

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Shook-Welch-Smathers House

Clyde, Haywood County, HW0179, Listed 9/21/2008
Nomination by Davyd Foard Hood and George Siekkinen
Photographs by George Siekkinen, July 2007



Overall view



Side and rear view

**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 Shook-Welch-Smathers House
other names/site number Shook House

2. Location

street & number 178 Morgan Street not for publication N/A
city or town Clyde vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Haywood code 087 zip code 28721

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 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 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper _____	Date of Action _____
<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:)	_____	_____

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Name of Property

Haywood, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Mid-19th century

Late Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

shingle

roof asphalt shingle

other brick

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets.

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Name of Property

Haywood, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1810-1900

Significant Dates

ca. 1810-20
Ca. 1840-60
Ca. 1890-1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Name of Property

Haywood, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.943 acres more or less

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 326060 3933510
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Davyd Foard Hood (first draft, 3/24/2004); George Siekkinen (revised draft as directed by owner)
organization National Trust for Historic Preservation date March 13, 2008
street & number 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW telephone 202.588.6000
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20036

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 Dr. Joseph Shook Hall
street & number 802 Massachusetts Avenue, NW telephone 202.544.7180
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20036

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Preface

The National Register nomination project for the Shook-Welch-Smathers House began in February 2003 after Dr. Joseph Shook Hall bought the property from Preservation North Carolina, the statewide non-profit historic preservation organization. Davyd Foard Hood was retained by Dr. Hall and Mr. Hood undertook extensive research and submitted the first draft. In April 2004, Dr. Hall decided to take on the rest of the project after that and he eventually contacted the National Trust for Historic Preservation for assistance. George Siekkinen, Senior Architect, National Trust, was tasked with revising the draft prepared by Mr. Hood following guidance provided by the staff of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC SHPO). Siekkinen visited the subject property in July 2007 and worked to complete the nomination for submission to NC SHPO in Spring 2008. The great majority of the text is the work of Mr. Hood with selected edits, additions, and subtractions provided by Siekkinen following the NC SHPO recommendations.

The Shook-Welch-Smathers House, a weather boarded two-story-with-attic frame house, reflects what has been estimated as spanning three principal periods of construction in the nineteenth century: ca. 1810-20; ca. 1840-1860; and ca. 1890-1900. It stands at 178 Morgan Street at the southwest edge of Clyde, a small town incorporated in 1889 and situated on the south side of the Pigeon River in east central Haywood County.¹ During the nineteenth century and the first four decades of the twentieth century the house stood as the seat of a large farm extending north to the meander of the Pigeon River and south to the foothills of the Ratcliff and Pressley mountains. In the later nineteenth century the eastern portion of the once extensive lands comprising the Smathers farm was set apart to Nancy (Smathers) Haynes and much of the town of Clyde subsequently developed on its former fields and meadows.

In 1938 when the house was assigned to Mary Inez (Smathers) Morgan in the division of her father's estate, the house stood on 301 acres whose character was entirely rural and agricultural in appearance. During the ownership of Mrs. Morgan and her heirs, which extended to February 2003, the acreage of the farm steadily diminished through a series of sales (and conveyances to family) and the house was set apart finally on a residual tract of 3.687 acres when conveyed to the present owner. During this period the house was sheathed with asbestos shingles, and its picturesque setting changed as highways and streets were laid out and paved, houses of a mostly modest scale were erected on lots to the north and south, and the area took on the mixed-use look characteristic of transitional areas at the edges of small towns. This change was not entirely of necessity and choice but reflective also of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

development of the larger area in the second half of the twentieth century when Interstate 40 was constructed nearby, through the county. An access road was created and built immediately west of the house linking the interstate highway with US 19 and US 23 which carried through the farmlands and now, widened, forms the southeast boundary of the nominated acreage. The Shook-Welch-Smathers House stands near the east edge of its irregularly-shaped grounds and faces east onto Morgan Street that is also the property's east boundary. The tax lot is expanded on the north by a very narrow sliver of land lying between Collins Street and the path of the Southern Railway tracks which form the north boundary of the residual acreage. The northwest, west, and southwest boundaries of the residual tract are those of the parcel owned by Mary Inez (Smathers) Morgan at her death.

The boundaries for the National Register nomination parcel follow the tax parcel boundaries for all of the south edge and much of the east and west portions. The northern part of the tax parcel containing the new visitor center and long leg of the tax lot extending between Collins Street and the railroad right-of-way have not been included in the National Register acreage. The north line extends eastward to Morgan Street from an inside corner of the tax lot northwest of the house. The excluded portion is approximately three quarters of an acre and the net size of the National Register nomination acreage is approximately 2.943 acres more or less in size.

The house stood unoccupied from Mrs. Morgan's death in July 1981 until its sale in 2003, and deteriorated during that period. Paint peeled on its elevations, its porches sagged and their flooring rotted, and the house took on a forlorn appearance. While the front lawn and the side and rear yards were kept mowed, the remainder of this acreage, marked by some few surviving deciduous trees and including the vegetable garden plot south west of the house, was neglected; it grew up in briars, vines, weeds, and wildflowers forming a low dense thicket, which was cut with a bush-hog after the sale to the current owner. The front lawn is framed on the north and south by informal borders of both planted and volunteer growth. A large clump of forsythia and yucca survive in the north border while old-fashioned orange daylilies thrive at the east end of the south border and the northwest corner of the garage. Long abandoned, the small frame poultry house to the southwest of the house had fallen to ruin and it was removed as part of the recent rehabilitation project.

After his acquisition of the property in February 2003 Joseph Shook Hall, a direct descendent of Jacob Shook, has undertaken extensive stabilization measures, employing Jane Gianvito Mathews, AIA, LEEP AP of Mathews Architects as the project architect. Allen Roderick of Heartwood Renovations & Building, Inc., was retained for the construction contract. Both firms are of Asheville, NC. This work was completed in April 2005 with the goal of preserving the historic fabric of the house on both its exterior and interior to the greatest extent possible. The project approach included restoration and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

rehabilitation treatments with the intent of using the property as a local history museum. The program also included the construction of a separate free-standing visitor center building in a compatible design of frame construction with a parking lot for ten cars and a tour bus. The new visitor center and the parking lot have been cut out of the National Register nomination parcel as noted above. A deteriorated frame garage of insubstantial ca. 1940 construction, which had stood at the southeast edge of the front lawn with paired double doors opening onto Morgan Street, was used for construction storage and demolished when the recent work was completed.

Description

The appearance of the Shook-Welch-Smathers House reflects a dramatic mid and late nineteenth century expansion and enhancement of the original two-story single pile house constructed in the ca. 1810-20 period, with a second period of major construction in ca. 1840-60, and a final and third construction period in the closing years of the nineteenth century, ca. 1890-1900. It is believed the first period house followed the hall and parlor plan with the current stair hall having been the parlor and the current living room having been the hall.

The original house, based on the on-site research of November 20, 2004, was described by Peter Sandbeck as, "The two-story house appears to have been single pile, with two rooms per floor, and had a plain enclosed winder stair rising from the first to second floors along the interior partition wall. It has a single chimney at the south end; evidence is not visible to determine if there was a first period chimney at the north end. In its first period form, the house may have had a one-story porch across the front or east elevation to shelter the front door, but probably not a two-story porch. It is likewise possible that it had one-story shed rooms or a combination of porch and rooms on the rear. Fenestration on the front and rear walls is unknown due to extensive alterations. No original weatherboards from this first period survive but they were most likely beaded."²

In the second period, ca. 1840-60, the small first period house was enlarged with a building campaign that included a full-facade double-tier porch added on its east front and shallow shed rooms on the west side, all engaged under a new taller and larger side-gable roof that extended over the front double-tier porch. The construction of the first and second periods comprises the southernmost two-thirds of the present, generally rectangular dwelling, the block containing the off-center entrance and the asymmetrically positioned windows on each side. In the course of the rehabilitation project, evidence was revealed of what was probably an original door opening into the original hall (what is now the living room or the southeast room) from the front elevation. During the ca. 1890-1900 expansion the second period house side hall (what had been the first period parlor) became the house's center stair

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

hall when a double-pile tier of bedrooms was added on its north gable end. This addition was covered in half by a northward extension of the side-gable roof while the remainder of the block was covered by a lower hip roof enhanced by paired ornamental gables set, respectively, at the north end of the east facade and at the west end of the north elevation. At the start of the recent project, the house was covered with asbestos shingles, but underneath was found the weatherboards which for the most part have been preserved along with wide sheathed eaves. This unusual combination of side-gable and hip roofs covers the two-tier porch, refitted with turned posts, which carries across the full facade, wraps the house's northeast corner, and continues the full depth of the north elevation. On the older block's rear elevation, changes were also made. A one story gable-roof ell was built in the center of the elevation, abutting the west wall of the ca. 1840-1860 house. The shallow shed rooms in the southwest corner of the older house were reconfigured, enlarged to the present plan in the two-story rear ell, and covered by an end-gable roof. A one-story porch was then built across the west end of this ell. During the course of this ca. 1890-1900 remodeling, the exterior weatherboarding was (apparently all) replaced, the window openings reframed, and the openings fitted with replacement two-over-two sash. From the on-site research conducted on November 20, 2004, with the notes prepared by Peter Sandbeck, it is believed the exterior chimney of the south elevation is probably a rebuilding, done during the ca. 1840-1860 second construction period, of what had been the first period chimney.

The east front elevation of the house has an asymmetrical four-bay arrangement protected by the full-facade bracketed turned-post porch. Corresponding entrances on each level of the double-tier porch are positioned slightly off center and paired with a closely spaced window to the north that illuminates the halls. The outer bays hold single openings in almost symmetrical positions. The plain board surrounds have been refitted in 2004 with crown moldings and drip caps; these are based on ghost marks found when the 1950s asbestos shingles and contemporary finish work were removed from the house's elevations. Both the first and second story doorways hold conventional late-nineteenth century five-panel doors; the upper panels in the main entrance are glazed. In 2004 the porch substructure was rebuilt on wood piers, the deteriorated flooring replaced, and the bracketed turned posts stabilized. The original posts survive in place on the second story; however, those on the first-story are of four different designs of like character, suggesting some are replacements. The ceilings of the porch are beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing. The pent gable end is sheathed with original wood shingles and centered with a small two-over-two sash attic window.

The house's north elevation is likewise dominated by the double-tier porch which wraps the house's northeast corner and carries the full depth of the two-bay main block. The finish of its ornamental gable repeats that on the facade. At the top of the house the visible apex of the main

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

side-gable roof is also sheathed with wood shingles. The recessed west part of this elevation has a stepped appearance created by the offset one-and two-story ells, an interior chimney and the kitchen flue stack, and the shed roofs of the bathroom and the hatch protecting the cellar entrance (under the west kitchen window).

The above-cited one-and two-story ells on the west (rear) elevation contribute to its complex asymmetrical generally three-bay appearance. The north "third," comprising the late-nineteenth century addition, has single corresponding windows on each story. The center bay is made up of the west gable end of the one-story ell, on a concrete foundation, which is preceded by the shed-roof of the hatch while a narrow horizontal window in the main block illuminates the second story hall. Visible behind (east of) the kitchen flue is the shed roof form of the inset second-story bathroom. The south "third" of the elevation also has a stepped appearance with the blind enclosed west wall of the service porch in the foreground below a large opening in the second story of the larger ell holding four three-over-two windows.

The house's south gable end also reflects the additive character of its history. The dominate feature is the tall stepped-shoulder brick chimney which rises slightly east of center from a stepped four-course base on a fieldstone foundation; it is laid up in mixed bond and features a free-standing stack above the shoulders. The chimney is flanked on each level by nearly equal size window openings which hold two-over-two sash. The raking lines of the gable roof indicate the mass of the ca. 1840-1860 house, with a porch on the facade and shed rooms on the rear, and so, too, does the surviving fieldstone foundation here. Those shed rooms on both stories were replaced by a tier of rooms in the larger two-story ell comprising the dining room on the first story and a bedroom above. Triple one-over-one sash windows in a large opening illuminate the dining room while paired three-over-two sash occupy the second-story opening. The elevation effectively terminates at the house's southwest corner with the south gable end of the service porch that is fitted with a replacement door. The inset basement hatch door had been constructed of wood that was deteriorating and it was replaced with steel doors, also has a door opening on its south end.

The interior of the Shook-Welch-Smathers House likewise reflects its three major periods of construction plus the ca. 1915 Craftsman-style refitting of the dining room. During the recent project, wall coverings and other finishes and fittings of the mid to late twentieth century and not considered historic were mostly removed. Fabric dating from the ca. 1810-1820 construction of the original block, including the unpainted, beaded-edged pine sheathing and arch-headed brick fireboxes, is visible in the large rooms in the southeast corner of both stories. In the enclosed stair which rises from the second-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

story room to the attic and in the finished attic room, one finds the flush sheathing, dating from the second period, remaining intact. The finish in these remarkably astyle spaces includes three retarditaire six-panel Georgian doors and the paneled chimney face in the second-story bedroom. The appearance of the center stair hall on both floors combines the first two periods with the beaded-edged and flushing sheathing boards with later elements added in the ca. 1890-1900 remodeling of the hall chambers of the early house. The rooms in the bedroom block added ca. 1890-1900 onto the north gable end of the original house retain their original fabric and finishes as does the room at the west end of the first story hall which has long been used as a kitchen; however, paint and wallpapers have been added through time and remain to varying degrees. The exposed original wiring, added in the early twentieth century and trailing across the ceilings of most rooms, is being retained in some rooms for technology interpretation.

The first floor stair hall extends the depth of the ca. 1840-1860 enlargement of the original or first period ca. 1810-1820 house and is enhanced with woodwork added in the third period construction of ca. 1890-1900. The stair rises westward along its north wall and is fitted with a shaped handrail supported with a robust newel and turned balusters. The hall and parlor flooring, appearing to date to the remodeling, includes oak, chestnut, maple, and other native woods. A vertical tongue-and-groove board wainscot encircles the hall below a molded cap. The walls, which had been covered with wall board and/or plywood paneling, and the ceiling, covered with Celotex panels, were unsheathed in the recent project to reveal the earlier periods of work. The window and door surrounds are molded and mitered. A six-panel door opens from the hall into the south parlor while a five-panel door opens at the foot of the stairs into the northeast corner bedroom and like doors serve the northwest corner bedroom and a new first floor lavatory fitted into the small space between the dining room and the rear corner of the hall. A reused six-panel door protects what is now a closet under the stair that had been refitted by Mrs. Morgan to serve as a lavatory. Its fixtures were removed during the recent project.

The parlor, in the southeast corner, has a later mixed wood floor. However, the walls retain their original beaded-edged sheathing boards on the untouched walls from the first period. On the walls that were reworked for changes in the door and fenestration one finds the wide flush board sheathing of the second period. The beaded-edged boards from the first period and flush boards of the second period have never been painted and the boards from both periods have mellowed to a rich nut brown color. The ceiling, which might originally have had open beams, was sheathed with reused boards to provide the backing when wallpaper was applied across the ceiling. The wallpaper treatments were removed during the recent rehabilitation project exposing the board ceiling. This change was perhaps contemporary with the removal of the original fireplace fitting and its replacement with what appears to be a conventional Victorian-style mantel, which may in fact have some reused pieces from the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

earlier fireplace fittings. The reused sheathing on the wall beside and above the firebox suggests this area was originally enhanced by a paneled chimney face, one like that which survives on the second story. The windows and doors are fitted with molded mitered surrounds. Ghost marks of original strap hinges survive on the south side of the six-panel hall door which was cut down and re-hung on butt hinges, probably when the floor was raised. Ghost marks on the walls and ceiling also indicate the location of the original enclosed stair to the second story in the room's northwest corner. Another original feature is a small window opening inset in the room's east wall near the southeast corner whose purpose and relationship to the other fenestration is unclear.

Paired fifteen-pane French doors, installed by Mrs. Morgan in the late 1930s in the parlor's west wall, open into the dining room. It was refitted with handsome Craftsman-style chestnut woodwork about 1915. This finish includes a tall vertical board wainscot that rises from a baseboard to a shallow plate shelf encircling the room, an exposed paneled beam ceiling, a bracketed mantel with mirrored over mantel, and plain board door and window surrounds. A five-panel door opens from the dining room into the twentieth-century kitchen. A similar door, now closed shut, flanks the mantel on its right and this formerly entered a small space that has been reconfigured to serve as the first floor restroom. This small space, now the restroom, had been a side hall into the dining room from the main stair hall. The kitchen is sheathed with beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling. The bracketed shelf mantel in the room's southeast corner possibly belies the room's traditional original use as a kitchen. A separate ceiling-mounted flue was installed to serve the cook stove. A door in the south wall, beside that into the dining room, opens onto the service pantry (formerly a small screened porch). The kitchen and service pantry were rehabilitated during the recent project with modern cabinetry, fixtures, and appliances to serve as a catering kitchen and for the museum staff and volunteers.

The paired bedrooms on the north side of the hall are both entered through five-panel doors and have almost consistent finishes. The chief difference in the two is that the northeast or "front" bedroom has a wainscot of diagonally set tongue-and-groove double-bead board carried between a molded baseboard and simple top rail. The floors are pine and the walls and ceiling are sheathed with similar double-beaded tongue-and-groove boards. The door and window surrounds are the same molded mitered frames installed throughout the house. The simple Victorian mantels in each room have decorative supports that rise to paired turnings supporting the mantel shelf. The fireboxes and hearths are brick.

The second-story hall is simple in its appearance except for the turned railing, carrying between robust newels, which enclose the stairwell. It has pine flooring and the wallpaper was removed during the recent project to expose its unpainted sheathing boards, beaded-edged and flush, from the first and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

second periods respectively on the walls and ceiling. The openings into the northeast, northwest, and southeast bedrooms as well as the door onto the porch and the flanking window have mitered, molded surrounds; however, those on the doors into the southwest bedroom and the bathroom, added at the west end of the hall above the kitchen, have plain board surrounds. The finish of the bedrooms on the north side of the hall generally replicates that of the first story northwest bedroom except that these bedrooms are fitted with flues for small wood stoves rather than fireplaces and mantels. The plain finish of the southwest bedroom, with double-beaded tongue-and-groove boards on the walls and ceiling, a simple toe molding instead of a baseboard, plain surrounds, and metal knobs on the doors into the hall and southeast bedroom suggest that its finish are of a later, post 1900 date. The bathroom with its skirted tub and sheathed with tongue-and-groove boards is inset in the attic above the kitchen and clearly of early twentieth century construction.

Except for the addition of the molded, mitered door and window surrounds, the second-story southeast room retains the essential character of its ca. 1810-1820 period of construction. The wood floors are complemented by the unpainted original beaded-edged sheathing boards on the room's north wall (the partition wall along center stair hall) and the wide-board flush sheathing on the other walls and ceiling. A paneled Georgian chimney face, with three tiers of raised panels, occupies the wall area between the paired south windows. Its curved bottom echoes the curved top of the brick firebox. Ghost marks in the room's northwest corner floor indicate the original rise of the lost stair from the first story. It was positioned below the surviving enclosed stair to the attic which rises on the room's west wall to the north in a steep ascent. A six-panel door with its original butt hinges guards the opening to the flush sheathed stairwell.

The attic level of the Shook-Welch-Smathers House is remarkably well-finished and well preserved except for some alterations made when the ca. 1890-1900 addition was made on the north gable end and the two-story ell was added on the rear of the house. The center of the attic was enclosed as a large room and fully sheathed with the same wide pine boards that appear on the lower stories dating from the second period. The stairwell, as it comes up to the attic floor, is protected by a simple railing on three sides supported at the corners on fully chamfered newels of delicate, elegant craftsmanship. This room, which occupies the full width of the ca. 1840-1860 period house with windows in each gable end, was floored with wide boards arranged in tiers of flooring with butt edges. The flooring extended to the east and west beyond the enclosed room to a line above the exterior east and west walls of the house and allowed for storage in that area under the roof. When the later nineteenth-century additions were made to the house, the sheathing forming the west wall of the room and most of the flooring between it and the west eave were removed as was the wall sheathing on the west edge of the north wall. The windows in the south gable end continue to illuminate the attic room,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

and a surviving pendant window opening in the east end of the north wall reflects the original symmetry. Numerous inscriptions in lead pencil appear on the walls and document visitation by Methodist clergy and lay people.

¹ The house is believed to have been built by Jacob Shook (1749-1839), a pioneer settler on the Pigeon River in present-day Haywood County. In 1995 A. L. Honeycutt, Jr., the head of the Restoration Branch, SHPO, Raleigh, and John Horton a SHPO staff member, visited the house and produced "A Preliminary Reading of the Shook-Smathers House." After the present owner acquired the property in February 2003 and initiated plans to stabilize and renovate the house as a house museum, he engaged an architect and a contractor to undertake that work and Davyd Foard Hood to research and prepare the first draft of a National Register nomination for the property. John Horton, restoration specialist, revisited the house several times in the company of the above professionals and re-examined the fabric and hardware of the building as inappropriate twentieth-century finishes and fabric was removed from its elevations and interior walls. He produced a revision of the 1995 report, "Analysis of Historic Architectural Features," dated March 19, 2004, which concluded that ca. 1840 was the likely construction date for the original block of the house. During the course of the recent rehabilitation project, with the removal of various non-historic or later period surface materials from the interior walls and ceilings, another research visit was conducted by Dean Ruedrich, John Horton, Peter Sandbeck, and Paul Stephens. Based on the newly exposed historic surfaces, they concluded the house was probably constructed in three periods, ca. 1810-1820, ca. 1840-1860, and ca.1890-1900. Copies of the reports are located in the Western Office, Division of Archives and History, Asheville, NC, and the SHPO, Raleigh, NC. The first period for the construction of the house, based on the physical evidence on the wall and ceiling boards, was given at ca. 1810-1820, and thus was within the ownership period of Jacob Shook. The second owner, William Welch, purchased the property from the Jacob Shook estate in 1840 and sold it to Levi Smathers in January 1850. The period of ca. 1890-1900 for the expansion and late Victorian refitting of the house is based on events occurring in the Smathers family, its architectural appearance, and a surviving letter dated 5 March 1900 from the Longman & Martinez paint company of New York to D. L. S. (sic) Smathers urging him to consider their paints when "you ... have your buildings painted."

² Peter Sandbeck, "Notes on the Shook-Smathers House, 178 Morgan Street, Clyde, Haywood County, NC, November 20, 2004." Unpublished manuscript, NCSHPO Archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

SUMMARY

The Shook-Welch-Smathers House, a two-story-with-attic weather boarded frame house built in three periods - the original or first period of ca. 1810-1820 house, a second period of enlargement of ca. 1840-1860, and a final further enlargement in a late-Victorian style of ca. 1890-1900 third period - occupies an important place in the history of Clyde and Haywood County. The first period house, based on the several research efforts, was probably a two-story, hall-and-parlor type house, of a single pile. There is no physical evidence of a porch on the front or whether there were some shed rooms and/or porch configuration on the rear elevation. In the second period, the original block of this hall-and-parlor house was enlarged with a two-tier full-facade porch and shed rooms on its rear west elevation, all engaged under an expansive side-gable roof. The house represents both the earliest known frame dwelling surviving in the county and a building of outstanding character and quality for its place and period. Remarkably astyle in appearance, the house in its first period was finished with beaded-edged pine sheathing, retardataire Georgian woodwork, and arch-headed fireplaces in its principal first and second story rooms. These were preserved in the mid and late-nineteenth century periods of construction and enlargement as was an extraordinary paneled chimney face on the second floor. In the second period of construction, the height of the roof was increased to cover the wider floor area beneath and the two-story engaged porch was added across the front elevation. This type of expansion to an earlier house has been also observed in other houses in the general area, such as the Deavor House of Transylvania County and the McDowell and Carson houses of McDowell County, as remarked in the Notes from the November 20, 2004 research visit. The final Victorian-style enlargement, important in its own as a reflection of the building boom that characterized late-nineteenth century Haywood County, produced the L-shaped turned-post porch that continues to dominate its appearance and interior finish that also survives virtually intact.

The house, whose original construction date has been estimated in the 1810 to 1820 period and with second and third periods of major construction, ca. 1840-1860 and ca. 1890-1900, is directly associated with several men who figured prominently in the life of the Pigeon River settlement in Haywood County, which was set apart from Buncombe County in 1808. The house stands on the residual estate lands of Jacob Shook (1749-1839), a Haywood County patriarch, and he is associated with its first period of construction. After Shook's death, the house was bought at public auction by William Welch in 1840. Mr. Welch (1796-1865) was the son of John Welch, another pioneer settler of Haywood County, and one of its wealthiest and most influential men. William Welch became prominent in his own right, inherited fortune, and successively married two of the daughters of Robert Love (1760-1845), who, with little question, was surely the wealthiest man in the county. By the time he owned this property, William Welch had served in both chambers of the North Carolina General

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

Assembly, been a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1835, and was engaged on a career as Haywood County clerk of court that is said to extend to some thirty years.

In January 1850 William Welch sold the Jacob Shook lands to Levi Smathers, a member of the country's large, prosperous German community. Levi Smathers (1817-1896) lived here until his death forty-six years later. In the 1850s he enlarged his holding on the Pigeon River and through time greatly increased his own fortune through farming and money lending to friends, family, and neighbors. His son, D. I. L. (Doc Ira Levi) Smathers (1860-1937), was born in the house, lived here with his parents, his wife, and their four children born between 1880 and 1887, and left valuable lands of over 1,200 acres to those children. His only daughter Mary Inez (Smathers) Morgan (1887-1981) continued the family ownership and occupation of this house until her death.

The Shook-Welch-Smathers House satisfies National Register Criteria C, as it holds local significance in the areas of architecture and enjoys a period of significance from ca. 1810-1820 to ca. 1890-1900. The house also has associations with several men and their families which figure greatly in the social history of the area; with further research, there is more to be learned about these aspects of the house's story. The house was first owned by Jacob Shook. Over the long period from 1850 to 1896 the property was owned by Levi Smathers, who was both a leading citizen in the Pigeon River settlement that became the town of Clyde and a progenitor of a family whose members were long prominent in its affairs. The house satisfies Criterion C as an architecturally significant property whose fabric incorporates both the earliest known frame dwelling surviving in Haywood County and important mid and late-19th century overbuilding that is reflective of its ownership history and larger pattern of the building boom there in the late nineteenth century.¹

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the Shook-Welch-Smathers House has its origins with Jacob Shook (1749-1839). From the time of his arrival on the Pigeon River in the 1790s, when the area was still a part of Buncombe County that would be set apart as Haywood County in 1808, Jacob Shook acquired an important holding through private purchases and state grants between 1799 and 1819. Between 1817 and 1835 he sold the greater part of these lands to two of his sons, two sons-in-law, and others.² In December 1835 he donated to "trustees for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church a certain lot of land in said County including Shook Camp ground for that purpose" (Haywood Deeds, C/526).³ Jacob Shook wrote his will in the summer of 1836 and died three years later at the age of ninety on September 1, 1839. He was buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery at the southeast edge of Clyde where other members of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

the Shook and Smathers families would be interred. In his will Jacob Shook directed his executor "to sell all my estate real or personal and at a twelve months credit" and distribute the proceeds to named heirs among his eleven children (Haywood Wills, 1/2/16-17).

Jacob Shook's personal property, including farm implements, livestock, corn, oats, and wheat, household furnishings, kitchen wares, a bible and books, and all manner of goods for a well-furnished house and farm, was offered in lots over two days, October 29-30, 1839 (Jacob Shook Estate Record, DAH). Jacob Shook's residual real estate was offered at public auction in 1840 and was bid in at \$1,200 by William Welch. The property, adjoining the lands Mr. Shook had formerly conveyed to his sons Peter (1790-1855) and David (1786-1882) Shook, comprised a tract of 157 acres after three inholdings were subtracted (Haywood County Deeds, F/244-46).⁴

William Welch (1796-1865) was the son of John Welch (17_-18~), a prominent citizen of old Buncombe County and a pioneer settler in present-day Haywood County who was elected the county's first member of the North Carolina Senate in 1809 and re-elected in 1810. He has been described as "one of the wealthiest and most influential citizens of the county at that time" (ANNALS, 124). William Welch was a child of affluence, an inheritor of fortune, and he made good marriages. In July 1818 he married Martha Love (d. 1819), a daughter of Colonel Robert Love (1760-1845), a native of Augusta County, Virginia, who also came to Buncombe County in the 1790s, and became a man of wealth, prominence, and respect.⁵ There was no issue of this union. In May 1820, nine months after the death of Mrs. Welch, William Welch married his late wife's younger sister, Mary Ann Love (1805-18~). Ten known children were born to the couple between 1822 and 1842 (ANNALS, 467).

In a short paragraph historian William Cola Allen succinctly described Mr. Welch's significance in Haywood County:

William Welch was one of the men who assisted in making Haywood County what it was in the days from about 1820 to the days of the Civil War. He was a member of the State Senate from Haywood County for the years 1829 and 1830. For about thirty years he was clerk of the superior court and, in 1835, a member of the constitutional convention. He was a merchant, also, in Waynesville, and, in addition to all of his business and political activities, he was a good farmer and carried on important agricultural operations. (ANNALS, 466-67)

Given his broad interests and holdings, William Welch is believed to have bought the Jacob Shook lands as an investment; however, he possibly may have considered moving from his home near

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

Waynesville to the pastoral acreage on the Pigeon River. On May 17, 1842 Robert Love sold to Mr. Welch a tract of 200 acres adjoining the Shook property for \$300 (Haywood Deeds, E/313-14). This conveyance placed 367 contiguous acres on the south side of the Pigeon River in his ownership. His ownership of other lands here has not been investigated.

In the 1850 Haywood County Census William Welch is listed as head of household #984 which included his wife Mary, eight children, and eight others of various names suggesting he was operating an inn in or near Waynesville. He was identified as a farmer with real estate worth \$8,300. (Jacob Shook's son David was head of household #1002 with real estate valued at \$1,000, and his son Peter was head of household #1003 with real estate valued at \$500. In 1850 Mr. Welch owned twenty-nine slaves while his brothers-in-law, James Robert Love (1798-1863) and John B. Love, respectively owned eighty-five and thirty-six slaves each. The three men were three of the four largest slaveholders in Haywood County in 1850.

Meanwhile, on January 3, 1850, William Welch had sold the residual Jacob Shook lands to Levi Smathers for \$1,650 (Haywood Deeds, F/438-39).⁶ Whether the increase of \$450 over the purchase price represents inflation, or the construction of this house, or this house in the process of construction, is not known. Although Mr. Smathers owned the property when the census taker recorded the citizens of Haywood County in 1850, he was still living among his kinsmen and other members of the German community in the Dutch Cove area of the county, southeast of present-day Canton. He was head of household #656, which included his wife and three children, and was next to #657 where his elderly mother lived alone.

By 1860 Levi Smathers was living in this house. In that year the census taker recorded Levi Smathers as head of household #496 with his wife and three children; he is identified as a farmer with real estate valued at \$5,000 and personal property of \$3,400 that included four slaves. Peter Shook's widow Mahala is listed as head of the adjoining household (#495) with real estate of \$1,200. Her eldest son Daniel Haskew Shook (1835-1920) is living on the next place, household #494, with his wife and two sons, John B. and Manson David Shook (1860-1924), and with real estate of \$125. (William Welch, living in Waynesville, had real estate of \$5,000 and personal property of \$36,000 that included twenty-four slaves.)

Levi Smathers (1817-1896) was born in Haywood County, the fourth of five known sons born to John Smathers and his wife Mary Agner (177_-1868) between 1804 and 1819, all of whom remained in Haywood County. However, he was the first of the family to be born in the county after their relocation here in 1815-1816 from a similar but larger German settlement in Rowan County. Little is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

known of his childhood spent in the Dutch Cove settlement. On Sunday, March 20, 1836, he was married at the age of eighteen, by the Reverend Nehemiah Bonham, the founder of the German-American New Morning Lutheran Church, to Sarah "Sallie" Cook (1818-1900), the daughter of George (1793-1884) and Sophia (Clontz) Cook (1797-1880).⁷

As a fourth son the ambitious Levi Smathers could not expect to remain on the family holding, and in the year preceding his marriage he had set about establishing his own farm in Dutch Cove. On December 3, 1835 he purchased a tract of 250 acres adjoining the lands of his brother, Jesse Smathers (1811-1879) for \$400 from James Robert Love, the wealthy landowner and speculator (Haywood Deeds, E/42-43). In 1837 he acquired a further fifty acres on Hominey Creek from the estate of Henry Miller, senior, who had lived on the farm adjoining that of John Smathers (Haywood Deeds, D/21). Levi Smathers lived in this farm enclave, in the heart of the German community in Haywood County, until he acquired the Pigeon River property from William Welch. During this period he and his wife became the parents of three known children: Jeremiah W. (ca. 1842-1864); Charles L. (1844-1912); and Nancy Adaline (1848-1940), who married John Monterville Haynes (1848-192-) a long-time Baptist minister in Haywood County.

At this distance Mr. Smathers' reasons for leaving the Dutch Cove for this property on the Pigeon River remain unknown; perhaps it was a simple matter of seeking improvement in his fortunes. In the event he continued to increase his land holdings at both farms in the antebellum period. On April 1, 1851 he purchased from William Welch for \$250 a tract of 150 acres "adjoining the old Shook place on both sides of Shook's Creek" (Haywood Deeds, F/439-40). He enlarged his Pigeon River plantation again in 1854 with an entry for 173 adjoining acres that was granted by the State of North Carolina in 1855 (Haywood Deeds, H/231). On July 14, 1856 he purchased an adjoining forty-six-acre tract on Shook branch from Lebo Massey for \$200 (Haywood Deeds, G/130-31). Last, on March 14, 1857 he received title to a tract of 173 acres, adjoining his 1850 purchase from Welch that he had apparently undertaken to purchase from Robert Love before his death in 1845. The deed was made by James Robert Love, himself, and James Robert Love, Dillard Love, John B. Love, and William Welch, executors of the Robert Love estate (Haywood Deeds, G/175-77). Between 1850 and 1857 Levi Smathers assembled about 706 acres here on the south side of the Pigeon River that included much of what is now the town of Clyde.

Presumably Levi Smathers and his family had removed to the old Jacob Shook House of this substantial plantation in 1850 or 1851. He and his wife would live here until their deaths in 1896 and 1900, respectively. A fourth child, D. I. L. Smathers (1860-1937), was born to the couple on December 5, 1860. The family circle was enlarged to encompass three generations when Mr.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

Smathers' mother, Mary (Agner) Smathers, came to live with her son, probably in the early 1860s, and she remained here until her death in 1868 at the age of ninety-two. During the 1850s and the war period, Levi Smathers prospered, raising corn, oats, wheat, hay, and other crops as well as livestock on his highly productive bottomlands and upland meadows. In 1850 he had owned no slaves but by 1860 he owned four, apparently a mother and her three children (aged three to six) when most slaveholders in the county had one to ten. The two eldest Smathers sons enlisted in the Confederate Army. Jeremiah W. Smathers, the eldest son, died of wounds in hospital in Richmond, but the middle son, Charles L. Smathers, returned near the war's end.⁸

In addition to the census records, insight into the life of the family and their role in community can be gained through a small but important collection of family papers which includes local tax receipts dating from 1838 to the 1890s, promissory notes, vouchers for grains, and some few personal letters. The largest sub-groups date to the 1850s and the 1870s. Dating from the 1850s are both the receipt and notice of the certified letter bearing the grant for 173 acres and a contract for the letting of a farm to his brother-in-law George Adam Cook which is essentially an antebellum tenant agreement setting forth obligations for the care and maintenance of the house, buildings, and grounds, and the property's return to Mr. Smathers. Whether this was for a place here on the Pigeon River farm or the Hominey Creek lands is not stated. In the fall of 1864 Mr. Smathers provided both corn and hay to the Confederate States Army. Receipts survive for those transactions as well as the impressment notice for thirty bushels of corn at \$10 a bushel on January 10, 1865. In 1864 he also paid his taxes in corn and fodder rather than paper money. On June 28, 1864 Charles L. Smathers wrote to his father from camp near Staunton, Virginia, expressing his wish that "my life will be spared and I will be permitted to see you all again soon." Jeremiah Smathers died in hospital in Richmond on August 3, 1864, and on November 14, 1864 his commanding officer wrote to his father and certified the pay due him at his death. In the 1870s receipts survive for tuition paid for the education of D. I. L. Smathers and his subscription of \$20 in 1875 for a school "taught at Pleasant Hill in Pigeon Valley." This collection of papers effectively begins with Levi Smathers' entry to manhood, terminates with his death, and provides the information on the house and its association with his life and his role in community and county.

The circumstances of an emerging Methodist interest in the house in the late nineteenth century remains to be further documented; however, this house, from the physical evidence and other documents, is where Jacob Shook lived in 1810 when he provided overnight accommodations to the renowned Methodist bishop Francis Asbury, on the evening of Friday, November 30, 1810. In the final decades of his life Levi Smathers appears to have provided hospitality to both Methodist clergy and laypeople that came to the area and the house. This practice appears to have a connection with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

conferences and conventions of the Methodist Church held in the area, at times at Louisa Chapel, which was erected on the grounds of the Shook campground. Visitors to the house left inscriptions in lead pencil on the unpainted walls of the attic of the house. These have not been fully recorded, however, they include: the names of five men and the date October 21, 1888; "Rev. N. M. Cooper-- Dec 28, 1890"; "1890 Annual Conference M. E. Church"; and "Delegates and visitors to Blue Ridge Conf. held at Clyde, NC Osamya O. Smith Oct. 15, 1895." These visits may, in fact, have been encouraged by Mr. Smathers who was an ardent Methodist; receipts survive for his subscription to the METHODIST ADVOCATE, a primary church organ, in 1888 and 1889.⁹

Concurrent with these efforts, Levi Smathers had other financial associations with the Peter Shook family who had been his neighbor during his entire residency here. Peter Shook died on Christmas Day 1855, and his widow Mahala (Evans) Shook remained on their farm. During this time the fortunes of the Shook family evolved. In August 1865, Mr. Smathers purchased a 3.25 acre tract on the Pigeon River for \$100 from Daniel Haskew Shook and two weeks later he purchased Mr. Shook's one-ninth interest in the Peter Shook property for \$75 (Haywood Deeds, I/577-79). Daniel Shook removed to Buncombe County. In 1882, W. T. Shook, who removed to Gadsden, Alabama, sold his one-ninth undivided interest in "the Peter Shook tract" to Levi Smathers for \$200 (Haywood Deeds, P/549-50). Mahala Shook died on March 8, 1894, was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, and on September 25, 1894 her house and the farm of 126 acres were sold at auction. David L. Boyd (1845-19_) offered the highest bid of \$2,900; however, on October 9 he assigned his bid to Charles L. Smathers (Peter/Mahala Shook Estate Records, DAH). Thus, by the close of 1894 and through 1895 father and son both were owners of adjoining farms previously owned by the Shook family.

Meanwhile, other events had affected family life at this house in the 1880s: D. I. L. Smathers, who had remained at home with his parents, married Martha "Mattie" Killian (1855-1924) in about 1879 and brought his bride home. John Horace (1880-1967), the first of their three sons, was followed by Oscar Levi (188_-19-), and Walter G. (1883-1958). A daughter, Mary Inez (1887-1981), the last child, was born on May 26, 1887. This quick arrival of grandchildren in the house prompted the need for the enlargement of the house with the addition of the tier of rooms on its north gable end, and the addition of the L-shaped double-tier porch. These improvements are believed to date to ca. 1890-1900.

The deaths of Levi Smathers on March 4, 1896 and his widow's on February 11, 1900 brought to an end their nearly half-century occupation of this place. They were buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery which also contained the graves of Jacob and Peter Shook and other members of both families. In his will, written on December 20, 1895, Levi Smathers distributed his sizable estate

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

to his three children and a grandson William Smathers, who "has been partly raised by me having lost his mother when quite young" and "a dutiful grandson ... very kind to me and I feel an interest in his success." D. I. L. Smathers was named executor of the will which expressed concern for the care of his wife after his death and equanimity of feeling. He bequeathed his daughter Nancy Haynes his interest in "the mountain lands owned by myself (and the late H. P. Haynes)" which he valued at \$1,500 and \$3,500 in "cash or Solvent notes." He calculated these bequests together with \$1,000 which he had given to her "at a former time" and the lands, also given to her earlier which he described as "well worth Five thousand dollars," explaining that "Since the first tract was given to her the town of Clyde has largely grown up on her lands which gave her an advantage over my two sons subsequently." Setting apart the twenty-five-acre Sellers mill tract to D. I. L. Smathers and his grandson Willie, he ordered the remainder of his estate to be divided between his two sons (Haywood Wills, 2/358-363).

Levi Smathers died a rich man. In the apparent absence of a bank in Clyde he had become a highly successful money-lender, making loans on both personal notes and through mortgages. The financial assets of his estate, including personal property of \$492, included cash on hand of \$711, notes and judgments of \$9,328.89, and other income/payments for a total of \$11,706.49. He left no debts except for the 1895 county taxes of \$157.17, town (Clyde) taxes of \$8.75, and physicians' and attorney's fees totaling \$16.00. William J. Jenkins was paid \$15.00 for his coffin and J. W. Morgan received \$12.75 for burial expenses. After deducting settlement expenses of \$27.40, the sum of \$11,469.42 remained for distribution. Nancy A. Haynes received \$3,500; and the remaining \$7,969.42 was divided between D. I. L. and Charles L. Smathers (Levi Smathers Estate Record, DAH).

After the death of his mother, D. I. L. Smathers lived at the house until the end of his life in 1937. During this period one after another of his sons and his daughter married, left home, and established their own families.¹⁰ Mr. Smathers lived the life of a country gentleman, continuing the farming operations here and serving in various local offices including the school board, as a justice of the peace, a county commissioner, and mayor of Clyde (HERITAGE, 298). Apparently he made no real changes to the house except for the refitting of the dining room with the handsome Craftsman-style woodwork and the addition of the second-story bathroom. The extent to which he built and/or rebuilt the complement of agricultural and domestic outbuildings on the property is not now known. In addition to his fields, pastures, and hay meadows, his farm included an apple orchard to the east of the house and a vegetable garden on its south side. The death of Mattie (Killian) Smathers in November 1924 prompted changes in the life of the house. In 1926 Mr. Smathers asked his daughter and her family to return to the house and live with him. (Following their marriage in 1905 Mary and John

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

Morgan had become the parents of four children: Martha Lucile (1907-1990); Levi Morgan (1909-1993); Walter Lawrence (1911-); and Nancy Ruth (b. 1914.)

D. I. L. Smathers died on February 26, 1937 and was buried beside his wife, with other members of the family in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. He bequeathed his property in equal shares to his four children, and named his son Oscar as his executor (Haywood Wills, 5/151-52). Three commissioners were appointed to evaluate the 1,248-plus acres in his estate in September 1937. They completed this work in the winter and four deeds, dated March 23, 1938, were prepared conveying multiple tracts in near equal acreage and value to each heir (Haywood Deeds, 100/597-99, 102/30-34 and 358-60, 104/107-09). The Smathers family house was set apart on a tract of 301.8 acres and assigned to Mary Smathers Morgan, together with a small lot on Mulberry Street in Clyde (Haywood Deeds, 102/358-60). D. I. L. Smathers, unlike his father, died land rich but cash poor; after receipts (\$455.50) were collected and settlement expenses (\$268.10) paid, \$187.40 was distributed among the four children (D. I. L. Smathers Estate Record, DAH).

Having lived in the house from her birth in 1887 until her marriage in 1905 and next from 1926 until the division of her father's estate in 1938, Mary Inez (Smathers) Morgan would remain here until just before her death in 1981. Early in this period Mrs. Morgan cut a doorway between the living room and dining room and installed multi-pane glazed doors. In 1938 her youngest daughter, Nancy Ruth, married Edward White Jones (1913-1988); they lived here into 1942. John Harold Morgan worked in his father's store on Clyde's Main Street and, after the store was sold, as a merchant in Canton. During these years the Morgan family received visitors interested in the stories that had developed about the visit of Bishop Asbury and the house's attic room. The local press participated in the legend-making and prompted the appealing folklore; the CANTON ENTERPRISE published an article, "Bishop Asbury's Chapel at Clyde Shrine for Methodism," which spoke about the famous visit of 1810 and the attic room of Jacob Shook's house.¹¹ From the recent research, it is believed this attic room, as it exists now dates from the second period of construction, ca. 1840-1860.

John Harold Morgan died on February 9, 1958 and Mrs. Morgan lived here alone until making the decision to create an apartment on the second story. Between 1958 and 1961 the necessary construction was completed. Workmen erected a stair on the southeast corner of the house which rose to the second level of the porch and the entrance to the apartment. The principal change on the second story was to refit the southwest bedroom as a kitchen and cut a door in the wall, above the aforementioned French doors, to link the apartment living room, in the southeast corner above Mrs. Morgan's living room, with the kitchen to the west. The former family bathroom and two bedrooms in the late nineteenth century addition were also used by the renter. At the same time, Mrs. Morgan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

partitioned a small room for a bathtub in the west end of the first story hall between the hall and the dining room and installed the toilet and sink nearby in the former closet under the staircase. After about ten years, Mrs. Morgan ceased to rent the apartment and the exterior stair was taken down.

The death of Mary Inez (Smathers) Morgan in 1981 brought to an end the Smathers family's occupation of this house and its eventual sale to a descendant of Jacob Shook. After hospitalization for a stroke on June 25, 1981, Mrs. Morgan removed to a nursing home where she died on July 24, 1981. Her body was interred in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. During her forty-three-year ownership of the property, she had conveyed tracts of the 301 acres to members of her family and sold others. At her death her real estate holding consisted of this house and a relatively small acreage surrounding it, the current lot and nomination boundaries. She bequeathed this property, including the house, its contents, and its furnishings in equal shares to her daughters Lucile Morgan Robinson, the widow of Jesse Robinson (1899-1964), and Nancy Ruth Morgan Jones (Haywood Wills, 81-E-209). With the death of Mrs. Robinson in 1990, her undivided interest in the property passed to her children. In 2000 the family initiated efforts to sell the house and had it and a frame garage set apart on a residual lot of 3.687 acres fronting on Morgan Street. On February 24, 2003 Mrs. Jones, Jesse M. Robinson and wife, and Martha (Robinson) Reeves sold the long-unoccupied house and its residual 3.687 acres to The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. (Haywood Deeds, 548/526-30). That same day the foundation sold the property to Joseph Shook Hall subject to restrictive preservation covenants (Haywood Deeds, 548/531). Mr. Hall, the great-great-great-grandson of Jacob Shook, over the next several years undertook the extensive restoration and rehabilitation project at the house utilizing the services of architect Jane Gianvito Mathews and builder Allen Roderick, both of Asheville.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Fate has not been kind to the houses built by the pioneering settlers in today's Haywood County, nor to those erected by their sons and daughters, and even, arguably many of those built for their grandchildren in the years prior to the Civil War. In 1982-1983 when James Randall Cotton conducted a survey of historic architectural resources in Haywood County, funded by a National Park Service grant and Haywood County, the resources for the period from the formation of the county in 1808 to 1861 were relatively few in number. They easily formed into two groups. The largest comprised the collection of log cabins, houses, and huts, which ranged from rudimentary buildings to well-crafted log houses. Unfortunately nearly all of them either then stood unoccupied, neglected, and on their way to ruin, or they were refitted, expanded, and embellished as second homes or permanent dwellings but with serious losses of integrity. Often the process of dating these log buildings was difficult; because

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

of their character few embodied the usual references to architectural styles or building technologies that prove useful to approximating the dates of domestic buildings. The other factor was the persistence of log construction into the early twentieth century in remote sections of the county or among its least affluent farmers and laborers. None of these houses are individually listed in the National Register.

The second class of pre-Civil War buildings in Haywood County was a very small group of more or less substantial weather boarded frame houses with side gable roofs, hall-and-parlor or center hall plans, and brick chimneys on one or both gable ends. The dating of a number of these houses likewise proved difficult, without historical documentation, because they too were remarkably astyle in appearance or often finished in a retarditare Georgian or otherwise classically-influenced manner.

At present, only three known weatherboarded frame houses survive in rural Haywood County which are said to be antebellum. The house built by Jacob Shook in the period of ca. 1810 to 1820 is thus a remarkable survivor. In its first period, it was a single-pile, two-story house using the hall and parlor plan. The questions regarding what type of attic space or room it may have had, whether or not it had a front porch, and finally whether or not there were shed rooms and/or porch structures on its rear elevation can not be definitely answered today with the evidence on hand. But, what one has today that remains from the original Jacob Shook House is significant for the area with its fine beaded edged interior boards, the raised panel mantel treatment, arched firebox opening, and the several raised panel doors with their ovolo-molded stiles and rails.

In the next period of construction, ca. 1840-1860, the house was greatly enlarged with two-story shed rooms added to the rear, a double-deck porch across the front elevation, and enlarged and heightened gable roof structure to cover the expanded footprint. Its change over time reflected the change in ownership or the changes within the three families that occupied or owned it. Even in its overbuilt state the Shook-Welch-Smathers House was the most prepossessing of the group and surely the oldest, considering the association with Jacob Shook in its first period of ca. 1810-1820. Through time, it passed through successive hands and was subject to changes that reflect the second period work possibly done in the 1840s by William Welch or after 1850 when Levi Smathers purchased the property from Mr. Welch.¹² With its full facade double-tier porch and rear shed engaged under an expansive side-gable roof, the Shook-Welch-Smathers House was a remarkably well-built, well-finished, and substantial house of its era. Its full-facade, double-tier engaged porch anticipates that same feature which appeared later in the ca. 1855 William Burton Cathey House at Bethel, which was standing in derelict state in 1983 and is now lost, and the Joshua Kinsland House, also at Bethel, which is said to have been built by Mr. Kinsland in 1863 when he returned to Haywood County having been

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

wounded in the Civil War. However, both of those houses, which enjoyed a vernacular Greek Revival finish on their porches, are single-pile dwellings with one-story rear ells. The full-facade, double-tier engaged porch proved to be a lasting hallmark of more substantial western North Carolina houses and it appeared in the later 1870s on the house built by Stephen J. Shelton (1835-1913) in Waynesville (NR, 1979). At the turn of the century its form persisted in even more expansive L-shaped two-tier porches such as that which enhances the Shook-Welch-Smathers House.

The two other known surviving and probably antebellum frame houses in Haywood County are the Ratcliff House in Ratcliff Cove, east of Waynesville, and the Hargrove House near Bethel which overlooks bottomlands on the West Fork of the Pigeon River. Neither house has been extensively researched. Both are said to date to the mid nineteenth century, and both are small, conventional single-pile houses of two stories. The Ratcliff House is built on a hall-and-parlor plan with boxed cornices which return on its gable ends. Its common bond brick chimney, centered in the east gable end, is markedly similar to the brick chimney, from the second period of ca. 1840-1860, standing on the south gable end of the Shook-Welch-Smathers House. Also built on a hall-and-parlor plan, the Hargrove House has a one-story full-facade shed porch and boxed cornices on its front and rear elevations. Its gable ends are fitted with very shallow eaves which might well have been the finish of those at the Shook-Welch-Smathers House prior to its enlargement. The distinguishing feature of the Hargrove House, however, is the double-shoulder Flemish-bond chimney standing on its south/southwest gable end, which is the only surviving nineteenth century example of its type in Haywood County. Both houses are still standing at the time of this writing in March 2008, but are uninhabited. It appears that both houses retain their roofs in rusted condition and with many window panes and/or entire sash broken. They still retain their basic form and many features and one can see a kinship with was the imagined earlier phase of what had been Jacob Shook's house. Both of these houses are in need of rehabilitation or restoration work. The Hargrove House has an inhabited trailer behind it and this presence would provide some protection.

Although the ca. 1890-1900 overbuilding of the Shook-Welch-Smathers House gave it an essentially late-nineteenth century appearance, the surviving interior fabric in the southeast first and second-story rooms and the attic mark it as the most distinguished of the pre-Civil War houses to survive in any form in the county. The unpainted wide, beaded-edge and flush-board heart pine sheathing in both rooms, dating from the first and second periods respectively, and the attic room from the second period is well-fitted, mostly intact, and complemented by a group of three raised panel Georgian-style six-panel doors (and a fourth such, relocated door under the hall stair). The most important decorative feature of the house, however, is the paneled Georgian-style chimney face on the second story whose curved lintel echoes the arched head of the firebox. Fitted with three rows of panels, it provides an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

impressive focus for this upper room. The first floor arch-headed firebox was subsequently refitted with an undistinguished, conventional Victorian mantel. The other signal feature of the house is the near fully-floored attic which was originally fitted with a fully-sheathed chamber in the second period. Its form and integrity survive despite the partial removal and replacement of sheathing on its west and north walls in probably the third period.

While the original block of the present house represented a remarkable building for its time and place with its two periods of construction and modification, its overbuilding between ca.1890 and 1900 is representative of a building boom in later nineteenth and early twentieth century Haywood County and the houses it produced. Saw, planing, and turning mills were in operation throughout the county and produced vast quantities of building timbers, planks and sheathing, wood shingles, and decorative woodwork used in the construction of farm houses and the many dwellings on the streets of Waynesville, the county seat, Canton, Clyde, and the county's smaller villages and crossroad communities. Materials not produced locally were brought into the county by the Western North Carolina Railroad which passed through Clyde and reached Waynesville at the end of 1882.

The expansion of the Shook-Welch-Smathers House at the end of the century is perhaps the most important and substantive known remodeling project of its period that survives in the county. The decision to remodel rather than build anew no doubt owed in some real measure to the quality of the original house, to the fact that Levi Smathers had lived here since about 1850 or 1851, and that D. I. L. Smathers, who had been born here in 1860 and became its effective owner in 1896 at his father's death, held affection for the place. With the decision to recast the engaged front porch in the Victorian mode with turned columns and to replicate it on the house's north side, facing the nearby path of the Western North Carolina Railroad, Mr. Smathers produced one of the most expansive late-nineteenth century porches in the county. Its closest competition for covered outdoor space is the double-tier porch on the brick Abel House at Bethel.

The expansion and enhancement of the Shook-Welch-Smathers House reflects the development and building-up of Clyde in the closing years of the nineteenth century and the opening decade of the twentieth century. After the arrival of the railroad, stores were built along Main Street, houses erected on the town's newly laid-out streets and lanes, and on the farms adjoining what was still a village, a two-story brick school was built, and a hotel was added to the townscape about 1905. Although Clyde would not become a manufacturing center like Canton nor a major destination for summer visitors like Waynesville, it took on an evolving character of admittedly smaller scale. Within that context, the Shook-Welch-Smathers House became a local landmark and was joined around the turn of the century by other substantial houses. Among them was the (now lost) William Soper House on Maple Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

whose two-tier porch boasted turned posts similar to those here. Nearby, on Broad Street stands the Victorian confection erected by Charles L. Smathers, D. I. L. Smathers' older brother. Oscar Smathers, a cousin, built a new house on his farm near the edge of town. In the context of the eclectic, elaborate, and expensive houses erected in Waynesville in this period, including the Boone-Withers House (NR, 1983), the Dr. J. Howell Way House (NR, 1980), and the grand Queen Anne-style house built by George Smathers, an attorney and kinsman, these smaller Victorian houses seem somewhat modest and village-like, but that is their history and their importance in the architectural history of Haywood County.

¹ The house could be found to have a greater association with William Welch, a prosperous farmer, public figure, and office holder in Haywood County, if the second period of construction at the house could be firmly fixed during his ownership of the property. No other known residence or resource associated with Mr. Welch survives in the county.

² For these acquisitions and conveyances see the Buncombe County Grantee Index and the Haywood County Grantee and Grantor Indexes. One of these sales, a tract of 120 acres adjoining this property, was sold in 1831 for \$500 to his son Peter Shook and described as "on the South West side of Pigeon River, and including the plantation where on the said Peter Shook and his family now live" (Haywood Deeds, C/114-15). This acreage together with a six-acre lot sold to Peter Shook in 1835 would enter Smathers' ownership in part in 1865 and 1882 (Haywood Deeds, P/549-50) and in total in 1894 following the death of Peter Shook's widow Mahala when it was acquired by Charles L. Smathers (Peter/Mahala Shook Estate Records, DAH).

³ Mr. Shook, born into a Lutheran family and christened at Old Williams Church, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, converted to the Methodist Church in the opening years of the nineteenth century. He allowed adherents of that denomination to use the branch-side meadows at or near the south edge of his lands for camp meetings and preaching by itinerant ministers and missionaries. The campgrounds later became the site of Louisa Chapel Methodist Church which continues at the site.

⁴ These inholdings were described as "one to Peter Shook containing eight acres and eighteen poles one to George Cooper for seven acres and eighty poles and the other including the Camp ground containing four acres and thirty two poles leaving a balance hereby conveyed of one hundred and fifty seven acres." Although the sale occurred in 1840 the deed for the property is dated June 22, 1843. It was registered on August 17, 1848.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

⁵ For more on the life and career of Robert Love see ANNALS,107-13, plus other references therein.

⁶ This sale conveyed 164 acres and eighty poles and apparently included the small George Cooper parcel of seven acres and eighty poles that had been excepted in the 1843 deed. In 1831 that parcel was described as "eight acres" on the "South West side of the Camp meeting ground" when Jacob Shook sold it to George Cooper, his son-in-law, for \$30 (Haywood Deeds, C/107-08). Apparently it had passed from Mr. Cooper to Mr. Welch between 1843 and 1850.

⁷ Like the Shook family, the Smathers family in Haywood County was part of the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century migration into present day Haywood County from piedmont North Carolina. Its members included descendants and kinsmen of those who formed the great wave of German migration into America in the early to mid eighteenth century, who arrived at the port of Philadelphia, moved on into western Pennsylvania, and then traveled down the Great Wagon Road into Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The largest colony of German-speaking immigrants settled in what is now Rowan and Cabarrus counties. The Smathers family of Haywood County descends from Henry and John (1781-1825) Smathers, two sons of William Smether/Smathers who had come to Rowan County by 1778 when he took up 350 acres on Dutch Second Creek They grew up in the German community focused on Organ Lutheran (NR, 1972) and Lower Stone Reformed (NR, 1972) churches and came to Haywood County with their families in 1815-1816 when both men acquired land on Hominey Creek in the Dutch Cove area.

⁸ Jeremiah W. Smathers enlisted on May 31, 1861 and served in Company C, 25th Regiment Infantry. Charles L. Smathers enlisted in 1862 (or 1863) and served as a non-commissioned officer in Company C, Thomas' Legion, 29th Regiment Infantry.

⁹ The early history of the house has some elements of uncertainty. But, the physical evidence revealed during the recent project lead to the estimates the house was constructed in the period from ca. 1810 to ca. 1820, when the property was owned by Jacob Shook. Its second period begins after Jacob Shook's death in 1839 and the residual estate lands sold by his executor at auction in 1840 to William Welch. After Welch's ownership, the property and house passed to Levi Smathers and his family. Levi Smathers was known as a devout Methodist. The true facts available today involve Jacob Shook (1749-1839), Methodist missionary Francis Asbury (1745-1816), and Jacob Shook's gift in 1835 of a small tract of his lands, used by then for a quarter century or more as the "Shook camp ground," to trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church (Haywood Deeds, C/526). It is possible Jacob Shook was living in this house in 1810 when he provided the hospitality of his house to Francis Asbury on the night of Friday, November 30, 1810. The renowned Methodist missionary bishop, who traveled

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

through much of the eastern United States between 1771 and his death in 1816, was journeying on horseback from eastern Tennessee to Asheville along the old Cataloochee Trail. The Reverend Messrs. Henry Boehm (1775-1875), William McKendree (1757-1835), and John McGee formed Bishop Asbury's traveling party. Francis Asbury recorded the experience in his journal. "Friday, our troubles began at the foaming, roaring stream, which hid the rocks. At Cataloochee I walked over a log. But O, the mountain--height after height and five miles over! After crossing other streams, and losing ourselves in the woods, we came in, about nine o'clock at night, to Vater Shuck's. What an awful day! Saturday, December 1. Last night I was strongly afflicted with pain. We rode, twenty-five miles, to Buncombe" (Asbury JOURNALS, Vol. 2, 654). The association of that overnight visit with this house was in strong currency when THE JOURNAL AND LETTERS OF FRANCIS ASBURY was published in three volumes in 1958 and noted in a footnote. An account of the overnight visit was earlier published in Mr. Boehm's REMINISCENCES IN 1875. "We came to a gate which we entered and passed through the settlements on Jonathan's and Richland Creeks, and came in at Brother Jacob Shuck's at nine o'clock in the evening, long after dark, weary, cold, and hungry; but my soul was stayed on the Lord. Bishop Asbury characterizes this as "an awful day..." (REMINISCENCES, 328-29). A photograph of this house with the caption, "The Old Shook House, Built by Jacob Shook in 1795; Owned Now by D. I.L. Smathers, Clyde," was published in 1935 by William Cola Allen (1859-1952) in his ANNALS OF HAYWOOD COUNTY. The association of this antebellum house with Jacob Shook's important contributions to the rise of Methodism in Haywood County is an area for further important research beyond the scope of this nomination.

¹⁰ Mary Inez Smathers married John Harold Morgan on December 31, 1905. Mr. Morgan was the son of Jephtha W. and Laura L. (Robinson) Morgan. He grew up in Clyde where his father had a mercantile store on Main Street. Her eldest brother John Horace Smathers married on December 6, 1906.

¹¹ A typescript photocopy of this article was provided to Davyd Foard Hood by Joseph Shook Hall. It bears no date other than the internal reference to the house being the present home of the Morgans.

¹² A closer approximation of the construction date for the Shook-Welch-Smathers House was explored through the use of dendrochronology to date its construction and finish lumber. Unfortunately, there is no baseline data available for western North Carolina at this time. Also useful in this regard, as well, would be further research into the introduction and operation of saw mills in Haywood County in the first half of the nineteenth century, research that was beyond the scope of this project. In the published COMPENDIUM OF THE ENUMERATION OF THE INHABITANTS AND STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES ... FROM THE RETURNS OF THE SIXTH CENSUS ... Haywood County had six

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Haywood Co., North Carolina

sawmills; however, their production value, number of men employed in the industry, and the capital invested in equipment was lumped with that of the county's nine reported grist mills. In the report on house building nine houses were built in the census year (1839-1840) by twelve men employed thereon and the value of "constructing or building" in the county amounted to \$820. The microfilm of the Industrial Schedules for North Carolina counties in the 1850 Census did not include a report for Haywood County. The 1860 Industrial Schedule for Haywood County listed three sawmills. First on the list was that of John Smathers which produced 100,000 feet of plank/lumber valued at \$500. John Smathers, miller, is believed to be the son of Levi Smathers' older brother Jesse Smathers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Clyde, Haywood Co., NC

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Clyde, Haywood Co., NC

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

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Clyde, Haywood Co., NC

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Clyde, Haywood Co., NC

Section 10

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary follows a dashed line as outlined on the attached Haywood County tax map at a 1:175 scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary line encompasses approximately 2.943 acres which includes the historic house and surrounding undeveloped land historically associated with the house. The current tax parcel for the Shook-Welch-Smathers House also includes a one-story, modern visitor center and open land to the north next to the railroad right of way. This section of the parcel, comprising approximately seven tenths of an acre, has been excluded from the nomination due to the loss of integrity with the construction of the visitor center.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 1
list

Shook-Welch-Smathers House
Clyde, Haywood Co., NC

All Photographs:

1. Name of Property: Shook-Welch-Smathers House
2. Location: Clyde, Haywood County, North Carolina
3. Photographer: George O. Siekkinen Jr.
4. Date of Photographs: July 2007
5. Negative location: North Carolina SHPO, Raleigh, NC

Captions:

1. South gable and east (front) elevation, looking northwest
2. Rear or west elevation, looking east
3. East (front elevation) and north elevation, looking southwest
4. House (background) and new visitor center (foreground), looking southwest
5. First floor stair hall, south partition wall, looking southwest
6. Living room (foreground) with stair ghost (center), dining room through open doors (left rear), stair hall through open door (right rear), looking northwest
7. Living room with stair ghost (left) and door to stair hall (right), looking northwest
8. Dining room, borrowed light window to pantry (left), door to kitchen (center), mantel (right)
9. Second floor southeast bedroom, mantel, taken from attic stair, looking south
10. Second floor southeast bedroom, door to southwest bedroom (left), enclosed stairs to attic (center), door to second floor stair hall (right), looking northwest
11. Attic room, detail of stair and its railing, looking southwest
12. Attic room, view to former north gable wall, window (right), looking north