

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Ivey-Ellington House

Cary, Wake County, WA0892, Listed 5/15/2008
Nomination by Heather M. Wagner
Photographs by Heather M. Wagner, May 2007



Façade and side view



Rear view

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 Ivey-Ellington House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 135 W. Chatham Street not for publication N/A

city or town Cary vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27512

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
_____ 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): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Ivey-Ellington House
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
County and State

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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic and Architectural Resources of
Wake County, North Carolina, Ca. 1770-1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STUCCO
roof METAL - Tin
walls WOOD - Board and Batten
other: _____

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

Ivey-Ellington House
Name of Property

Wake 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.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1870

Significant Dates

c. 1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Ivey-Ellington House
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.85 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 / 700440 / 3962600
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 Heather M. Wagner, Design & Preservation Consultant

organization Trinity Design-Build date June 15, 2007

street & number 1002 Lamond Avenue telephone 919-321-8344

city or town Durham state NC zip code 27701

12. 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 Jefferson Sugg

street & number 2401 Grigsby Avenue telephone (919) 552-1700

city or town Holly Springs state NC zip code 27540-8844

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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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Ivey-Ellington House
Wake County, North Carolina

The Ivey-Ellington House, located at 135 W. Chatham Street in Cary, North Carolina, is a one-and-a-half story frame dwelling that was constructed in the early 1870s. Very typical of Gothic Revival structures of the time, both the plan and elevations are symmetrical. A steeply pitched roof, decorative scalloped gable trim, and pointed-arch windows make the structure distinctive in its surroundings.

Set back from the street about one- hundred feet, the house sits roughly in the center of a 0.85 acre tract of land facing West Chatham Street to the north. Large trees shade West Chatham Street and the west of the property, including the house and a gravel parking area for the current tenants. The area immediately in front of the house is clear, since several large trees were destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. A gravel drive extends along the west side of the building to a second gravel parking area in the rear. A brick commercial building and concrete block apartment house stand to the northeast and southeast of the house on the adjacent lots.

The house is arranged as a T-plan with a center hall that opens to two identical parlors along the front elevation. The rear of the house (and base of the “T”) contains a wider stair hall and a rear living room that is roughly the same size as the two front rooms and is accessed through a door at the south end of the central hall. The hall contains a stair to the second floor on the west, and a bathroom beneath the stair added in the early twentieth century. A shallow kitchen addition was added to the rear of the first floor in the 1950s. One-story living room and bath additions were added to the west side of the house, filling in one corner of the “T,” in the early 2000s. Upstairs the original plan repeats with three rooms accessed by an open center hall. A small room, only a few feet deep, extends over the front porch and is accessed through a door at the north end of the center hall.

The exterior of the Ivey-Ellington house is covered with board-and-batten sheathing and painted a bright white. The foundation consists of brick piers with a concrete block curtain wall, which has been covered with stucco and painted. The house’s steeply pitched cross-gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal and the four gable ends have decorative scalloped bargeboards. There are seven steeply pitched gabled dormers on the main, cross-gabled roof, each with a standing-seam metal roof and decorative scalloped bargeboards. The one-story rear kitchen and west side additions are covered with board-and-batten to match the main house and are covered by a lower gable end and shed metal roofs, respectively. Two rear entrances along the east side of the house (one to the rear hall and one to the kitchen) are sheltered by small, bracketed, gabled metal roofs. Two interior brick chimneys have been removed from the house since 1992.

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A c. 2000 replacement front porch sits beneath the projecting front gable. The gable and supports replicate the original porch that was destroyed during Hurricane Hazel in 1954 and replaced a smaller, gabled stoop that stood at the front of the house from 1954 to 2000. The porch has a concrete slab deck and stairs and the porch roof and room above are supported by three slender, square, attenuated posts at each corner; the posts have simple square capitals and bases. The porch railing with turned rails is a recent addition and would not have been found on the original Gothic Revival structure, but was a necessary update to meet current building codes. The front door, while not original, retains its pointed-arch transom.

The pointed arch windows are one of the most distinctive features of the house. The wood windows, in a ten-over-six configuration, have a fixed pentagonal upper sash that gives the window its pointed arch. Gabled dormers on the second floor each have a ten-over-six window matching those on the first floor. Windows on the gable ends of the house, located on either side of the fireplaces, are nine-over-four windows; these also have a pentagonal upper sash, but arranged in a half pointed arch. These windows are absent from the second floor on the west side of the house. The south wall of the kitchen and the additions on the west elevation have simple six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows. There is a high rectangular fixed sash window in the bath.

The interior of the structure retains its original layout and architectural details. It features wide-plank hardwood floors and six-inch baseboards in the halls and front two rooms on the first floor. Carpet covers the remaining floors; the kitchen and bath areas have linoleum and tile floors, respectively. Most of the plaster walls and ceilings have been covered with sheetrock. The rear hall has a picture rail and the rear rooms on the first floor have paneling and small crown molding. The second floor is carpeted; the baseboards appear to be replacements, but match those on the first floor in size, with an additional protruding half-round cap at the top of the baseboard. Most of these changes to interior finishes were made in the latter part of the twentieth century when the house was converted to commercial use.

The doors, windows, and surrounds reflect multiple building periods. The front two rooms and a small bathroom off of the rear hall have two-panel Greek Revival-style doors. Most other doors on the first and second floors have four panels, though several mismatched panel and French doors are located in the rear rooms of the first floor. Several doors on the second floor retain their original box locks and other hardware. Original door and window surrounds have an approximately four-inch wide surround

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Ivey-Ellington House
Wake County, North Carolina

with an applied one-inch molding at the outer edge and a rounded piece on the inside edge. Door and window surrounds in the kitchen and west side additions match the scale, but not the detail of the original surrounds; they have beveled surrounds with a similarly beveled molding at the outer edge.

The fireplace mantels and stairwell details, though not Gothic Revival in style, display a level of craftsmanship and detail not found in vernacular structures of the time. The two front rooms on each floor have fireplaces centered in the gable end jutting into the room. The fireplaces appear to have been wood burning, each fireplace with a brick interior and surround. Fireplaces on the first floor have stone hearths and wood mantels with egg-and-dart trim. Those on the second floor had brick hearths and simple, more conservative wood mantels. One of these fireplaces has been closed and the hearth covered with carpet. The stairway in the rear hall has a turned newel and balusters and a carved handrail.

The Ivey-Ellington House has experienced minor alterations since construction, but the changes have not diminished the overall integrity of the structure. Exterior alterations include the removal of the two interior brick chimneys and the addition of the kitchen to the south and the living and bath spaces to the west; these additions were sensitively done with board and batten and roof materials matching the original structure. The current front porch is a reconstruction of the original, which was damaged and removed in 1954. The concrete slab floor and rails differ from those found on late-nineteenth century Gothic Revival houses, but their presence does not diminish the impact of the distinctive front porch. The inside of the Ivey-Ellington House retains its original form and layout, with only minor additions and alterations to the rear of the house. Changes to floor and wall finishes, including the installation of sheetrock, paneling, and carpeting in some rooms does not affect the overall integrity and readability of the spaces. In finish and detail, the builders utilized sawn, turned, and carved lumber to create decorative architectural elements for both the interior and exterior of the house. Evidence of their craftsmanship remains in the original doors, windows, surrounds, mantels, and other trim.

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The Ivey-Ellington House is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture with a period of significance in c. 1870. A rare example of Gothic Revival cottage architecture in Wake County, the house epitomizes the style with its steeply pitched roof and gables, board-and-batten siding, and pointed arch windows. It illustrates a national style and architectural movement in the context of a growing railroad town in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Furthermore, it shows the influence of pattern books and confirms the flow of ideas along rail lines from urban centers to rural areas.

Context 2, "Civil War, Reconstruction, and a Shift to Commercial Agriculture (1861-1885)", pages 30-46 in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, ca. 1770-1941" (MPDF) provides the historic context for the construction of the Ivey-Ellington House. The locally significant Ivey-Ellington House falls under Property Type 3B, "Houses Built between the Civil War and World War I," pages 131-136, which provides the architectural context. Houses in Wake County are significant as reflections of the architectural trends that reached the county and the choices and adaptations that people made in terms of architectural design and style. Additional architectural context and historical information specific to the house is included herein.

According to the registration requirements on pages 141-142 of the MPDF, individual houses in Wake County must retain a high level of architectural integrity to be considered individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for architecture. The Ivey-Ellington House is the best remaining example of Gothic Revival domestic architecture in the county. It has nearly all of its original exterior finishes with a reconstructed front porch in keeping with the Gothic Revival style. The interior arrangement remains intact, with original floors, trim, and windows.

Historic Context for Cary and Wake County

Between the Civil War (1861-1865) and World War I (1914-1918), Wake County was predominantly rural, with the exception of Raleigh, the capital city. The Civil War and Reconstruction brought a new economy to the South; however, growth immediately after the war was slow. By the mid-1880s, towns and small commercial centers began to be established outside of Raleigh to serve the rural population. Cary is one of sixteen towns that sprang up around the county between 1871 and 1927, including, but not limited to nearby Apex, New Hill, and Holly Springs.¹

Aiding this development were the railroads, which were instrumental in the creation of smaller towns and commercial centers throughout Wake County. They were essential to the economic success of towns and the surrounding countryside, providing a

¹ Lally, 77.

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method for transporting tobacco, cotton, and other crops to a national market. Additionally, the railroad connected small towns socially, dispersing ideas, as well as architectural styles and materials, as it transported goods.

Located at the juncture of two major railroads, the North Carolina and the Chatham, Cary is a prime example of an early railroad town. The railroad, which linked Goldsboro and Charlotte, traveled through Cary because of its relatively level topography. The rail line was completed in 1856 and the first post office was established in Cary that same year. Passenger train service began in Cary in 1867 and the first depot was constructed a year later. By 1871, the Cary was an established town and was incorporated by founder, builder, and first mayor, Allison Francis Page, Sr.²

While the railroad was responsible for the early development of Cary, it was education that fostered the continued growth of the community. The Cary Academy was founded in 1870 as a private boarding school at the end of Academy Street (named for the school). The school was incorporated as Cary High School in 1896 and was well known throughout the state, with an enrollment of nearly 250 students by 1900.³

The town's growth was slow but steady through the turn of the century. In 1880, the town had 316 residents and, by 1920, its population had grown to 645.⁴ Even with this gradual growth, the town remained little more than a farm village, a stop on the rail lines, and a regional educational center until the 1920s when paved roads became more common and connected Cary to both Raleigh and Apex. It continued to grow steadily through the early twentieth century then experienced rapid growth when the Research Triangle Park was established nearby in the 1950s.⁵

Pattern Books, Andrew Jackson Downing, and the Gothic Revival Style

The Gothic Revival style, which began in England in the 1700s, was introduced to the United States in the 1830s. The style was used almost exclusively in churches and institutional buildings before the Civil War. It was not until after mid-century that Gothic Revival-style architecture spread to rural churches or was extended to middle-class residential structures. The construction of Gothic Revival-style houses in rural areas continued until the 1880s, though the style was never as popular as the Greek Revival or Italianate styles in the United States.⁶

In their most basic form, Gothic Revival and other Picturesque-style homes were a rejection of the Classical styles that had come to be associated with the American

² Malloy, 12-13.

³ Malloy, 13.

⁴ Lally, 329.

⁵ Malloy, 15.

⁶ McAlester, 200.

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Revolution and the development of the Republic. Defined by steeply pitched roofs with cross gables, decorative gable trim, and pointed arch windows, the Gothic Revival style signified an architectural reform that focused on “changing attitudes toward nature, religion, technology, and the family.”⁷ The houses were often nestled in nature and, because of the style’s association with church architecture, signified a Christian dwelling. Technological advances in heating and sanitation, as well as in construction methods, were often employed. Finally, the Gothic Revival-style was designed around family life and activities and in their larger iterations also included more specific room functions. Ultimately, the Picturesque styles promoted “private discipline and self control” over the public order that was emphasized in the Classical styles.⁸

Two men, Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing, were largely responsible for the development of the Gothic Revival style in the United States. In 1832, Davis designed Glen Ellen in Baltimore, the first fully documented high style Gothic Revival home to be constructed in America. Davis championed the style and encouraged it in his pattern book, *Rural Residences*, in 1837. However, it was not until the pattern books of his friend, Andrew Jackson Downing, were published in 1842 and 1850, that the Gothic Revival-style house gained widespread recognition.⁹ Sales of Downing’s book, *Cottage Residences*, totaled roughly 6,250 copies between 1842 and 1853, and continued to be reprinted into the 1870s.¹⁰

Downing advocated the Gothic Revival (and other Picturesque styles) for many of the same reasons as the housing reformers of the time: nature, religion, technology, and family.¹¹ Housing reform movements began in response to the poor living conditions of the urban poor. It stood to reason that “if the squalid surroundings contributed to the ill-health and immoral behavior of the inhabitants of the slums, then it followed that changing the environment might improve the condition of the poor.”¹² The housing reformers used four main methods to improve living conditions: the creation of model dwellings, like those in the Gothic Revival-style, sanitation reform, building regulations, and the dispersal of the poor from the urban areas to more rural settings.¹³ Many believed that placing “slum dwellers” in an ideal living environment, through ownership

⁷ Clark, 33.

⁸ Clark, 43.

⁹ McAlester, 200.

¹⁰ Schuyler, 72.

¹¹ Clark, 33.

¹² von Hoffman, 18.

¹³ von Hoffman, 18.

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of a suburban home, would provide them “dignity, manhood, moral, and political independence.”¹⁴

The Gothic Revival style was predominantly employed in country houses, small cottages that were affordable to the middle class. They were often constructed from Downing’s pattern books or were copies of houses seen by rail travelers. By the mid-nineteenth century, the railroad provided an influx of inexpensive building materials for the towns along its path.¹⁵ It stands to reason, that ideas on housing reform and architectural style followed the same path, emanating from urban centers to the rural reaches of the country, mostly along the growing system of rail lines.

The Picturesque styles, along with a pastoral, rural setting, were put forth by Downing as necessary reforms to encourage interaction with nature and promote Christian values. Trained in landscaping, as the son of a nursery owner, Downing’s use of porches linked the houses to their surroundings and his pattern books often included plans for the surrounding gardens. In Downing’s view, the movement away from rectangular plans to T- and L-shaped plans lent “feeling” to a house. Furthermore, T-plan houses shared their form with churches, subtly encouraging Christian values to the inhabitants. Some pattern books even included variations on a cross motif in their trim and bargeboard recommendations.¹⁶

The utilitarian nature of several Gothic Revival design components suited Downing’s conception that ornament should, “combine itself with the most important and useful features of the house.”¹⁷ Technology influenced the Gothic Revival style nearly as much as religion and nature. Rural cottages were utilitarian first and expressions of design and social status second. Steep gables, like those on the Ivey-Ellington House provided useable second-floor space beneath the steeply sloping roof, and drew warm air up and away from the living spaces. Porches and verandas provided additional living and working space. Decorative trim defined the Gothic Revival style as much as the architectural form itself; both indicated an awareness of and appreciation for the popular styles over vernacular structures.

Downing advocated against the notion of a house as a commodity, rejecting America’s growing practice of frequent moving. He believed that houses should root a family to the land and encouraged the construction of “permanent” homes, which he believed would bring stability to the American family. He recommended using brick or stone when possible and when wood construction was necessary for financial reasons,

¹⁴ von Hoffman, 22.

¹⁵ McAlester, 63.

¹⁶ Clark, 44.

¹⁷ Downing, 184-185.

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Downing prescribed vertical siding for “structural truthfulness.”¹⁸ McAlester further notes that board-and-batten siding “was widely advocated by contemporary pattern books for its verticality, which was considered suitably Gothic.”¹⁹

The Ivey-Ellington House is one of only two board-and-batten Gothic Revival-style houses in Wake County. The other is the 1873 Dr. S.P. Waldo House, also in Cary, which is currently quite deteriorated and overgrown. The Waldo House is far less decorative than the Ivey-Ellington House with board-and-batten siding and a rural setting being its most distinctively Gothic Revival-style elements. The house has a side-gable roof, a form typical of rural farmhouses, six-over-six rectangular windows and boxed eaves. The Gothic Revival style is found more often on religious structures in Wake County, including the Free Church of the Good Shepherd (1874), the Collins Grove Baptist Church (1870), and the Oaky Grove Church (1877).

The Gothic Revival style was generally less common in Southern states where the Civil War and Reconstruction slowed the building industry until after the popularity of the style had passed. However, Lally notes that Wake County saw several “stylishly ambitious” projects constructed in the 1870s, popularized by pattern books like Andrew Jackson Downing’s, *Cottage Residences*.²⁰ These properties, generally close to rail lines, displayed decorative trim and bargeboards as early as the 1870s, while the features did not become commonplace in the rural parts of the county until a decade later.²¹ For those residents who moved toward L- and T-shaped houses, and away from simple details to the more stylistic details of the Italianate, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival styles, the resulting houses “reflected the wealth and taste of their owners,” and “provided highly visible symbols of economic recovery.”²²

Though the Gothic Revival style was perhaps the least widely utilized and adapted of the Picturesque styles, far less common than the Italianate style for example, it carried with it strong symbolic interpretations that are still recognizable today. Its overall form, especially the “T” plan seen in the Ivey-Ellington House is representative of religious architecture. The strong verticality of the pointed arch windows and board-and-batten siding reinforce a connection to the heavens. In addition to its relationship to earlier Gothic church architecture, its connection to the work of the housing reformers and Andrew Jackson Downing is unmistakable. Furthermore, its reliance on the railroad for the dissemination of ideas and building materials places it in a historic context of growth and development after the Civil War.

¹⁸ Kostof, 26.

¹⁹ McAlester, 200.

²⁰ Lally, 101.

²¹ Lally, 99.

²² Lally, 101.

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The Ivey-Ellington House

The early history of the Ivey-Ellington House and its exact date of construction is difficult to decipher because of scarce and conflicting records and accounts. According to current owner, Jefferson Sugg, the house was constructed around 1870 by a Mr. Crocker who was able to build the entire house for a mere three-hundred dollars.²³ Though Crocker may have constructed the house as a builder, there is no evidence that he ever owned the property. Early deeds indicate that the house was likely built in 1874 when the land was sold by A. F. Page, the town's founder, to A. T. Mise. The property changed hands several more times before it was conveyed to Mary E. Ivey and her husband around 1893.²⁴ While a 1975 article in the *Cary News* indicates that the Iveys purchased the house from Rufus and Sarah Jones, another prominent early family, there is no mention of the Jones family in the 1898 deed.²⁵

Thaddeus Ivey, his wife Mary Esther Downes Ivey, and their family are the first known residents of the house. Thaddeus Ivey was the son of Reverend Stinceon Ivey, a teacher and Baptist minister from Robeson County, who later served as the principle of the Ashpole Institute in Roberson County, in what is now Fairmont. Thaddeus was working for the railroad in Georgia, in 1882, when he met Miss Mary Esther Downes, who was teaching at his father's school; they married several months later. The couple and their children moved first to Wake Forest around 1889, where Thaddeus attended school, and then to Raleigh around 1891, before settling in Cary shortly thereafter. They lived in the Gothic Revival-style house on W. Chatham Street until 1898. During this time Thaddeus worked as an assistant to the State Treasurer in Raleigh, taking the train into the city on Monday mornings and returning on Saturday evenings.²⁶

Thaddeus and Mary Ivey sold the house in 1898 to C. R. Scott. Little is known of occupants during this period, but it is rumored that during the 1890s the yard was used as a campsite for cattle drivers moving from Chatham County to Raleigh. Scott owned the house until 1918, when he sold it to Joseph A. Smith.²⁷ Smith owned the property for less than a year before selling it to J. Harrison Ellington.²⁸ The Ellington family lived in

²³ Sugg.

²⁴ Wake County Deed. 26 January 1898. Book 157, Page 264.

²⁵ Lally, 330.

²⁶ Belvin, 284.

²⁷ Wake County Deed. 22 March 1918. Book 324, Page 565.

²⁸ Wake County Deed. 12 October 1918. Book 331, Page 257.

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the house from 1918 to 1946 when, after J. Harrison Ellington's death, his widow and heirs were forced to sell the property.²⁹

The property was purchased in 1946 by H. H. Waddell, a prominent figure in Cary in the early twentieth century, and his wife Nannie W. Waddell. He was appointed the first Fire Chief of the town of Cary in 1923, and served as the mayor of Cary from 1929 to 1933.³⁰ According to Jefferson Sugg, his son-in-law, Waddell was also a judge. The Waddells expanded the house, adding the kitchen in the early 1950s. Hurricane Hazel hit the Triangle in 1954, causing several trees on the Waddell property to fall, resulting in substantial damage to the west end of the projecting front porch and the room above. The porch and room were removed, the window placed in the reconstructed front gable, and a small entrance stoop constructed.

The Waddell's lived in the house until the late 1960s, after which the family leased the house to other families. In 1972, three years after his wife's death, H. H. Waddell deeded the property to his two daughters, Eva Waddell Sugg and Melba Waddell Collins. In 1984, Melba sold her interest in the house to her brother-in-law, Jefferson Sugg, and he and Eva continued to operate the house as a rental property until the late 1990s. The house, having sat vacant for several years, was recently restored by Jefferson Sugg, for use as a commercial rental space. General repairs were made and a small room and modern bathroom were added to the southwest corner of the house. Sugg also reconstructed the projecting porch and room based on his memory of the original structure. According to his recollection, the new porch is only slightly smaller than the original and has a railing that would not have been found on the original porch.

The Ivey-Ellington House is significant as a rare example of Gothic Revival cottage architecture in Wake County. Few examples of the Gothic Revival-style appear in the county, most of them religious structures. Furthermore, the Ivey-Ellington House epitomizes the style with a steeply pitched roof, pointed arch windows, and decorative trim. It has recently been renovated to serve as commercial space, but the original layout and Gothic Revival-style details of the house were retained. Located near the former Raleigh and Chatham Railroad and constructed in the 1870s, the Ivey-Ellington House demonstrates the diffusion of styles and ideas from urban to rural areas. It exemplifies national trends in housing reform and the popularity of architectural pattern books in the late nineteenth century.

²⁹ Wake County Deed. 27 June 1946. Book 947, Page 33.

³⁰ www.townofcary.org

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Section 10 – Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

See tax map for parcel #0764415372.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house and current surrounding parcel conveyed to Jefferson Sugg in 1984. The .85 acre parcel is a portion of the approximately 2.5 acre tract that was originally owned by the Ivey family and historically associated with the Ivey-Ellington House. The current parcel provides an appropriate historic setting for the house.