

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 any 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 Mordecai Zachary House

other names/site number Zachary-Tolbert House

2. Location

street & number West side of NC 107, 0.2 miles south of SR 1107 not for publication N/A

city or town Cashiers vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Jackson code 099 zip code 28717

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property 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.)

Stephen A. Cross SHPO 11/24/98
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2 | 1 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 2 | 1 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: vacant; work in progress Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation field stone

roof metal

walls wood

other _____

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

Mordecai Zachary House

Name of Property

Jackson County, North Carolina

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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1850

Significant Dates

ca. 1850

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Zachary, Mordecai (builder)

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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.

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: _____

Mordecai Zachary House

Name of Property

Jackson County, North Carolina

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.21

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

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 17 | 310310 | 3184940 | 3 | | |
| 2 | | | | 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 Ellen Pratt Harris AIA, Preservation Architect and Jane G. Nardy, Geneologist

organization Harris Architects date August 31, 1998

street & number 300-E North Broad Street telephone 828-882-5535

city or town Brevard state NC zip code 28712

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Thomas C. Dowden

street & number PO Box 2645 telephone 828-743-5989

city or town Cashiers state NC zip code 28717

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

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

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7. Narrative Description

The Mordecai Zachary House, an 1850-1852 vernacular Greek Revival dwelling, stands on a residual tract of 5.21 acres on the west side of NC 107 South, approximately two miles south of the intersection with US Highway 107 and the center of Cashiers. The house remains today in an open field, probably much as it did when it was constructed. It sits facing NC 107 to the east, although this section of the highway was straightened out and moved west in the 1920s. The road originally curved around to the east of the existing highway and continued to curve around to the south, allowing the house a prominent location on a small rise encircled by the road which was the main route to South Carolina. (The original location of the road can be seen on the USGS map as the dotted road directly to the east of the house.)

A forested area currently surrounds the north, south, and west sides of the field in which the Zachary House sits. The northern boundary is a straight surveyor's line from the highway to a small stream that forms the western (rear) boundary. The southern property boundary is the centerline of the former road bed of the old highway and the eastern (front) boundary is the centerline of the existing NC 107. A short gravel driveway enters the property on the north side of the house from the highway.

The Zachary House is the work of the original owner, who was a skilled carpenter, and is a classic example of a two-story wooden vernacular Greek Revival house of transitional construction that includes timber frame elements as well as balloon framing. It originally sat on a tract of 100 acres that grew to at least 300 acres at one time, which occupied land on both sides of NC 107 although these early boundaries are not known.

In the 1920s, a frame two-room kitchen was added to the rear elevation and was connected to the house by a covered breezeway. The extant dependency was assembled from a camp building that was moved to this site in the 1920s after the original two-room kitchen dependency burned. It is believed that the original building was in the same location. The only other structure remaining on the residual tract is a small log barn or shed, which was constructed in the 1930s and is outside the period of significance for this property. Other structures, including a stable large enough for twelve horses, existed at one time but their locations are not known.

The Zachary House is a two-story frame house with rectangular footprint measuring approximately 41 feet wide by 33 feet deep. It has a simple symmetrical floor plan, almost identical on both levels, with a central hallway and two rooms on each side of the hall. The first floor rooms measure 10'-10 1/2" in height with second floor rooms measuring 8'-1" in height. The house is covered by a low sloping hip roof which extends over the front porch.

The exterior is clad with horizontal wood siding and is punctuated by regularly placed double sash windows that are 9/9 on the first floor and 9/6 on the second, all with wood shutters. The front facade, which faces east, is symmetrical and is divided into five bays, with two bays of windows on either side of central doorways at both levels. An altered porch is centered on the facade and spans three bays on the first floor and one on the second. The lower level of the porch is crudely constructed of recycled telephone poles and rough lumber with a shed roof. The upper level has been altered with square wood posts and diagonal brackets supporting the roof from the walls of the house. The roof of the porch, however, appears to be original due to its construction, detailing, and early paint evidence, and covers the assumed footprint of the original porch. Based upon physical evidence and period details, the original

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porch was probably a simple two-story portico with square columns at the outer corners reflecting the pilasters at the entrance.

Both levels of the house have a central doorway with glazed fanlights, transoms and paneled doors. The first floor door is flanked by pilasters and an entablature and is a classic example of a rather refined and distinguished entrance of the Greek Revival period. It exhibits accomplished carpentry skills and detailing. The second floor door above it is in fair condition, but is mostly intact with simpler detailing. Both entrances are flanked on either side with flat horizontal siding in departure from the lap siding on the remainder of the exterior. The shifting of the building due to settlement and deterioration is evident in some of these boards as they are skewed. They also exhibit original vertical pencil construction lines that indicate the nailing line for their attachment. These walls, along with the porch ceiling and doorways, exhibit remnants of original creamy off-white paint. Paint has almost completely weathered away on the remainder of the house.¹

The north side of the house is divided into four regularly spaced identical bays with a window at each level, reflecting the main facade. These windows are all protected by wood shutters, which are paneled on the first floor and simple wood boards on the second. The south elevation is a reflection of the north elevation, except for the elimination of windows in the front (east) two bays and the detailing of the window surrounds and the shutters, which have been repaired and altered.

The rear is divided into three bays, with the outer two bays occupied by chimneys. The northern brick chimney has partially collapsed, although many of the bricks at the base remain in place and bricks are piled adjacent to the chimney and the area where the chimney was formerly against the wall has been in-filled with siding. The southern chimney is stone with a brick upper section, which may have been replaced in the 1940s based on the date and initials incised in the mortar. The central bay is occupied by a first floor paneled door with a four light transom and a second floor window lighting the hallway. A roughly constructed rear porch spans between the two chimney breasts and has a shed roof.

The house is currently in fair condition overall. Severe moisture damage due to an overgrowth of dense plantings around the perimeter of the buildings and the close proximity of the structure to the ground has contributed to the deterioration of the building. It suffers from settlement and deterioration of the sills and first floor structure, which has resulted in warped floors and walls. Regular maintenance until recent years, relatively secure roof coverings, and shuttered windows have mitigated further damage to the house. Despite this deterioration, the Zachary House retains overall integrity and conveys its architectural significance.

The foundation consists of large stacked rocks that are assumed to be located at the bearing points of the wood frame structure, including the outer corners and at the intersection of interior walls. On top of these rocks a wood beam acts as a sill for the wood structure above.

The exterior walls are clad with horizontal lap siding with a 4 ½ to 5 ½ inch exposure and are trimmed at the corners with beaded boards. Base trim under the siding has been removed, but was probably a wide horizontal trim board with a drip edge molding at the top edge. This would have covered the sill beams and created a visual base of the building.

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In the 1940s, much of the house's siding was replaced; this is evident from the type and age of the nails used for attachment and the character of the wood. The east facade appears to retain much of its original siding, with replaced areas extending in a horizontal line from either side of where the porch roof attaches to the wall. This horizontal area of replaced siding extends around to the north elevation for its entire length. All of the siding on the west and south sides appears to have been replaced. These patched areas of siding are evidence that there was once a porch that wrapped the entire building and indicates where the roof would have tied into the wall. This porch was not original, however the date of its addition is unknown. It was removed in 1949.

A metal roof covers wood shingles that can be seen at the eaves and in the attic. The extant wood shingles are probably not original due to the age of the structure. There is evidence of many generations of roof coverings based upon the large number of nails protruding through the sheathing in the attic. Due to age of the house, wood shingles were probably used originally.

Windows are all divided light un-weighted double sash and are in varying condition. They are all rather delicately constructed with thin muntin bars with a profile typical of the Greek Revival. The muntins in fact are very similar in profile to those found in Asher Benjamin's *The American Builder's Companion*, a Greek Revival pattern book first published in 1827.² The detailing of the windows is very simple, without any parting bead between the sashes. The sash frames are mortised and pegged at the corners, a further indication that they are probably original. Some old early cylinder blown glass, which is evident by its wavy appearance with small bubbles, still remains especially on the ground floor.

All of the windows appear to be original to the construction of the house both in location and elements with the exception of one window, which is located adjacent to the chimney in the second floor SW room on the west wall. It currently has former double hung sash set on hinges and has different proportions and detailing from the other windows. The purpose of this new window opening is not known, although it could have provided access to the exterior and perhaps an upper level porch.

The windows on the south end of the east elevation are in the best condition overall and exhibit intact original shutters, early wavy glass and early hardware. These shutters have three panels each, and the top and bottom panels are raised on the side that faces the interior. They are hung on two knuckle hinges that are mortised into the frame and although the screws holding the hinges are newer machine made screws, the hinges appear to be early. There is also a heavy closing slide bolt at the bottom of one shutter that lowers into a hole in the sill and has a hammered thumb piece and spring mechanism which also appears to be early. The curious detail is that these shutters are upside-down from the paneled shutters on the remainder of the east elevation and all of the north side. They have also been fitted with an additional strip of wood along the hinge side, indicating that they have been re-hung and repaired.

The shutters on the second floor are made of vertical boards and hang on hinges, which are not mortised into the frame and are wider than the wood trim they are mounted on. This detailing, the construction of the shutters -- most of which are nailed with later wire nails -- and the lack of evidence of any other shutters suggests that there may not have been shutters on the second floor originally.

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Kitchen Dependency (ca. 1920) noncontributing building

A short covered walkway connects the rear porch of the house with the side porch of the kitchen dependency. The kitchen dependency has a footprint of approximately 21½ feet by 35 feet and sits to the west (rear) of the house. The main two rooms, a dining room and kitchen, are along the southern side and constitute what is probably the original building parts that were moved and reassembled on this site. The side porch along the northern side and a storage room at the rear toward the west appear to have been added.

The exterior of the original section of the dependency is clad with vertical board and batten and has a sloping modified gable roof covered with green asphalt roll roofing. The eastern end does not have any openings on the gable end. The northern side is an open porch that ends at a small storage room that is clad with flush vertical boards that extend around the rear facade. Three doorways open onto the porch, one into each of the rooms, and all have simple wood board doors, one of which has been temporarily replaced with plywood. There are also screen doors at the dining room and kitchen.

The rear of the dependency has only one casement window into the kitchen and a stone chimney. A haphazard arrangement of clay pipes supported by a cut tree trunk serve as a stove flue at the southern corner. Three evenly spaced 6/6 double sash windows punctuate the south facade.

Barn (ca. 1930) non-contributing building

Sitting to the south of the house is a small one-room barn. It is rectangular in plan with a gable roof covered with metal. The exterior is clad with wide horizontal boards and the interior is exposed framing with a dirt floor. The only opening is on the east facade, which has large swinging doors of vertical boards.

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Mordecai Zachary House, a two-story frame house built 1850-1852, is an important residence built by a member of one of the founding families of the town of Cashiers in southern Jackson County, and is a fine example of the builder's skilled craftsmanship executed in the Greek Revival style. Mordecai Zachary was the eleventh child of Colonel John Alexander Zachary, one of the first white settlers of the Cashiers Valley in the early 1830s. The Zachary family prospered in the mountains by obtaining huge tracts of land upon which they farmed; members of the family also worked as skilled artisans. Mordecai Zachary was eleven years old when he first came to the valley with his large family. At the age of twenty-four in 1846, his father deeded him a 100-acre tract on which he built his house. The source of his knowledge about carpentry and Greek Revival architecture is not known, but it is likely some inspiration came from builders' pattern books popular during the mid-nineteenth century. Zachary, his wife Elvira, and their children lived in the house until 1873. The Mordecai Zachary House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as an intact example of a substantial two-story Greek Revival-style dwelling. The Zachary House is even more remarkable because of its isolated location and early construction date. While the Greek Revival style enjoyed widespread popularity throughout most of North Carolina during the antebellum period, it was rare or unseen in many mountain communities of western North Carolina where travel during the period proved difficult.

Historical Background

Mordecai Zachary (1822-1896), the builder and first occupant of the Zachary house in Cashiers, Jackson County, North Carolina, was a member of the large Zachary family of western North Carolina.³ The progenitor of that family, William Zachary (1750-1829), was probably born in England on October 22, 1750. He married Jemima Johnston, a Quaker, in Hanover County, Virginia and on October 14, 1776, he purchased land in Louisa County, Virginia. The couple sold their Virginia land on October 10, 1778 and subsequently moved to North Carolina. William had converted to the Quaker faith and the family were members of the Deep Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends, Surry County.⁴ On August 19, 1782, the state of North Carolina paid William Zachary, of Hillsborough District, Surry County, 5 pounds and 8 shillings for an unspecified claim found in a manuscript volume titled "Revolutionary Army Accounts."⁵ This evidence of aid given by Zachary to the American cause during the Revolution established his eligibility as an accepted patriot of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.⁶ He, however, did not serve in a military capacity due to his Quaker faith.

William and Jemima Zachary became the parents of eight children who were all born in Surry County: John Alexander, William, David, Mary "Polly," James, Elizabeth, Joseph and Jemima. Family records show that prior to 1800, the Zacharys built a large 2-story brick house, which was confirmed when the house was torn down in the 1950s revealing two bricks with the date of 1779.⁷ The Zacharys kept peacocks and operated a large store next to their home. William Zachary died in 1829 and Jemima in 1849, both are buried in the Deep Creek Quaker Cemetery in Yadkinville, North Carolina.⁸

Their first child, Colonel John Alexander Zachary, was born on May 15, 1779. His title came from serving as an officer in the Surry County militia first as a major in 1818 and advancing to colonel in 1823. He married Sarah "Sallie" Roberts on February 10, 1803 in Surry County where they subsequently had 14 children: Alfred (January 15, 1804), Alexander "Andy" (December 19, 1806), Thomas Jefferson (October 4, 1808), Ansebania "Ann" (March 10, 1810), Nancy (October 26, 1811), James (November 10, 1813), Jonathan

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(November 17, 1816), Elizabeth (June 18, 1818), Susannah (April 20, 1820), Mordecai (July 24, 1822), Malinda, (June 11, 1824), Woodford, (March 2, 1826), and Matilda (January 7, 1828).

On September 19, 1831, Col. John Zachary sold to his brother, William Zachary, of Surry County, the land on which John lived.⁹ Shortly thereafter, Col. Zachary and his son, Alexander "Andy," traveled 200 miles by horseback from Surry County to Cashiers Valley, built two cabins, put up the walls of a two-story log house, cleared 20 acres of land and put in a crop. The following January the whole family, minus son William, packed up their belongings in a six-horse wagon and made the permanent move to Cashiers Valley. Mrs. Zachary and the smaller children rode in a carriage. Four of the children were under age 12 and the youngest was only 5 years old. They came down the eastern and southeastern side of the Blue Ridge mountains until they reached the vicinity of Pickens, South Carolina. Then they turned north toward western North Carolina. At this time there were no roads to the valley and the family had to make their own trail. They traveled along the Chattooga River, entering the valley by the east fork to the spot that had been cleared. They moved into the cabins and went about making their homestead self-sufficient. In addition to planting crops, they set up a mill to saw logs and a mill to grind corn.

This part of the Blue Ridge Mountains was largely unsettled by white men and had been Cherokee Indian land until a treaty was signed in 1819. The land was first surveyed and opened for settlement until the 1820s. At the time of the Zacharys' arrival, the nearest post office was Pickens Courthouse, South Carolina and it would not be until 1839 that the Cashiers Valley post office was established.

The Zachary family prospered. Huge land grants were applied for and received, the first included 640 acres. An Asheville newspaper published a list of area elevations in 1838 and 1844, one of them being, "Col. Zachary's Cashiers Valley, 3324 feet above sea level, and Chimney Top, above Zachary's, 4109 feet above sea level."¹⁰ Family members were listed in poll books as early as 1835 and they were active as surveyors, storeowners, boarding house owners and postmasters.¹¹ They were also known as skilled building artisans.

Not long after the Zachary family arrived in Cashiers Valley, the gentry of South Carolina began making trips into the area to hunt, fish and enjoy the cool mountain summers, which were so different from the muggy, hot South Carolina summers. They needed a place to board and the Zachary family helped fill this need. Highly educated, sophisticated, nationally known South Carolinians from as early as the 1830s became friends of the mountain pioneers and undoubtedly were a great influence.

John C. Calhoun, who lived in upstate South Carolina, less than fifty miles from the valley, was one of these frequent mountain visitors. For the forty years prior to his death in 1850, Calhoun was heavily involved in the national political scene, serving as Secretary of War in 1817 and holding the position of Vice-President of the United States under John Quincy Adams and again under General Andrew Jackson. In the 1830s, a group of businessmen, including Calhoun, proposed a scheme for a Cincinnati to Charleston Railroad across the Blue Ridge. Calhoun took an active part in the survey, which was to go through Cashiers Valley, and he actually acted as one of the "rodmen." The crew came across the Chattooga Ridge into Cashiers Valley, where they stopped - finding the elevation too great for the railroad.¹²

Also, beginning in the 1840s, other South Carolina notables discovered Cashiers Valley - such as Wade Hampton II, Kit Hampton, John Preston, and the Haskell family, all from the Columbia area. Considering that the 1850 Macon County, North Carolina federal census only counted ninety inhabitants in the valley, it is easy to imagine close personal contact between the visitors and members of the large Zachary family.

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On November 14, 1846, Col. Zachary deeded parcels of land to his three youngest sons, Jonathan, Mordecai, and Woodford.¹³ Mordecai, who was twenty-four and single, came into possession of 100 acres in District eighteen, on the Chattooga River, Macon County. While the three brothers acquired land, they were still living in their parent's household on November 6, 1850 along with two sisters.¹⁴ Mordecai may have started building his house prior to 1850, but was evidently not yet living there.

The second to the youngest son in Col. Zachary's family, Mordecai had been only eleven years old when the family moved to Cashiers Valley. Little is known about him, but it is assumed that he spent his young adult years closely observing his father and his five older brothers plying their variety of trades and unique pioneer survival skills. He also would have had yearly contact with the elite summer visitors. Local legend states that "Mordecai was a fine carpenter and also a cracker-jack stone mason. His fireplaces and chimneys were works of art . . . The two story house built and occupied by Mordecai and his family is one of the fine old houses of the valley. It was built in 1850. And in the house is still some of the furniture that Mordecai made. Such as the beds and a dining room table of holly, so big it won't go through a door. Both beds and the table were made inside the house."¹⁵

Around the time he completed his house, Mordecai Zachary married Elvira Evelina Keener in Jackson County, at the Quallatown home of her father, Rev. Ulrich Keener on February 18, 1852. Known as the first Methodist minister to the Cherokee and the first Methodist circuit-riding preacher west of the Balsams, Rev. Keener had opened a school for the Cherokee in 1850. This was in a log house, which served as both his home and as a schoolroom for his students, who ranged in age from five to fifty. Elvira's sister, Ann Eliza Keener, married Captain James W. Terrell, a prominent Jackson County politician, soldier and businessman.

In 1853, the first of Mordecai and Elvira's thirteen children, Amelia Josephine, was born in the new house in Cashiers Valley. Their next seven children were also born there including: Mary Talula (1855), Flora Jane (1856), Willie Keener (1858), Sarah Matilda (1859), Lizzie Adelaid Betty (1861), Jessie Robert (1863) and David Mordecai (1865). For reasons later explained, the last five children were born in Whittier, Jackson County, and they were: Thomas Woodford (1867), Charles Frankl (1869), Rose Anna (1870), John Arthur "Sam" (1873) and Hattie Sue (1874). Through the influence of the Keeners, all of Mordecai's children learned to speak fluent Cherokee.

Daughter Flora Jane Zachary married Squire John C. Watkins and they built their home in Dillsboro, Jackson County, which was a replica of Mordecai's Cashiers Valley house. Today it is called the "Squire Watkins Inn" and is used as a bed and breakfast. In her latter years, Flora Jane wrote about her childhood in Cashiers Valley in a memoir entitled, "Life of Mrs. Flora J. Watkins."

I was born in Cashiers, Jackson County, North Carolina, in the year 1856. My brother and I were great chums and worked together at little projects about the barn and garden. We had a little playhouse and a cemetery, where we buried all our little pets. My father had a saw mill and grist mills and brought us little squirrels and other pets. If they died we buried them in the cemetery in front of my mother's window.

My father had a nice orchard of apple trees and I have been to the top of every one of them, and gathered some of the most delicious apples anybody ever tasted: Granny Rogers, Morgans, and other varieties. Some of the trees are still there; others gone with time.

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Many families of the Southern aristocracy came to this Valley for the summer season, and many of them boarded in our home. Among these were the Hamptons (General Wade), the Prestons, and the Calhouns (John C.) We had a handsome croquet lawn. I have played croquet with young Wade Hampton, son of the General by his second marriage. General Hampton had three children, two boys and a girl. I used to ride behind young Wade on his horse. One day he had started hunting on a mule. The mule jumped and he fell and broke his leg. Miss Kate Hampton brought him a cushion to put his foot on. He said, "There's no use for you to pray for God to make you any better, for you are as good as God Almighty will let you be." Miss Kate and her sisters did much service for the people who lived in the community.¹⁶

It is local legend that General Wade Hampton either stayed in the Zachary house or played some role in its financing and construction. According to local author John Parrish "... General Wade Hampton of South Carolina lived in Mordecai's house one summer before the Hamptons built their own place here in the valley."¹⁷ A similar story has passed down through the Tolbert family, who were the owners of the property for most of the 1900s. Their version states that Mordecai ran out of money during its construction and Hampton loaned him the necessary funds to complete it in exchange for allowing Hampton's family to use the house for seven summers rent free.¹⁸ This legend has not been substantiated, but it is known that the Hampton family traveled to Cashiers prior to 1850 and would have known Mordecai and his family. They bought fourteen and a half acres from his brother, Alexander "Andy" Zachary for \$72.50 in 1857.¹⁹ The buyers were Wade Hampton II (father of General Hampton), C. S. "Kit" Hampton (brother of General Hampton) and John S. Preston, all of Richland District, South Carolina. Mordecai witnessed the execution of the deed and family tradition tells that Mordecai built the Hamptons a two-story, seven-bedroom cottage, a kitchen building, servants' quarters, and assorted outbuildings.²⁰ All of these men were well educated, wealthy and very influential, especially in politics. General Wade Hampton, famous for his role in the Civil War and later Governor of South Carolina, was especially talented as a hunter and fisherman and spent many summers in the valley, especially after the Civil War.

During this last half of the 1850s, besides farming and working as a builder, Mordecai Zachary was the postmaster for Cashiers Valley.²¹ These were the last prosperous years for his family in Cashiers Valley, for the advent of the Civil War family loyalties and brought hardship to the area. In 1860, the family was enumerated in the Jackson County federal census on July 7.²² His real estate was valued at \$5,000 and his personal property at \$500. The household members consisted of Mordecai, his wife and 4 children.

By 1860, Mordecai Zachary's farm grew to 302 acres, with fifty-two acres under cultivation. The cash value of the farm is listed at \$3,000 with an additional \$100 in farm implements and machinery. Livestock is valued at \$1000 and included three horses, three milk cows, two working oxen, thirteen other cattle, four sheep and thirty-eight (?) swine. The farm also produced 300 bushels of Indian corn, one bushel of peas and beans, fifteen bushels of Irish potatoes, fifty pounds of butter, twenty gallons of molasses and homemade goods valued at seventy-five dollars. Comparing these figures with the remainder of the census for the area indicates that Mordecai was quite prosperous and his farm is valued at the same cash amount as his father's, although his father is listed as owning 5,000 acres of land, with only thirty having been improved.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, many excited mountain men rushed to join the Confederate Army. Although no big battles were fought in the western North Carolina mountains, every day became a battle just

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for survival. Livestock and provisions were confiscated time and again by "bushwhackers," and the mountain women were left alone to raise crops and their children with no implements or help from healthy men. Husbands and sons often deserted the war and came home to help their families survive. Many of the Zacharys, however, were outspoken Union sympathizers and actively aided the northern cause. Mordecai's older brother and close neighbor, Alexander "Andy," was one of those. Alexander's teenage son, Thompson Roberts Zachary, guided escaped Union Officers from Cashiers Valley to the Union lines in Knoxville.

Mordecai, through his association with the Keener family, leaned toward the Southern cause. His brother-in-law, James W. Terrell, was a captain in the William Thomas Legion headquartered in the northern end of Jackson County. Mordecai served in this unit, along with Cherokee Indians and other mountain men. His pride in his service was reflected in the Civil War marker placed on his grave. When the war was over, Mordecai probably experienced rejection from a large number of his family who had been loyal to the Union. He stayed in the valley for a few more years, as he was enumerated in the 1870 Jackson County census with an address of Cashiers Valley Post Office.²³ His occupation was listed as farmer and miller with his real property valued at \$2,500 and his personal property valued at \$600.

By 1872, the year that Col. Zachary died, Mordecai had purchased land in the Whittier, North Carolina area near the Keener relatives and many of the men with whom he had served during the war. In fact, the adjacent property owner in Whittier was Col. William Holland Thomas, the leader of the Thomas Legion and the only white chief of the Cherokees.

A deed signed September 10, 1873 by Mordecai Zachary, signaled the end of his residency in Cashiers Valley and the end of at least twenty years of living in his Greek Revival house. He and his wife, Elvira, sold to Armistead Burt of Abbeville County, South Carolina, seventy-five acres of land, for the sum of \$700. The land lay "on both sides of the Turnpike Road that runs through Cashiers Valley, below where S. N. Allison now lives . . . adjoining lands of Alfred Zachary, Samuel N. Allison and John S. Preston." Included was ". . . a two story house containing eight rooms, a stable, with twelve stalls and other buildings, where M. Zachary formerly lived."²⁴ The house would remain in the ownership of South Carolinians for the next 124 years.

Mordecai Zachary spent the remainder of his life in the Whittier area of Jackson County, farming and raising his large family. He died August 23, 1896 and was laid to rest in the Whittier Cemetery. The September 3, 1896 issue of the *Tuckasee Democrat* declared "Mr. M. Zachary of Whittier, father of Mrs. J. C. Watkins of Dillsboro, is dead." He had written his will in April of 1895, which left "all my property of every description to my wife Elvira Evalina Zachary . . . And after my decease, she may take in Josephine or any of the others to assist her in the management of all the business connected with the farm. And they too may select any of the boys they choose to run the farm for them."

Armistead Burt owned the property until 1881 when he sold three acres on the north end of the tract and west of the highway to Samuel N. Allison; the remaining seventy-two acres were sold to William H. Parker of Jackson County on July 26 for the sum of \$1,100.²⁵ William H. Parker sold the property to Elizabeth F. Parker in 1901.²⁶ On July 29, 1909, R. R. Tolbert, Jr. of Abbeville, South Carolina purchased the property from Elizabeth Parker and her husband, Francis L. Parker, for the sum of \$1,650.²⁷ By this time the tract was reduced to 65 acres.

The property has since passed through the hands of several Tolbert family members and was used as a summer home for most of this century. It has stood unoccupied for about fifteen years. In November

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1997, a tract of 5.21 acres including the house was divided off and sold to Thomas C. Dowden, the current owner.

Architectural Context

Greek Revival was the dominant style of domestic architecture in America from about 1830 to 1850 or later. The last part of the eighteenth century in this country brought an increasing interest in neo-classical buildings, which evoked images of democracy for the new nation. Greek Revival was widely spread through the publication and use of carpenter's guides and pattern books, most notably those by Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever.

Greek Revival architecture was as popular in North Carolina as the remainder of the country and was used on a variety of buildings, from small residences to grand mansions and the State Capitol, which was completed in 1840. However, the use of the style and the high level of associated architectural detailing in the Mordecai Zachary House is extremely rare for this area of the mountains, which was relatively isolated in the 1850s due to natural topography and lack of improved roads. Most buildings of the period were simple utilitarian frame or log structures with little detailing.

The Zachary house is comprised of many elements of the Greek Revival including a low-hipped roof; an emphasized cornice line with horizontal trim; an entry porch extending the full height but not the full width of the facade; and a decorative front door surrounded by narrow sidelights and a rectangular transom articulated with pilasters and an entablature. The symmetrical, central hall plan and detailing are also common to the period and are executed in vernacular form primarily in wood, which was easily available.

The Mordecai Zachary House stands today as one of the few substantial extant frame antebellum structures in Jackson County and is one of the few surviving Greek Revival dwellings west of Asheville. Other remaining early nineteenth century structures in the region include improved log structures and houses with simpler forms; many have been altered considerably. Typical of more substantial early nineteenth century dwellings is the Jesse Siler House (NR 1982), a two-story log house built sometime before 1821 and upfitted sometime between 1820 and 1830 with weatherboard cladding and vigorous Georgian-to-Federal woodwork. Other known Greek Revival structures in the region are located to the east in Transylvania County, which is lower in elevation with less rugged topography and was more easily accessible by road in the mid-nineteenth century. These styles were influenced by wealthy low-country South Carolinians who developed Flat Rock as a summer colony in Henderson County.

Still surviving are Montclove and Chestnut Hill, both located on the French Broad River south of present day Brevard.³⁸ These contrast sharply with the simpler frame and log dwellings of the area and exhibit large rooms and high-style detailing. Montclove was constructed in 1854 with Gothic Revival massing and exterior detailing and a Greek Revival entrance and interior. Chestnut Hill, which dates from 1856, is a two-story Greek Revival house with an original central hall plan, similar to the Zachary House. It is a more refined structure, however, due to its larger size and use of more sophisticated materials such as plaster. The differences between these structures and the Zachary house are due to their more accessible location, availability of materials, and the wealth and sophistication of the owners. Their similarities, however, are remarkable considering the isolation of the Cashiers Valley in the mid-eighteenth century and the known personal history of Mordecai Zachary.

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Notes:

- ¹ Paint analysis by Sara B. Chase revealed that the house was coated with linseed oil and painted only three times very early in its history in varying shades of off-white and white. March 1998.
- ² Asher Benjamin, *The American Builder's Companion*, 1827, 1969, plate 40.
- ³ Jackson County was formed from Haywood and Macon County in 1851.
- ⁴ William Wade Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Vol. I*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1969, pgs. 979 and 1000.
- ⁵ North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC, "Revolutionary Army Accounts," Volume XI, pg. 47, Folio 3.
- ⁶ See DAR application No. 738410, under name of Patricia Jane Gibson Nardy.
- ⁷ William E. Rutledge. *An Illustrated History of Yadkin County, 1850-1965*.
- ⁸ Yadkinville was originally located in Surry County, but is now in Yadkin County.
- ⁹ Surry Co., NC Deed Book U, pg. 176.
- ¹⁰ *History of Buncombe County, NC, Vol. 2*, pg. 532.
- ¹¹ Charles David Biddix. *1835 Poll Books, North Carolina, Macon County*, The Old Buncombe Co. Genealogical Society, Asheville, pgs. 51 and 58.
- ¹² Max R. Williams, editor. *The History of Jackson County*, Jackson County Historical Association, Sylva, NC, 1987, pg. 93.
- ¹³ Macon Co., NC Deed Book E, 1845-1848, pg. 148.
- ¹⁴ M432/R636, microfilm, 1850 Federal Census of Macon County, NC, Dwelling #728.
- ¹⁵ John Parrish, "The Promised Land - Cashiers Valley," publication source unknown. The beds, as well as other furniture believed to have been made by Mordecai Zachary, remain with the property, while the location of the dining room table is unknown.
- ¹⁶ Original in possession of Mr. Cannon of "Gallery Z" in Dillsboro, NC. John C. Calhoun died in 1850, 6 years before Flora was born. She was not speaking from her own personal experience.
- ¹⁷ John Parrish, published article date and source unknown in the possession of Jane G. Nardy.
- ¹⁸ Tolbert, Robert "Red," telephone interview with Ellen Pratt Harris, March 12, 1998.
- ¹⁹ Jackson County, NC Deed Book I, pg. 393.
- ²⁰ Max R. Williams, editor. *The History of Jackson County*, Jackson County Historical Association, Sylva, NC, 1987, pg. 131.
- ²¹ *History of Jackson County*, pg. 583.

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²² M653/R903, microfilm, 1860 Federal Census of Jackson Co., NC, pg. 34, dwelling #231.

²³ M593/R1144, microfilm, 1870 Federal Census of Jackson Co., NC, 23 June, Family & Dwelling #3

²⁴ Jackson County., NC Deed Book 6, pg. 175.

²⁵ Jackson County, NC Deed Book 7, pg. 576.

²⁶ Jackson County, NC Deed Book 28, pg. 309, 310 and 311.

²⁷ Jackson County, NC Deed Book 50, pg. 44, 45 and 46.

²⁸ Laura A. W. Phillips and Deborah Thompson, *Transylvania, the Architectural History of a Mountain County*, unpublished manuscript.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination is a 5.21 acre tract shown on the enclosed survey map.

Boundary Justification

The property included in this nomination is the 5.21 acre tract which comprises the location and setting of the Mordecai Zachary House. It is the residual tract of 100 acres deeded to Mordecai Zachary by his father in 1846, on which the original house was constructed 1850-1852.

Photographs

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| 1. Exterior, north and east (front) facades Photographer: Ellen Pratt Harris March 1998 Harris Architects | 6. First Floor, northeast room Photographer: J. Weiland December 1997 Cashiers Historical Society |
| 2. Exterior, south elevation Photographer: Ellen Pratt Harris March 1998 Harris Architects | 7. First Floor, northwest room Photographer: J. Weiland December 1997 Cashiers Historical Society |
| 3. Exterior, east (front) entrance Photographer: J. Weiland December 1997 Cashiers Historical Society | |
| 4. Stairhall, first floor looking west Photographer: J. Weiland December 1997 Cashiers Historical Society | |
| 5. Second floor hallway Photographer: J. Weiland December 1997 Cashiers Historical Society | |

