and Burnham Greenhouse, 1932, 1990, noncontributing building

Lord and Burnham, a New York company with a diverse national clientele ranging from private
property owners to conservatories and botanical gardens, manufactured this greenhouse. The steel-frame structure originally stood on the grounds of Graylyn, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company
president Bowman Gray and his wife Nathalie’s eighty-four-acre country estate. Lord and Burnham had supplied a similar greenhouse for R. J. and Katharine Reynolds’ formal garden at Reynolda in 1912.10 Like that structure, which has been restored, the Graylyn greenhouse comprised a central block and flanking wings. The greenhouse functioned as a chicken house during World War II. In 1973, Piedmont Airlines executive vice president William M. Magruder and his wife Barbara moved the greenhouse’s main block to their home at 12 Park Kent Circle and attached it to the kitchen. Subsequent owners William and Jo Anne Thomas offered the greenhouse to Gary and Sandra Poehler. Architects Anna and John Lewandowski orchestrated the structure’s October 29, 1990 move to 200 North Stratford Road and guided the eighteen-month restoration. They designed a small west addition containing a restroom and kitchen. Allen Demke oversaw the roof repair and painting in 1996. Some of the original translucent tempered-glass was replaced with clear glass. The Poehlings integrated the greenhouse into the garden with brick patios and a stuccoed retaining wall to the north and east. They also erected a privacy fence with square oak posts spanned by wood lattice south of the greenhouse along Warwick Road.11

The greenhouse faces north toward the formal garden and croquet court. The commanding steel and glass structure is distinguished by an almost full-width roof monitor ornamented with two pointed steel finials. Matching finials top the projecting entrance vestibule’s roof on the north elevation and the slightly projecting gabled bay on the east elevation. A bracketed hood shelters the north entrance, which has an outer screen door and an inner glass door, both double-leaf with wood frames. The east entrance has a similar pair of single-leaf doors. The west addition has a low gable roof and blind north and south elevations. The arched double-leaf door and transom surround at the east elevation’s center emulates the greenhouse roof shape. The Poehlings installed a brick floor in the entrance vestibule and black-and-white marble tile in a checkerboard pattern in the main block. Low cabinets and shelves were constructed along the east and south walls to facilitate entertaining.

Playhouse, June 2004, noncontributing building

A one-story vinyl-sided playhouse with a low gable roof stands at the garden’s northwest corner. Square vinyl posts spanned by a vinyl balustrade support the inset front porch, which is almost as large as the building’s single room. Four-over-four vinyl sash framed by inoperable louvered vinyl shutters pierce the east and west elevations. The double-leaf vinyl door on the south elevation has a paneled base and multipane round-arched upper sections. A small, square, hip-roofed, louvered cupola rises above the roof’s center. Wood lattice has been applied to the fascia. Within the playhouse, the dimensional lumber structure and plywood sheathing are exposed and painted.

Cabana, 2009, noncontributing structure

The Poehlings were inspired to erect this one-story hip-roofed cabana after traveling in Portugal. The structure stands between the fountain at the formal garden’s center and the croquet court. Robust columns frame arched openings on each elevation. The cabana rests on a bluestone terrace that is two steps above grade and features a vaulted beadboard ceiling and a Ludowici-Celadon tile roof.

Integrity Statement

The Womble House possesses the seven qualities of historic integrity—location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship—required for National Register designation. The dwelling maintains integrity of location as it stands on its original site. Although the planting and hardscape configuration has evolved and a greenhouse, cabana, and playhouse have been added over the past century, the 1.93-acre property provides appropriate estate-like surroundings in keeping with the dwelling’s Classical Revival character, thus allowing for integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

The Womble House also retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The 1927 main block’s exterior is little altered with the exception of replacement sash installation in 2001. The 2003 creation of a terrace on the sunporch roof and the renovation of the north service wing in 1981 and again in conjunction with the 2013 addition were executed in a sympathetic manner. The addition’s inconspicuous siting north and west of the service wing minimizes its visibility from Stratford Road. A consistent treatment approach—white stucco walls, a Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, and classical details such as a molded modillion cornice—unifies the sections.

The primary rooms in the 1927 residence maintain original volumes and finishes. The formal spaces—reception hall, dining room, living room, and library—feature classical cornices, wainscoting, paneling, door and window surrounds, and mantels. Single- and double-leaf raised-panel wood doors and wood-framed multi-pane French doors and transoms possess original hardware. Intact finishes include smooth plaster walls and ceilings, tongue-and-groove oak floors, and molded baseboards and chair rails.
Section 8. Statement of Significance

The locally significant Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House meets National Register Criterion C for architecture due to its Classical Revival design rendered by Philadelphia-based firm Keen and Wallace. The remarkably intact residence is one of four imposing 1920s dwellings facing east toward Stratford Road in the exclusive Stratford Place subdivision platted by Philadelphia landscape architect Thomas Sears. Although abodes influenced by those on European country estates are plentiful in Winston-Salem, with Tudor, Georgian, and Classical Revival styles being the most typical throughout the city’s early- to mid-twentieth-century subdivisions, the Womble House is distinguished by its scale, sophisticated execution, and estate-like setting. The hip-roofed dwelling encompasses a two-and-one-half-story seven-bay-wide main block with a one-story flat-roofed south sunporch, a one-and-one-half-story north service wing, and an inconspicuously sited two-story 2013 garage and guest suite rear addition north and west of the service wing. The main block’s exterior is characterized by white stucco walls, a Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, and classical details such as a molded modillion cornice and flat-roofed east entrance portico. The formal spaces—reception hall, dining room, living room, and library—feature classical cornices, wainscoting, paneling, door and window surrounds, and mantels. Single- and double-leaf raised-panel wood doors and wood-framed multi-pane French doors and transoms possess original hardware. Intact finishes include smooth plaster walls and ceilings, tongue-and-groove oak floors, and molded baseboards and chair rails. The period of significance is 1927, the house’s construction date.

Historical Background

Winston-Salem attorney Bunyan Snipes Womble and Salem Academy and College graduate Edith Willingham married on April 29, 1914, at her parents’ Macon, Georgia home. Bunyan’s father, Methodist Episcopal pastor William Fletcher Womble, performed the ceremony. Many of the young couple’s friends were scion of business and civic leaders. The wedding party’s Winston-Salem contingent comprised Marguerite Fries, David H. Blair, James Gray Jr., Norman Stockton, and Charles Vogler. Prominent Winston-Salem citizens feted the couple prior to the wedding. George and Hazel Norfleet and William N. and Kate Bitting Reynolds held celebratory luncheons, while Agnew and Elizabeth Bahnson hosted a dinner at their homes. After honeymooning in New York and Panama, the Wombles occupied a no-longer-extant house at 607 Summit Street in Winston-Salem. Bunyan had previously rented a room in the Young Men’s Christian Association building at Cherry and Fourth Streets.

13 1913 CD, p. 411; 1915 CD, p. 449.
Bunyan, born in Pittsboro, Chatham County, on May 2, 1882, moved frequently as a youth in conjunction with his father’s four-year pastorate postings. His family lived in North Carolina communities including Lincolnton, Shelby, Siler City, and Wentworth, where Bunyan was educated at public schools. He also attended Thompson Military School in Siler City. Bunyan attained undergraduate (1904) and law (1906) degrees from Trinity College (now Duke University) and furthered his studies at Columbia Law School (1906-1907). The newly minted attorney began providing legal services in Winston in 1907, operating from a series of offices in the Tise, Brown, and People’s Bank buildings. He soon garnered a stellar reputation, and in March 1909 the city’s alderman elected him solicitor of the newly created municipal recorder’s court. He returned to private practice, however, when attorneys Clement Manly and William Hendren, heads of Manly and Hendren, recruited him in 1911 to join their law firm, which then became Manly, Hendren, and Womble.14

Bunyan Womble and Edith Willingham met at a Twin City Club dance on Easter Monday 1912. Edith, born on August 28, 1890, was the second-youngest of Calder and Lila Willingham’s nine children. Her father, a South Carolina native, was a cotton broker, and her brothers also worked in that trade. Edith and two sisters remained in Winston-Salem after completing their studies at Salem Academy and College. In 1908, Ruth Baynard Willingham, a 1907 alumnae, wed Marmaduke W. Norfleet, proprietor of Norfleet Hardware Company and Piedmont Warehouse, one of the city’s first downtown tobacco storage venues. The couple lived at 505 West Fifth Street. Edith graduated from Salem Academy and College in 1909 after a junior-year absence. During her senior year, she was class historian, business manager for the athletic association and the annual student publication Sights and Insights, and a member of the archery, hockey, and tennis teams. Camille Baynard Willingham, a 1911 alumnae, married Moravian physician Henry Leroy Izlar in 1916 and resided at 942 West Fourth Street.15

The Wombles were active in myriad civic organizations and at Centenary Methodist Church. Bunyan chaired a citizen’s committee that successfully advocated for the 1913 consolidation of Winston and Salem into a single municipality. He was a charter member of the Winston-Salem Rotary Club established in 1915 and served as its second president. He was also a Wachovia Bank and Trust Company director. The couple had two sons and four daughters between 1915 and 1928. In 1920,
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their 607 Summit Street household included their children Lila, William, and Olivia; white nurse Charlotte Lee; African American servants Belo Barringer and Addie Siewers; and Addie’s fifteen-year-old son Ted.16

Manly, Hendren, and Womble’s legal practice continued to proliferate as they represented clients including the Reynolds family.17 In 1920, the firm leased an office suite in the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company Building. Bunyan Womble also pursued other business opportunities. He was among the group of Winston-Salem executives including Agnew Bahnson, Thurmond Chatham, Dr. Fred M. Hanes, P. H. Hanes Sr., Robert M. Hanes, Egbert Lawrence Davis Sr., and S. Clay Williams that convinced Security Life and Trust Company, organized in Greensboro in 1920, to establish a Forsyth County headquarters. Womble subsequently served on the directorial board.18 Like his peers, Womble invested in downtown real estate. He owned commercial properties fronting Fourth Street east of Cherry Street, and in 1922 engaged W. H. Fetter Construction Company to erect an adjacent brick building at the intersection’s northeast corner.19

Womble was also a politician, elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1925 and two North Carolina senate terms representing Forsyth County from 1927 through 1931. During that time, he was a member of the State Judicial Council (1925-1931), the Advisory Budget Commission (1929-1931), and the Senate Finance Committee. Womble served on the Winston-Salem School Board from 1930 until 1942; chairing that entity from 1933 until 1942. An avid supporter of Community Chest of Forsyth County, organized in 1923 to collect and distribute charitable contributions to member entities, he led its 1939 fundraising campaign. His legal colleagues held him in high esteem, as evidenced by his 1936-1937 tenure as the North Carolina Bar Association’s president.20

Bunyan and Edith Womble joined their elite peers in the 1920s migration from the city’s center to newly created suburbs west of town. They purchased a lot in Stratford Place from John Wesley Hanes’s estate in 1923 and commissioned architects Charles Barton Keen and William Roy Wallace to design a Classical Revival-style dwelling completed at a cost of more than $100,000 in 1927. The expansive house at 200 North Stratford Road manifested the Wombles’ prosperity and provided much-needed room for their growing family, as well for entertaining. By 1930, the household comprised six children and African American cook Laura Layman. The family still employed laundress and maid

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20 Davis, “City Patriarch Remembers When…;” Ellison, “Womble’s 50 Years;”
Addie Siewers in 1940, when she was a 65-year-old widow. Four children remained at home at that time.  

The Wombles acquired the lot directly west of their home from the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in 1927 and engaged local architects Northup and O’Brien to design a frame period cottage for Bunyan’s parents William Fletcher and Olivia Snipes Womble. However, Reverend Womble died in 1929, the year before contractors completed the house. Olivia resided at 2137 Warwick Road dwelling until her death in 1948, after which Bunyan and Edith Womble’s daughter Lila, who married attorney Floyd Gaither Jenkins in 1939, occupied the house. 

In June 1960, Bunyan Womble was elected to chair the Duke University Board of Trustees, upon which he had served since 1915. His wife and their six children, all of whom were Duke alumnus, endowed a scholarship fund for the institution’s law school in 1962. Manly, Hendren, and Womble moved to offices in the newly completed Wachovia Building in 1966. Womble’s sons William F. and Calder Womble worked in the firm. The practice continued to evolve, becoming Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice LLP, which was the Triad’s largest law firm at the time of its fall 2017 merger with Bond Dickinson LLP, a United Kingdom concern. Womble Bond Dickinson LLP operates nineteen offices throughout the United States and eight in the United Kingdom. 

Bunyan and Edith Womble resided in their home until their respective deaths on May 17, 1976 and March 14, 1980. Gary G. and Sandra K. Poehling purchased the Womble House on January 2, 1981. Dr. Poehling, a LaCrosse, Wisconsin, native, joined Wake Forest University’s School of Medicine faculty in 1976 and served as orthopaedic surgery department chair from 1989 until 2007. Between 1989 and 2014, he was editor in chief of the Journal of Arthroscopy, an international publication focused on sports medicine and minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Poehling and his wife Sandra, born in Penns Grove, New Jersey, married while students at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
West Highlands and Stratford Place Subdivision Development

Brothers and business partners Pleasant Henderson Hanes, John Wesley Hanes, and Benjamin Franklin Hanes purchased numerous tracts west of Winston in the late nineteenth century. In 1912, textile magnate Pleasant Henderson Hanes began subdividing a sizable portion of his holdings as the West Highlands neighborhood. New York landscape architects Buckenham and Miller, the original designers of R. J. and Katharine Reynolds’s estate and gardens, created the first seventy-five-acre plat in September of that year. On January 27, 1913, the Winston-Salem Board of Alderman voted to expand the city limits to encompass the new subdivision, which comprised approximately 140 parcels. West Highlands’ second phase includes a long central park, designed as a series of landscaped medians, on Runnymede Road. A creek spanned by bridges with arched stone railings runs through the park’s center. Pleasant Henderson and Lizora Hanes reserved Section Two’s Blocks Three and Five for use by their children, as the family’s residence was located nearby on the site of what is now One and Two Piedmont Plaza.27

By the mid-twentieth century, developers had expanded West Highlands eight times, in some cases surrounding smaller plats such as Stratford Place, which occupies the northwest corner of the Five Points intersection where West First and Miller Streets and Runnymede, Stratford, and Country Club Roads meet. Stratford Place encompasses land acquired by industrialist John Wesley Hanes in several transactions prior to his 1903 death and conveyed in August 1924 by his widow Anna, the couple’s children, and their spouses to the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in order to facilitate its improvement. Civil engineer J. E. Ellerbe’s May 1926 Stratford Place plat illustrates Philadelphia landscape architect Thomas Sears’s design for twenty-six lots along curving streets lined with large trees. Only twenty-two parcels ranging in size from approximately seven-tenths of an acre to one acre were available to prospective buyers at that time, however, as Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham, Fred M. and Elizabeth Hanes, Robert M. and Mildred Hanes, and Bunyan S. and Edith Womble had purchased the four largest lots facing Stratford Road and commissioned Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen’s firm to design their homes.28 Keen undoubtedly influenced the Chathams’ and Haneses’ decisions to engage the Philadelphia-based McNeill Construction Company to erect their residences.29

27 Forsyth County Plat Book 2, p. 46; Plat Book 4, p. 5; “Development Work in City,” WSJ, April 13, 1913.
28 Samuel B. and Maggie J. Ziglar sold Pleasant Henderson Hanes 41.5 acres adjacent to Shallowford Road on July 16, 1884, which may have been the property upon which he built his home at what is now 1920 and 2000 West First Street. Developers demolished the Hanes residence in 1963 to make way for South Stratford Road’s commercial development. Other family members eventually lived close by, erecting three dwellings in Stratford Place and three in West Highlands. Forsyth County Deed Book 20, p. 129; Deed Book 65, p. 460; Deed Book 70, p. 126; Deed Book 204, p. 199; Deed Book 239, p. 8; Plat Book 4, p. 188; Plat Book 7, p. 20; Margaret Supplee Smith, “Database of Charles Barton Keen Houses,” research notes, 2011; Durham Morning Herald, March 20, 1927.
29 McNeill Construction also erected other Keen-designed buildings in Winston-Salem including the Carl W. and Annie Harris, Alex S. and Mary Hanes, and Owen Moon Jr. residences, the Reynolda power house, and Bowman Gray’s
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Classical Revival Architecture Context

The Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House is a remarkably intact example of the nationally prevalent Classical Revival aesthetic promoted in Forsyth County by architects including its designer, Keen and Wallace, and Northup and O’Brien, Harold Macklin, and Luther Lashmit. The selection of ornament drawn from classical precedents was a fashionable choice intended to embody permanence and refinement. Ancient Grecian and Roman architecture served as the archetypes for overall composition and details. Symmetry and balance are important components of the style, as reflected in the regular fenestration of the Womble House’s two-and-one-half-story, hip-roofed, seven-bay-wide main block. One- or two-story wings were also common features, as seen in the dwelling’s one-story flat-roofed south sunporch and one-and-one-half-story north service wing. The white stucco walls and Ludowici-Celadon tile roof were likely inspired by Charles Barton Keen’s specification of the same finishes for R. J. and Katharine Reynolds’s 1917 Reynolds House. The Womble House displays refined classical exterior elements such as a molded modillion cornice and the shallow flat-roofed east entrance portico, embellished with a cast-iron roof balustrade, denticulated cornice, fluted pilasters and columns on limestone plinths, and a slate floor.

The formal spaces—the reception hall, dining room, living room, and library—are distinguished by finely crafted cornices, wainscoting, paneling, door and window surrounds, and mantels that epitomize the classical style. Single- and double-leaf raised-panel wood doors and wood-framed multi-pane French doors and transoms possess original hardware. Intact interior finishes include smooth plaster walls and ceilings, tongue-and-groove oak floors, and molded baseboards and chair rails. The half-round, curving staircase at the reception hall’s southwest corner features slender twisted and straight cast-iron balusters capped by molded wood handrails that terminate in a spiral at the bottom.

The Womble House’s structure epitomizes the most substantial and fireproof construction technology available during the period. Comprised of a brick foundation and a terra cotta block and steel frame, the edifice met the highest structural standards of the 1920s and remains completely sound.

The following comparable dwellings also reflect national architectural trends and the original owners’ elite social and economic status. Sizable lots, often containing formal gardens, provide appropriate settings for each residence.

North of the Womble House at 226 North Stratford Road, Lucy Chatham’s brother, physician Frederick Moir Hanes, and his wife Elizabeth selected the Tudor Revival style for the Charles Barton Keen-designed Stratford Place residence that they built and occupied from 1925 until 1933, when greenhouse. The company opened a Winston-Salem office around February 15, 1927. “McNeill Construction Company,” WSJ, February 5, 1927, p. B12.
Duke University recruited him to head their newly-established medical school. In 1927, Lucy Chatham and Frederick Hanes’s brother Robert M. Hanes and his wife Mildred erected a brick Georgian Revival-style house (National Register, 2012) at 140 North Stratford Road between his siblings’ residences. To complement Keen’s house plan, New York landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman conceived the formal garden encompassing a flagstone terrace, brick and stone walls, water features, planting beds, and brick walks leading to a garden house behind their home in 1937, building upon Thomas Sears’s overall site plan.

The Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham House to the south at 112 North Chatham Road (NR 2014) manifests an austere French Eclectic style that is quite different from the more popular period revival styles common in Winston-Salem during the 1920s. However, like the Womble house, the Chatham residence has a stuccoed exterior, hip roof, a classical entrance portico, large eight-over-eight and six-over-six sash windows, multipane French doors, and hipped dormers.

Other estate-like 1920s dwellings in close proximity to the Womble House include the Georgian Revival-style residence designed by architects Northup and O’Brien that stands at 1935 West First Street in Block Five of West Highlands. Around the time Ruth Hanes married South Carolina native and physician S. Douglas Craig in 1927, the couple built a home directly north of her parents’ Pleasant Henderson and Lizora Hanes home. Landscape engineer Louis L. Miller laid out the site plan, which includes a boxwood parterre and a no-longer-extant bulb garden designed by New York landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman for Mrs. Craig in 1933.

Also nearby in West Highlands, Ruth Hanes Craig’s brother P. Huber Hanes Sr. and his wife Evelyn engaged Fogle Brothers to erect the Georgian Revival-style dwelling at 2000 Georgia Avenue on a 7.72-acre lot that still occupies most of Block Three. The Haneses commissioned Charles Barton Keen to design the residence finished in February 1930, but his former partner William Roy Wallace facilitated the project’s execution due to Keen’s declining health. Ellen Biddle Shipman created the landscape plan.

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32 Forsyth County Plat Book 7, p. 134; Plat Book 12, p. 160; S. D. and Ruth Craig house and landscape plans in the possession of property owner Chad Davis in 2009.

Philadelphia native Charles Barton Keen attained an architecture degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1889 and briefly found employment in Philadelphia architect Theophilus P. Chandler’s office. From 1890 through 1892 he gained drafting experience at his cousin Frank Miles Day’s firm, but established his own Philadelphia practice in 1893. The following year Keen partnered with Frank E. Mead, a fellow Day colleague, garnering predominantly residential commissions until Mead’s 1901 departure. Keen then operated a sole proprietorship, opening an office in the Bailey, Banks, and Biddle Building on Chestnut Street in 1904 that he retained until moving to Winston-Salem in 1923.34 Keen employed many draftsmen in Philadelphia, three of whom, William Roy Wallace, Gorrell R. Stinson, and William W. Pollock, would later establish prolific Winston-Salem practices.35

During the twentieth century’s first decades Charles Barton Keen became nationally-known for his rural retreat commissions featuring finely-articulated dwellings in surroundings designed by landscape architects such as Thomas Warren Sears of Philadelphia. Periodicals including Architectural Record and House and Garden highlighted many of their projects.36 R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company executive Robert E. Lasater and his wife Nancy Lybrook engaged Keen to design their expansive half-timber and stone Tudor residence at 720 West Fifth Street in Winston, completed in 1913.37 The couple’s home stood near that of Nancy’s uncle R. J. Reynolds and his wife Katharine, who likely met
Charles Barton Keen in the context of his planning the Lasater project. The Reynoldses commissioned Keen to design a very different dwelling for their model farm west of town, requesting an “informal bungalow style” to complement the bucolic setting and naturalistic landscaping. Finished in 1917, Reynolda House’s signature green Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, white-stuccoed walls, and loggia supported by substantial columns inspired numerous local residences as well as the estate’s dependencies. Although local architect Willard C. Northup prepared plans for the 1912 farm office and early employee cottages, Keen designed most of the support village: a school, senior staff housing, the power plant, a blacksmith shop, agricultural buildings, and Reynolda Presbyterian Church, finished in 1915.38

Charles Barton Keen’s North Carolina commissions multiplied exponentially as the Reynolda estate developed, prompting his move to Winston-Salem in 1923 to oversee the execution of the firm’s plans for R. J. Reynolds High School and Auditorium. William Roy Wallace accompanied him, and the pair operated from an office in the Wachovia Bank and Trust Building. They remained only ten months before returning to Philadelphia, however. Wallace attained associate partnership in 1924, but departed four years later and collaborated with Harold Macklin to form the Winston-Salem practice Macklin and Wallace.39

Gwynne Taylor, Margaret Supplee Smith, and other architectural historians have attributed approximately thirty Winston-Salem residences to Charles Barton Keen’s firm, most erected in picturesque early-twentieth-century subdivisions such as Buena Vista, Reynolda Park, Stratford Place, and West Highlands. Stratford Place contains a significant collection of such residences, as Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham, Fred M. and Elizabeth Hanes, Robert M. and Mildred Hanes, and Bunyan S. and Edith Womble purchased the four largest lots facing Stratford Road and engaged Keen’s services to design their commodious Renaissance, Tudor, Georgian, and Classical Revival-style dwellings.40 The firm’s plans for R. J. Reynolds High School and Auditorium and City Memorial Hospital’s wings, all completed in 1924, as well as Wiley Middle School, finished the next year, manifest a classical influence. The 1925 Carl W. and Annie M. Harris House, a distinctive Spanish

40 Forsyth County Deed Book 20, p. 129; Deed Book 65, p. 460; Deed Book 70, p. 126; Deed Book 239, p. 8; Deed Book 204, p. 199; Plat Book 4, p. 188; Plat Book 7, p. 20; Margaret Supplee Smith, “Database of Charles Barton Keen Houses,” research notes, 2011; Durham Morning Herald, March 20, 1927.
Revival-style residence characterized by a pink stucco exterior and a red Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, is similar to buildings that Keen designed for clients in other locales, but atypical in terms of his Winston-Salem projects and unusual for the city in general. Charles Barton Keen’s North Carolina commissions include expansive estates in Charlotte, Concord, Durham, Greensboro, Roaring Gap, and Pinehurst. His career was cut short by his death in February 1931 at the age of 63 following a period of declining health.

William Roy Wallace

After graduating from high school, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, native William Roy Wallace (1889-1983) received an academic scholarship sufficient to cover his freshman year at Swarthmore College. However, realizing that his family would be unable to subsidize the remaining three years’ tuition, Wallace pursued other options. Acting on the advice of his Sunday School teacher, who was architect Charles Barton Keen’s chief draftsman, he secured employment as an office assistant at the Philadelphia firm. Wallace undertook evening drafting classes at the city’s Drexel Institute in 1909 and 1910 and studied Beaux Arts design at the T-Square Club atelier with instructors such as influential French architect Paul Philippe Cret from 1910 through 1914. That year, Keen promoted him to the position of “outside superintendent,” a role he maintained until becoming a chief draftsman in 1916. Keen’s North Carolina projects during the period included R. J. and Katharine Reynolds’s home, Reynolda, completed in 1917, after which his Winston-Salem commissions multiplied exponentially.

William Roy Wallace perpetuated the classical building tradition he had learned from his mentors, becoming highly regarded for revival-style designs as well as meticulous restorations. One early Winston-Salem commission, orchestrated for industrialist Hugh Gwyn Chatham’s widow Martha Thurmond Chatham, involved moving Middleton House from South Carolina to approximately one hundred acres on Reynolda Road’s west side in 1930. Wallace oversaw the circa 1829 Savannah River plantation house’s disassembly, relocation, reconstruction, and renovation to serve as Mrs. Chatham’s residence. He also designed the one-story weatherboarded garage and apartment behind the house in coordination with New York landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman. Many residential projects followed. Wallace also facilitated the completion of Charles Barton Keen’s final Winston-Salem

41 *The American Contractor*, November 26, 1921, p. 69, and December 31, 1921, p. 66; *Manufacturers Record*, June 29, 1922, pp. 51-52.


Womble, Bunyan S. and Edith W., House
Forsyth County, NC

Wallace’s longest-tenured employees were his son William Roy Wallace Jr., known as “Bill,” and James Malcolm Conrad. The practice rendered plans for residential, commercial, educational, ecclesiastical, and industrial buildings throughout the eastern United States. Conrad, a Forsyth County native, began working for the firm the year following his 1938 graduation from R. J. Reynolds High School. After a four-year World War II enlistment in the US Army Air Forces, he returned to Wallace’s employ. Bill Wallace gained architectural experience at Norfolk Naval Shipyard’s Hull Drafting Department in Portsmouth, Virginia, during the war. He then assisted with his father’s practice. Both men remained with Wallace until his 1982 retirement, operating from the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Headquarters Building, where the firm’s office had been located since the building’s 1929 completion. They were the structure’s last tenants other than Reynolds American. After William Roy Wallace Sr. died in 1983 at the age of ninety-three, Bill Wallace and James Conrad partnered to accept residential commissions until Conrad’s 1996 retirement. Wallace ceased practicing soon thereafter.45

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Poehling, Dr. Gary. Email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, March 23, 2018


Womble, Bunyan S. and Edith W., House Forsyth County, NC


*Rocky Mount Telegram*


*Statesville Record and Landmark.*


*Twin City Sentinel*
United States Census, Population Schedules, 1900-1940.


Western Sentinel

Winston-Salem Journal (abbreviated WSJ after first mention in notes)

Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel (abbreviated WSJS after first mention in notes)

Winston-Salem Sentinel (abbreviated WSS after first mention in notes)


World War II Draft Registration Cards.
Section 10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of Forsyth County tax parcel # 6825-27-6456 (1.93 acres), as indicated by the heavy solid line on the enclosed map. Scale: one inch equals approximately forty feet.

Boundary Justification

The nominated tract contains the Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House and associated historic landscape. Although the planting and hardscape configuration has evolved and a greenhouse, cabana, and playhouse have been added over the past century, the property retains an appropriate estate-like setting in keeping with the dwelling’s Classical Revival character.

Additional Documentation: Current Photographs

All photographs by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, on February 9, 2018. Digital images located at the North Carolina SHPO.

1. Façade (east elevation)
2. West elevation, looking northeast
3. 1927 house, west elevation, and 2013 addition, south elevation, looking north
4. Reception hall, looking south
5. Living room, looking west
6. Sunporch, looking northeast
7. Library, looking west
8. Southwest bedroom, looking northeast
9. Attic, main room, south end
10. Cabana and greenhouse, looking southeast
11. Playhouse, southeast oblique
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1. Façade (east elevation), above and 2. West elevation, looking northeast (below)
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Womble, Bunyan S. and Edith W., House
Forsyth County, NC

3. 1927 house, west elevation, and 2013 addition, south elevation, looking north (above)
4. Reception hall, looking south (below)
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5. Living room, looking west (above) and 6. Sunporch, looking northeast (below)
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7. Library, looking west (above) and 8. Southwest bedroom, looking northeast (below)
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9. Attic, main room, south end (above) and 10. Cabana and greenhouse, looking southeast (below)
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11. Playhouse, southeast oblique
Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House
200 North Stratford Road, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, NC
National Register Boundary Map

Playhouse, 2004, NCB

Cabana, 2009, NCS

2013 Addition

Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House
1927, 2013, CB
Latitude: 36.099327
Longitude: -80.277094

1932 Greenhouse, moved to site in 1990, NCB

2013 Addition

Warwick Road

National Register Boundary (1.93 acres, Forsyth County tax parcel 6825-27-6456)

Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc. / March 2019
Base 2014 aerial photo courtesy of Forsyth County GIS at http://maps.co.forsyth.nc.us/forsythjs

CB = Contributing Building
NCB = Noncontributing Building
NCS = Noncontributing Structure

Scale: one inch equals approximately forty feet
Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House, 200 North Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, NC
Site Plan Photograph Key

Base plan drawn by Mount Airy architect Christopher Price in 2013
Photograph views annotated by Fearnbach History Services, Inc., in 2019
Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House, 200 North Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, NC
1927 Main Block, First Floor Plan Photograph Key

Base plan drawn by Mount Airy architect Christopher Price in 2013
Photograph views annotated by Fearnbach History Services, Inc., in 2019
Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House, 200 North Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, NC
1927 Main Block, Second Floor Plan Photograph Key

Base plan drawn by Mount Airy architect Christopher Price in 2013
Photograph views annotated by Fearnbach History Services, Inc., in 2019
Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House, 200 North Stratford Road  
Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, NC  
1927 Main Block, Third Floor Plan Photograph Key  

Base plan drawn by Mount Airy architect Christopher Price in 2013  
Photograph views annotated by Fearnbach History Services, Inc., in 2019