

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

EXP 12-31-84

Wilkes COUNTY

Wilkesboro QUAD

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Historic Resources of Wilkesboro (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties) MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Johnson-Hubbard House

AND/OR COMMON

Johnson-Hubbard House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

113 E. Main 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 NOT FOR PUBLICATION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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Mary Hemphill

STREET & NUMBER

113 E. Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Wilkesboro

STATE

N. C.

 VICINITY OF**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

for Wilkesboro Historic Properties Commission

DATE

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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Johnson-Hubbard House is a mid-nineteenth century dwelling characterized by a simplicity of general design and a wealth of vernacular detailing. The two-story frame structure with one-story rear ell is sheathed in weather-board siding accented by wide frieze board, base board and Doric corner stiles. The triple-A gable roof has widely overhanging unbracketed eaves. Refinements of the exterior include the brick end chimneys with single paved shoulders and stuccoed surfaces penciled to resemble cut stone. The east chimney bears a faded inscription, which according to life-long resident Mary Hubbard Hemphill, once clearly said "1857." Like the chimneys, the stone foundation was stuccoed and penciled in imitation of cut stone. Some of this stuccoed surface remains intact. The two-story portion of the house is five bays wide and one deep, defined by six-over-six sash windows which retain their wood louvered shutters.

Exterior decoration is focused on the front entrance and center bay entrance porch. The entrance way evokes the spirit of both the Greek Revival and the Gothic Revival styles. The double-leaf door is accented by lozenge-shaped panels, while diamond and pointed-arch-shaped panels form a border to the doorway along with multi-paned sidelights and transom. The entrance is set off from the rest of the facade by both the flush boarding which surrounds it and by the hip-roofed porch. The center bay porch features a sheaf-of-wheat-patterned balustrade and latticework posts edged with small round wooden disks. The balustrade and posts are both quite similar to those found on several houses of the same period in neighboring north Iredell County.

The one-story ell has simple service porches on east side and rear.

The two-story portion of the house was built between 1855 and 1857 by Stephen Johnson and consists of a center hall plan with two-over-two rooms. The one-story, two-room ell was added by Julius Cicero and Lula Hubbard in 1885 or shortly thereafter. Walls and ceilings in the two-story portion are flush-boarded, and while door and window surrounds, doors and mantels vary in design throughout the house, they are all basically Greek Revival in style. The most distinctive feature of the interior is found in the marbled surfaces. Although some of this has been painted over, richly colored painted marbling can still be seen in a well-preserved state on several mantels, baseboards, stair risers and two ceilings. The ceilings are especially interesting, because here the marbled effect was created by the use of a lighted pine torch on wet paint. Also of note on the interior of the house is the open string stairway with its slender balustrade and newel, scrolled brackets and paneled skirt.

The rooms of the rear ell are also sheathed in flush boarding, and the simple detailing is of late Greek Revival character.

Outbuildings once included a kitchen, barn, wellhouse and smokehouse, though only the smokehouse remains. This small structure is probably contemporary with the house. It features weatherboard siding, fieldstone foundation, gable roof, hewn framing with mortise and tenon joints, and iron strap hinges on the batten door.

The Johnson-Hubbard House is situated on a less-than-one-acre lot across Main Street from the Wilkesboro-Smithey Hotel in the center of town. A white picket fence provides a domestic border along the north (street) side of the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ STATE

____ X ____ 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 1855-1857, 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnson-Hubbard House is one of only several buildings which remain from Wilkesboro's pre-Civil War years. Built by local merchant Stephen Johnson between 1855 and 1857 and enlarged by Julius Cicero and Lula Hubbard in 1885, the well-preserved house has remained in the same family ownership throughout its history. Exhibiting primarily Greek Revival influence, the Johnson-Hubbard House contains outstanding examples of mid-19th century decorative painting in its marbled mantels, ceilings, baseboards and stair risers--rare survivals for this area of North Carolina--along with other interior and exterior decorative details of high quality.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

C. The Johnson-Hubbard House, an 1850s vernacular representation of the Greek Revival style, displays a wealth of interior and exterior detailing ranging from the simple to the sophisticated. Particularly notable is the marbling of the baseboards, stair risers, and several ceilings and mantels, a rare reminder in this area of the mid-nineteenth century decorative painter's art.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On November 2, 1854 state representative Leander B. Carmichael sold lot 22 on the southeast side of Main Street in Wilkesboro to Stephen Johnson for \$300.¹ Soon thereafter Johnson built his two-story frame house with center hall, two-over-two rooms and Greek Revival detailing.²

Stephen Johnson was a bachelor, and although he spent most of his adult life in Wilkesboro, he was a native of Surry County. Johnson was a merchant and operated a store just west of his house, where the Jesse T. Ferguson Store now stands.³ In addition, he served as county treasurer between 1868 and 1870.⁴

After Stephen Johnson's death, his house and lot 22 were sold on April 7, 1885 to his niece, Lula C. Hubbard, for \$1,050.⁵ She had been reared by another aunt and uncle, the Jesse T. Ferguson, and was married to Julius Cicero Hubbard I. Like Stephen Johnson, J. C. Hubbard was a merchant, operating a store next door with his wife's uncle, Jesse T. Ferguson.⁶ Hubbard was involved in other business ventures as well, such as the Wilkesboro Hotel (later called the Smithey Hotel), which was built across Main Street from his house in 1891.⁷ The Hubbards added the one-story rear ell with dining room and kitchen.

Since Lula Hubbard's death in 1948, the house has continued to be occupied by her daughter, Mary Hubbard Hemphill.

Footnotes --

¹L. B. Carmichael to Stephen Johnson, Nov. 2, 1854, Wilkes County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Wilkes County Courthouse, Wilkesboro, Book S, 217.

²Mary Hubbard Hemphill, interview by Laura A. W. Phillips, Wilkesboro, December 1979.

³Julius Hubbard III, typescript material for the Old Wilkes Walking Tour.

⁴Johnson J. Hayes, The Land of Wilkes (Wilkesboro: Wilkes Co. Historical Society, 1962), p. 179.

⁵S. J. Ginnings and J. T. Ferguson, commissioners for the estate of Stephen Johnson, to Lula C. Hubbard, April 7, 1885, Wilkes County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Wilkes County Courthouse, Wilkesboro, Book 8, 353.

⁶Hemphill interview.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hayes, Johnson J. The Land of Wilkes. Wilkesboro: Wilkes Co. Historical Society, 1962.
- Hemphill, Mary Hubbard. Interview by Laura A. W. Phillips, Wilkesboro, December 1979.
- Hubbard, Julius III. Typescript material for the Old Wilkes Walking Tour.
- Wilkes County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Wilkes County Courthouse, Wilkesboro, N. C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	48,6420	4,010,012,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property, located at 113 E. Main St. (south side of E. Main St. just east of Broad St.), consists of Parcel 6 of Block 3, Tax Map 103, Town of Wilkesboro, measuring 100 x 263 x 125 x 163 x 25 x 100 feet. The property includes the house and smokehouse and the less-than-one-acre lot on which they stand.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only
received _____
date entered _____

Continuation sheet FOOTNOTES

Item number 8

Page 1

⁷ Hayes, p. 321.

⁸ Hemphill 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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
17 486050/4000310

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

J. L. Hemphill House
485180/4000070

Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church
17 486520/4000200

Johnson-Hubbard House
17 486420/40002000

J. T. Ferguson Store
17 486400/4000190

Federal Building
17 486150/4000120



