

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 an 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 Bollinger-Hartley House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 463 North Main Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Blowing Rock N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Watauga code 189 zip code 28605

### 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.)

William J. King, Jr. 1-17-95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
<hr/>		
		sites
<hr/>		
1		structures
<hr/>		
		objects
<hr/>		
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

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foundation Stone

walls Wood

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roof Asphalt

other Wood

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Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet.

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.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1914; ca. 1932

Significant Dates

1914

ca. 1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bollinger, Leroy Sylvester, builder

Hartley Fred Vaughn, stonemason

Hartley, Fred Boyce, builder/carpenter

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Bollinger-Hartley House

Name of Property

Watauga County, North Carolina  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.43 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	43971010	399931410
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
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 Davyd Foard Hood

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 1 November 1994

street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-4331

city or town Vale state N. C. zip code 28144

**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 See continuation sheet.

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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Bollinger-Hartley House  
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A Chronology of the House and Its Setting

The Bollinger-Hartley House, a one-and-a-half-story frame Craftsman bungalow, is a substantial and unusually well-preserved dwelling whose appearance reflects two major periods of construction. In 1913, Leroy Sylvester Bollinger purchased a long, narrow, rectangular parcel of land comprising seven plus acres: on a terrace at the near west end of the parcel, a site overlooking the Middle Fork of the New River and facing west to Blowing Rock's Main Street, Bollinger completed and occupied the house with his family in 1914. The Bollinger family occupied the house until 1921 when it was sold to Barnard Council Cannon who, in 1924, sold the house and its acreage to Fred Boyce Hartley (1894-1987). Between ca. 1929 and ca. 1935, Hartley and his eldest son Fred Vaughn Hartley, a stone mason, made some improvements to the house and property by which it arrived at its present appearance. The young Hartley's first effort at stone masonry at the house was the completion, ca. 1932, of the chimney standing at the house's north gable end. It is believed he completed the stone underpinning of the house about three years later, ca. 1935; the house was originally built on stone piers with wood lattice infill panels. The stone for the chimney was gathered from stone outcroppings on the hill to the east of the house. The house's perimeter foundation was built of that same stone and stone believed to have been brought from Grandfather Mountain. Inside the house, Fred Hartley, a carpenter, had earlier, about 1929, enclosed a bathroom in the northeast corner of the center room at the rear of the house. Between the construction of the chimney and the foundation, it is believed that Fred Vaughn Hartley constructed the stone cellar, inset in the bank behind the house for the storage of canned goods.

The house remained unchanged for several years, until the early 1940s, when Vaughn Hartley replaced the wood floor on the south service porch with a stone floor and base. Hartley also replaced the existing wood steps, inset in the bank at the front of the terraced lawn, with a flight of stone steps which rise from the gravel drive up to the front of the house. This stonework appears to have coincided with the installation of a bathroom on the second story. These modest yet important improvements were the last substantive changes made in the house's appearance. Now, a half-century later, it survives intact and recalls an earlier simpler period in the history of the resort town of Blowing Rock.

The house, together with the stone cellar, the shingle-clad springhouse/shop, and a modern cement block garage, stand on a reduced parcel of 1.43 acres which comprise the western end of the original seven-plus-acre tract acquired

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by Bollinger in 1913. About 1947-1948, the North Carolina Department of Highways rerouted US 321 off of Blowing Rock's Main Street to a new path to the east of town and the Bollinger-Hartley House. The path of the new road bisected the property and separated it into two parcels of unequal size: the house tract of 1.43 acres, and a field and woodland tract of 5.71 acres which remains in Hartley family ownership. The highway right-of-way forms the east boundary of the house tract. The property's original west boundary, the course of the Middle Fork of the New River, remains the house tract's western boundary. The north and south boundaries of the tract are unmarked and merge effectively with the woodlands and lawn of adjoining property owners. The grade of the acreage rises gently from the bank of the Middle Fork to the east in a series of natural and man-made terraces. Access to the property is by way of a gravel drive, off North Main Street, which crosses the neighbor's land at the north and enters the Bollinger-Hartley tract about midway on its north property line. The drive continues on a north/south axis, bisecting the house tract, to the south where it terminates at the adjoining residence of Mrs. Fred Vaughn Hartley. The Bollinger-Hartley House sits on an open grassed terraced lawn to the east of the drive and in the near center of the tract.

The setting of the house, including volunteer and planted trees and shrubs, is particularly complementary to the house. It, the house, is visible to the passerby traveling on North Main Street who can look across the shallow, wildflower-covered bottoms which flank the water course and see the house resting on a low terrace in the distance. The setting is enclosed on the east, behind the house, by a stretch of hemlocks which were planted to screen the highway and reduce the impact of noise. These merge with deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. In addition to scattered specimen plantings of dogwood trees, magnolia, quince and hydrangea shrubs, and a grapevine, there are two other consciously-planted features which enhance the landscape of the house. The most important of these is a row of five tulip poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and a single maple which is planted across the front (west) edge of the terrace on which the house sits. In summer, they serve to shade the house from the hot afternoon sun. The second feature is a low stretch of evergreen shrubs which carry southward, on the west edge of the gravel drive, for a short distance: this planting provides a transition from the dense native rhododendrons in the woodland flanking the entrance drive (on the neighbor's property) to the opening in which the house sits.

Architectural Description

The Bollinger-Hartley House, a one-and-a-half-story frame Craftsman bungalow, rests on a mortared stone foundation and is covered with a side-gable roof of asphalt shingles. Three bays wide on its front, west, elevation the house is double-pile in plan and has a full-facade front porch engaged under the expansive side gable roof. The first story elevations are sheathed with

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painted weatherboards while the gable ends are sheathed with painted (green) wood shingles. The eaves of the house are flush-sheathed and finished with simple moldings. The single and paired window openings contain two-over-two double-hung sash and are fitted with white metal storm windows for insulation. The window and door surrounds are plain boards with a narrow projecting edge across the top of the lintels. The house is said to be built mostly of chestnut.

The front, west elevation has an asymmetrical three-bay first-story elevation behind the full facade porch. A flight of wood steps with wood handrails rises in the center of the facade from ground level up to the porch. In the stone foundation of the porch, to either side of the steps, are inset six-pane windows to illuminate the small basement. The porch has a wood floor and is supported by four square-in-plan wood piers which are connected by wood railings. (The porch is furnished with a hanging swing and a wood glider.) The off-center front door, opening into the living room, has two glazed vertical panes above three wood panels in early-twentieth century fashion. To the north is a paired window illuminating the living room; to the south is a single window. Inset in the roof, in the center of the facade, is a gable-front dormer window which has weatherboarded elevations and a wood shingle gable end. Paired two-over-two sash windows are set in the center of the dormer face.

The north gable end of the house is dominated by the stone chimney, which provides a fireplace for the living room occupying the northwest corner of the interior. The chimney has single shoulders and is built of the field and surface stone gathered on the property. It is flanked by small square openings which hold two-pane casement windows. To the east there is a window opening which illuminates the first story bedroom behind (east of) the living room. There is a paired window, holding two-over-two sash, in the center of the gable end on the second story.

The south, gable-end elevation of the house is more complex. Here, under the porch and inset in its stone foundation, there is a doorway which opens into the small dirt-floor basement in the southwest corner of the house. The doorway is fitted with a traditional early-twentieth century five-panel wood door. Immediately to the east is a horizontal, rectangular opening which holds paired four-pane windows. On the first story level, the porch is engaged under the roof on the west end. In the center of the elevation is a single window illuminating the dining room in the southwest corner of the interior. The east third of the elevation is protected by a shed roof porch which shelters a doorway opening into the kitchen and a window immediately beside (east) it. The porch has a stone base and floor, simple square-in-plan wood supports, a tongue-and-groove sheathed ceiling, and weatherboarded shed ends. In the center of the second-story gable end is a paired window holding

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two-over-two sash. In the peak of the gable is a louvered vent. The rear elevation of the house has an asymmetrical four-bay elevation with varying sized windows illuminating the kitchen, pantry, bathroom, and bedroom which form the rear tier of rooms, south to north. In the center of the roof, here, there is a small dormer window under a gable roof, which illuminates the second story hall: a small window was installed to the north of the hall window, ca. 1945, for the new bathroom.

Just as the combination of stonework, weatherboards, and wood shingles on the exterior of the house suggest its early-twentieth period, the interior finish of the house likewise conveys the simple but well-crafted character of the mountain bungalow of the 1910s through 1920s. Unlike most of the other surviving houses of its era in Blowing Rock, many of which have passed through a series of owners, the Bollinger-Hartley House has remained remarkably intact. This is largely due to the stewardship of Fred Boyce Hartley and his wife Stella (1896-1969), who owned and occupied the house from 1924 until Mr. Hartley's death in 1987--a period of sixty-three years. The double-pile plan consists of a living room and dining room across the west front of the house, occupying the northwest and southwest corners, respectively. Behind these two principal rooms is a second tier of rooms including, north to south, a small bedroom in the northeast corner, a bathroom, a pantry/passage, and the kitchen in the southeast corner of the house. The interior finish features the use of unpainted native woods and traditional tongue and groove ceiling.

The living room, the center of family life, is the most elaborately finished room in the house. The tall, paneled chestnut wainscot, original to the 1914 construction, imparts a handsome finish to the room. The ceiling of the room is coffered by a series of molded chestnut beams which create recessed squares. The floor of the room is made of maple boards of varying widths. This use of native chestnut and maple is complemented, in turn, by the local stone face of the chimney breast which is exposed in the room and occupies the center of the room's north wall: the fireplace has a raised stone hearth and a simple chestnut shelf. The doorways opening into the bedroom, pantry/passage, and dining room are fitted with reddish stained pine doors with a turn-of-the-century five-panel arrangement. The surrounds are simple boards with applied backbands. The front door, of like character, opens into the living room in its southwest corner where the door communicating with the dining room is positioned. Here, also, is the base of the flight of stairs which rises eastward along the living room's south wall to the second story: the chestnut staircase has a square newel and a railing of square members which join a shaped handrail. The paneled wainscot rises with the staircase to the second story.

The dining room is also finished with a tall, paneled chestnut wainscot carried between a simple baseboard and a chair rail. The walls and ceiling

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here are painted dry wall. The floor is VAT tile. A doorway in the room's east wall opens into the kitchen which is simply finished and virtually unchanged since the 1940s. It has VAT floor tiles, a wainscot of imprinted square tiles on sheetboards--a feature often seen in kitchens and bathrooms of the 1940s and early 1950s--and painted walls and ceiling. The principal wood cabinet and counter carry along the east wall where wall-hung cabinets flank the windows over the sink. A conventional scalloped board, concealing secondary lighting over the sink, carries between the wall cabinets. There is a small glazed-front wall-hung cabinet on the room's west wall which is positioned over the electric range.

A door in the kitchen's north wall opens into the L-shaped pantry/passageway which has a like VAT tile floor and walls and ceiling of tongue and groove ceiling. Originally, there were three near equal-sized rooms forming the rear tier of rooms: the shape of the pantry/passageway occurred when a bathroom was enclosed, ca. 1929, in the northeast corner of the center room. The bathroom floor, wall, and ceiling finishes, as well as the fixtures, are of recent date. The bedroom, in the northeast corner of the first story and accessible only from the living room, has a pine floor, sheet paneling on the walls, and a celotex ceiling: it is used mostly for storage.

Although the finish of the living room, dining room, and kitchen retain a high degree of period integrity, the finish of the second story survives virtually intact and presents a remarkable image of simple early-twentieth century workmanlike craftsmanship. It must be admitted that this period character is enhanced by the survival and continued use of traditional oak bedroom furniture, iron beds, some locally-made furniture, and printed linoleum area rugs which were used in lieu of carpets in modest households of the 1930s and 1940s--and even as late as the 1960s. As noted earlier, the staircase rises with the wainscot to the second story where a simple vertical board chestnut wainscot encircles the room. Five-panel turn-of-the-century doors open into the three bedrooms which are positioned in the north and south gable ends of the house and behind the front dormer window. About 1945, there was some slight repartitioning in the hall to create a bathroom, accessible from the hall, which would serve all three bedrooms: a board-and-batten door communicates with the hall. The replacement bathroom finishes and fixtures are of recent date.

The south bedroom, above the kitchen and dining room, is sheathed with tongue-and-groove ceiling and beaded boards on the walls and ceiling. A five-panel door in the west wall opens into a closet which is also sheathed with tongue-and-groove ceiling. The door surrounds are made up of plain boards. The window surround in this room is molded in a somewhat Greek Revival fashion. The pendant north bedroom is fully sheathed with four-inch beaded ceiling. The door openings are enframed with plain boards; the window

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openings have plain board lintel and sill boards and fluted vertical boards. The doorway opening into the closet is fitted with a curtain. The front bedroom, smaller than the north and south bedrooms, is finished with the same stained chestnut wainscot which appears in the living and dining rooms. The upper walls and ceiling are sheathed with beaded boards. All three bedrooms have printed linoleum area rugs.

Outbuildings

Stone Cellar

Ca. 1933

Contributing structure

The stone cellar is a small food storage structure which was built ca. 1933 by Fred Vaughn Hartley into the bank to the east and behind the house. It has a mortared stone front and sides. The wood roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A board-and-batten door opens into the cement finished interior which is fitted with wood shelves on the north wall for canned goods. The cellar has a dirt floor. In addition to canned goods, the cellar was probably also used for fall and winter storage of apples, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and other edibles.

Springhouse/Shop

Ca. 1920

Contributing Building

The springhouse/shop is a small rectangular frame building sheathed with wood shingles and covered with an asphalt gable roof. It stands to the south of the house and almost on axis with the kitchen door. The stone retaining wall which forms the service terrace, above the main lawn, merges with the poured cement foundation of the building. The building is divided into two unequal sized areas: the springhouse is smaller than the shop located in the south two-thirds of the building. On the north gable end, a board and batten door in a plain board surround opens into the former springhouse. It has a cement on stone floor and unfinished walls. Shelving carries on two sides of the space. The window opening in its west wall is missing its window. The larger shop space in the south part of the building, originally a woodshed, is accessible through a board-and-batten door in the building's east wall. This space is illuminated by a diamond lattice window set in the west wall and an opening in the south gable end protected by a board-and-batten blind. The shop has a wood floor overlaid with sheet linoleum. There are well-mounted work benches on the south and west walls.

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Garage

Ca. 1975

Noncontributing building

The garage is a small single-stall cement block building which stands to the south of the springhouse/shop and just east of the gravel drive which continues on, southward, to the Fred Vaughn Hartley house. The building has a dirt floor and is covered with a front-gable roof of asphalt shingles. The gable ends of the building are sheathed with weatherboards. There is a broad opening on the front, north gable end which provides automobile access.

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Narrative Statement of Significance  
Summary Paragraph

The Bollinger-Hartley House, a one-and-a-half-story frame Craftsman bungalow featuring native stone and chestnut, weatherboards, and wood shingles in its construction and finish, is an unusually well-preserved house in Blowing Rock from the opening decades of the twentieth century. The house's appearance reflects two principal periods of construction which parallel the use of the two surnames in the title. In 1913, Leroy Sylvester Bollinger purchased a tract of seven-plus acres on the Middle Fork of the New River; here, in 1914, he completed the house as it largely stands today. Bollinger, a member of an established Watauga County family and a former groundsman at Moses Cone's Flat Top Manor estate, sold his house in 1921 to Barnard Council Cannon, the son of another Watauga County family. Cannon and his wife owned the house briefly before selling it in 1924 to Fred Boyce Hartley (1894-1987). It was Hartley, and his eldest son Fred Vaughn Hartley (1917-1991), a talented stone mason who undertook a series of improvements to the house in the late 1920s which included the construction of the stone chimney in the early-1930s and the stone underpinning in the mid-1930s. About 1940, Fred Vaughn Hartley constructed the stone service porch and built the stone retaining wall carrying from the porch to the springhouse. Except for the installation of the second story bathroom about 1945, there were no substantive changes made in the appearance of the house and it has survived intact for a half-century to the present. For sixty-three years, from 1924 until his death in 1987, the Bollinger-Hartley House was the residence of Fred Boyce Hartley and it remains the property of his son-in-law and his grandchildren.

The house satisfies Criterion C for listing in the National Register. It is important in the architectural history of Blowing Rock and Watauga County as an intact example of the Craftsman bungalow style that developed as a traditional house form for local residents as a response to its use by the resort community for summer cottages in the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s. The Bollinger-Hartley House, in fact, represents the cross-influence between stylistic innovations brought to Blowing Rock by stylish summer residents and the local building tradition which featured the use of native woods, principally chestnut, and local stone. The house is also important in the architectural history of Blowing Rock as the residence of two men--Leroy Sylvester Bollinger and Fred Boyce Hartley--who worked as carpenters on the construction of summer cottages and for its association with the career of stone mason Fred Vaughn Hartley (1917-1991) who achieved a wider, individual renown in the town and region. The careers of all three men, recounted in family tradition and oral interviews, remain to be fully documented; however, their specific association with this house and its appearance is indisputable.

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Historical Background

Leroy Sylvester Bollinger (1875-1956), the builder of this house, was a native of Watauga County and a former resident of the Thunder Hill community which is located between Blowing Rock and Boone, the Watauga County seat. Bollinger was the son of Sidney L. Bollinger (1851-1918) and Martha Jane Murphy (1858-1898); in 1883 his parents were charter members of Mount Bethel Reformed Church in Blowing Rock. (Sidney Bollinger moved to Virginia where he died in 1918 and is buried at Dillwyn; Mrs. Bollinger is buried in the cemetery behind the church. In 1903, Leroy Sylvester was married to Emily Green, the daughter of Benjamin and Leola Green, and a member of the large mountain family which gave its name to Green Park and the Green Park Inn. According to family tradition, Mr. Bollinger was a groundsman for Moses Cone's Flat Top Manor estate in the opening years of the twentieth century: he and Mrs. Bollinger occupied a small cottage on the estate and there they began their family. The couple's youngest daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, was born there on 12 April 1909. She was five years old when the family moved into their newly completed bungalow on the terrace overlooking the Middle Fork of the New River near Blowing Rock. Among the family's nearest neighbors were William Whittingham Stringfellow, a wealthy Alabama banker, and his wife who owned the handsome Chetola estate situated slightly to the northwest and on the west side of the Middle Fork of the New River. There were clear differences between these families. The Stringfellows were summer residents of Blowing Rock, a resort which had been gaining in popularity and prestige in the years around the turn of the century. The Bollingers were members of the local native-born community and they were year-round residents of Blowing Rock and Watauga County.<sup>1</sup>

It is unclear at present what factor, except initiative, prompted Leroy and Emily Bollinger to depart the Cone estate and to acquire the land on which they would build this house. Initiative might well have been sufficient: according to family tradition Leroy Bollinger was blessed by wide interests and the intent for betterment. Bollinger was a veteran of the Spanish-American War. In addition to his work as a groundsman, Bollinger was also a carpenter. The acquisition of this property enabled him to build a house for his family.

On 8 April 1913, Bollinger acquired a long rectangular tract of land "Containing 7 acres and 76 poles, more or less" from James D. and Fannie Teague. The purchase price was \$500. Bollinger probably set about the construction of the new house for his family in the summer or autumn of 1913. According to family tradition it was completed and occupied in 1914. The family occupied the house and probably raised some crops on the small acreage.

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In 1921 Leroy Bollinger followed the urging of his younger brother Robert Lewis Bollinger who had left Watauga County and moved to Mecklenburg County, Virginia, where he bought a farm in 1919. He and his family removed from Watauga County to Mecklenburg County, Virginia, where he would acquire a 200-acre farm near Chase City in 1922. On 27 December 1921, Leroy and Emily Bollinger sold their recently-built house and the seven-plus-acre tract for \$2,000 to Barnard Council Cannon (1892-1956) and his wife Lucy Edmisten. Cannon, like Bollinger, was a member of a local Watauga County family: his parents were Thomas Monroe Cannon (1852-1926) and Louisa Elrod (1844-1920). For reasons that are now unknown, the Cannons briefly occupied the former Bollinger place for just over two and a half years. On 20 August 1924, they sold it to Fred Boyce Hartley and his wife Stella of Watauga County for \$3,500.

Hartley and his wife had moved into Blowing Rock from Aho in 1922 and occupied a house on Buxton Road from which they removed to this place. Fred Boyce Hartley, the son of Lewis (1845-1920) and Mary E. Triplett (1851-1923) Hartley, was born in Watauga County on 19 May 1894. He was married to Stella Kerley (1896-1969). The couple became the parents of six children; the five eldest had been born prior to the purchase of the former Bollinger house: the youngest son, Norman Hartley, was born in 1925 after they came to live here. Hartley was a self-employed carpenter: his eldest son Fred Vaughn Hartley (1917-1991) achieved larger recognition in the community and region for his skills as a stone mason.

According to Hartley family tradition, the father and son made certain improvements to the house between about 1929 and 1935 when work was slack. On the exterior, the most noticeable effort was the ca. 1935 replacement of the stone piers and wood lattice under the house with a mortared stone foundation. The stone chimney on the north gable end is believed to have been completed earlier, about 1932. The stone cellar, standing immediately behind (east of) the house is also said to date to this period and probably to about 1933. On the interior, the principal known change to the house was the installation of a bathroom in the rear center room of the house between the kitchen, in the southeast corner, and a small bedroom in the northeast corner. An L-shaped pantry passage, flanking the bathroom on two sides, connected the kitchen with the living room. Father and son are also said to have built a new barn during this period, as a replacement for an earlier barn; however, it no longer stands.

From the completion of these efforts about 1935, there was relatively little change to the house and in the lives of the Hartley family until the United States's entry into World War II. Four of the couple's six children served in the armed forces during the war. While they were away, the now vacant and spare bedrooms on the second story were rented to lodgers and summer tourists. In April 1941, Fred Hartley was elected to a two-year term on the

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Blowing Rock Town Council; he was reelected to a second term in 1943 and ended his public service in 1945. At the beginning of the decade, about 1940, Vaughn Hartley replaced the wood floor on the south service porch with a stone base and floor. About 1945, Hartley replaced the existing wood steps, inset into the bank on the front terrace, with a flight of stone steps which rise from the gravel drive to the wood steps leading up to the front porch. Concurrently, Fred Hartley installed a bathroom on the second story for the convenience of paying lodgers and guests who occupied the second-story bedrooms.

After the war, one after another of the children were married and departed the family home. During this period, Mr. and Mrs. Hartley rented the second story bedrooms to paying lodgers and summer tourists: they continued this practice into the 1950s. In 1969 Stella Kerley Hartley died and was buried in Aho at the cemetery at Laurel Fork Baptist Church. Fred Boyce Hartley died in a Greensboro hospital on 14 February 1987. His funeral was conducted at the First Baptist Church in Blowing Rock; afterward, he was buried beside his wife, between her and his elder brother Wade who had occupied the front dormer bedroom on a sporadic basis until his own death in 1956. On 8 July 1987, five months after the death of her father, Hartley's eldest daughter, Dare Hartley Filipski (1918-1987), died and was buried beside her parents at Aho.

Fred Boyce Hartley had owned and occupied this house for sixty-three years. During that long period the Hartleys's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren returned for visits and holidays. The strong bonds between family and place remained intact. James Eugene Filipski, then a widower, determined to secure the Bollinger-Hartley House for use by his children and grandchildren. On 6 March 1988, Granville Kerley Hartley (born 1923), Norman Stuart Hartley (born 1925), Kitty Jean Hartley Vaughn (born 1921), and Marjorie Jewel Hartley Kenney (1920-1991), together with their spouses, conveyed the house and its residual tract of 1.43 acres to James Eugene Filipski. On 28 December 1993, Filipski and his second wife, Marjorie, deeded a one-third undivided interest in the house and land to his four children--the grandchildren of Fred Boyce Hartley: Linda Filipski Toney; Karen L. Filipski; Elaine Filipski Berry; and Michael E. Filipski. The Filipski family continues to own the house and to use it as a seasonal and weekend place.

Footnote

1. The principal sources used in the preparation of this nomination are cited in the bibliography. Of these, the most important is the typescript history of the "Hartley House" which was prepared by members of the Filipski family in 1994. It outlines the chain of ownership for the property and provides additional biographical information on members of the Bollinger and Hartley

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families. This report was supplemented by the author's interviews with members of the Hartley family. Among family members there were some slight contradictions as to the memory of the dates for the stonework erected by Fred Vaughn Hartley at the house. The dates given in this nomination are the best approximations from the corporate memory. Susan Rowsey and her mother Margaret Elizabeth Bollinger Garrett, the daughter of Leroy Sylvester Bollinger, provided additional information on the Bollinger family.

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Architectural Context

The Bollinger-Hartley House, built by a county resident and owned and occupied year-around by another family of local ancestry for sixty-three years, is something of an architectural anomaly in the resort town of Blowing Rock. While there were families living in the area that is now the town of Blowing Rock and its environs in the later years of the nineteenth century when the resort first flourished, the architectural character of the town was largely shaped by the interests, the means, and the ambitions of those who came to the Blue Ridge settlement as summer residents. They brought with them architectural ideas from a larger world and the means with which to execute those ideas. That said, they came to Blowing Rock because of the handsome scenery and the refreshing climate, and with an appreciation of the natural landscape that they shared in common with those who lived in Watauga County permanently. It was this last factor--the appreciation of the natural landscape--which proved to be one of the most important influences on the architectural character of the resort.

Cottage builders quickly adopted the use of local materials in the construction and finish of their seasonal abodes. The rich stands of chestnut were a favored material in the decades around the turn of the century. In 1913-1914 when Leroy Sylvester Bollinger built his house, he is said to have used chestnut for the structural members, as well as the wainscot and stair which impart a warm finish to the interior. At the end of the 1910s, as the chestnut blight took its heavy toll on the highland forests, local builders stripped the bark from the dead trees and used it to clad cottages, churches, stores, and other buildings. Maple, oak, poplar, and other predominant woods of the Blue Ridge forests were also used for their special qualities in construction and interior design.

Cottage builders and local residents alike also took advantage of the availability and the quality of local stone as a building material in the later nineteenth century and the early-twentieth century. Fieldstone gathered on the building site, stone from surface outcroppings which occur throughout the region, or stone brought to Blowing Rock "from the Grandfather" (nearby Grandfather Mountain) was used for foundations, chimneys, porches, and walls, as well as for houses, churches, stores, and other resort structures.

While architects from outside the region designed many of the resort's principal buildings and some outside contractors came in for major construction projects, most of the building was handled by local contractors and self-employed builders and stone masons. Two such men were J. Lee Hayes and Charles Moody who erected houses in the Green Park Historic District. Moody worked, at times, in partnership with John F. Benfield and the two were identified in the WATAUGA DEMOCRAT on 5 February 1914 as ". . . poplar

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builders of Bungalows. . . ." While Leroy Sylvester Bollinger did not gain the reputation enjoyed by Hayes and Moody who built houses for some of the town's wealthiest summer residents, he operated as a self-employed carpenter who took on smaller projects. At present, his own house is the best known product of his craftsmanship. In it he followed local tradition in the use of native materials; however, the form of his house reflected the growing prominence of the bungalow form for the summer cottage owner and permanent resident alike.

Had Bollinger remained a resident of Blowing Rock and had he not followed the urge to become a farmer in Virginia, it is possible that he might well have added the stone underpinning, the stone chimney, and other, later stonework which so complements the character of the original house. That effort was the lot of Fred Vaughn Hartley (1917-1991) who showed a very precocious ability as a stone mason as a teenager. According to family tradition the stone chimney was started by another local stone mason who left it unfinished: Vaughn Hartley is said to have completed it in the early 1930s. Next, it is believed, he built the stone cellar into the hillside behind the house. A few years later he underpinned the house with a well-crafted stone perimeter foundation. About 1940, he added the stone base and floor for the service porch off the kitchen on the house's south gable end. Prior to this and to his marriage in 1939, he worked as a stone mason on the grounds of the Greenbriar Hotel at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. In the 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s he enjoyed a respected reputation in Blowing Rock for his work, mostly executed while in the employment of contractor Randall Foster. Among his finest efforts is the stonework of the Church of the Epiphany, erected in 1948 on Galax Lane (in the Green Park Historic District).

Vaughn Hartley's father, Fred Boyce Hartley, was also a carpenter who worked on a self-employed basis. It was he who added the first and second-story bathrooms to the house while engaging in outside projects. Except for the remodeling of some cottages on Buxton Road, completed in a joint venture with Gustavus Trask Buxton, his work is largely unknown. Anonymity is also the fate of the carpentry handiwork of Hartley's elder brother Wade B. Hartley (1884-1956) who made his home in this house, occupying the front dormer bedroom, off and on for periods until his death. With no little irony it is not what Fred Boyce Hartley did to the Bollinger-Hartley House that earns him acclaim but the fact that he did relatively little. Older summer and permanent dwellings in Blowing Rock were expanded and remodeled by a succession of owners during the period from the 1920s to the 1980s and many were lost during the expansion and redevelopment of the resort in recent decades. During the period from 1924, when he bought the house, and 1987, when he died, Fred Hartley was a responsible and probably conscious steward of the Bollinger-Hartley House. As a result, he left behind--and to his descendants--a remarkably intact Craftsman bungalow which represents an important chapter in the early-twentieth century life of Blowing Rock.

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9. Bibliography

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is parcel #2817-18-1606-000 on Watauga County Tax Map #2817.05.

Verbal Boundary Justification: The nominated acreage is all that parcel of land which forms the setting of the house and its outbuildings and lies within the boundaries of the house tract. This 1.43-acre tract was effectively separated and isolated from the remaining portion of the seven-plus-acre original property by the routing of US 321 in 1947-1948.

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## Additional Documentation

### Schedule of Photographs

The following numbered list of photographs is a schedule of those photographs included in this nomination. The following information applies to all of the photographs.

Name of property: Bollinger-Hartley House  
463 North Main Street  
Blowing Rock  
Watauga County  
North Carolina

Photographer: Davyd Foard Hood

Date of Photographs: 3 September 1994

Location of original negatives: Division of Archives and History  
109 East Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2807

1. Overall view, looking north/northeast.
2. Overall view, looking south/southeast.
3. Living Room, looking north/northeast.
4. Living Room, looking south.
5. Second-story view looking from the front dormer bedroom, to the northeast, into the hall.
6. South, second-story bedroom, looking west.
7. Springhouse/Shop, looking south.

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Property Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
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Property Owners

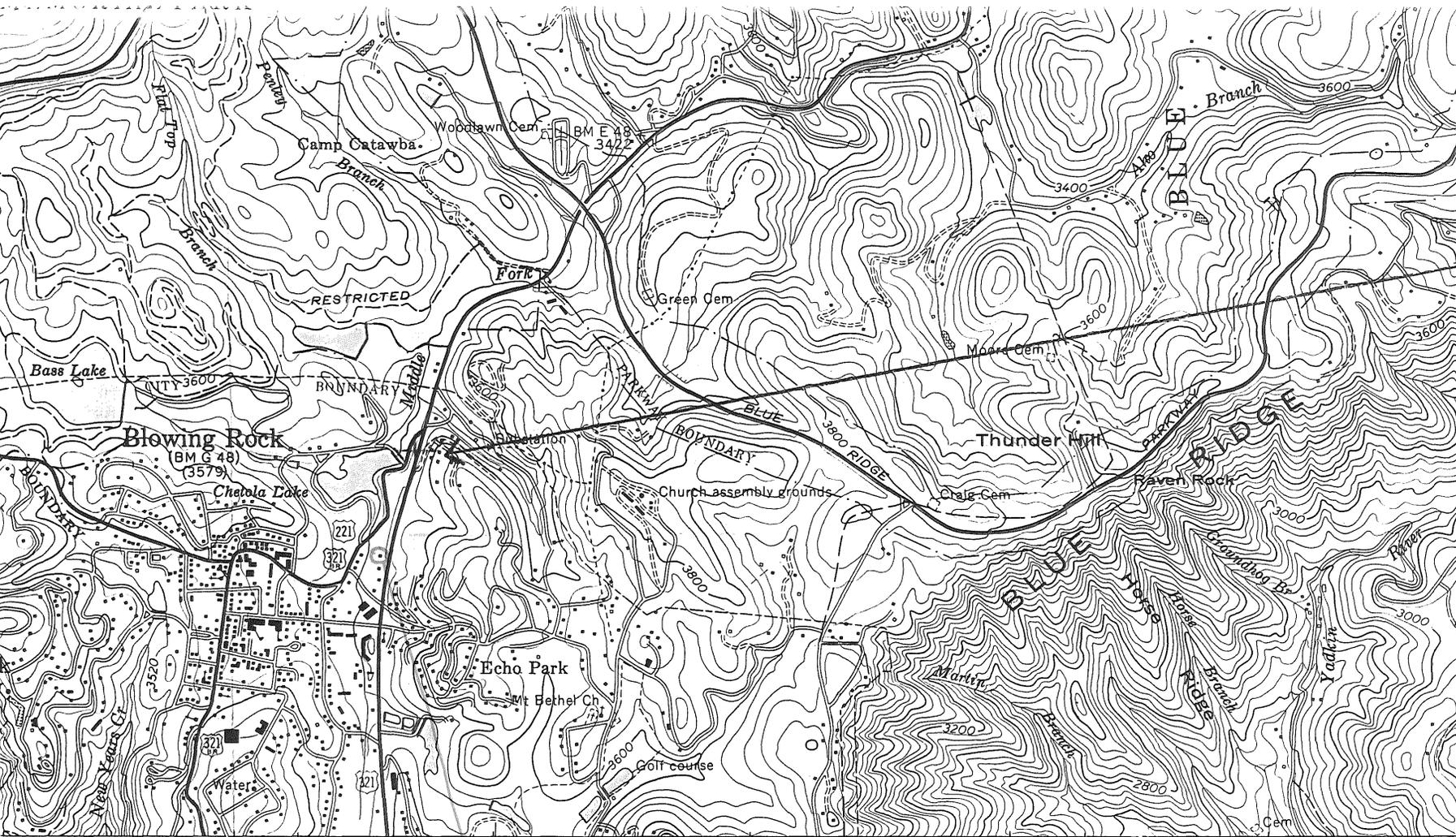
Ms. Linda Filipski Toney  
1241 Pitts Road  
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Karen L. Filipski  
244-C Melrose Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
910/723-6827

Ms. Elaine Filipski Berry  
7890 Eversfield Road  
Stokesdale, NC 27357  
910/643-7586

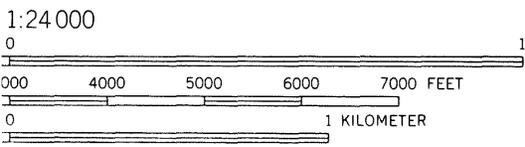
Michael Eugene Filipski  
2023 Walker Avenue  
Greensboro, NC 27403

Mr. and Mrs. James Eugene Filipski  
1717 Trosper Road  
Greensboro, NC 27405



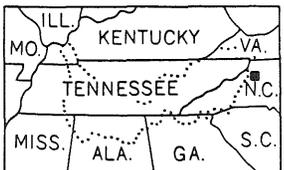
Ballinger-Hadley  
4000 Horse, Wilkes  
County, NC.  
Northing  
3999340  
Easting  
459700  
Boone Quad  
3999 Zone 17

221-SW/11 SW 439 LENOIR 19 MI. 40' 441 81°37'30" 36°07'30" 3998000m.N. 443000m.E. (TVA 221-NW)



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

Actually here. Corrected in GIS M. Southern 9-19-08



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ..... Poor motor road .....
  - Medium-duty ..... Wagon and jeep track .....
  - Light-duty ..... Foot trail .....
  - U. S. Route (shield symbol)
  - State Route (circle symbol)
- In developed areas, only through roads are classified

BOONE, N. C.  
36081-B6-TF-024

1959  
PHOTOREVISED 1978  
DMA 4656 II NW-SERIES V842

(BUFFALO COVER)  
4656 II SE

