NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME
HISTORIC
Shelton House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
307 Shelton Street

CITY, TOWN
Waynesville

STATE
North Carolina

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Haywood County Courthouse

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts, Inc., c/o Mrs. Mary Cornwell

STREET & NUMBER
Post Office Box 778

CITY, TOWN
Waynesville

STATE
N. C. 28786

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

OSITORY FOR RECORDS

STATE
The Shelton House is prominently sited on a knoll on a spacious lot about one quarter mile southeast of the central business district of the busy mountain community of Waynesville. The eight-and-one-half acre tract is bounded on the north by Pigeon Street (U.S. Highway 276), on the west by Shelton Street, on the east by Shelton Branch, and on the south by a line of utility poles and row of pine saplings that separate the property from new development springing up beyond. The house is situated in the northwest quadrant of this lot near Shelton Street surrounded by numerous large trees, including an especially notable, ancient oak which stands before the house near Pigeon Street. Behind the house are a small garage building with second floor apartment, the ruins of a greenhouse, a small storage shed, and a large frame barn. A row of apple trees flanks the west side of the complex along Shelton Street; to the southeast an open, grassy field slopes gently down to Shelton Branch. The picturesque setting recalls the rural beginnings of Waynesville and survives as a well-kept farmstead in what is now almost the center of the city limits.

The house was constructed in two sections, with the two-story front block completed in 1880, the two story rear wing is a slightly later expansion of what was probably a one-story wing originally. The front block is three bays wide and two bays deep on a low brick foundation and covered with plain weatherboards under a gable roof. The dominant feature of this block is the engaged two-tier porch that extends across the front (north) elevation. This feature is often associated with the early architecture of the coastal Carolinas; but though it is only rarely known in the North Carolina Piedmont, it is distributed widely in mid- to late nineteenth century examples in the mountain region.

The porch is supported on both levels by chamfered posts with lambs tongue moldings and deeply molded capitals set at the top. A balustrade with a simple molded handrail runs between the posts on both levels; the closely-spaced, square-in-section balusters are connected at mid-length beneath the handrail by a second horizontal member. The porch ceilings are finished with rows of long narrow panels running parallel to the facade.

The double-leaf front door is surrounded by sidelights and a transom set in a simple board surround; tiny capitals that mimic those of the porch posts are placed at the top of the flat pilasters between the door and sidelights on each side. A plain frieze board with a low-pitched triangular head and ends sawn in an ogee pattern extends across the top of the transom; wide molded strips of wood overhang along the pitch of the frieze. Similar frames are set around the six-over-six sash jib windows flanking the entrance. Beneath these windows are knee-height double-leaf doors, each composed of two vertical panels with wide applied moldings; these open into the interior. The door and window treatment on the second story of the facade are identical to that of the first.

A stepped-shoulder, common-bond brick chimney is centered at each gable end, flanked on both stories by six-over six sash windows in surrounds identical to those of the facade. A wide frieze board runs beneath the deeply overhanging eaves of the roof, which are supported by curvilinear sawn brackets.
The two-story rear wing appears to be an expansion of an original one-story wing that had an engaged porch on the east side. About the turn of the century this was raised to two stories, with the enclosed second story extending out over recessed porches on both sides of the wing. An enclosed exterior stair descends at the south end of the wing to the screened porch on the west side. The porch on the east side is treated with posts and balustrade identical to that of the front porch and is probably the porch of the original wing.

The original block follows a center hall plan, one room deep, and retains its original fabric, though floors and walls have received modern coverings in some areas. Horizontal flush sheathing is still seen in the first and second floor halls and in the second floor south room. Ceilings throughout this block are paneled similarly to those of the porches.

The open-string stair rises along the left wall of the center hall to a landing and turns to the right with a short flight to the second floor hall. The ramped and molded handrail is supported by square-in-section balusters and terminates in a large turned newel.

The four mantels of the front block, all original, are variations on the same theme, each being of post-and-lintel composition with various curvilinear molded plates attached to pilasters and frieze boards. The door and window surrounds of the first floor are molded and mitred; doors are of four panels with applied moldings. The interior faces of the small leaves of the jib windows are paneled; and horizontal panels are set beneath the windows in the gable ends. Second floor finish is similar, though door and window surrounds are composed of plain boards.

The first floor interior of the rear wing consists of two rooms back-to-back; the walls of these rooms have received modern coverings, though the ceilings retain their original paneling identical to that of the main block. The second floor follows a dormitory-like arrangement, with rooms flanking a long, narrow center hall that opens onto the stair hall of the main block. These rooms are finished simply with typical turn-of-the-century commercial millwork and accessories.

A small gable roof brick structure, called the creamery as it was storage for dairy items produced on the farm and used by the household, is attached to the south end of the rear wing.

The large, handsome frame barn probably dates from the early twentieth century. This gable roof structure is flanked on the west end by an open shed; the shed on the east side is enclosed. Inside are a spacious loft and stalls for animals on the lower level.
Between the house and barn is a small garage apartment building of frame construction on a raised brick foundation; this probably dates from the late 1920s. Directly behind this building are the remains of the brick walls of a small greenhouse that originally had a glazed gable roof. A small frame shed building south of the barn, half open and half enclosed, is the only other structure on the property.
Sited on a spacious, tree-shaded lot only one-quarter mile from the central business district of Waynesville, the Shelton House recalls the rural origins of the town and stands as a prominent representative of late nineteenth century agrarian prosperity in Haywood County. The two-story frame house with its spacious, engaged two-tier porch, bracketed eaves, and other embellishments was constructed between 1876 and 1880 for Stephen J. Shelton (1835-1913), a Confederate officer and veteran of numerous battles who, besides his primary occupation as a farmer-businessman, served six years as sheriff of Haywood County and was active in educational and religious affairs of the community. After 1919 the house was occupied by Shelton's son, William T. Shelton (1869-1944) who returned to his family home in Waynesville after a twenty-six year career as instructor and superintendent at Indian schools in western North Carolina, Arizona, and New Mexico. Today the house and its outbuildings—including a large, handsome frame barn—are owned by the Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts, Inc., which is developing the property as a museum.

Criteria Assessment

C. The house is an important, well-preserved, and unusually well-crafted example of a prominent nineteenth century western North Carolina dwelling type—the two-story, one room deep farmhouse with a fully engaged, full-width, two-tier porch. The undisturbed, pastoral setting of the house and its outbuildings is an important historical and visual element of Waynesville and Haywood County.
The Shelton House, standing about 300 feet south of the intersection of Shelton and Pigeon streets in Waynesville, was built between 1875 and 1880 by Stephen J. Shelton. At one point the house tract contained nearly seventy-five acres, but as the town of Waynesville grew, the house tract diminished. At its latest scale, the property contained only eight and one-half acres.

Stephen J. Shelton was a son of William and Rachel Shelton. He was born on August 27, 1835, in South Carolina, but his father had returned the family to North Carolina by 1850 when Stephen was enrolled in the public schools of Haywood County. After completing his education, Stephen began a teaching career that lasted until the outbreak of the Civil War.

In 1861, he enlisted in Company C of the Twenty-Fifth North Carolina Regiment. Shelton attained the rank of lieutenant and saw action in some of the bloodiest battles of the war, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and the defense of Richmond. After the war, he returned home, married Mahala Conley of Jackson County, and began a new life as a farmer.

Before starting a family of his own, Shelton accepted the obligation of guardian to his three nieces, Sallie, Dora, and Lizzie Shelton, minor daughters of his brother Thomas who had died while confined at Camp Douglas, a Union prison in Illinois. His efforts on behalf of his wards were not always appreciated. In the summer of 1870 a suit was levied against Shelton, charging him with mismanagement and violation of his bond as guardian; however, he proved to the court's satisfaction that he had acted in every instance in a proper manner and in the best interests of his wards. The judges dismissed the case.

In 1874, Shelton was elected to the first three consecutive terms (six years) as sheriff of Haywood County. A year later he purchased a small tract near Waynesville where he built the fine two story house now standing. But he apparently moved to the town a few years before the house was completed and lived in a section known as Band Mill. Such evidence would thus indicate that the Shelton House was constructed between 1878 and 1880. By the latter year, Shelton, his wife, and four children were occupying the structure. Three additional children were born in the house after 1880.

Stephen Shelton also used his home to assist the educational program in Waynesville. Since many of the students, particularly those attending the academy whose lot adjoined his own land, came from outlying areas, Shelton allowed them board and room. A special arrangement was worked out for repayment at a later date. His interests also extended to religious teaching for he was superintendent of the Methodist church Sunday School for twenty-five years.
In 1887 and 1888 Shelton added seventy acres to his home tract. Much of this, however, was eventually sold as private lots or to the town for streets and roads. Before the turn of the twentieth century, Shelton's estate was almost entirely within the corporate limits of Waynesville. By the time Shelton sold the tracts to his son, W. T., the property had been reduced to twenty-four acres.

William Taylor Shelton was the second oldest of seven children born to Stephen and Mahala Shelton. He was born on May 7, 1869, at his father's farm in Jonathan Creek Township. He attended the public schools and the Waynesville Academy. At the age of twenty he moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where he joined the police force. He returned after nearly two years to Waynesville to continue his work in law enforcement. His police work was ended in 1892 when he received a federal appointment that turned into a twenty-six year career.

W. T. Shelton was appointed in the fall of 1892 as a U. S. Government Instructor in agriculture at the Cherokee Indian School in Yellow Hill, North Carolina. Three years later he was transferred to the Sante Fe Training School for Indians in New Mexico. He received a promotion in 1900 and was sent to Supi, Arizona, where he became superintendent of the Havasupi Government School for Indians. Two years later he was moved to Shiprock, New Mexico to be the superintendent of the Navajo Indians San Juan Training School. There he stayed for sixteen years, earning a reputation as a disciplinarian that captured the attention of President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1918, W.T. retired from government service and returned to Waynesville.

Thirteen years earlier, June 8, 1905, W. T. Shelton had made an agreement with his father concerning the home place. He paid $3,000 for title to the house tract but granted his parents a life estate. Stephen died in 1913, and upon his return to Waynesville five years later, W. T. and his wife, Hattie Sledge Shelton, moved into the homeplace. He became a member of the firm of Hyatt and Company, eventually acquiring a full partnership with his brother-in-law E. J. Hyatt. He held a one-half interest in the business until his death. Shelton also held interests in the People's Supply Company, the Hazelwood Feed Company, and Jonathan's Creek Supply Company.

W. T. Shelton appears to have made some changes in the main house, but the records do not clearly specify the nature or dates of those changes. More immediately noticeable, however, are the two structures he built to the rear of the dwelling before 1931. One was a garage with an apartment above which was rented to tenants. The second was a one story, two room, brick greenhouse, now in ruins, where he raised dahlias, a sideline business that proved very profitable. These structures are dwarfed by the huge barn of early twentieth century vintage. The records are unclear whether S. J. or W. T. Shelton constructed the barn as it was built during the period of overlapping ownership and residence.
William T. Shelton died April 4, 1944. His will dictated explicit provisions for the support of his wife Hattie. All income from the rental of several town properties went to her, and if the amount fell below $3,000 annually, Shelton's executor was obligated to make up the difference from the profits of other parts of the estate. Apparently, W. T. and Hattie Shelton had no children, at least none that survived. Other than his wife, the only named beneficiary was his nephew Charles E. Ray, Jr., executor of Shelton's will and heir to the house and home tract upon Hattie's death. One interesting item in the will provided that any residue of his estate not otherwise disposed of was to be sold and the proceeds given to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Greenville, S. C. No less than $5,000 was to be used for a greenhouse to grow flowers for the children's rooms.

Charles E. Ray, Jr., is the son of W. T. Shelton's sister Minnie and her husband Charles E. Ray, Sr. He owned the property until November, 1977, at which time he and his wife transferred the house and eight and one-half acres to the Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts, Inc. This organization, with Miss Mary Cornwell as director, currently owns the property.
FOOTNOTES

1 Shelton purchased the property in 1875. In 1880 he was living in his home in Waynesville. Haywood County Deed Books, Office of the Registrar of Deeds, Haywood County Courthouse, Waynesville, Deed Book L, 580, hereinafter cited as Haywood County Deed Book; and Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, North Carolina-Haywood County, Population Schedule, 7 (Waynesville Town), hereinafter cited as Tenth Census, 1880.

2 Memorandum from Michael Southern, survey specialist, to Brent Glass, administrator of the Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, November 8, 1977, Survey Branch, Haywood County-Shelton House File, hereinafter cited as Southern memorandum.


4 John W. Moore, Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War Between the States (Raleigh (State of North Carolina), 4 volumes, 1882), II, 332; and Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 516. There is some confusion about Shelton's specific rank. Moore states that he was a second lieutenant, while Allen claims a first-lieutenant status.

5 Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 516.


7 T. W. Shelton Estate Papers.

8 W. Clark Medford, The Middle History of Haywood County (Waynesville, 1968), 87.

9 Haywood County Deed Book L, 580.

10 Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 516.

11 Tenth Census, 1880.
12 Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 517.

13 Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 516.

14 Shelton was also instrumental in building the first brick church in Waynesville. It was torn down in the 1930s to make way for the present Methodist Church. Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 516.

15 Haywood County Deed Book X, 501, 504.

16 Haywood County Deed Book 20, p. 481.

17 Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 517. See also Haywood County Deed Book H, 321, and Tenth Census, 1880.

18 Allen, Annals of Haywood County. For the location of the academy to the Shelton property, see Haywood County Deed Book X, 501.

19 Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 517.

20 Haywood County Deed Book 20, p. 481.


22 Haywood County Will Book 6, p. 15, W. T. Shelton. See also Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 517-518.

23 Southern memorandum; Sanborn Map of Waynesville, 1931, sheet 10, State Archives, Raleigh; and Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 518.

24 Southern memorandum; and Sanborn Map of Waynesville.


26 Haywood County Will Book 6, p. 15.

27 Haywood County Will Book 6, p. 15.

28 Southern memorandum.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOPHYSICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8½

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1.7 31.9 19.4 1 3.9 2.8 5.2 0
B 3.1 6.1 8.4 0 3.9 2.8 3.1 0 0
C 3.7 13.7 17.1 0 3.9 2.8 3.4 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Architectural Description by Michael T. Southern, Survey Specialist
Statement of Significance by Jerry L. Cross, Researcher

ORGANIZATION Archeology and Historic Preservation Section
N. C. Division of Archives and History

DATE November 2, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 109 E. Jones Street

TELEPHONE 919-733-4763

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh

STATE North Carolina

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL __ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 2, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Haywood County Records

- Deeds
- Estate Papers
- Marriage Bonds
- Marriage Register
- Vital Statistics Index
- Wills

Maps

- Map of Waynesville and Hazelwood, North Carolina, 1945
- Sanborn Map of Waynesville, 1931


Moore, John W. Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War Between the States. 4 vols. Raleigh (State of North Carolina), 1882, II.


Survey Branch Files. Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History.
SHELTON HOUSE
WAYNESVILLE, N.C.
HAYWOOD COUNTY
AUGUST 1978

0 — 100'
APPROXIMATE SCALE

PIGEON ST.

HILL STREET
CIRCLE ST.

SHELTON ST.

CHILTON AVE.

SHELTON BRANCH

UTILITY LINE

HOUSE
CREMERY

GARAGE APARTMENT
GREENHOUSE

BARN

SHED