

# INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Historic Resources of Wilkesboro (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

J. L. Hemphill House

AND/OR COMMON

Lowe House or Woodie House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

203 N. Brook Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wilkesboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

N. C.

CODE

COUNTY

Wilkes

CODE

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn C. Woodie

STREET & NUMBER

203 N. Brook Street

CITY, TOWN

Wilkesboro

VICINITY OF

STATE

N. C.

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Wilkes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilkesboro

STATE

N. C.

## 6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Laura A. W. Phillips, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

for Wilkesboro Historic Properties Commission

May 1980

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Wilkesboro,

STATE

N. C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The J. L. Hemphill House is a prominent expression of late nineteenth century Queen Anne style architecture in Wilkesboro. Although not located in the center of town, as are most of the other properties of historic or architectural significance, the Hemphill House stands out from its surroundings -- not only because of its large size and intact detailing, but also because of its location on a street corner, at the crest of a hill, surrounded by its larger than usual lot (approx. 4 acres) of lawn and woodlands. The main facade faces southeast toward Main Street, but the spacious surroundings and the fact that the house is separated from Main Street by woods give it an almost rural character. However, the style of the house has an "in-town" quality.

The 1899 Hemphill House is a two-story frame, late Victorian house with earmarks of the Queen Anne style as so often interpreted in North Carolina during this period -- the irregular massing and variety of texture and ornamentation are all present. Basically the house is composed of a central hip-roofed block with slightly projecting gabled "wings" on all four sides and a two-and-a-half-story polygonal tower with bell-cast roof and finial on the south corner. While the main body of the house is sheathed in German siding, textural and visual variety are created by the use of patterned metal shingles on the roof, square-cut wood shingles on the top level of the tower, diamond-cut wood shingles in the gables, and diagonal boarding in the panels of the lowest level of the tower and in the panels of the dado, frieze and corners of the bay window on the southwest side. While the majority of windows are simple one-over-one sash, the gables feature upper sash infilled with stained glass with muntins of a decorative design. Adding to the large-scale feeling of the house, and helping to enliven it visually is the one-story porch which wraps around the front and half of the two sides of the house. Its frilly ornamentation consists of turned posts, shallow wood arches accented by applied curvilinear sawnwork details in the corners and a spindlework frieze which echoes the turned balustrade below. While the exterior of the house is predominantly of wood, the metal roof and brick foundation and chimneys create some contrast in the use of materials. Projecting from the rear of the house is a one-story service ell with gable roof, central chimney and hip-roofed porch along the southwest side with turned posts, plain balustrade and simple brackets. The house is painted white.

Glazed and paneled doors lead from the exterior to the interior of the J. L. Hemphill House. While the interior has an asymmetrical plan, rooms are arranged on either side of a central hall. The closed string main stairway with heavily turned newel and turned balustrade rises from the tower space to the left of the main entrance. Originally the walls and ceilings of the Hemphill House were entirely sheathed in stained beaded board. The second story retains this sheathing, but the first story has in recent years been over-sheathed with plywood paneling and acoustical tiles, although the original sheathing remains intact underneath. Wooden mantels in the house are of simple late Victorian design, and the door and window casings are symmetrically molded with bulls-eye corner blocks, typical of turn-of-the-century interiors. Although the interior is simple, it is consistent throughout the house.

A frame garage is located behind the house.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL

\_\_\_\_ STATE

\_\_\_\_ LOCAL

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. L. Hemphill

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1899 J. L. Hemphill House is the most prominent Queen Anne style dwelling remaining in Wilkesboro. More than any other house it embodies the salient characteristics of this late Victorian style -- irregular massing and variety of texture and ornamentation -- as often interpreted in frame houses of the turn-of-the-century period in North Carolina.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- C. The 1899 J. L. Hemphill House, with its irregular massing and variety of texture and ornamentation, embodies the distinctive characteristics of the late Victorian Queen Anne style in wood. The interior is representative of common millwork of the period.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

J. L. (Jimmy) Hemphill built the Queen Anne style house at 203 N. Brook Street in 1899.<sup>1</sup> He had come to Wilkesboro from Morganton and had married a Ferguson woman from Wilkes County. Hemphill operated a wholesale drygoods company in North Wilkesboro, although he was also apparently involved in the building trade. In addition to his house on Brook Street, local tradition relates that he built at least two other houses in Wilkesboro -- the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house at 406 Highland Street and later a Colonial Revival house on Corporation Street. He also remodelled a house in Roaring River.<sup>2</sup>

After Hemphill, the Brook Street house had several owners, including a Miller family and a Dr. Reeves, until it was purchased in 1920 by Carl A. Lowe. The Lowes had eight children, and when both Carl A. Lowe and his wife had died, one of their daughters, Beulah Lowe Woodie, and her husband, Glenn C. Woodie, purchased the house from the estate.<sup>3</sup> They still reside in it, so that the house has been in the same family (Lowe-Woodie) ownership for over sixty years.

Footnotes --

<sup>1</sup>Beulah Lowe Woodie and Nancy Huffman (Beulah Woodie's daughter), interview by Laura A. W. Phillips, Wilkesboro, May 14, 1980. Their information on the date of construction came from J. L. Hemphill's daughter, a Mrs. Perdue, who lives in Moravian Falls.

<sup>2</sup>Dottie Hubbard, notes provided for survey file on 203 N. Brook St., Wilkesboro Historic Inventory, Survey and Planning Branch files, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N. C.

<sup>3</sup>Woodie-Huffman interview.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wilkesboro Historic Inventory, Survey and Planning Branch files, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N. C.

Woodie, Beulah Lowe and Huffman, Nancy. Interview by Laura A. W. Phillips, Wilkesboro, May 14, 1980.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	48,511,810	4,000,070	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property, located at 203 N. Brook St. (southeast corner of Brook St. and Woodland Blvd.), consists of Parcel 1 of Block 7, Tax Map 104, Town of Wilkesboro, measuring approximately 465 x 350 x 150 x 130 x 220 x 241.5 x 165 feet. The property includes the J. L. Hemphill House, the lawn which surrounds it, and the woodlands to the south and east, all of which are part of the town lot of approximately four acres on which the house stands.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received \_\_\_\_\_  
date entered \_\_\_\_\_

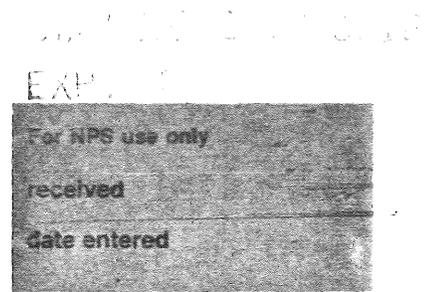
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The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet FOOTNOTES

Item number 8

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<sup>3</sup>Woodie-Huffman interview.

NORTH WILKESBORO

Wilkesboro MRN  
Wilkesboro, N. C. Quadrangle  
Zone 17 Scale 1:24000

Thomas B. Finley Law Office  
17 486400/4000280

Wilkesboro-Smithey Hotel  
17 486405/4000240

Brown-Cowles House and Cowles Law Office  
17 486470/4000300

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
17 486050/4000310

Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church  
17 486520/4000200

J. L. Hemphill House  
485180/4000070

Johnson-Hubbard House  
17 486420/40002000

J. T. Ferguson Store  
17 486400/4000190

Federal Building  
17 486150/4000120

