INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

**Wilson County**

**NAME**

HISTORIC
Bullock-Dew House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N side of SR132, 0.5 mi. W of RT 581</th>
<th>EAST SIDE RT. 581</th>
<th>1/4 MILE (.4) SOUTH OF SR1132</th>
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**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
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<td>_OCCUPIED</td>
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<td>_WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
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**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME
Alfred Jones

STREET & NUMBER
RFD #2

CITY, TOWN
Wilson

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE
Kate Ohno, Preservation Consultant to Wilson County

ORGANIZATION
Survey & Planning Branch, Division of Archives & History

DATE
October 19, 1981

TELEPHONE
(919) 733-6545

STREET & NUMBER
109 E. Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN
Wilson

STATE
North Carolina
The Bullock-Dew House is located in the northwestern section of Wilson County near the Nash County line. The house stands on the north side of SR 1131 on a rise overlooking the surrounding farm land. Only a few of the large oak trees which were planted at the turn of the century still stand in the vicinity of the house, but a stand of young pine trees shields the house from the road.

The house itself is an elaborate turn-of-the-century farmhouse. The design of the house owes much to the Queen Anne style, and fine materials including a wealth of stained glass and turned and sawnwork ornament greatly enhance its appeal. The asymmetrical massing of the house, with its multiple cross gables and ornate and extensive porches give it a picturesque quality. The five-bay two-story house features a hipped slate roof with crockets, interior chimneys, and a one-story kitchen ell at the rear. Two-story cross-gable projections interrupt both the front and side elevations. The front one has a three-sided bay at the first floor. Each of these have gable cornice returns containing elaborate sawnwork sunburst gable ornaments. A richly detailed porch stretches around the front and part of each side elevation and reflects the Japanese influence so popular during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A pedimented entry with scalloped shingles, curved brackets and spindlework frames the front door. The balustrade is partly panelled and partly executed in an oriental style latticework design. Turned columns with rondels support the porch while sawnwork members cut in the shape of parentheses accent each bay of the porch. Another porch on the second floor boasts more turned spindlework, turned balusters and a peaked-roof pavilion suspended over the first floor porch. The window treatment also adds much to the house. A single-pane lower sash is surmounted by an upper sash edged by multiple small squares of stained glass. This window treatment is used throughout the house. The double front doors also boast a similar transom and the windows in the upper part of the doors are also outlined with stained glass. The lower doors are panelled and both panels and lights are surrounded by carved, turned and incised molding.

The house as it stands today is much the same as when it was built circa 1902. The present owners have added a shed roof wing to the rear which houses a modern kitchen and breakfast room and this wing has sliding glass doors which open onto a patio.

On the interior the house has also been largely kept intact. A central hall plan is followed with the stairs rising from the front part of the hall. The front door opens onto a front hall wainscoated waist-high with beaded boards. An elaborate carved and incised newel post is set at the bottom of the stairs which rise to a landing set midway up the stairs; the turned balusters are attenuated. An arched opening with a transom and double multi-panel glass doors separates the front hall from the rest of the house. The interior woodwork is still in place and intact. The window and door surrounds consist of broad reeded and molded bands rising to square corner blocks at the top of the windows and doors with rondels. The mantels surround small coal-burning fire places and are generally ornamented with fluting, reeding and rondels. Some mantels have bevelled mirrors.
set in punched and carved cases. The dining room, at the rear, has a built-in cupboard with incised designs and rondels, similar to the door and window surrounds. The room is wainscoated like the hall.

The house is surrounded by productive farmland and three frame sheds and one barn with a loft and an equipment shelter are directly associated with the house. The farm buildings include a two-story frame packhouse with metal siding, three frame and one masonry tobacco barns, and a one-story frame warehouse.

The Bullock-Dew House has been well preserved and sympathetically renovated by its present owners and as it stands today it is the finest turn-of-the-century farmhouse extant in Wilson County. This house compares favorably with similar houses being built in Wilson popular residential neighborhoods during the same period.

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.
The Bullock-Dew House, built for Washington Plummer Bullock, is the finest and most elaborate Queen Anne-inspired farmhouse in Wilson County, and rivals the fine turn-of-the-century town houses built in the county seat of Wilson for substance and detailing. The house was constructed around 1902 and stands largely intact with a wealth of turned and sawnwork detail. The residence is still the seat of a farming operation and has a complement of outbuildings associated with it.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

C. The Bullock-Dew House is the finest example of rural Queen Anne-inspired architecture in Wilson County. With its elaborate and intricate sawnwork detailing, the house compares favorable with the well-executed turn-of-the-century residences built in Wilson during that period.
This lively Queen Anne style farmhouse was built at the turn of the century for Washington Plummer Bullock. W. P. Bullock was the son of Bennett Bullock, Jr., one of Old Fields Township's leading farmers and his wife, Harriet Boykin Bullock. W. P. Bullock was born on May 15, 1865, and lived during his early years on his father's plantation in Old Fields Township. On October 17, 1888, he married Charlotte Elizabeth Smith. Bullock, like his father, was a farmer. Several years before his marriage his father conveyed a ninety-six and a half acre tract to his son near the site of the present house. In 1890 Bennett Bullock conveyed an additional two and one-seventh acres and in 1896 a twenty-two acre tract adjoining the first tract to his son.

No documentation could be found on the location of Bullock's first house, but it is possible that it was converted into a tenant house or torn down to make way for the larger, more elegant house that he had built around the turn of the century. Local tradition maintains that Bullock claimed that he was going to build "the best house in Wilson County." And the results certainly give weight to his claim. The commodious slate roofed residence is competitive in size and in the elegance of its appointments with contemporary townhouses built in Wilson, the county seat.

Unfortunately the precise date of construction, the architect and the contractor of the house are unknown. According to Thurman M. Bullock, W. P. Bullock's son, the house was built around 1902 when Thurman Bullock was about two years old. Thurman Bullock, although he does not remember the name of the architect or contractor claims that they were both from Wilson. Bullock remembers "At that time [when the house was completed] it was considered the nicest home any where around that part of the country."

The building of such a fine house apparently contributed to Bullock's financial troubles and from 1898 until he sold the property in 1916 it was heavily mortgaged. The mortgage was on all three tracts of land conveyed to Bullock by his father, and the house tract is not mentioned specifically being linked to any one of these tracts, so it is impossible to tell upon which tract the house was constructed. Finally Bullock decided to sell out, and in 1916 he conveyed the three tracts from his father to

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Letter from Thurman M. Bullock to author dated May 8, 1980.
Wilson County Deeds, Wilson County Courthouse.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 31.67 acres

UTM REFERENCES

\begin{table}
<table>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property nominated consists of parcel 1, Wilson County tax map # 271-9-1. See enclosed map with property outlined in red.
W. R. Dew and moved to Seaboard, North Carolina, with his family.12

William Ramson Dew was born in Nash County on August 5, 1865, and he was the son of William Dew and Jane Finch.13 W. R. Dew was a farmer and he occupied the Bullock-Dew House from 1916 until 1945 when he conveyed the property to his daughter, Nola Dew Jeanes, and her husband, L. W. Jeanes.14 Mrs. Jeanes and her husband occupied the house for some years, but in recent years used the house for rental property.15 In 1979 Mrs. Jeanes sold the house and seventy-two acres of the original land to Alfred and Pearl Jones, the present owners.16

The house had been neglected for some years and the Joneses have since their purchase in 1979 struggled to renovate the house in a manner sympathetic to its original character. Their efforts have been well rewarded, and the house, with new paint and new mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, now serves as their home. The land surrounding the house has been kept in agricultural use by Jones, who is a farmer.

Footnotes


2 Bullock, Bullock Family.

3 Bullock, Bullock Family.


5 Bennett Bullock to W. P. Bullock, March 1, 1890, Book 29, 7, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.


7 Author's interview with Clinton O. Barnes, nephew of W. P. Bullock.

8 Letter from Thurman M. Bullock to the author dated May 8, 1980, hereinafter cited as Bullock letter.

9 Bullock letter.

10 Bullock letter.


15 Author's interview with Clinton O. Barnes, March, 1980, nephew of W. P. Bullock who lived in Rock Ridge until his death.


Bibliography

Author's interview with Clinton O. Barnes, nephew of W. P. Bullock. Barnes lived in Rock Ridge until his death.


Letter from Thurman M. Bullock to author dated May 8, 1980. Mr. Bullock is W. P. Bullock's only surviving child.

Wilson County Deeds, Wilson County Courthouse.

The Bullock-Dew House was built as the seat of a farm of about 120 acres at the turn of the twentieth century. The farm was sold in 1916, and 72 acres were again sold with the house in 1979. The 31.67 acres being nominated are a small working farm which remains associated with the house.

The Bullock-Dew House was originally surveyed in 1980 during the county inventory. The site was revisited in 1985 to determine the present condition of the property and the photographs with the nomination accurately depict the present condition of the house.