1. Name of Property

historic name ____________________________
other names/site number ____________________________

2. Location

street & number ____________________________
city or town ____________________________
state ____________________________
county ____________________________

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title ____________________________
State of Federal agency and bureau ____________________________

Date ____________________________

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain: ____________________________)

Signature of the 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  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing  
Noncontributing
---
1  1 buildings
0  0 sites
0  0 structures
0  0 objects
1  1 Total

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)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)
Other: I-house
Greek Revival

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation  Brick
walls  Weatherboard
roof  Metal
other  Wood

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

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

- [ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [x] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] 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 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:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:
Cedar Point
Name of Property

Surry Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 1.8

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 1 7 5 1 2 8 0 0 4 0 1 0 7 6 0
2

Zone Easting Northing
3
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 Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian

organization N/A
date October 10, 2002

street & number 637 N. Spring St.
telephone 336/727-1968

City or town Winston-Salem state NC Zip code 27101

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 Elizabeth S. Randleman

street & number 350 W. Main St.
telephone 336/835-4189

City or town Elkin state NC Zip code 28621

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Cedar Point is a mid-nineteenth-century two-story frame house located at 350 West Main Street in the western part of Elkin, a town of approximately 4,000 residents in the southwest corner of Surry County in North Carolina’s piedmont region. Facing southeast on a lot of just under two acres—larger than the surrounding house lots, Cedar Point stands prominently on a hill above the Yadkin River to the south and Elkin Creek to the east. Elk Spur Street, the old nineteenth-century road to Traphill in adjoining Wilkes County, borders the property on the north. The house is set above, and back from, West Main Street, with a random-cut-stone, low retaining wall bordering the front lawn by the sidewalk. The retaining wall also curves to border the stone front steps leading from the sidewalk to the front walk of the house as well as the driveway at the western edge of the property. Large boxwoods line the stone front walk and, at the projecting central entrance to the front porch, turn to the east and west to border the length of the porch. A pair of mature cedar trees flanks the front walk, and several other trees shade the front lawn and run along the median strip next to the street. Near the southwest corner of the property is a small, natural stone formation with a hollowed-out stone which Gwyn-Franklin family tradition claims was originally an Indian mortar. Whether or not this is true, the stone formation does have an unusual appearance. No historic outbuildings survive with Cedar Point, although photographs from the early and mid-twentieth century show that a frame well house and a shed once stood behind the house. Gwyn-Franklin family tradition also asserts that a kitchen building was once located behind the house and, prior to World War I, a privy stood near the east property line. East of and behind the rear ell of the house is a brick patio and garden enclosed by a wood picket fence. The patio, garden, and fence date from the last quarter of the twentieth century, as does the garage/guest house located behind and just southwest of the house. The driveway on the west side of the property runs around and behind the garage/guest house and continues downhill to Elk Spur Street. The rear of the property is wooded and has a small ravine.

Exterior

Cedar Point is a heavy-timber frame I-house with a two-story rear ell. It rests on a brick pier foundation that has been infilled and stuccoed. Weatherboards sheathe the exterior from the foundation to the triple-A-gable standing-seam metal roof. Three brick chimneys rise from the interior of the house—one at the roof ridge between the center hall and east rooms, one at the rear slope of the main roof where it joins the rear ell, and one at the roof ridge at the center of the rear ell. Exterior
embellishments include a plain skirt board; slender, paneled, corner pilasters with multi-layered classical caps; a wide, plain frieze board; and overhanging boxed eaves with cornice returns on all but the front gable. The six-over-six sash windows on first and second stories have wood louvered shutters and unusual narrow shed hoods supported by small, simply curved brackets. Rising into the frieze board within each gable is a nine-light window headed by a round-arched fanlight.

Cedar Point has two porches. A one-story, hip-roofed porch with overhanging boxed eaves carries across the three bays of the facade. Accenting the front entrance of the house, the center bay of the porch projects forward, covered by a broad gable roof with overhanging boxed eaves. The porch roof is supported by pairs of slender classical posts with projecting collars and layered, stepped caps echoing those of the house corner pilasters. A simple balustrade with rectangular-in-section balusters and a molded handrail runs between the paired porch posts. At the rear of the house, a two-tiered shed-roofed porch with details that match those of the front porch runs along the east side of the ell. Originally the rear porch turned and continued eastward along the north (rear) elevation of the main body of the house, but this section was enclosed during the early to mid twentieth century.

Interior

From the center bay of the front porch, a paneled, double-leaf door with a five-light transom enters the center hall of the house. At the rear end of the hall is a matching door, but without a transom. Single rooms on each floor of the front section of the house flank the stair hall. Small rooms located at the rear of the front section of the house were created during the first half of the twentieth century by the enclosure of that portion of the rear porch. The rear ell features two rooms per floor with a central chimney that provides a fireplace for each of the four rooms. At the northeast corner of the ell, a partially enclosed secondary stair leads from the first floor to the second and from the second floor to the attic. All rooms are floored with walnut-stained pine tongue-and-groove boards around six inches in width, although in some rooms—particularly upstairs—the floors have been carpeted. Ceilings are sheathed with flush-laid boards. All rooms in the front part of the house have plastered walls. Those in the rear ell were originally flush boarded, but were covered during the last quarter of the twentieth century with sheet rock, except for the kitchen, which was sheathed at that time with vertical boards. Rooms retain their wide baseboards with simple molded caps, but crown moldings are twentieth-century additions. Most doors in the house have three panels—a low horizontal panel beneath two vertical panels—and, like the windows, they have plain surrounds. However, most door surrounds in the front section of the house feature a lintel that extends slightly beyond the side jambs, giving the appearance of a simple Greek Revival crossetted surround.

Interior decorative detailing is focused on the center-hall stair and the house’s eight mantels. The
stair rises from front to rear along the west side of the center hall, making a sharp turn at a landing near the top and continuing on to the second floor. The open-string stair features a plain balustrade with a molded handrail, simple turned newels—the primary newel somewhat bulbous in form—and a wave-like sawnwork band along the stair string.

Mantels in the house vary in design, but all reflect mid-nineteenth-century post-and-lintel classicism. The fanciest of the eight mantels are those in the first-floor rooms in the front section of the house. The mantel in the east room features side pilasters with accentuated caps and a curvilinear frieze with a central peak and a beveled under-edge. In the west room, the mantel has similar side pilasters with accentuated caps and a beveled edge on the underside of the frieze. It differs from the east room mantel by having a stylized ogee curve at the lower end of the pilasters that seems to "melt" over the pilaster bases. This mantel has a gracefully curved frieze that gently curves downward at the center and a carved shelf that features shallow projections at either end with curved corners. The four mantels located in the two second-floor rooms of the front section of the house and in the first and second-floor south rooms of the rear ell are nearly identical. These simple Greek Revival mantels have tapered side pilasters with plain bases and caps, a frieze with a beveled under-edge that curves at each end just before it reaches the pilasters, and a plain shelf with curved outer corners. Two of these mantels—in the second floor east front and south ell room—also have a narrow band with curved ends beneath the shelf. Marbled painting uncovered on the second floor east room mantel suggests the likelihood that other mantels in the house were also decoratively painted and that this decoration may survive beneath later layers of paint. The mantels in the first and second floor north rooms of the rear ell have plainer, blockier, Greek Revival post-and-lintel detailing, but utilize the same curved shelf ends as found on the other mantels in the house.

Interestingly, four of the mantels—in the first floor south room of the ell and, on the second floor, in the two rooms in the front section of the house and in the south room of the ell—exhibit overmantels with four vertical panels. This feature seems earlier, stylistically, than the mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival styling found elsewhere in the house. Because the mantels project into the rooms, each features an adjacent closet. While most of these closets have a three-panel door, the closet in the first-floor south room of the rear ell is exceptional in its design. It consists of a pair of paneled wood doors on the lower third, with the upper two thirds composed of a pair of doors, each with eighteen "panes" of decorative punched tin in two alternating designs.

Garage/guesthouse

Just northwest of (behind) the house stands the garage/guesthouse, the only outbuilding on the property today. Begun in 1977 and completed a decade later, it is a one-story weatherboarded frame building with a metal-covered side-gable roof and a brick basement. Although a modern structure, it has
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National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  

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a domestic scale and its design is sympathetic with that of the house, including gable-end windows with round-arched fanlight heads. From the house, the building appears to be a cottage; the three-bay garage portion is seen only from the rear, where the lower brick level of the building is exposed.

Physical Evolution of House and Integrity Statement

The nineteenth-century evolution of Cedar Point is not totally clear, but can be largely surmised from physical evidence, stylistic knowledge of the historic architecture of the area, Gwyn-Franklin family tradition, and historical documents concerning the history of the family. When built by Richard Gwyn ca. 1840, the house was probably a large but relatively simple vernacular I-house with stylistic detailing found primarily on the interior in such elements as doors, center-hall stair, and mantels. Family tradition (through Mary McNeely, daughter of Richard Gwyn Franklin, and Thomas Felix Hickerson’s 1940 *Happy Valley*) claims that Thomas Lenoir Gwyn, son of Richard Gwyn, renovated the house around 1870. Although the extent of the renovation is not clear, the tradition says that it included work on the porches; it may well be when the present front and rear ell porches with their slender paired posts were built. The front gable and the round-arched gable windows may also date from this time. On the interior, the fanciest mantels—those in the first floor front rooms—may have replaced the originals as part of the ca. 1870 renovation. While these retain classical features, they also exhibit strong curvilinear elements suggestive of later Victorian romanticism.

The house appears to have changed little since the late nineteenth century. A 1914 photograph shows the exterior of the house with its present appearance, except that the two-tier porch lining the rear ell was entirely open and had no balustrade on the first story. The first bathroom was created from the enclosure of part of the rear (north) porch prior to World War I, and by 1940 the entire porch along the north elevation to the east of the rear ell had been enclosed. During the second half of the twentieth century, a balustrade was added to the first story of the ell porch and the porch steps were moved from the north end of the ell porch to the east side.

The interior of the house remains largely intact. Alterations since the mid-twentieth century—mostly from the last quarter of the century—include the additions of crown molding, vertical paneling on the kitchen walls, sheet rock over the flush boarded walls of the rear ell, and carpeting in some of the rooms. These changes, however, have had little effect on the overall appearance of the interior.

Even with the changes enumerated above, the nineteenth-century appearance of Cedar Point survives, overall, remarkably intact. Maintained in excellent condition, the well-preserved house possesses a high degree of historic integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
In 1840, Richard Gwyn moved with his family from Jonesville, on the south side of the Yadkin River in what is now Yadkin County, to the north side of the river at its confluence with Elkin Creek, where he had purchased nearly 1,700 acres in Surry County. Period documents suggest that, at that time, only a few scattered buildings, at most, stood in this area on the north side of the river. There Gwyn built a substantial, two-story frame, traditional I-house with simple Greek Revival features that remained in the ownership and occupancy of his family until 1975. Cedar Point, as the house came to be known, is probably the oldest house in Elkin and is among only five buildings—all but one associated with the Gwyn family—surviving from this piedmont North Carolina town’s history prior to 1880. More than any other building in Elkin, it is the physical symbol of the town’s earliest history. Around 1870, Richard Gwyn’s youngest son, Thomas Lenoir Gwyn, updated Cedar Point with its present late classical porches and, probably, the front gable and round-arched gable windows. Cedar Point’s local architectural significance, derived from its position as probably the oldest house in Elkin and as a good example of the no-nonsense vernacular I-house form that was decorated with simple Greek Revival and late classical details, enables it to meet Criterion C for listing in the National Register.

Richard Gwyn (1796-1881), known as "Elkin’s Founding Father," was responsible for the early development—1840 through ca. 1865—of the area that, in 1889, was incorporated as the town of Elkin. Owning most of the land comprising present-day Elkin, Gwyn was primarily interested in harnessing the water power of Elkin Creek. With a son, son-in-law, brother, and brother-in-law, he incorporated in 1848 the Elkin Manufacturing Company, which operated a gristmill, a small cotton factory—the first in the county—and a general store, none of which survives. Gwyn’s endeavors served as a catalyst for the future development of the area. When Gwyn retired from public life after the Civil War, he divided most
of his land among his children, several of whom continued to nurture the area’s developing industry and commerce. Gwyn’s youngest son, Thomas Lenoir Gwyn (1842-1934), received the home tract, composed of around 300 acres, around 1867, the year of his marriage. Soon thereafter, he remodeled the house, giving it its present stately appearance. T. L. Gwyn played a significant role in the continued industrial development of the area. In 1878 he joined with his brother-in-law, Alexander Chatham, in establishing the Elkin Woolen Mills, the industry that evolved, in 1893, into the Chatham Manufacturing Company, for years Elkin’s largest employer. When Elkin was incorporated in 1889, Thomas Lenoir Gwyn was among the original six town commissioners. When he died, T. L. Gwyn was hailed as Elkin’s "Grand Old Man." In the 1880s, Richard Gwyn Franklin (1848-1930), nephew of Thomas Lenoir Gwyn and grandson of Richard Gwyn, became the next in the family to own Cedar Point. Known as "Senator," from his 1885 term in the state senate, Franklin was variously a civil engineer, farmer, merchant, tobacco manufacturer, postmaster, and entrepreneur. He was responsible for the important opening up of the Gwyn family land west of Elkin Creek for much-needed residential expansion in the rapidly growing town in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Around 1895, Franklin began selling off lots along West Main Street to many of Elkin’s new leaders. This area, which also included Surry Avenue and Vine, Franklin, and Cedar streets, became known as Franklin Heights—then and now a significant residential area of Elkin with the stately and prominently-sited Cedar Point at its center. After Richard Gwyn Franklin’s death in 1930, the house remained in family ownership until 1975. Because of the significant local roles of Richard Gwyn, Thomas Lenoir Gwyn, and Richard Gwyn Franklin in the settlement and community development of Elkin and their direct and long-term associations with the family home, Cedar Point meets Criterion B for National Register listing.

Cedar Point’s period of significance spans the years from ca. 1840, when the house was built by Richard Gwyn, to 1930, the year of Richard Gwyn Franklin’s death. Other significant dates encompassed by the period of significance are ca. 1870, when Thomas Lenoir Gwyn remodeled Cedar Point; 1881, the year in which Richard Gwyn died and Thomas Lenoir Gwyn started the process of the selling the home tract to Richard Gwyn Franklin; and ca. 1895, when Franklin began selling off lots from the home tract for new housing in the area that became known as Franklin Heights.

Historical Background and Settlement and Community Development Contexts

Around 1817, Richard Gwyn (1796-1881), son of James and Amelia Lenoir Gwyn, moved from "Green Hill," his ancestral home on the north side of the Yadkin River in Wilkes County, to Jonesville, on the south side of the river in what is now Yadkin County. There he became a merchant and, in 1825, served as postmaster. In 1820 Gwyn married Elizabeth Martin Hunt (1801-1885); nine of their ten children were born in Jonesville between 1821 and 1840 (Elkin Tribune, Industrial Edition, 1914;
Hickerson, *Echoes*, 201). During the 1820s, Gwyn began investing in land on the south side of the Yadkin River in and around Jonesville (Deed Book T, pp. 201, 277, 278, 344).

In 1839, Richard Gwyn shifted his interest to the north side of the river, opposite Jonesville. Although during the last quarter of the eighteenth century, David Allen had operated an ironworks in the area, by the 1830s the north side of the Yadkin River on either side of Elkin Creek was sparsely populated (*Centennial History*, 3; Phillips, 33). In two transactions made in January of 1839, Gwyn purchased a total of 1,180 acres on the north side of the Yadkin River from Richard H. Parks. The following year, in February of 1840, Gwyn acquired an additional 500 acres through a land grant from the State of North Carolina. Several additional transactions gave him more land, so that by 1845 his tax listing included a home tract of 2,315 acres along with several additional tracts totally more than 460 acres. Several sources from the early twentieth century indicate that, eventually, his land holdings totaled around 6,000 acres and included a large portion of what became the town of Elkin (Deed Book Y, pp. 131, 141; Deed Book 1, p. 466; Canipe, 10; *Elkin Tribune*, November 14, 1929 and October 25, 1934).

Richard Gwyn most likely built his two-story frame home, Cedar Point, in 1840, moving there with his wife and eight surviving children. Family tradition asserts that all the Gwyn children were born in Jonesville, except for the youngest, Thomas Lenoir, who was born in 1842 at Cedar Point (*Elkin Tribune*, Industrial Edition, 1914). The next youngest, and the last to be born in Jonesville, was Mary Elizabeth, who was born on February 27, 1840 (Hollywood Cemetery [Elkin]). By the time the census was recorded on October 30 of that year, the Gwyn family was shown to be in residence on the north side of the river. The census also listed Gwyn with fifteen slaves, a number that increased to twenty-four by 1860, making him one of the largest slave holders in Surry County (1840 Census; Phillips, 33).

Despite Gwyn’s large acreage and numerous slaves, agriculture was not his primary pursuit. His main interest was in harnessing the water power of Elkin Creek, which he accomplished with much success. Unlike other streams in the area that often went dry, Elkin Creek provided a more consistent source of water power. First, Gwyn built a gristmill, to which people came from some distance to have their corn ground. Then, in 1847, he built a small cotton mill—said to be the first in Surry County—at the present location of the Elkin Library. The 1848 incorporation papers for the Elkin Manufacturing Company indicate that Richard Gwyn was joined in this venture by Richard Ransome Gwyn, his son; James Gwyn, his brother; Lytle Hickerson, his brother-in-law; and Columbus Franklin, his son-in-law. The mill workers were mostly young, single women from the surrounding countryside who boarded with nearby residents. In 1851 the Elkin Manufacturing Company erected a store, which sold general merchandise, and in 1856 a post office was established, with Richard Ransome Gwyn as first postmaster. An 1857 survey plat of Richard Gwyn’s land shows the locations of the cotton mill and store at the junction of Elkin Creek and the Trap Hill Road near the mouth of the creek, as well as Gwyn’s house on the west side of the creek and south of the Trap Hill Road. An additional mill (likely the gristmill) is
shown farther up the creek. Gwyn's complex of buildings on the east bank of Elkin Creek also included a blacksmith shop and a sash sawmill. His success in these ventures is suggested by a *Dun and Bradstreet* report of 1855 that states that Gwyn "may be credited for any amount he requests." In 1865, *Dun and Bradstreet* reported the Elkin Manufacturing Company to be worth between fifty and seventy-five thousand dollars (Centennial History, 5-6; Phillips, 34; Richard Gwyn Survey Plat, February, 1857).

The industrial and commercial enterprises established by Richard Gwyn and his family associates on Elkin Creek during the mid-nineteenth century served as the catalyst for the development of the community that grew to become, in the late nineteenth century, the town of Elkin. However, none of Gwyn's industrial and commercial buildings survive. Only the dam, Gwyn's home, and a one-room combination school and chapel, which he built ca. 1850 to alleviate the problem of having to cross the Yadkin River to attend school or church, remain as physical reminders of Richard Gwyn's seminal role in developing the area that later became Elkin. (The Gwyn School-Elkin Chapel, the oldest surviving building to have served either purpose in Surry County, has been moved at least twice. It now stands on Church Street, where it houses the Richard Gwyn Museum.)

On the surface, it appears that Richard Gwyn did not suffer many losses due to the Civil War. A letter written by Gwyn's brother, James, at the close of the war (April 30, 1865) stated, "Brother Richard lost some com, fodder, etc., but not much of his bacon, and I don't believe they took many of his horses, and his cattle all came back" (Hickerson, *Echoes*, 104). More important, his home and cotton mill survived. Toward the end of the war, General Stoneman passed through the area with Union soldiers, looting and destroying many properties. In Elkin, Stoneman refrained from destroying the cotton mill and the homes of Richard Gwyn and Richard Ransome Gwyn. Initially it was believed that Stoneman's indulgence was due to the fact that he and the Gwyns were brothers in Masonry. However, some years after the war, while traveling in California, Richard Ransome Gwyn met up with Stoneman, who at the time was governor of that state. When asked, Stoneman told Gwyn that he had spared the family's properties in Elkin because his old sweetheart from Baltimore was a Gwyn who happened to be related to the Elkin Gwyns (*Elkin Tribune*, Industrial Edition, 1914).

Nevertheless, the financial chaos resulting from the Civil War in the South in general apparently drove Richard Gwyn to despair. James Gwyn, in a letter dated January 14, 1868, wrote, "Brother Richard is failing very much, he is a good deal discouraged at the condition of affairs; seems rather low spirited, as a great many of our best men are. He has given off his land to his children mostly and they are settling around him. Richard and Nathan below the Elkin, Tho's at the homestead, and Lizzie, who married Alex'r Chatham on the river two miles above Elkin" (Hickerson, *Echoes*, 115). Richard Gwyn's land stretched from the Greenwood line (east of Elkin) up the Yadkin River (westward) about two miles into Wilkes County and extended almost as far north from the river. In dividing his land, Richard Gwyn gave his son, Newton, the land in Wilkes County. Thomas Lenoir Gwyn received the land from Newton
Gwyn’s line eastward to Elkin Creek; Richard Ransom Gwyn was given the land from Elkin Creek to Gwyn Avenue; and Mary Elizabeth, who had married Alexander Chatham in 1863, became owner of the land from Gwyn Avenue eastward to the Greenwood line (Elkin Tribune, Industrial Edition, 1914). These gifts apparently were not recorded as deeds. After the division of his property, Richard Gwyn, who was seventy-two years old at the time, retired from public life (Centennial History, 6). Meanwhile, two of the Gwyns’ grandchildren, Gideon Edwards and Columbus Bernard Franklin, the youngest sons of Ann Amelia (1821-1859) and Columbus Bernard Franklin (d. 1865), had moved to Elkin from Mississippi on the heels of the war to live under the care of their grandparents until their majority. Since the boys were only ten and six years old at the time, they must have provided activity enough around the Gwyn household. In 1876 Gid and Bern moved to California to join an older brother (Grapevine, 1-2). Thereafter, Richard and Elizabeth Gwyn lived out the remainder of their lives at Cedar Point until their deaths in 1881 and 1885, respectively. Richard Gwyn’s will, executed in January of 1881, gives little specific information concerning the disposition of his remaining property, other than providing for an income for his widow and directing that the rest be sold, with the proceeds to be divided among his heirs. In fact, Gwyn had chosen to bequeath most of his wealth prior to his death, including the division of most of his lands to his children in 1868 and an advance of $7,675—a tidy sum during that period—to each of his surviving children (McNeely Letter; Will Book 6, p. 160).

Thomas Lenoir Gwyn (1842-1934), Richard and Elizabeth Gwyn’s youngest child, remained closely associated with Cedar Point for longer than any of his siblings. As a young adult in 1862, he enlisted in Company A, Second Battalion, North Carolina Troops. During the latter part of the Civil War, he served as a guard at the Confederate prison in Salisbury. After the war, he returned home, and in 1867 married Amelia Dickenson from Tennessee (History of North Carolina, 87). The first of their two children was born later that year (Hickerson, Echoes, 203). When, soon thereafter, Richard Gwyn divided his lands among his children, Thomas received the tract that included the home place. In 1880, a deed from father to son conveyed 300 acres known as "my Elkin Farm." From the described boundary of this tract adjoining the lands of Thomas Lenoir Gwyn, Richard Ransom Gwyn, the Elkin Manufacturing Company, and others, it appears that it was located directly north of the Gwyn home place (Deed Book 24, p. 149). In the 1870 census, T. L. Gwyn was still listed, along with his wife and daughter, as residing with his parents. Family tradition claims that he renovated Cedar Point around 1870—not long after his marriage and his receipt of the home tract from his father—giving it the majority of its present appearance (Hickerson, Happy Valley; Survey notes - Richard Gwyn House). However, apparently by 1880 he and his young family had moved to a home of their own. The census for that year gives a separate, though adjacent, listing for the younger Gwyns. That may have been the two-story frame house occupied later in the 1880s by T. L. Gwyn and his family, which stood farther up and on the opposite side of Elkin Creek. That house no longer survives, although some architectural elements from it were re-used in the Neaves...
Cedar Point
Surry County, North Carolina

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House at the east end of Green Valley Road (1880 Census; Elkin Tribune, Industrial Edition, 1914; Canipe, 171; Survey notes - Neaves House).

In 1878, Thomas Lenoir Gwyn joined with his brother-in-law, Alexander Chatham, in establishing a woolen mill on Elkin Creek on a dam about a mile north of the Elkin Manufacturing Company’s cotton mill. The previous year they had taken over R. R. Gwyn & Company, the gristmill and mercantile business of their brother and brother-in-law Richard Ransome Gwyn, and had enlarged the facilities in preparation for their Elkin Woolen Mills. For around sixteen years the firm operated under the name of Gwyn and Chatham, but around 1893, Alexander Chatham and his sons, Richard Martin Chatham and Hugh Gwyn Chatham, bought T. L. Gwyn’s interest in the business and established the Chatham Manufacturing Company. The new company grew to become for many years Elkin’s major industry and largest employer (Centennial History, 6-7, 18; Phillips, 34-35).

After Thomas Lenoir Gwyn sold his part of the woolen mill to the Chatham family, he moved to Grayson County, Virginia, where he owned and operated a large farm and was engaged in flour milling. Around 1913 he returned to Elkin, where he lived the remainder of his life in a large house on Gwyn Avenue. At his death in 1934 at the age of nearly ninety-two, Gwyn was hailed as Elkin’s "Grand Old Man" (History of North Carolina, 87; Elkin Tribune, November 14, 1929 and October 25, 1934).

Many of Elkin’s early residents had come to work in various Gwyn family enterprises, and later, some of these same men founded their own local businesses and became leaders of the community. By the late 1880s, Elkin had grown to the point where incorporation seemed advantageous. On March 5, 1889, the North Carolina Legislature approved the charter of incorporation for the Town of Elkin. Among the first six commissioners listed in the town charter were Thomas Lenoir Gwyn, Richard Ransome Gwyn, and Alexander Chatham, who served as mayor. In 1890 R. R. Gwyn sold most of his portion of the Gwyn land for the formal development of the town by a group of Winston investors operating under the name of the Elkin Land Company. The following year, Winston civil engineer Jacob Lot Ludlow laid out the town into streets and lots. When, in 1890, the Northwestern North Carolina Railroad, on its line from Greensboro to Wilkesboro, arrived in Elkin, the town was poised to take full advantage of the opportunities the railroad afforded for increased commerce and industry. Richard Gwyn’s early development of the area around the confluence of Elkin Creek and the Yadkin River in the mid-nineteenth century, coupled with the nurturing and expansion of the Gwyn family’s industrial and commercial interests by his sons during the second half of the century, had born fruit in the establishment of the prosperous town of Elkin. Today, family patriarch Richard Gwyn is honored as "Elkin’s Founding Father" (Centennial History, 3-4, 8, 10, 13, 16; Phillips, 35).

Soon after Richard Gwyn died in 1881, Thomas Lenoir Gwyn began to sell off the 300-acre home tract. In 1882 and 1883, he sold individual lots to G. F. Roth, A. B. Galloway, J. W. Ring, and W. B. Woodruff, on which they soon built homes for their families (Gwyn Family Papers). The first three of
these were located along what is now Terrace Avenue on the west bank of Elkin Creek, where the homes built by Roth, Galloway, and Ring survive among Elkin’s prominent late-nineteenth-century dwellings. Gilvin T. Roth had moved to Elkin from Pennsylvania in 1878 to be superintendent of the woolen mill newly established by T. L. Gwyn and Alexander Chatham. He later became a vice-president of the Chatham Manufacturing Company and served as one of the town’s first commissioners when it was incorporated in 1889. Alexander B. Galloway was a prominent local merchant, in whose memory the Galloway Memorial Episcopal Church was built in 1897 on West Main Street. Dr. J. W. Ring, Elkin’s only physician for more than a decade, also served—along with G. T. Roth, T. L. Gwyn, R. R. Gwyn, and A. G. Click—as one of Elkin’s first town commissioners. The lot purchased by W. B. Woodruff was located on Elk Spur Street (the former Trap Hill Road). Elder Woodruff was an organizer of Elkin’s First Baptist Church in 1889 and helped secure a site on Elk Spur Street—possibly this parcel—for the congregation’s first church (Phillips, 98, 103, 104; Centennial History, 13, 153).

The Gwyn home place, itself, along with most of the home tract, was sold to Richard Gwyn Franklin (1848-1930). Exactly when the sale was consummated is unclear. On November 14, 1881, in the same year that Richard Gwyn died, R. G. Franklin signed a promissory note to T. L. Gwyn for $2,500 plus interest, to be paid twelve months later, as the balance of the purchase money for part of Gwyn’s home tract (Gwyn Family Papers). However, no deed for the property was recorded until 1887, and then there were actually three deeds conveyed before the sale appears to have been finalized. Why this was so is not clear. One possibility may have had to do with Elizabeth Gwyn, widow of Richard Gwyn. She did not die until 1885, and family tradition relates that both she and Richard died in their bedroom, the first-floor north room of the ell, which now serves as the kitchen at Cedar Point (McNeely Letter). If she, indeed, remained in the family home, perhaps with a housekeeper, that may have delayed the sale. At any rate, the first deed, dated June 21, 1887, between Thomas L. and Amelia J. Gwyn and Richard G. Franklin, was for 300 acres "embracing four lots or parcels of land I sold off to G. T. Roth, A. B. Galloway, J. W. Ring, and W. B. Woodruff . . . which are excepted." Full payment of the purchase price of $5,000 was acknowledged (Gwyn Family Papers). A second deed between the two parties, dated October 17, 1887, is worded a little differently—to allow, it seems, for the exclusion of the lots previously sold to Roth, Galloway, Ring, and Woodruff—but appears to be for the same tract of land. The fact that the deed still claims to include 300 acres is either a mistake, or else some additional land was included to make up for the excluded lots (Gwyn Family Papers). The third, and final, deed was dated February 11, 1888. Again, the boundary description was adjusted a little, due in part to two of the corners having been established by arbitration, but it is clear that this is, essentially, the same tract as that conveyed by deed on October 17, 1887. This time the tract was described as containing 250 acres—probably the amount the previous deed should have listed. The deed also included a small tract of two acres located on the east side of Elkin Creek just north of its confluence with the Yadkin River (Deed Book 25, p. 505).
Richard Gwyn Franklin was a son of Ann Amelia Gwyn and Columbus Bernard Franklin; nephew of Thomas Lenoir Gwyn, who was only six years his elder; and grandson of Richard Gwyn (Hickerson, *Echoes*, 201). He graduated from Trinity College and for several years thereafter taught school in Jonesville. Wanting what he thought would be a more active life, he left teaching to become a civil engineer. In that capacity he conducted railroad survey work as well as land surveys in other states for the federal government (*History of North Carolina*, 225). In the early 1870s Franklin moved to Carpinteria, California to join his older brother Meschach; later in the decade they were joined by their four younger siblings (*Grapevine*). By 1880, however, Franklin had returned to Elkin, where he was listed in the 1880 census as a clerk residing with his first cousin, Charles Hunt Gwyn, son of Richard Ransome Gwyn (1880 Census). Elkin became Franklin’s home for the remainder of his life.

In 1882 Richard Gwyn Franklin married Wilkes County native Annie Victoria Harris; together they reared six children at Cedar Point. In 1885 Franklin was elected to the state senate, where he represented Surry County for one term. Thereafter he was familiarly known as "Senator." Franklin farmed, for awhile engaged in the manufacture of tobacco, later became a merchant, at one time served as Elkin’s postmaster, and was actively involved in community affairs. When Elkin was incorporated, Franklin was appointed to a committee that drafted the by-laws and ordinances for the new town (*History of North Carolina*, 225; *Elkin Tribune*, November 13, 1930; *Centennial History*, 14).

Of particular importance to the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century development of Elkin was Franklin’s opening up of the Gwyn land on the west side of Elkin Creek for development. This process had actually begun in the early 1880s with Thomas Lenoir Gwyn’s sale of several parcels on the west bank of Elkin Creek and Elk Spur Street. Yet, even with those sales, the bulk of the Gwyn land remained in family ownership. A significant change came with the real estate activities of Richard Gwyn Franklin, paralleling the burgeoning growth of Elkin after the town’s incorporation and the arrival of the railroad. Elkin’s rapidly increasing commerce and industry after 1890 was planted east of Elkin Creek. This growth was, of necessity, accompanied by the need for more housing. In 1890, the year of the arrival of the railroad, Elkin had a population of 288. By 1900 the population had jumped to 860, and by 1910 it had climbed to 1,200 (*Centennial History*, 10, 30, 40). Some of the needed residential development expanded northward from Elkin’s Main Street commercial center east of Elkin Creek. However, the expanse of open land west of Elkin Creek that had been, for half a century, the Gwyn family home tract offered a prime opportunity for significant residential development during this period.

By around 1895, Franklin had begun to sell off lots on West Main Street to many of Elkin’s new leaders. For some years thereafter, the county’s grantor/grantee index lists numerous deeds in which Richard G. and Annie Victoria Franklin were selling off, parcel by parcel, their land west of Elkin Creek. In addition to making money in a manner that was, simultaneously, of benefit to the community, Franklin was, in effect, creating a residential neighborhood for his family. Franklin may have had the land formally
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platted, but there remains no record of a plat. Nevertheless, the area west of Elkin Creek that includes West Main Street, Surry Avenue, and Vine, Franklin, and Cedar streets came to be known as Franklin Heights (Centennial History, 12). (There is a recorded plat for a Franklin Heights, but it is located in Mount Airy.) By 1925, Franklin Heights was almost completely filled with houses on lots of various sizes (Sanborn Map, 1925). Largely because of its stately character and location on a larger, higher lot, Cedar Point has remained the center piece of this still-prominent neighborhood in Elkin.

On November 8, 1930, Richard Franklin Gwyn died at his home, "the original and widely known Gwyn homestead on Main Street." His obituary proclaimed him "one of Elkin’s pioneer citizens" who was "among the outstanding figures of Elkin" (Elkin Tribune, November 13, 1930). Franklin died intestate, and on December 13, 1930, his heirs entered into an agreement wherein Franklin’s widow, Annie Victoria, received all her deceased husband’s real estate in exchange for various payments made to the Franklin children to even out the estate (Contracts, Agreements, and Assignment Book 103, p. 550).

After the death of his father, Richard G. Franklin Jr. returned home to live with his mother; he remained at Cedar Point for the rest of his life. In 1932, Mary Franklin McNeely, who was then living in Charlotte, was widowed when her husband, Fred, was killed in an automobile accident. She then returned home to Cedar Point with her two children, joining in residence her mother and brother (Randleman Interview). When Annie Victoria Franklin drew up her will in 1939, she left the family home to Richard G. Jr. and Mary, instructing Mary to advise Richard in preserving and taking care of the property and, in general, to furnish him a place to live. Mrs. Franklin died on April 8, 1959 (Will Book 13, p. 46). Richard G. Franklin, Jr. died August 25, 1966, leaving all his property to his sister, Mary Franklin McNeely (Will Book 16, p. 549).

Mary McNeely continued living at Cedar Point for nearly a decade after her brother’s death. On January 1, 1975, she sold "the Franklin Homeplace located at 350 West Main Street, Elkin, also known and designated as Cedar Point" to J. Michael and Elizabeth S. Randleman (Deed Book 312, p. 841). After 135 years, Cedar Point had finally passed out of Gwyn family ownership. The Randlemans began a long process of carefully preserving the house. With sensitivity to the house’s design and materials, they also added the separate garage/guest house. In 1990, Cedar Point transferred to the sole ownership of Elizabeth Stacker Randleman, the present owner and occupant of the house (Deed Book 496, p. 144).

Architecture Context

Built ca. 1840, Cedar Point is part of a very small group of buildings in Elkin known to have been built prior to 1880 and is, in all likelihood, the oldest house in town. The four other buildings in the group include the ca. 1840s Bryan-Pegram House; the ca. 1850 Gwyn School-Elkin Chapel, built by
Richard Gwyn and moved at least twice since it was built; the ca. 1855 Gwyn-Foard House (listed in the National Register as part of the Downtown Elkin Historic District, 2000), originally the home of Richard Ransome Gwyn, son of Richard Gwyn; and the Gwyn-Chatham-Gwyn House, built ca. 1873 by Richard Ransom Gwyn, moved and remodeled ca. 1900 by Alexander Chatham Jr., and from ca. 1913 to 1934 the home of Thomas Lenoir Gwyn. It is perhaps worthy of note that of the five buildings in the group, all but the Bryan-Pegram House are associated with Richard Gwyn's family. Architecturally, Cedar Point represents both the vernacular I-house tradition and the mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival style in Surry County.

The only house that rivals Cedar Point in age, if not in type, is the Bryan-Pegram House, located at 235 Veneer Street near the eastern edge of Elkin. Based on its architectural features and on information in census records from 1840 to 1870, the Bryan-Pegram House appears to have been built in the 1840s. It is part of Surry County's long tradition of log construction, which lasted from the eighteenth century until at least the 1920s, often with little change in form. Although it has been heavily remodeled, the Bryan-Pegram House retains some original features—including its blocky form, simplicity of design, side-gable roof with boxed front and rear eaves, and enclosed corner stair with a batten door with wrought iron strap hinges—that suggest its age.

While the Bryan-Pegram House represents one vernacular tradition of house building in Surry County, Cedar Point represents another that was equally popular and lasted throughout much of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth. Cedar Point is an example of the frame I-house tradition which, like other traditional building patterns, was much slower to change in form than in detail. The I-house, of which there are countless examples in Surry County, as elsewhere, typically consists of a two-story frame structure—generally weatherboarded, three bays wide and one room deep, with a side-gable roof, a front porch, and a rear ell lined with a porch. Cedar Point possesses these features, but unlike many I-houses has interior rather than exterior chimneys and a two-story ell rather than one that is only one story in height.

Cedar Point also reflects the Greek Revival style. With conservatism typical of Surry County, the mid-nineteenth century was accompanied by little in the way of strongly stated examples of the Greek Revival. Rather, architectural change was often more evident in building form than in detail. The Greek Revival in Surry County was expressed in large measure through a more elongated house form, i.e. one that was more horizontal than vertical in proportion; a lower-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves; greater symmetry of design; large six-over-six sash windows; a center-hall plan; and bolder, heavier details of classical design. Cedar Point possesses these characteristics along with a variety of details that reflect the style. Among these, on the exterior of the house, are a wide frieze board beneath the overhanging eaves, cornice returns at each gable end giving the hint of a classical pediment, and paneled corner pilasters with multi-layered classical caps. On the interior, Greek Revival-influenced features
include a graceful center-hall stair with an open string, a plain balustrade with a molded handrail, and a bulbous primary newel; three-panel doors (two vertical panels with a horizontal panel across the bottom—an area variation on the more typical two-panel door); door surrounds in the front part of the house with a lintel that extends slightly beyond the side jambs giving the appearance of a simple crosseted surround; and eight mantels that vary in design, though all exhibit post-and-lintel classicism. Most of the mantels are simple in design, but those in the first-floor front rooms exhibit more flair. While the side pilasters of these mantels are fairly typical, the friezes that stretch between the pilasters exhibit some degree of romanticism. In the east room, the mantel has a curvilinear frieze which rises to a peak in the center. The west room mantel has a graceful frieze that gently curves downward at the center and a shelf that projects slightly at either end. The friezes of both mantels have a beveled under-edge. These mantels are similar to the somewhat more vernacular examples found in the Thomas Francis Hurt House and the Byrd White House, both located not far east of Elkin.

Only two other examples of the Greek Revival style survive in Elkin, making the context within which to place Cedar Point very limited. Although the ca. 1850 Gwyn School-Elkin Chapel, now located in the 100 block of Church Street, is a very simple, one-story, weatherboarded frame building with a double-leaf front entrance and side windows, its nearly square configuration and low hipped roof with widely overhanging boxed eaves reflect a definite Greek Revival influence. The ca. 1855 Gwyn-Foard House at 115 Circle Court is the strongest example of the Greek Revival style in Elkin. Among the Greek Revival characteristics of this two-story frame house are its low hipped roof with widely overhanging boxed eaves, a double-leaf entrance with sidelights and transom of diamond-patterned design, crosseted and slightly pedimented door and window surrounds, a wide center hall, marbled woodwork, and a parlor mantel with fluted Doric engaged columns and a guilloche frieze. Although the mantel itself appears to have been inspired by a period pattern book, it has a quirky curvilinear overmantel that is clearly homegrown and appears related to several of the vernacular mantels of the area. The outstanding two-tier front porch of the Gwyn-Foard House with its elaborate woodwork may date from later in the nineteenth century.

Around 1870, Thomas Lenoir Gwyn renovated Cedar Point, giving it new porches with slender posts and a projecting gabled entrance bay. The remodeling may also have included the center-front roof gable and round-arched gable windows. In this form, the house appears to have served as a model for at least one other house in Elkin. The design of the Dr. J. W. Ring House, while not a slavish copy of Cedar Point, certainly seems to have been influenced strongly by this local landmark. Located near Cedar Point at 112 Terrace Avenue, the Ring House was built on a lot that Ring purchased from Thomas Lenoir Gwyn in the early 1880s at a time when Gwyn sold several lots overlooking Elkin Creek to prominent local citizens.

At the end of the nineteenth century and in the early twentieth century, new styles—such as the
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Queen Anne, the Neo-Classical Revival, the Colonial Revival, and the Craftsman bungalow—took hold in Elkin’s domestic architecture. However, Cedar Point’s stately character, aided by its hilltop setting and good maintenance, enabled it to remain, then as now, an architectural landmark in Elkin. (The architecture context is based on the architectural survey of Elkin conducted by the author and published in 1987 in Simple Treasures: The Architectural Legacy of Surry County.)
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is defined as Surry County Tax Parcel 4951-13-22-1751.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, consisting of a tract of 1.8 acres, constitutes the surviving historic setting of Cedar Point.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

1) Cedar Point  
2) Elkin, Surry County, North Carolina  
3) Laura A. W. Phillips  
4) December, 2001  
5) State Historic Preservation Office  
6-7) A: Overall, view to NE  
     B: West gable end detail, view to NE  
     C: Facade, view to NW  
     D: Rear of house, view to S  
     E: Overall, view to SW  
     F: Streetscape environment, West Main Street, view to NE  
     G: Center hall stair, view to NW  
     H: Mantel, first floor, north room of ell, view to S  
     I: First floor, east room, view to NW  
     J: Second floor, east room mantel wall, view to NW  
     K: Punched tin cupboard, first floor, south room of ell, view to N
Our tax maps are prepared for the inventory of real property found within Surry County and are compiled from recorded deeds, plats, and other public records and data. Users of these maps are hereby cautioned that the aforementioned public primary information sources should be consulted for verification of the information contained on our maps. Surry County assumes no responsibility for the information on these maps.