

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Craven, Dr. Walter Pharr, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 7648 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Rd (SR 2004) Not for publication
city, town Charlotte vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Mecklenburg code 119 zip code 28208

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>5</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources
of Rural Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 50. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Pringle 12-10-90
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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic--single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence: storage

Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic--single dwelling

Vacant/not in use

Agriculture/Subsistence:

agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: vernacular Victorian

Other: frame and log agricultural buildings

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

log

roof metal

other stone

wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 7 Page 3

Shaded by mature oak and magnolia trees in a rural setting northwest of Charlotte, the ca. 1888 Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House is among rural Mecklenburg County's most intact dwellings of the post-Civil War period. Its T-shaped two-story form and vernacular Victorian decoration exemplify a popular local expression of farmhouse architecture that appeared between the late 1870s and the turn of the century. Associated with the Craven House is an assortment of farm outbuildings dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The tract, which is approximately five acres, includes a small fenced pasture where horses now graze.

The weatherboarded frame Craven House represents a divergence from the I-house tradition, that dominated middle and upper-class rural domestic architecture during the 19th century. Facing north, the main three-bay facade includes a one-story, hip-roofed porch that spans the front. Slightly altered by latticework and a wooden frieze composed of a series of arches that were added in the 1960s, the porch retains its original configuration as well as original chamfered posts. Although the majority of the facade is covered by original lapped weatherboards, a portion of the facade around the main entry features original German siding. The entrance is framed by sidelights and transom as well as a crosssetted surround. Windows around the main body of the house and rear ell are primarily six-over-six sash windows, although the main facade in the gable-end wing has paired windows with four panes in each sash. The window surrounds are simply moulded. A two-room, one-story dining room/kitchen wing extends to the rear of the house's east side. Additions to the original house include a rear shed-roofed, one-story room (den) west of the kitchen ell, and an enclosed porch on the east side of the ell which serves as a reading area and place for storage. These exterior modifications, as well as an open wooden deck attached to the rear of the present den, were added by the current owners in about 1968.

The basically intact interior reflects the methods of construction, the craftsmanship, and the standards of design of middle-class farmhouses of this era in the county. Although the kitchen has been modernized, the remainder of the original rooms retain original woodwork and hardware. All of the original rooms, with the exception of the kitchen, have intact board-and-batten ceilings; and the majority of rooms retain original flush-board walls. Dr. Craven's former office, located behind the parlor in the gable-front section, has plaster walls. The rooms and hallway, which separates the two main sections of the house, have simply finished baseboards and four-panel doors with simple, moulded surrounds. Box

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 7 Page 2

locks and porcelain door knobs survive throughout the interior. In all of the rooms except the kitchen, mantels are intact. Composed of a basic post-and-lintel shape, each is a slightly different and inventive variation of a common vernacular Greek Revival mantel type in North Carolina. For example, the mantel in the north upstairs bedroom features pilasters with unusual v-shaped applied moulding. The mantels in the principal first-floor rooms have curvilinear lintels with carpenter-built scalloped decoration.

Outbuildings (keyed to map) C-contributing; NC-noncontributing

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>C/NC</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
B	Well Canopy	C	1929	Hip-roofed, frame well canopy with concrete floor and latticework posts. Date inscribed on concrete floor.
C	Chapel	C	ca. 1910	Utilitarian, gable-front, frame, one-story building erected as a family Catholic chapel. Present owners call it the "chapel," and use it as an informal playhouse and storage building.
D.	Barn	C	ca. 1920	Gable-front, frame four-unit barn with central passage. Still in use as horse barn, and all four pens are used for stables.
E.	Corncrib	C	ca. 1888	Side-gable, log corncrib with half-dovetail notching and frame shed addition.
F	Tool shed	C	ca. 1920	Frame, one-story tool shed with shed roof.
G	Auto Garage	C	ca. 1920	Frame, one-story gable-front auto garage with storage area; door located on the side-gable (north) facade as well as on the gable-front facade.
H	Carport	NC	ca. 1960	Gable-roofed, metal carport, measuring about 18 feet on a side; located behind house on southeast side.

The remainder of the five-acre tract is composed of pasture used by the current owners to graze horses. Surrounded by new

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 7 Page 3

post-and-board fences, this area represents an adaptation of a traditional rural land use.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Agriculture

Period of Significance

ca. 1888 - 1929

Significant Dates

ca. 1888

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C for exemplifying the vernacular Victorian, T-shaped, two-story farmhouses that appeared in Mecklenburg County during the post-Civil War period (see Associated Property Type I -- Houses -- Postbellum Farmhouse). It is also eligible under Criterion A for its association with a small farm that supported the family of a country doctor. The relatively intact exterior and interior of the house display first-rate craftsmanship representing a variety of carpenter-built Victorian elements. In its decorative and apparently locally crafted mantels, chamfered porch posts, crosstetted entrance surround with sidelights and transom, and German siding focused around the main entry, the ca. 1888 Craven House includes essentially the full spectrum of post-Civil War Victorian architecture as applied to farmhouses in Mecklenburg County. The board-and-batten ceilings and board walls bear witness to the construction and restrained interior finish of even the more stylish middle-class farm dwellings of this period in the county. The array of intact farm outbuildings represent traditional forms and construction techniques, including side-gable corncrib and central-passage barn, and both log and frame building techniques (see Associated Property Type 2 -- Outbuildings). These agricultural outbuildings also demonstrate the property's importance as a reflection of a late 19th and early 20th century trend in the county, namely small-scale farming that supplemented income earned through a skill or profession.¹ Although the parcel has been reduced from eighteen acres to five and its use has changed, the barn and corncrib continue to suggest the historic, agricultural use of this property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 2

The Craven House and surrounding buildings afford us a glimpse into the life of a country doctor and farmer. In addition to providing medical care to the Hopewell community, Dr. Craven also farmed, although not on as large a scale as most of his neighbors. A corncrib, barn, toolshed and well canopy occupy the site, as well as a small chapel that was built as a place of worship for the Catholic wife of one of Dr. Craven's sons.

The house, located at 7648 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road, was built by Dr. Walter Pharr Craven (1845-1929) probably shortly after his purchase of the property in 1888.² That year, Dr. Craven bought 18 acres from Robert Blair McGee and his wife Mary W. McGee.³ Dr. Craven appears in the 1880 Agricultural Schedules of the Census as a renter of 18 acres of land, which is likely the same land he bought from the McGees. Physical evidence strongly suggests the house to date from the 1880s, so it may reasonably be surmised that Dr. Craven built the house either while he rented the place, or, more likely, when he bought the land. According to the current owner, Marge Lawing, Dr. Craven practiced medicine from one of the rear rooms on the west side, which was complete with special cabinets for stored medicine.⁴

Dr. Craven was born in Randolph County and was raised in Iredell County. At the age of eighteen, he enlisted in the Confederate Army. His service in the field ended when he was captured at the Battle of Five Forks, Virginia, eight days before the war's end, and spent several months as a prisoner at Staten Island, New York.⁵ After the war, Dr. Craven returned to North Carolina and studied at Davidson College in northern Mecklenburg County and at Trinity College (now Duke University). After completion of his undergraduate studies, he spent two years in Texas where he taught school and farmed. In 1872, he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore to study medicine. When his training was complete (about 1876), he returned to North Carolina, and established his practice in the Hopewell community of Mecklenburg County. In that year he also married Martha Addie May Gluyas (1859-1903), daughter of Captain and Mrs. Thomas Gluyas of Hopewell, with whom he had eleven children who survived to adulthood. In 1907, Dr. Craven married Ossie Lawing of Spurrier, who died "after a few years," and he was subsequently married for the third time, to Mary Andrews of Charlotte, in 1917.⁶

Considering that Dr. Craven had a large family and a country doctor's practice was not highly lucrative, it was not unusual that he also ran a small farm on his 18 acres. The census records show that he hired black farm laborers for thirty-two weeks in 1879, for a total expenditure of \$100.00, which was proportionally consistent with the hiring practices of the other

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 3

farmers in his community. Apparently he did not keep much livestock: the 1880 records show that he had one milk cow, some swine, and poultry (fifteen hens produced seventy-five eggs in 1879). He also raised corn (10 acres yeilding 100 bushels), wheat (4 acres yeilding 45 bushels) and cotton, (4 acres yeilding 3 bales).⁷

Dr. Craven was a highly visible member of the Hopewell community; he served the Hopewell Presbyterian Church as a ruling elder for several years, and his professional services were a valuable asset to the local population. The other doctor in the area, Dr. Sam Abernathy, was considered by many to have been Dr. Craven's competitor. They were nicknamed by the locals "Dr. Pill and Dr. Powder," but it is not clear who was who. Two of Dr. Craven's sons, William and Thomas, became doctors.⁸

Dr. Thomas Craven (d. 1952) is reported to have lived and practiced medicine in the house for a time after Dr. Walter Craven's death, but later he moved to Huntersville where he lived and maintained his practice. After Dr. Thomas left the house, another son, Harry Craven (d. 1957), lived in the house for an indeterminate time, then moved to Mooresville. For a number of years, the house was not continuously occupied, but was used as a summer retreat for members of the family and also as a gathering place for holidays. About the early Fifties, another son of Dr. Walter Craven, John, retired and lived in the house until his death in 1962. John Craven added a bath and modernized the kitchen.⁹

The year following John Craven's death, 1963, a granddaughter of Dr. Walter Craven, Ruth Craven Roddey and her husband, Sidney H. Roddey, Jr., bought the house from the heirs and lived in it until 1968, when they sold it to the present owners, Bobby Don and Margie Davis Lawing.¹⁰ Thus after eighty years, the house passed out of the possession of the Craven family.

¹An examination of the 1880 Census suggests that professionals such as physicians and dentists, as well as craftsmen like carpenters, tanners, machinists and blacksmiths maintained small farms to support their families: U.S. Census, 1880, Mecklenburg County.

²Mary Beth Gatza, "Architectural Inventory of Rural Mecklenburg County," 1988. On file at Archives and History, Raleigh.

³Mecklenburg County Deed Book 62, p. 411.

⁴Interview with Marge Lawing by Mary Beth Gatza, 1988.

⁵Charles W. Sommerville, The History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church (Charlotte: Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 1939), p. 123.

⁶Ibid., pp.123-4.

⁷Agricultural Schedules, 1880 U.S. Census.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 4

⁸Sommerville, p. 123; Gatza, "Survey."

⁹Interview with Margie Lawing and Ruth Craven Roddey by William H. Huffman, 1989.

¹⁰Mecklenburg County Deed Books 2435, p. 237; 3007, p. 333.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository:
N.C. Division of Archives and History,
Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 5 acres

UTM References
A

17	509420	3911270
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

--	--	--

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

D

--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House is the parcel owned by Bobby Don Lawing and delineated on the accompanying tax map. It is all of parcel 3 on page 14, book 33 of Mecklenburg County Tax Maps.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all of the land acquired by Dr. Craven that remains associated with his house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Mattson and William Huffman date July, 1990
organization _____ telephone 704-375-4236
street & number 422 Rensselaer Avenue state N.C. zip code 28203
city or town Charlotte

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number 9 Page 1

Gatza, Mary Beth. "Architectural Inventory of Rural Mecklenburg County."
1987. On file at North Carolina Division of Archives and History,
Raleigh.

Interviews with Marge Lawing by Mary Beth Gatza, 1988, and with Ruth
Craven Roddey by William Huffman, 1989.

Mecklenburg County. Deed Books.

Sommerville, Charles W. The History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church
(Charlotte: Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 1939).

United States. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Tenth Census
of the United States, 1880: Agricultural Schedules, Mecklenburg
County, N.C.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

Section number _____ photos _____ Page 1

IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Dr. Walter Pharr Craven House
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
7648 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road (SR 2004)
Photographer: Richard Mattson
7-5-89
N.C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh

1. Front facade, looking south
2. West and south (rear) facades, looking northeast
3. South (rear) facade, looking north
4. Stairhall, looking north towards main entrance and newel
5. Stairhall, looking north toward main entrance
6. Mantel, upstairs bedroom, looking north
7. Mantel, east front room, looking east
8. Outbuildings south of house, including well canopy and "chapel,"
looking west
9. Barn and horse pasture, looking south
10. Log corncrib, looking northeast
11. Tool shed and corncrib, looking southeast
12. Horse pasture, looking west

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90002187 Date Listed: 01/31/91

Craven, Dr. Walter Pharr, House Mecklenburg NC
Property Name County State

Rural Mecklenburg County MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Amy Federman
Signature of the Keeper

01/31/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The property category should be "Buildings."

Discussed with NC SHPO on 1/31/91.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

MOUNTAIN ISLAND LAKE QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4854 IV NE
(CORNELIUS)

55' 508 509 510 1 440 000 FEET 80° 52' 30" 35° 22' 30"



2074 2119 3914 3913 590 000 FEET 3912 3911 20' 3910 3909

Dr. Walter
Pharr Craven
House
MOUNTAIN ISLAND
LAKE QUAD
N 3911270
E 509420
ZONE 17



BK. 23

142

141

PG. 11

PG. 13

PG. 15 Dr. Walter
Pharr Craven House
7648 Mt Holly -
Huntersville Rd (SR 2004)
Charlotte vic.

TAX LINE MAP	BOOK 33	PAGE 14
MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA		
REVISED	SCALE 1" = 400'	

