

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 Ray, Clyde H., Sr. House

other names/site number Ten Oaks, Breese House

2. Location

street & number 803 1/2 Love Lane N/A not for publication

city or town Waynesville N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Haywood code 087 zip code 28786

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey A. Crowe SHPO 7/19/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other. (explain:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	2	structures
0	0	objects
2	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Queen Anne/Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other brick

wood

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Development

Transportation

Architecture

Period of Significance

1898 - 1946

Significant Dates

1898 - 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rhinehart Bros. Construction

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, University, etc.

Name of repository:

Buncombe County Library

Ray, Clyde H., Sr. House
Name of Property

Haywood County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	7	3	1	9	3	0	0	3	9	2	9	7	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

3

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth D. Nichols

organization _____ date March 28, 1996

street & number 127 Neese Drive telephone (615) 331-0028

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37211

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Narrative Description:

The Clyde H. Ray, Sr. House is a two and a half-story frame, Colonial Revival-style dwelling constructed 1898-1900 by Rhinehart Brothers Construction of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.¹ The dwelling is located on a one-acre tract of land at 803½ Love Lane, approximately 0.4 mile northwest of the downtown district of Waynesville, North Carolina. The Ray House occupies a one-acre lot that is located approximately 1,000 feet from the Waynesville Depot. Adjacent dwellings along Love Lane post-date the Ray House, having been constructed in the 1910s and 1920s. These buildings also exhibit Colonial Revival and Victorian-style architectural influences and are of brick and frame construction with hipped and gabled roofs. Most of the surrounding dwellings have been modernized in recent decades with additions and/or synthetic siding. All of the dwellings along Love Lane retain vast lawns and original settings that are characteristic of an early twentieth century, middle class, American neighborhood.

The Ray House was originally surrounded by a forty-two-acre estate with outbuildings and gardens. This original tract has since been reduced to a single acre. The property retains one original outbuilding located approximately twenty feet west of the dwelling's rear facade. Constructed as a spring house, this one-story, five-course common bond brick building with a shed roof was used for cold storage. The house faces east, reflecting the direction of an original drive that led toward the railroad. The present drive encircles the north, east, and west facades of the dwelling. Surrounding the dwelling is a frame fence added to the property approximately two years ago. Also added to the tract within recent years is a frame gazebo located less than 50 feet southeast of the dwelling. Original landscape features that include maple trees and evergreens enhance the overall integrity of site and setting which remains intact. The Ray House is presently used not only as a private home, but also as a bed and breakfast.

The dwelling has a multi-gabled and hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior siding is weatherboard, and at the roofline are two interior end brick chimneys. The primary facade faces east. Two primary gables face east, both of which retain nine-light single-sash windows. Below the primary gables at the second story level is a frame balustrade, an original feature of the dwelling. At the ground level of the primary facade is a wrap-around porch with a hipped roof, square wood columns, and frame balustrade. The original porch, similar in design to the present primary facade porch, was replaced ca. 1915 with battered

¹Interview with Robert Breese, 23 September 1995.

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columns on brick piers. At that time, the south end of the porch was enclosed to create a sunroom. The porch was again altered in 1995 when this feature was reconstructed and restored to its original appearance.² The primary entry is centrally located at the east facade, offset by a projecting two-story window bay at the northeast end of the dwelling. The dwelling rests on a continuous brick foundation that is obscured by frame slats at the primary and north facades.

The primary facade porch extends to the north and south facades. At the south facade, the porch remains partially enclosed with continuous windows. Windows, most of which are two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash design, retain their original configuration at all facades. At the southwest corner of the dwelling is a two-story wing with upper story three-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows. This wing has a shed roof. At the roofline of the south facade are a half-story gable with a single-sash four-light window and a gabled dormer with a single-light window. This gabled dormer is a recent addition to the dwelling, but does not detract from the integrity of original construction.

At the rear (west) facade of the dwelling is a one-story frame kitchen wing. Above this gabled wing are hipped and gabled roof configurations that reflect a Queen Anne influence. At the southwest corner of the rear facade is a one-story shed wing addition with a south facade two-over-two horizontal sash window. This rear wing is a mid-twentieth century alteration. At the west facade of the wing is a single door entry. Located at the north facade of the rear wing is a hipped porch with an interior brick chimney. This porch was enclosed in 1910, and retains continuous screening and a screen door that leads to the rear entrance.³ A projecting two-story window bay is located east of the rear porch, separating the wrap-around porch and rear porch.

The Ray House is a central hall plan dwelling with a central staircase flanked by front parlors. West of the north parlor is a rear sitting room; west of the south parlor is the dining room. Interior features of the dwelling include original hardwood floors of poplar and ash, bull's eye molding over windows and doors, and original decorative brass doorknobs. Original mantels and hearths remain intact. With the exception of the rear sitting room located in the southwest section of the first floor, all outer hearths have been recently covered with modern flooring to

²Interview with owners Eleanor and Jack Suddath, 23 September 1995.

³Interview with Robert Breese, 23 September 1995.

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preserve original hearth materials. Original interior transoms remain intact above lower level doors. Original window sashes also remain intact. A bathroom at the west end of the first floor central hall retains an original pedestal sink. Several bathrooms, all of which have been located in closet spaces, have been added to the dwelling to accommodate guests. Unused space beneath the staircase was converted into storage at the first floor level during recent restoration. At the northwest section of the first floor are a rear hall and entry. The rear corridor leads to the kitchen, pantry, laundry room, and dining area. The pantry and laundry rooms are accessible only through the kitchen, both of which are located at the northwest corner of the dwelling. The kitchen was remodeled and modernized in 1965. This is the only major renovation to the main floor. At the north end of the rear corridor is access to the rear service stairs which extend to the second and third floors.

The second floor, accessible by both the main central staircase and the rear service stairs, is similar in plan to the main floor with a central hall and a rear (northwest) corridor. Paired rooms flank either side of the central hall. At the southwest corner of the second floor is a rear bedroom accessible only through the south central bedroom.

The third floor, accessible only by the rear service stairs, has been renovated in recent years. This upper half-story retains a central living area. North of the living area are paired bedrooms. South of the living area are a bedroom and a recently added bathroom and closet. The upper half-story was originally used for servants' quarters, and has been recently converted into private living space for the present owners' personal use.

A unique interior feature of the Ray House is the variety of fireplace designs. All fireplaces retain original mantels, and each is unique. Fireplaces are located in the dining room, front and rear sitting rooms, and second floor bedrooms. Detailing for fireplaces includes features such as fluted mantels and decorative scrollwork. Additional original features include a beaded board, built-in china cabinet in the dining room, and a decorative drop pendant beneath first-level stairs. The staircase remains unaltered with a milled balustrade. Newel posts display features of decorative millwork with etched newels, sunburst motifs, and acorn shaped newel caps.

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Statement of Significance:

Narrative Summary

The Clyde H. Ray, Sr. House is a restored two and a half-story Colonial Revival-style dwelling with Queen Anne influences. This dwelling is one of the oldest along Love Lane that was named for Thomas Love who petitioned for the creation of Haywood County. The Ray House reflects the use of stylistic influences seen in upper class Haywood County dwellings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A fine example of its style, the house is one of few dwelling of similar size, style, and age remaining in and around Waynesville. The Clyde Ray, Sr. House not only reflects its builders' use of high style design and superior workmanship, it also represents early industry and growth in Waynesville, an era of development that came only after the railroad arrived in 1884. Waynesville remained a tiny settlement, even after the Civil War, because of its remote location within the Blue Ridge Mountains. The town's railroad depot provides a classic example of the tremendous impact that this new mode of transportation afforded, rapidly becoming a center of commercial activity that was directly related to downtown Waynesville.

Designed for Clyde H. Ray, Sr., the dwelling reflects his status one of Waynesville's premier merchants and community leaders for over fifty years. In addition to establishing and operating his successful business ventures, he served as town mayor for fifteen non-consecutive years. He also helped establish the First National Bank and was appointed vice-president and chairman of the board; and was president of the Chamber of Commerce and the Goodfellows Club. The dwelling constructed for Ray and his family reflects his rise to social and economic viability, epitomizing his status as a community leader and successful merchant in an economic base founded upon the arrival of the railroad. The architecture of the 1898 house also reflects the railroad-borne availability of stylish architectural elements favored by Waynesville citizens made prosperous by the opening of rail transportation routes.

The Clyde H. Ray, Sr. House is nominated to the National Register under Criterion B for its association with the productive life of Ray that is reflected in his association with the development of Waynesville as an important railroad town. It is also nominated under Criterion C as an excellent, intact example of the Queen Anne-Colonial Revival style in Waynesville. The period of significance begins with the 1898 construction date and extends to the death of Clyde H. Ray, Sr. in 1941.

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Historical Background

Clyde H. Ray, Sr. moved to Waynesville from Hendersonville, North Carolina, in 1885 when he purchased a hotel. This venture was short-lived, however, and Ray left Waynesville only to return two years later. Following his return in 1887, Mr. Ray established himself in the commercial trade of Waynesville, beginning his career as the town's first undertaker and a furniture retailer. These businesses were operated in the Adler Building on Main Street. Ray soon built up his trade to include a dry goods store also located on Main Street. Referred to locally as the "Merchant Prince," Ray owned buildings housing the John Graham Store, Village Furniture Store, a hardware store, and a general goods establishment in Franklin, NC. Ray continued to own several businesses in Waynesville until he eventually sold all of his interests in 1938. In addition to his status as a local merchant and business-owner, Ray served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, president of Goodfellows Club, and as chairman of the board and Vice-President for the First National Bank which he helped to establish. The activity for which Ray is best remembered today was his role as mayor. Ray served in this office for fifteen non-consecutive years, from 1889 to 1899, from 1907 to 1910; and again from 1929 to 1931.⁴

Clyde Ray's arrival to Waynesville occurred at approximately the same time that the railroad made its way into the small mountain hamlet. Isolated by the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains, Waynesville's population remained relatively minuscule until the railroad arrived in 1885.⁵ Created in 1808, Haywood County grew out of a regional necessity to provide a county seat for citizens in western Buncombe County. Rugged mountains separated these citizens from Buncombe's county seat, Asheville, rendering unreliable travel and impassable roads during winter months. A petition presented by Thomas Love to the General Assembly of North Carolina authorized formation of the new county, Haywood, named after John Haywood, state treasurer of North Carolina. Boundaries for the new county were extended to the Tennessee border, and Love's brother, Robert, donated land for a courthouse and church. At the suggestion of Robert Love, the county seat was named Waynesville, in honor of General Anthony Wayne, whom Love served under during the Revolutionary War.⁶

Early nineteenth century roads leading to Waynesville provided residents with access to Asheville, Soco Gap, Pigeon, and Beaverdam. Routes passing over Newfound and Balsam Gaps connected with roads leading to Greenville and Charleston, South Carolina, which held the largest markets for Waynesville residents. However, these routes were unreliable, often

⁴Ibid.

⁵"The Built Environment of Haywood County," p. 14.

⁶Electron, *History North Carolina's Mountains and Its People, 1800-1910*.

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becoming inaccessible due to weather and terrain, and a "brief" journey to the edge of Haywood County took citizens a minimum of two days. In 1827, the Bumcombe Turnpike opened, providing a north-to-south route. This toll pike served North Carolina residents as one of the best roads in the state, providing much needed access to South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky via the path of the French Broad River. East-to-west access became available soon afterward, along what are presently Routes 19 and 23. These new roads stimulated cash crop production and residential growth to a limited degree.⁷ As late as 1865, Waynesville held a mere ten to twelve residences, remaining unincorporated until 1871.

The railroad was a "catalyst for change" in western North Carolina. Agriculture took a back seat to newly arriving industry and commercial growth. Residents moved into the area in larger numbers than ever before, and housing styles changed from simple frame tenant dwellings to elaborate high style houses that reflected Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles popular throughout the United States at the turn of the century. Waynesville's train depot became the focus of: a small business district which served local agricultural interests as well as commercial ventures.⁸ Small cottages and bungalows cropped up around this ancillary commercial center, reflecting the town's rapid growth and commercial changes associated with arrival of the railroad. Clyde Ray's profession as a retailer, which soon achieved him the nickname "Merchant Prince," reflects the growing number of professionals in Waynesville, which occurred as a direct result of the railroad's arrival.

Clyde H. Ray, Sr. continued his activities as mayor, business owner, and entrepreneur for more than fifty years. His home, one of the earliest constructed along Love Lane, was a center of social activity, well known to the Waynesville community. Ray participated in a flurry of business activities, including those that benefited most by arrival of the railroad -- the lumber industry and tourism. He chaired a committee appointed to bring Suncest Lumber to Waynesville and, for a brief period of time, operated a hotel located on Main Street. Surviving the difficult times of the Great Depression, Ray managed to retain four downtown retail establishments and his home on Love Lane despite loss of approximately one-third of his cash holdings. In 1938, Ray sold all of his mercantile interests and retired, spending the rest of his life in Waynesville.

⁷Cotton, "Preliminary Assessment of the Historic Resources of Haywood County," p. 3.

⁸"The Built Environment of Haywood County," p. 51.

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The Clyde H. Ray, Sr. House remained under ownership of Mr. Ray's descendants until 1978. Following Ray's death, his home went to his daughter, Jennie E. Ray, who married Robert H. Breese of Asheville. Following her husband's death, Jennie returned to her family's home on Love Lane where she remained for the rest of her life. The house was then inherited by her son, Bob, who purchased the house from the Ray estate in 1956. While owned by the Ray-Breese Family, the Ray House underwent a series of modifications including replacement of the primary facade porch in 1915, the addition of a rear sleeping porch in 1935, and kitchen remodeling in 1965. The surrounding landscape also underwent changes with construction in 1910 and removal in 1950 of a greenhouse, removal of two barns in 1922 and 1947, respectively, and construction of a garage in 1910 that is no longer standing. In 1978, Bob Breese sold his family's home which was used for rental purposes until 1983 when obtained by Grady Leatherwood. Mr. Leatherwood sold the home in 1994 to its present owners, Eleanor and Jack Suddath. The Suddaths converted the house into a bed and breakfast, taking care to restore their home to its turn-of-the-century appearance.⁹

Architectural Context

The Clyde H. Ray, Sr. House is a late nineteenth century dwelling with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival-style influences. This dwelling is a fine example of its architectural style and reflects the growth of Haywood County and changing trends in statewide building techniques. North Carolina's growth during the late nineteenth century was directly associated with its ability to withstand a chain of economic and agricultural depressions, not to mention the Civil War which greatly stifled southern economy and urban development for many years. Following these troublesome years, state recovery came full circle, reflected not only in urban and suburban growth, but also by an upward mobility in manufacturing and industrial ventures.¹⁰ Such statistics were not limited to larger trade centers such as Greensboro and Winston-Salem; they also emulated industrial and commercial changes taking place in small mountain villages such as Waynesville.

The Ray House not only portrays upper middle class economic mobility, it is also a product of national architectural trends typical for the dwelling's era of construction. Such trends were

⁹Interview, Robert Breese.

¹⁰Bishir, Brown, Lounsbury, and Wood. *Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building*, p. 288.

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prompted by new building technologies and a readily available supply of building materials made possible by the advent of the railroad. Not only had exterior building materials such as brick and lumber become easily accessible to builders by the late 1800s, but interior products such as modern plumbing supplies and milled woodwork were also being mass produced by this time. With the assistance of the railroad, manufacturers were able for the first time in history to easily ship their products almost anywhere in the country.¹¹ Mass production spurred the viability of factory produced goods which in turn stimulated the press, resulting in a wide variety of architectural literature available for builders and home owners. Thus came the development of architectural pattern books and an increasing desire of home owners to hire professionally trained builders and contractors.¹²

Of all of the previously mentioned late nineteenth century technological advances, none impacted builders more positively than the introduction of balloon frame construction. With this new mode of construction, builders were able to incorporate "freer" styles of architecture. Balloon framing replaced earlier methods of construction that relied on heavy lumber and peg construction. The new building method employed the use of lighter lumber (pre-cut by machinery) that was held together with factory-produced nails. Balloon framing was less expensive because it necessitated fewer laborers and utilized factory-produced, ready-to-use materials. Because balloon framing was so versatile, architects and builders were now able to incorporate unconventional floor plans that had previously held to "box-like" designs.¹³

By the mid-nineteenth century, homes constructed in Haywood County were primarily of frame construction with central hall plans and gabled massing. As Victorian styles gained popularity nationwide, these simple frame dwellings became adorned with milled ornamentation usually restricted to porch and gable roof lines. Such changes no doubt "indicate the beginnings of prosperity and architectural awareness that came with improving roads and the arrival of the railroads."¹⁴

¹¹McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, p. 239.

¹²Wright, Gwendolyn. *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America*, p. 80.

¹³Ibid, p. 87.

¹⁴Cotton, p. 4

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Two typical examples of homes in Waynesville that reflect the impact of the railroad on building styles are the Boone-Withers house constructed ca. 1884 and the Gautier House, also constructed around the turn of the century. The Boone-Withers house, like the Ray House, portrays the builder's attempt to forego the traditional I-house and incorporate a sense of "culture" with modern amenities such as coal-burning fireplaces and indoor plumbing. This Colonial Revival dwelling is a modest attempt to fuse traditional building methods with stylish tastes. The Gautier House contrasts the Ray and Boone-Withers Houses in that it is a bold example of Victorian architecture, characterizing classical traits of the Queen Anne style such as decorative millwork, irregular massing, and a turret. Unlike the Ray and Boone-Withers Houses, the Gautier House exhibits no constraints of architectural ornamentation.¹⁵

In most cases, Haywood County's Victorian style dwellings remained simple and limited in embellishment, leaning toward a combination of classical styles rather than whole heartedly plunging into vast adornment conventionally associated with the Queen Anne style.¹⁶ The Ray House depicts not only typical building patterns seen in Haywood County, it also displays an air of refined elegance associated with nationally prevalent architectural tastes. In addition, the Ray House introduces elements of the Colonial Revival style, indicating architectural influences associated with the impending rise of early twentieth century building techniques based on classical revival styles.

The combination of mass-production, railroad shipment, and new building routines brought Victorian and Classical Revival styles to the forefront of American architecture, particularly for middle class citizens who could afford to build new homes. Balloon frame construction and factory-produced building materials allowed for greater efficiency in housing composition at greatly reduced costs.¹⁷ The Clyde H. Ray, Sr. House is a classic example of these changing patterns in American architecture, reflecting an end to Victorian styles and the introduction of Classical Revival styles.

¹⁵"The Built Environment of Haywood County," pp. 19-20)

¹⁶Cotton, p. 5.

¹⁷Bishir et. al., p. 289.

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Community Development/Transportation Context

Waynesville remained no more than a mountain hamlet until the late nineteenth century when the railroad made its way into western North Carolina. The eastern half of North Carolina realized the benefits of the railroad as early as the 1840s, with completion of the North Carolina Railroad between 1846 and 1856, which had lines running from Wilmington and Weldon at Goldsboro, west to Raleigh, Greensboro, and Salisbury, and Concord to Charlotte.¹⁸ Despite the completion of passable roads during the early to mid-nineteenth century, Haywood County and Waynesville received little stimulation in commercial and economic growth. Accessible roads provided outlets to markets in South Carolina, however shipment remained difficult due to mountainous terrain and weather conditions which limited travel for many months throughout the year.¹⁹ Because Haywood County's economic survival was based on its agricultural markets, the need for rail service became conspicuously apparent with increasing crop failures in the western half of the state. In addition, the eastern portion of North Carolina suffered from overproduction due to lack of markets in western regions. The need to foster new markets and provide new technologies to isolated portions of the state could no longer be avoided. As a result, during the years of 1850-51, the state legislature appropriated funding for survey of a proposed railroad line that would provide service from Salisbury, North Carolina, to the Tennessee state line near the French Broad River.

Despite the fact that plans were underway by the 1850s to provide rail service to western North Carolina, many obstacles arose. As late as 1859, the state remained uncertain as to which line it would construct. The two most favored routes were associated with the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, and the Cincinnati, Cumberland Gap and Charleston Railroad Company. Both options provided extensions from Asheville to a point near the Tennessee state line, however the line associated with the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad had grown financially weak by 1859, making the route a less favorable choice.

In 1860, the Western North Carolina Railroad was completed east of Morgantown. Work stopped abruptly, however, interrupted by the Civil War. In 1866, the work near Morgantown resumed, and an earlier proposed route located east of the Blue Ridge Mountains was re-surveyed and altered. Plagued by financial failure in 1874-75, the Western North

¹⁸Ibid., p. 132.

¹⁹Cotton, p. 3.

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Carolina Railroad met a joint resolution to determine claims against the project and to reappoint commissioners. A final agreement was reached in April 1875 in which all involved parties (including the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Company, and the North Carolina Railroad Company) presented their claims to the State Commission. The agreement stipulated a joint purchase and reorganization of the Western North Carolina Railroad, and new bonds were distributed to all participants. The new company, the Western North Carolina Railroad Company No. 2, began reorganization in October 1875. Work continued on the western line throughout the late 1870s, and in 1883, the State sold the line to Clyde, Logan and Buford on the contingency that the new owners complete the line as far as the Nantahala River. In 1882, a branch was constructed into Waynesville, and the line was finally completed in 1889.²⁰

The railroad brought with it a plethora of change to western North Carolina, both agriculturally and industrially. Agrarian participants were provided with numerous markets for their crops and were therefore able to turn a higher profit. This stimulated many farmers to purchase additional land and labor which further strengthened agricultural markets. In addition, farmers were exposed to modern agricultural methods made possible by the railroad which provided communication with others involved in similar trade. Staple crop production increased, and this was particularly true during the mid-nineteenth century.²¹ Industrially, the railroad provided an outlet for shipping goods and services produced in rural towns and urban areas. The train also brought in raw materials so that production could continue and new markets could be created. For small communities such as Waynesville, these activities brought new residents which in turn stimulated commercial activities and created trade for markets that previously were unable to thrive due to a limited population.

With increasing economic growth in Waynesville, the agrarian way of life was soon outweighed by industrial and commercial activities. The railroad depot provided a small business district, serving as an outlet directly tied to the train and functioning as an auxiliary to Main Street. As a result, merchants and middle class citizens who no longer relied on an agricultural lifestyle constructed their homes near the downtown area, evidenced by turn of the century dwellings still located along the edge of these business districts.²² Industrial

²⁰Arthur, *Western North Carolina, A History 1730-1913.*, pp. 469-479.

²¹Bishir et. al., p. 133.

²²Cotton, p. 5.

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development related to lumber production steadily increased, attesting to the increasing number of lumber shipments out of the county. Milling, tanning, and furniture manufacturing were in turn stimulated by increased timber production, while tourism became, for the first time, a thriving economy in Waynesville. As a result, society prospered and residents began to prefer factory-produced goods and services. No longer dependent upon domestic or "home-spun" materials, families purchased store-bought clothing, food, and merchandise. This further stimulated the town's commercial activities, necessitating retail establishments such as those owned and operated by Clyde Ray.

The Clyde H. Ray Sr. House depicts construction associated directly with Waynesville's railroad district. As an upper middle-class family abode that never functioned as a farmhouse, this dwelling was constructed for a successful merchant whose trade and income relied primarily on an economy that failed to exist prior to 1882, the year of the railroad's arrival to Waynesville.

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Verbal boundary description

The boundary of the nominated parcel is lot 1749 as outlined on the accompanying property map #8615.05 entitled "Property Tax Map for Clyde H. Ray, Sr. House."

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated parcel includes the town lot currently associated with the Clyde H. Ray, Sr. House. The nominated parcel provides an appropriate landscaped setting for the house and outbuilding.

