

Smathers-Gautier House
Name of Property

Haywood County, NC
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
WORK IN PROGRESS

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: stone

Walls: weatherboard

vinyl

Roof: asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Smathers-Gautier House is an imposing two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne-style frame dwelling located at 124 Daisey Avenue, approximately 0.3-mile southwest of downtown Waynesville in Haywood County, North Carolina. Built around 1892 for George H. Smathers, the house occupies a slightly elevated area of the property, which slopes away from the house to the rear. Smathers purchased the lot, just four months prior to marrying Daisy Rice Glaze of Alabama, as part of an early subdivision that stretched southwest from the town's commercial district and overlooked Richland Creek and the Southern Railway. The grand residence erected for Smathers is an exuberant Queen Anne confection with octagonal corner towers, a heavy bracketed cornice, panels of decorative stickwork, and an ornate wraparound porch. The richly detailed house reflected the position of its owner, who was active in civic affairs and a prominent jurist. The house bears the design hallmarks of Asheville architect and brick mason Allen L. Melton, who worked on the Waynesville County Courthouse in the mid-1880s and the homes of other prominent western North Carolina lawyers and political figures in the 1890s. The spacious house lot also contains a one-story-plus basement frame barn, well and springhouse, and a one-story staff cottage located to side and rear of the house. The Smathers-

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Gautier House retains a high degree of integrity with its characteristic Queen Anne form and massing, heavily embellished wraparound porch, and richly detailed interior and exterior woodwork.

Narrative Description

The Smathers-Gautier House stands in a wooded residential section southwest of the commercial district in Waynesville, North Carolina. Platted in 1890 as an addition to the Oak Forest subdivision, the neighborhood features long, curving streets that wind through the hilly terrain. The house faces northeast towards the center of town, while the rear of the property overlooks the low-lying valley of Richland Creek and the site of the former Waynesville Township High School with distant views of the Balsam Mountains. Smathers ultimately acquired a second adjoining lot to create the home's 2.49-acre site, which is bounded by Daisey Avenue to the northeast, Clifton Street to the southeast, and Balsam Drive to the southwest. The perimeter of the lot is generally defined by mature vegetation with the exception of the front of the property along Daisey Avenue. An irregularly coursed stone retaining wall extends across the front of the property beginning at the corner of Daisey Avenue and Clifton Street and includes an opening for stone steps into the yard with ashlar stone corner piers capped by rounded stone finials. A large hemlock tree stands near the corner of the two streets with the curving stone retaining wall demarcating the edge of the yard. A row of mature deciduous trees lines the opposite side of Daisey Avenue. The yard is largely grassed lawn with a garden planted on the northeast side of the house, and the associated outbuildings are situated west and southwest of the house. An unpaved driveway enters the property approximately midway along Clifton Street and passes in front of the barn before terminating at a small cottage, which served as quarters for household staff to both the Smathers and Gautier families. With the majority of vegetation located in the front portion of the property, the rear section beyond the barn is open lawn that slopes down towards Balsam Drive and is punctuated by a small cluster of mature trees. The surrounding houses, as well as Waynesville Middle School, which stands on the southwest side of Balsam Drive to the rear of the property, are screened for the most part by vegetation along the edges of the parcel.

Smathers-Gautier House, ca. 1892, ca. 1980, 2024-25

Contributing building

(For the sake of clarity in the written description below, the house, which faces northeast, will be described as though the center hall runs north-south.)

The Smathers-Gautier House is a two-and-a-half-story, Queen Anne-style frame dwelling rising from an uncoursed stone foundation and capped by a steeply pitched hip roof with two interior corbelled brick chimneys. The massive double-pile dwelling has an asymmetrical

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façade, octagonal corner towers, and a one-story wraparound porch. The house is covered with weatherboards, but vinyl siding was installed over the weatherboards likely in the 1980s. In several places, the vinyl siding, which does not cover any of the exterior decorative elements, has pulled away and shows the original weatherboards to be intact beneath. The façade is enlivened by polygonal hip-roof dormer, a projecting hip-roof bay at the northwest, and a matchboard frieze and bracketed cornice. A three-story tower rises from the northwest corner bay and is capped by a bell-cast roof. The upper level of the tower is illuminated by double-hung sash windows with an upper sash containing colored-glass diamond panes; the windows sit atop panels with applied sawnwork decoration. The octagonal tower rising at the northeast corner terminates with a hip-roof projecting at a 45-degree angle and blind wooden panels with applied decorative woodwork, molding, and rondels. Windows on the first and second stories are typically one-over-one double-hung wood sash with operable wooden louvered shutters. The main entrance consists of a single-leaf wooden door composed of a single light over a single panel with carved floral and forest motifs, attached colonettes, and applied sawnwork. The door surround has pilasters with chamfered partial-height base posts, a bracketed entablature, and dentil cornice. The doorway is immediately flanked by one-over-one double-hung windows that illuminate the central hall on the interior. On the second story, a single-leaf wooden door and a one-over-one window are positioned above the main entrance. The second-story door opens onto a porch roof balcony with a low wooden balustrade composed of square posts, turned finials, and paneled railings with narrow arch openings and pendant ornaments.

The hip-roof porch spans the full width of the façade and wraps around the east and west sides of the house, following the contours of the projecting bays and towers. The porch is carried on turned wooden posts and exhibits a matchboard frieze with scrolled wooden brackets. Each bay of the porch features a segmental-arch spandrel with scrolled moldings, a central turned pendant, and applied decorative sawnwork. The railing in each bay consists of a thick wooden handrail, an intermediate wooden railing, and four or five arched subsections with ball pendants, decorative cutouts, and turned posts supporting the intermediate rail. The open center bay of the porch at the front of the house is approached by a set of concrete steps with metal railings, while an open corner bay at the northeast is accessed by two concrete steps.

The west side elevation of the house is largely defined by the three-story corner tower and wraparound porch that carry over from the façade. A two-story hip-roof polygonal bay at the center of the elevation provides the terminus of the porch. A second-story balcony atop the porch extends between the tower and projecting bay with a single-leaf door opening from the polygonal bay. The balcony has a low wooden balustrade composed of square posts, turned finials, and paneled railings with narrow arch openings and pendant ornaments. The windows are primarily one-over-one double-hung wooden sash, and the second-story windows have operable wooden louvered shutters. One half of the window pair illuminating the kitchen is a two-over-two sash that appears to be an early replacement or addition.

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The rear (south) elevation displays the gable end of a two-story ell and a gable dormer containing a single, square window with colored-glass diamond panes. A one-story shed-roof extension of the ell has a decorative gable end and molded cornice. A single-leaf six-panel wooden door originally opened onto the rear service stairs, which have been closed and sealed on the second story. The doorway is sheltered by a shallow attached canopy with solid triangular brackets. The center portion consists of a one-story shed-roof utility room and enclosed sun porch, and this section has weatherboard siding, a modern single-leaf entry door, and large single-pane fixed-sash windows. An earlier one-story shed-roof addition contains the bathroom accessed through the first-story bedroom. The windows on the first and second stories are one-over-one double-hung wood sash.

The east side elevation presents a shallow projecting gable-roof bay to balance the two-story corner tower and provide a terminus for the wraparound porch. A single-leaf entry door opens onto the porch from the front room of the first story, and the windows are typically one-over-one double-hung sash with operable wooden louvered shutters. The gable end of the projecting bay is elaborately decorated with applied sawnwork, cutouts, and cornice returns. The decorative woodwork surrounds a single, fixed-sash square window with colored-glass diamond panes.

The interior of the house is richly finished throughout and dominated by a wide center hall with a triple-run stair. The hall is finished with original wood floors, paneled wainscoting, and plaster walls and ceilings. In the front portion of the hall are wide single-leaf doors opening to the living room and parlor, as well as a fireplace with glazed face and hearth tiles. The wooden mantel has stout engaged columns with tall capitals, curved brackets supporting the shelf, and sawnwork floral motifs. The overmantel features colonettes, decorative panels, and sawnwork floral motifs surrounding a beveled-glass mirror. The doorways are framed by fluted casings with a tall base molding and bulls eye block at the height of the adjoining chair rails. The tops of the door frames contain a specific corner block detail (also found on the window frames) employed by Asheville architect Allen L. Melton, a prolific designer of Queen Anne houses during the 1890s and early 1900s. Here the rectangular-shaped corner blocks consist of a central square with a bullseye motif and molded flanges extending on opposite sides. The blocks are set vertically with the flanges resting on the side of the frame and extending above the top of the lintel. Doorways to the principal rooms include a single-pane hopper transom. The solid oak doors have four vertical panels with chamfered edges separated by a horizontal panel and original hardware.

The stairs begin near the midpoint of the hall and rise against the east wall. A square wooden post growing out of the stair rail, as well as two pilasters on the side walls, have stylized leaf capitals and support wooden arch openings with spindlework in the spandrels. The stairs have substantial square newel posts with ball finials and turned balusters. The open underside of the stairs is finished with beaded boards and exhibits decorative wooden pendants below the second story landing. A doorway to the bedroom is located beneath the stairs but lacks a transom due to the lower height of the landing above the door. A similar door and a single one-over-one double-hung window are located on the south wall of the hall and

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may have originally opened to the exterior or a rear porch, which was later enclosed for a utility room and sun porch.

In the northwest corner of the first story, the spacious living room is finished with original wood floors, patterned wainscoting, tall baseboards, chair rail moldings, and crown and plaster ceiling moldings. A robust decorative plaster medallion is located at the center of the ceiling. An octagonal bay contains five windows, and the window and door frames all display corner blocks projecting above the top of the lintel. A corner fireplace has glazed ceramic face and hearth tiles, as well as an elaborate wood mantel with colonettes and curved brackets supporting the shelf and framing a tall frieze with decorative sawnwork. The eclectic sawn overmantel with scrolled horns frames a beveled mirror. A wide opening containing oak pocket doors connects the living room with the dining room to the south.

The dining room is similarly finished with wood floors, paneled wainscoting, tall baseboards, and chair rail and crown moldings. A decorative plaster medallion of comparatively plain design is located in the center of the ceiling. The polygonal bay on the west side of the room contains three window bays with paired sash in the center bay. A corner fireplace has glazed ceramic face and hearth tiles, and paired curved wooden brackets supporting the mantel, which features inlaid patterned woodwork and scalloped edging. A built-in cabinet fills another corner of the room and appears to rest on the chair rail and wainscoting below. The cabinet contains four shelves and is enclosed by a single-pane glazed door set within the typical door and window frame.

A single-leaf paneled wood door on the south side of the dining room opens into a narrow butler's pantry with storage pantry located at the east end. The butler's pantry is finished with a tile floor, a porcelain-enameled sink and drainboard, and single-leaf door and transom into the storage pantry. The pantry door has a louvered vent above two panels. The butler's pantry is dominated by a built-in china cabinet with solid wood doors, porcelain knobs, and a curved edge where it joins an open passage into the kitchen to the south. The kitchen was remodeled in the late twentieth century with updated cabinets, counters, and appliances. A small island is located at the center of the room, which retains its original wood floor and patterned tin ceiling. Two four-panel doors are located on the east side of the kitchen—one for a small storage closet and the other opening into the utility room and sun porch at the back of the house.

The parlor, situated in the northeast portion of the first story, exhibits similar finishes as the living room with original wood floors, patterned wainscoting, tall baseboards, and chair rail moldings. The narrow octagonal bay contains three windows, and the window and door frames all display corner blocks projecting above the top of the lintel. A single-leaf glazed wooden door on the east wall opens onto the front porch. The fireplace, located on the south wall has glazed ceramic face and hearth tiles, as well as an elaborate wood mantel with inlaid wood details on the supporting posts, decorative sawnwork floral motifs, and multi-shaped panels. The fireplace is flanked by a closet to one side and an arched opening to the other. The opening accesses a

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short passageway with niches on either side containing a built-in hutch and shelves and continues to a doorway opening into the bedroom in the southeast portion of the first story.

The bedroom on the first story is the most plainly finished among the four main rooms and main hall. It has original wood floors, tall baseboard moldings, and a comparatively plain fireplace and mantel. The fireplace has glazed ceramic face and hearth tiles, and the mantel displays wood columns supporting a restrained frieze, central oval rosette, and molded shelf. The window and door frames throughout the bedroom all display corner blocks projecting above the top of the lintel. A door on the south wall connects to a bathroom, which contains some built-in cabinets and storage but primarily displays updated fixtures.

The second story is arranged around the wide center hall and contains four bedrooms located over the four main rooms on the first story. The stairs reach the second story at the south end of the hall, which is finished with original wood floors and plaster walls and ceiling. A wooden railing with square newels and turned finials and balusters borders the opening to the first story. An open stair to the unfinished attic rises against the west wall of the hallway. The north end of the hallway is illuminated by a single-leaf glazed wooden door to the porch balcony and a one-over-one window. Two doors on either side of the hall open into the bedrooms, which are more simply finished than their downstairs counterparts. The rooms have original wood floors, tall baseboards, and plaster walls and ceilings. All of the window and door frames all display the characteristic corner blocks projecting above the top of the lintel. Three of the four fireplaces have similar surrounds with paired pilasters and carved brackets supporting the mantel shelf and a simple reeded frieze. In the northeast room, small rosettes positioned between the brackets add a touch of embellishment. The mantel in the southeast room has a similar configuration but substitutes a different frieze that punctuated by rosettes. A doorway at the rear of the hall opens into a short passageway with additional doors accessing a bathroom, which is located over the kitchen on the first story, and the upper portion of the rear service stair, which has been sealed between floors.

Well, ca. 1892, ca. 1940

Contributing structure

A concrete block enclosure, rising two courses and capped by tongue and groove boards, covers the well, which is located directly behind the house. The square base is surrounded by concrete slab apron, and a metal pump rises from the wooden well cover. Although the enclosure over the well was possibly constructed in the second quarter of the twentieth century, the well likely dates to the time of construction of the house.

Springhouse, ca. 1892

Contributing building

The springhouse is a one-story, one-room building located at the rear of the house and adjacent to the well. The building is constructed of irregularly coursed stone and has a front-gable roof with weatherboards in the gable ends and exposed rafter tails. The side walls are

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blind, and the building is entered through a single-leaf, solid wood door on the east elevation. A single four-light wood-sash window is located on the rear (south) elevation. The interior features open roof framing, plastered walls, and a trough along the east wall for cooling milk and other foodstuffs. An opening in the front (north) wall appears to have originally fed the trough with water from the well. A mature invasive plant (possibly wintercreeper) rising against the western exterior wall has covered the roof with a pronounced cap of leafy vegetation.

Staff Cottage, ca. 1892, 2024

Contributing building

The one-story, side-gable frame dwelling covered with weatherboards and resting on a stone foundation originally served as living quarters for the family's household staff. The modest two-room dwelling features a central interior chimney, attached hip-roof porch, shed-roof side wing, and two single-leaf entry doors on the façade. New concrete steps rise to access the porch, and a skim coat of concrete covers the foundation stones. Original square wooden posts support the porch roof, which shelters a tongue-and-groove wood floor. Windows on the north and west elevations are four-over-four double-hung wood sash. Exposed purlins brackets in the gable ends and rafter tails under the eaves have decorative sawn ends. An open shed-roof extension on the rear of the house is supported by slender wooden posts and may have served as a carport in later years. The shed-roof addition on the south end has a square, single-pane fixed-sash window.

The interior consists of a single large room divided by a freestanding brick fireplace and chimney. The fireplace displays a wooden mantel with curved brackets supporting the mantel shelf. The interior is finished with wood floors, beaded board walls and ceilings, and simple flat window and door surrounds. A single-leaf entry door opens into the addition at the south, which is being remodeled for a bathroom.

Both the Smathers and Gautier families employed household staff who resided in the cottage. Janie C. Carson (b. 1938) of Waynesville recalled living in the two-room cottage with her grandparents, Huston and Mary Cullins; an aunt, Mallie; and her brother Eugene. She resided there for about three years beginning around age six and remembered fondly playing under the property's large oak trees. Huston Cullins, a former sharecropper, took care of the ground, while Mary and Mallie worked in the house, cooking and cleaning. Janie Carson visited the current owners shortly after they purchased the house in 2023, and when she was invited in to share her recollections of the property, Ms. Carson indicated that she had never before entered the house through the front door.¹

Barn, ca. 1900

Contributing building

¹ Janie Cullin Carson, "Memories That Date Back to Sharecropper Days," *The Mountaineer* (Waynesville, NC), February 22, 2008, 10B; Malinda Messer, "Woman Helps Uncover Black History in Haywood," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 3, 2008, C3; Paige Baratta, personal communication, September 18, 2025.

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Located a short distance behind the main house, a stylish one-story frame barn rests on an uncoursed stone foundation that reveals a full-height lower level accessible from the rear. Covered with painted German siding, the barn is capped by a metal-clad side-gable roof with a central front gable that displays exposed purlins and triangular brackets. The open eaves of the roof have exposed rafter tails. A wide central opening is enclosed by double-leaf solid wooden doors adjoining a single-leaf wooden door and is framed by flat board surrounds. The entrance bay is flanked on either side by a single window opening that is covered with a solid wooden shutter. A tall opening in the front gable accessing the upper barn loft contains double-leaf solid wooden shutters. The side elevations have similar openings and wooden coverings in the gable ends, as well as a single opening on the main level of the north elevation. Square openings on the sides of the stone foundation are covered with cross-braced wooden panels. The barn's rear elevation has a central single-leaf solid wooden door flanked by double-leaf wooden doors that enter the lower level of the building. Two window openings on the main level of the rear elevation have solid wooden shutters.

On the interior, the barn is plainly finished with exposed wood framing members and a wood plank floor. A partition wall composed of vertical boards divides a storage room on the southeast side of the building. A set of wooden stairs rises against the north wall of the barn and accesses the open floor of the loft. A turned wooden post, similar to those on the porch of the house, supports the opening in the loft floor.

Shed, ca. 1980

Non-contributing building

A prefabricated frame shed stands near the western edge of the property. Covered with plywood sheathing, the building has a front-gambrel roof, decorative dentil moldings, and double-leaf entry doors.

Statement of Integrity

The Smathers-Gautier House generally retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Built on this site around 1892, the two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne-style house retains its original stone foundations and frame construction, asymmetrical massing, steeply pitched roof forms, corner towers, and decorative bracketing and trim work. The filigreed wraparound porch retains its turned wood posts, heavy railings, bracketed cornices, and curved spandrel brackets with ornamental pendants. Similarly the interior is lavishly finished with original wood floors, plaster walls, paneled wainscoting, central stair, molded window and door surrounds, and elaborate fireplace mantels.

Material changes and interior alterations necessitated by the building's age diminish its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship but only to a limited degree. Water penetration from faulty roofing necessitated substantial repair to the plaster walls and ceilings on the

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second story, but the work was undertaken to preserve the historic character of the house. A room at the rear of the house was enclosed ca. 1980 and abuts the kitchen wing. The current rehabilitation project has resulted in repairs to the roof structure, removal of wallpaper, replastering second-story walls and ceilings, and remodeling of a second-story bathroom. The few substantial changes to the house are typically confined to the rear and secondary spaces of the dwelling, and the ongoing repairs and upgrades to the house's mechanical systems are intended to preserve and complement its original architectural character. The Smathers-Gautier House survives as an excellent example of the Queen Anne style in Waynesville, embodying the distinctive characteristics of the popular late-nineteenth century architectural style.

Statement of archaeological potential

Constructed in ca. 1892 the Smathers-Gautier House appears to retain much of its original character and archaeological deposits and remnant landscape features such as planting beds, filled-in privies and wells, trash middens, along with other structural remains may be present on the property. These types of archaeological features can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the property; additionally, they could address various topics related to the development, labor, and economic history that have contributed to the settlement pattern and character of the region. There is also a chance for intact prehistoric material to be found related to the Cherokee peoples, the 5 archaeological sites within one-mile are all recorded as prehistoric sites. To date, no investigations have been conducted to identify archaeological resources, but it is likely that they do exist on the parcel, and this should be considered in any future development of the property.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1892

Significant Dates

ca. 1892

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Melton, Allen L. – architect (attributed)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Smathers-Gautier House, built around 1892, is one of the finest examples of Queen Anne style architecture in Waynesville with the irregular massing and steeply pitched hip roof form typical of the Queen Anne style, as well as the rich interior finishes and decorative woodwork found in the most expressive examples. In the decades around the turn of the century, a number of luxury hotels and increasingly stylish houses were designed and constructed under the influence of nationally popular architectural styles. George H. Smathers, a Haywood County native from a prominent family, earned acclaim in the 1880s and 1890s as mayor of Waynesville and as a noted land title attorney. Smathers acquired the lot for the house just four months before his marriage to Daisy Rice Glaze of Alabama in January 1892. The lavish house, which bears strong design similarities to houses by Asheville architect Allen L. Melton, features octagonal corner towers, decorative brackets and woodwork, and a wraparound porch with turned posts and balustrades. The interior of the dwelling is richly finished with a wide central stair hall, paneled wainscoting, heavy moldings, and glazed tile fireplaces. The Smathers-Gautier House retains a high degree of architectural integrity and meets National Register Criterion C as an exceptional example of the Queen Anne style in the town of Waynesville. The period of significance for the locally significant property is ca. 1892, the year of its construction.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Architectural Context

The Smathers-Gautier House, built in the early 1890s by George H. Smathers, prominent local attorney and civic leader, has been described as “the epitome of the Victorian Queen Anne style” in Waynesville with its bold, asymmetrical massing, octagonal towers and turrets, and decorative woodwork.² Located in the early Oak Park subdivision, the house is one of the most elaborately decorated Victorian-era dwellings in the county and features a prominent bell-shaped tower roof, bracketed cornices, patterned cut outs in the gable ends, and a wrap-around porch with extensive sawn and turned spindlework. The interior is finished in a similarly ornate fashion with paneled wainscoting, elaborate fireplace mantels, and heavy moldings. Smathers most likely built the house around the time of his marriage to Daisy Rice Glaze of Alabama in January 1892, and its construction conceivably influenced other Queen Anne style

² Randy Cotton, “The Built Environment of Haywood County,” State Historic Preservation Office, North Carolina Natural and Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC, 1983, 20.

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residences in Waynesville. The Gautier family of Miami, Florida, purchased the house in 1925 and retained ownership until 1976.

Various factors, including the important local timber and tourism industries, influenced the architectural development of Waynesville beginning in the late nineteenth century when the town began to grow in the wake of a railroad connection to the wider western North Carolina region. The influx of visitors and new residents introduced popular architectural ideas from outside the region, while the availability of high-quality timber and building materials allowed builders to imbue Waynesville's nineteenth and early twentieth century houses and hotels with lavish woodwork and architectural details. Traditional architectural forms common in the nineteenth century were supplanted by houses and buildings constructed in popular national architectural styles such as the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. At the beginning of the twentieth century Waynesville claimed some of the most fashionable residential architecture in western North Carolina outside of Asheville. The rich detailing, bold forms, and asymmetrical massing of the Queen Anne style popular in the 1890s was gradually superseded in the twentieth century by the restrained classical influence of the Colonial Revival style and later by the acceptance of the simple, comfortable forms and materials of Craftsman-style bungalows.³

The Queen Anne style, named and first popularized by nineteenth-century English architects, became predominant in the United States between in 1880 and 1900 and bore little relation to the formal Renaissance architecture of the titular monarch's reign (1702-1714). While the earliest examples of the Queen Anne style in the northeastern United States drew heavily on English models popularized by the architect Richard Norman Shaw, the style evolved as it spread around the country. The Victorian-era style of residential design is characterized by asymmetrical massing and architectural embellishments such as towers, turrets, tall chimneys, and projecting pavilions, porches, and bays. Irregularities in plan and massing were facilitated by balloon framing techniques, and flat wall surfaces were often enlivened by variations of texture, materials, and color. The nation's expanding railroad network, in addition to a proliferation of pattern books and magazines, helped to popularize the style by taking advantage of technological advances of the day and making pre-cut building materials and architectural details readily available to consumers. The addition of decorative spindlework and

³ Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern and Jennifer F. Martin. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 341-342; and Duane Oliver, *Mountain Gables: A History of Haywood County Architecture*, ed. by Betsy Farlow (Waynesville, NC: Oliver Scriptorium, 2001), 40-41. Examples of the transitional Queen Anne-Colonial Revival style, characterized by commodious and asymmetrical massing, steeply pitched multi-gable roofs, and restrained classically-inspired woodwork and ornament, are prevalent in Waynesville and include the 1899 Dr. J. Howell Way House (NR listed, 1996), the 1900 Clyde Ray Sr. House (NR listed, 1996), the ca. 1905 Charles and Annie Quinlan House (NR listed, 2005), and ca. 1910 Windover (NR listed, 2018).

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cut-out wood ornament was a distinctly American trait, as were later interpretations incorporating classical elements.⁴

The architect and publisher George F. Barber (1854-1915) of Knoxville, Tennessee, may have provided one source of inspiration for the propagation of Queen Anne houses in Waynesville. Born in Illinois, Barber grew up on a Kansas farm and trained as a carpenter before studying construction and design books in order to become an architect. He published his first illustrated catalog of 18 house designs, *The Cottage Souvenir*, around 1887. Barber moved to Knoxville with his wife and child in 1888 for health reasons and published his second book of architectural designs, *The Cottage Souvenir No. 2*, in 1890. The second publication brought national acclaim to the architect and provided 59 designs estimated to cost between \$500 and \$8,000 for construction. In addition to architectural drawings, the publication contained photographs of completed houses. Barber's designs proved popular and over the course of nearly two decades, the firm published nine catalogues, a monthly magazine, and more than 800 designs. He sold an estimated 20,000 sets of plans but shut down the mail order business in 1908 due to the amount of his firm's design and construction work in Knoxville alone. Barber designed at least two dozen documented houses for some of North Carolina's leading industrialists, particularly in the Piedmont region.⁵

While Barber's influence was widespread throughout the southeast, the Smathers-Gautier House appears to have been designed locally by the prolific Asheville architect Allen L. Melton (1852-1917). Born in Morganton, Melton started out as a mason and plasterer working alongside his father before making his way west. The *Asheville Daily Advance* reported in 1886 that "Mr. Melton, an experienced architect, will soon locate in Asheville."⁶ One of the earliest projects in the area involving Melton was the Haywood County Courthouse in Waynesville, erected in 1883-1884, where he likely served as a mason and plasterer for the building. He went on to design a commodious Second Empire-style brick building for the Asheville Female College (no longer extant) and several brick commercial buildings on Patton Asheville in Asheville, including the Sondley Building (no longer extant) where Melton had an office.⁷

Melton's practice grew significantly in the early 1890s, and he advertised in both Asheville and Waynesville newspapers. In early 1890, Melton reported that he had contracts for 11 houses worth \$32,100. He further noted that another 21 houses, averaging \$2,000 each,

⁴ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 342-343 and 350-351; Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992), 263-268.

⁵ M. Ruth Little and Michael A. Tomlan, "Barber, George F. (1854-1915)," North Carolina Architects & Builders, 2009, <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000234>, retrieved March 26, 2025; Geo. F. Barber, *The Cottage Souvenir No. 2* (Knoxville, TN: S. B. Newman & Co., 1891), 3-11.

⁶ "They Say," *Asheville Advance*, September 14, 1886, 1

⁷ Catherine Bishir, "Melton, Allen L. (1852-1917)," North Carolina Architects & Builders, 2011, <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000221>, retrieved September 1, 2024; Dale Wayne Slusser, "Allen L. Melton – Part 1," The Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County, <https://psabc.org/allen-l-melton-architect-part-1/>, retrieved September 1, 2024.

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were “under consideration.”⁸ Two months later, Melton reported having contracts for eight houses ranging in cost from \$200 to \$5,000.⁹ The following year, Melton prepared plans for two commercial buildings and 11 houses in Asheville that were reported in the newspaper.¹⁰ It is unclear when Melton may have met George Smathers, but the two were almost certainly aware of the other, if not formally acquainted. Melton’s work on the Haywood County Courthouse, where Smathers was a leading attorney, likely provided the initial recognition, and Melton went on to design houses for other prominent lawyers and political figures in the region—Theodore Davidson, Robert Gilmer, and Kope Elias—all of whom Smathers likely would have known.

While it remains unknown for certain if Melton designed the Smathers-Gautier House, there is a particular architectural detail present that suggests it was Melton’s hand that prepared the plans. The unusual detail, found on the interior window and door frames, is also present at three other houses designed by Melton. At the Smathers-Gautier House, the corner blocks are rectangular in shape and project above the top of the frame. The block consists of a central square with a bullseye motif and molded flanges extending on opposite sides. The blocks are set vertically with the flanges resting on the side of the frame and extending above the top of the lintel (Fig. 1). This is unlike the typical configuration where the corner joints meet flush and form a right angle.

In addition to the Smathers-Gautier House, the detail appears in the Theodore F. Davidson House, or Beaufort Lodge, at 61 N. Liberty Street in Asheville (Fig. 2). Melton produced plans for the 10-room house in 1894, and it was completed in 1895. The Davidson House corner blocks are incised with a floral motif and crossed diagonal lines. The two-story dwelling features a curved front bay, bracketed eaves, dentil cornices, and an engaged porch with a porte cochere extension and an octagonal corner pavilion. The house was built for Gen. Davidson (1845-1930), attorney general of North Carolina from 1885 to 1893 and a state legislator.¹¹

The detail is repeated at the Kate and Charles Noel Vance House (NR, 2017) at 178 Sunset Drive in Black Mountain, North Carolina. Built 1893-1894, the two-story frame dwelling has a subdued exterior highlighted by a decorative front gable, interior brick chimneys, and a wide wraparound porch. The interior, however, displays wood paneled walls, beaded board wainscoting, richly finished woodwork, and multi-paneled doors. The door and window frames are similar to the Smathers house with the bullseye motif corner blocks that project above the top of the frame. Charles Vance (1856-1922), son of Gov. Zebulon Vance, former governor and

⁸ “A Building Boom,” *The Asheville Citizen*, April 1, 1890, 4.

⁹ “The Building Boom,” *The Asheville Citizen*, May 20, 1890, 1.

¹⁰ “Half a Million Dollars,” *The Asheville Citizen*, May 21, 1891, 1.

¹¹ “Steady and Sure Improvement,” *The Asheville Citizen*, October 30, 1894, 4; Slusser, “Allen L. Melton – Part 1.”

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United States Senator from Buncombe County, corresponded with Melton about the house from Washington, DC, even exchanging floor plan sketches with the initials "A.L.M."¹²



Figure 1. Door frame detail at Smathers-Gautier House, Waynesville, NC (Photo by C. Griffith, March 2026). Figure 2. Door frame detail at Theodore F. Davidson House, Asheville, NC (Photo by C. Griffith, February 2025)

The Melton-designed house bearing the strongest resemblance to the Smathers-Gautier House is a 10-room residence in Asheville built for Robert L. Graham, owner of the Graham Shoe Company, and his wife, Louisa. The Grahams, for reasons unknown, sold the house shortly after its completion in 1892 to Houston and Hortense Patterson, who defaulted on their loan, which led to its purchase by Whiteford G. Smith in 1894. Located at 263 Haywood Street, the Whiteford G. Smith House (NR listed, 2005) is a robust Queen Anne style two-story double-pile dwelling with a tall hip roof, bracketed eaves, two octagonal towers on the façade, a corner entrance, and a filigreed porch with two front-gable entrance bays, turned posts, curved

¹² Dale Wayne Slusser, "Allen L. Melton – Part 3," The Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County, <https://psabc.org/allen-l-melton-architect-part-3/>, retrieved September 1, 2024; Sybil H. Argintar, "Kate and Charles Noel Vance House" National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Southeastern Preservation Services, Asheville, NC, 2016.

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brackets, turned pendants, and sawnwork panels.¹³ On the interior, the first-story window and door frames, as well as some second-story windows, display the Melton-type corner blocks with molded flanges projecting above the top of the frame and incised with crossed diagonal lines.

While the Smathers-Gautier House strongly suggests A. L. Melton as its architect, the property remains the finest example of Queen Anne style architecture in Waynesville. It is documented that Melton designed at least two other Queen Anne-style residences in Waynesville, including the Rebecca Love House (95 Love Lane) and the Gilmore House. Rebecca Love, widow of Capt. Matthew H. Love, resided in her marital home with her children until it was destroyed by fire in July 1896. Love engaged Melton to design a new dwelling for her, which was completed in 1897. The new two-story house was built in a "T" shape with the stem of the "T" forming the front wing and a one-story wraparound porch surrounding its three sides. The architectural expression is restrained in comparison to other Melton houses and exhibits slender boxed porch posts with chamfered corners and curved bracket capitals, simple exterior trim, and incised and molded trim on the interior. The exterior of the house has been covered with vinyl siding, yet the interior retains many of its original architectural details.¹⁴

In 1899, Robert Gilmer and his wife, Love Branner Gilmer, commissioned Melton to design their residence in Waynesville. At the time of the commission, R. D. Gilmer, a prominent local attorney and former state legislator, was serving as Attorney General for North Carolina. Construction of the two-story, 19-room house began in January 1900 and featured a central hip roof, projecting gable bays, tall brick chimneys, and a large wraparound porch and porte cochere. The symmetrical façade design and paired porch columns point to the spreading influence of Colonial Revival style architecture. The richly finished interior of the Gilmer House, however, rivals that of the Smathers House with its large entrance hall, three-run staircase, spindlework screens, wood-paneled walls, beamed ceilings, and arched brick fireplace. While the prominent hallway remains largely intact other areas of the interior, including the second story, have been substantially remodeled.¹⁵

One of the earliest Queen Anne style houses in Waynesville, the Boone-Withers House (NR listed, 1983) represented the latest in local architectural fashion when it was built around 1883. Local builder Sam Liner constructed the house for Mary and John K. Boone, who owned a lumber yard, ran a school, and served as clerk of court and chairman of the board of education. The two-story hip-roof frame house has a vibrant, irregular massing created by projecting gables and bays, as well as a considerable amount of applied ornament including decorative shingles, scrolled bargeboards, and a wraparound porch with a bracketed cornice and cut-out rail. The interior retains an ornate stair with Eastlake newel post but also displays later Colonial

¹³ Sybil Argintar Bowers, "Smith, Whiteford G., House" National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Bowers Southeastern Preservation, Asheville, NC, 2005; Slusser, "Allen L. Melton – Part 3."

¹⁴ Slusser, "Allen L. Melton – Part 3"; "Around Town," *The Daily Citizen* (Asheville, NC), October 19, 1896, 4.

¹⁵ Slusser, "Allen L. Melton – Part 3."

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Revival style alterations designed by Asheville architect William H. Lord.¹⁶ For all its Queen Anne elements, the Boone-Withers House seems more a collection of architectural details and applied decoration and lacks the intrinsic quality of the Smathers-Gautier House as a fully realized example of the Queen Anne style. The assiduous design of the Smathers-Gautier House, which appears to be from the hand of architect A. L. Melton, presents a full expression of the Queen Anne style incorporating highly irregular massing, lively and complex Victorian decoration, and up-to-date domestic innovations.¹⁷

Historical Background

George Henry Smathers (1854-1950) composed much of his own story as “an autobiographical sketch” in a preface to his book, *The History of Land Titles in Western North Carolina*, published in 1938.¹⁸ Born at Turnpike, North Carolina, near the Haywood and Buncombe County line, Smathers was one of thirteen children born to John Charles and Lucilla E. Smathers. The family owned an extensive tract of land on both sides of the county line where the first toll gate along the road was erected, hence the name Turnpike. John C. Smathers built and operated a store, blacksmith shop, sawmill, grist mill, wagon works, and a cabinet factory. John and Lucilla Smathers operated a hotel for travelers along the turnpike before opening a store and running a hotel in Waynesville between 1872 and 1876. Due to their extensive business operations, the Smathers family became one of the best-known families in the region.

The town of Waynesville, located approximately 30 miles west of Asheville, was founded in 1808, when Haywood County was created from Buncombe County. The town lies within a high river valley at the base of the Balsam Mountains and was laid out along a northeast-southwest ridge bounded by Richland and Raccoon creeks. Col. Robert Love, a prominent early resident, gave land for the new town, which remained sparsely populated for much of the nineteenth century due to the rugged geography and unimproved transportation routes into the county. Completion of the Murphy Branch of the Western North Carolina Railroad from Asheville to Waynesville in 1883 opened the area to the tourism and timber-related industries that greatly influenced future development.¹⁹

Before the age of 15, George H. Smathers was primarily educated in various private schools by a well-regarded local teacher, Mary Ann Hutsell. After finishing school, Smathers went to work with his father, first at the store in Turnpike and later at the store in Waynesville.

¹⁶ Bishir, et al, *A Guide*, 341-342; Betsy Farlow, Dan Lane, and Duane Oliver, *Haywood Homes and History* (Hazelwood, NC: Oliver Scriptorium, 1993), 54; James Randall Cotton, “Boone-Withers House” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, State Historic Preservation Office, North Carolina Natural and Cultural Resources, Asheville, NC, 1983.

¹⁷ Cotton, “Built Environment,” 19-20.

¹⁸ Smathers, George H., *The History of Land Titles in Western North Carolina* (Asheville, NC: The Miller Printing Company, 1938), v-xi.

¹⁹ Bishir, et al, *A Guide*, 339; W. C. Allen, *Centennial of Haywood County and its County Seat, Waynesville, NC* (Waynesville, NC: Courier Printing Company, 1908), 52.

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George, along with his father, took an interest in the livestock business and made numerous trips driving herds of cattle, sheep, and hogs across the mountains to Greenville and Spartanburg, South Carolina. He made similar trips to the South Carolina towns to procure goods for his father's stores. He held his first public office in 1876, when he was appointed a Storekeeper-Gauger to monitor and collect tax from federal distilleries by Pinkney Rollins, U.S. Collector of Internal Revenue for the Western District of North Carolina at the time.²⁰

In 1880, Smathers decided to take up the practice of law and traveled to Greensboro to join the Dick and Dillard Law School. Formed by prominent lawyers and judges Robert P. Dick and John H. Dillard in 1878, the school trained approximately 300 licensed attorneys during its brief tenure. Smathers completed his course and received his license to practice law from the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1881. He returned to Waynesville and opened a law office in 1882.²¹

Smathers appears to have begun his law practice advertising himself as a real estate agent.²² His reputation as an attorney spread quickly and within a few years Smathers had partnered with A. A. Howell to practice law in 10 western North Carolina counties, as well as the U.S. District and Circuit Courts at Asheville and the Supreme Court in Raleigh.²³ Smathers was elected mayor of Waynesville in 1886 and served two terms. In 1888, the local newspaper reported that Smathers planned to relocate to Knoxville, although it does not appear that he ever settled in Tennessee, even temporarily.²⁴ He remained active in Republican politics at the local, state, and federal levels.²⁵

Smathers purchased property for a new house in August 1891. He acquired Lot No. 1 in Block A of the "Oak Forest Addition to the Town of Waynesville" for \$1,333 from James and Maggie Moody, George H. Shuford, and J. H. Susong.²⁶ Moody, a prominent local attorney and political leader, served as mayor of Waynesville the term prior to that of Smathers. The property was bounded by Brown Street, Oak Street, and Daisy/Daisey Avenue.²⁷ A few months after acquiring the property, in January 1892, Smathers married Daisy Rice Glaze (1860-1943) of

²⁰ Smathers, *History of Land Titles*, v-vi.

²¹ Smathers, *History of Land Titles*, vi.

²² Advertisement, *The Daily News* (Waynesville, NC), July 20, 1886, 2.

²³ Advertisement, *The Waynesville News*, March 22, 1888, 3.

²⁴ "Local Matters," *The Waynesville News*, March 22, 1888, 3.

²⁵ "The Republican Prodigal Sons Return Home," *The Asheville Citizen*, June 28, 1888, 1; "Western North Carolinians to be Appointed to Office," *The Asheville Citizen*, February 19, 1889, 1; "Ewart Nominated," *The Asheville Democrat*, August 28, 1890, 8.

²⁶ Deed book 2, page 185, Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, NC. Smathers acquired the adjoining lot, No. 2, in 1898 after Emma Willis defaulted on her payments for the property. See Deed book 10, page 294.

²⁷ The street is recorded as Daisey Avenue in Smathers' deed but appears as Daisy Avenue on the "Map of Villa Sites for the Oak Forest Addition." Plat book D, page 20, Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, NC.

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Montgomery, Alabama, a recent widow and daughter of Samuel F. Rice, former Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.²⁸ The couple welcomed a daughter, Ellen Rice Smathers, in 1893.

George Smathers was appointed, at the request of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, by President Benjamin Harrison's administration to supervise two lawsuits pending in federal court. The suits sought to remove approximately 200 trespassers from the lands of the Eastern Band, as well as clearly establishing the Eastern Band's legal title to the land. As a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Smathers oversaw nearly 14 years of litigation to perfect the title to the Qualla Boundary, comprising roughly 77,000 acres of land in Swain and Jackson counties.²⁹

Having devoted so much of his time to property and land matters, Smathers decided to specialize in title work and property litigation for the remainder of this career. He helped define large timber tracts in western North Carolina for R. Y. McAden, Charles D. Fuller of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and the William Ritter Lumber Company. Smathers' expertise culminated in 1905 when he was engaged by Peter G. Thomson to help secure a site for a large pulp mill and tannin extract plant, as well as sufficient timber lands to supply material to the mill for at least 25 years. In 1906, Thomson organized the Champion Fibre Company and began construction of a massive mill complex and mill village in the nearby hamlet of Canton. For nearly 40 years, Smathers handled land title work for Champion, which became one of the largest and most consequential industrial facilities in the region.³⁰

George and Daisy Smathers moved to Asheville in 1913, leaving their home on Daisey Avenue but retaining ownership until 1925. The house was sold in June 1925 to William and Mary Gautier of Miami, Florida.³¹ The transaction was noted in the local newspaper, which stated that local residents were curious about the fate of the "handsome residence on the heights overlooking Waynesville."³² After the sale, Mary Gautier and her son John arrived for the summer. The Gautiers belonged to a large, pioneering family that had moved to Miami from north Florida in the late 1800s. William J. Gautier (1871-1940) opened a grocery store with one of his brothers and later worked for the city.³³ It is unclear what specifically brought the Gautiers to the mountains of western North Carolina, but they were likely following in the footsteps of so many other regional visitors in seeking relief from the south Florida heat.

²⁸ "Around Town," *The Asheville Citizen*, January 28, 1892, 4; "Judge Rice is Dead," *The Weekly Advertiser* (Montgomery, AL), January 9, 1890, 1. Daisy Rice married James S. Glaze (d. 1889), a member of her father's law firm, in 1880.

²⁹ Smathers, *History of Land Titles*, vii.

³⁰ Smathers, *History of Land Titles*, viii-x; Carroll C. Jones, *Thomson's Pulp Mill: Building the Champion Fibre Company at Canton, North Carolina 1905 to 1908* (Johnson City, TN: Jan-Carol Publishing, Inc., 2018), 8-10; "Geo. Smathers' Funeral To Be This Afternoon," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 11, 1950, 2.

³¹ Deed book 68, page 461, Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, NC.

³² "The George Smathers Home Sold," *The Carolina Mountaineer*, July 2, 1925, 1.

³³ "W. J. Gautier, Pioneer, Dies," *The Miami Herald*, September 7, 1940, 10B.

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Just two years after purchasing the house, William and Mary Gautier transferred the house, along with additional property they had acquired in Waynesville, to their son John in 1927.³⁴ A recent graduate of the University of North Carolina, John Allen Gautier (1906-1991) joined his brother Robert in organizing the Gautier Funeral Home in Miami. The brothers later sold the business, and John Gautier became a car dealer for a short time before serving as the Dade County Tax Assessor from 1953 to 1961.³⁵ At the beginning of the Great Depression (and possibly due to his commitments with the funeral home), Gautier sold the house in 1930 to Francis Emory Fitch, Inc., of New York, a publishing company the specialized in printing statistics of the New York Stock Exchange and manuals for the financial markets.³⁶ The Fitch company sold the house in 1936 to D. P. Gautier, nephew of William J. Gautier.³⁷ David Pittman Gautier (1894-1975), son of D. M. and Catherine Gautier, served as the assistant tax assessor for the City of Miami before retiring in 1950. He divided his time between Miami and Waynesville, spending his summers in the cooler mountain climate. He spent the last few years of his life living in Waynesville full time.³⁸

After the death of D. P. Gautier, his estate sold the house to Virgil and Patsy Messer, both natives of Haywood County. At the time, the Messers resided in Winston-Salem where Virgil Messer (1941-2021) had completed medical school at Wake Forest University and Patsy Messer (1940-2015) was raising their three children and running a cake decorating business. Upon returning to Waynesville, Dr. Messer joined the practice of Dr. Ralph Feichter and Dr. Michael Waterson in the Medical Arts Building across from the old Haywood County Hospital. The Messers purchased the Smathers House from the Gautier family in May 1976.³⁹

The house sat empty for short time following the death of Dr. Messer while the couple's living trust and will went through probate. In September 2023, the house was sold to its current owners, who are undertaking a thorough rehabilitation of the distinguished Queen Anne style dwelling.⁴⁰ In particular, work on the house began with replacing the roof, which the Messers had updated soon after purchasing the property in 1976. At the time, the new roof was configured with a flat extension of the eave. Originally thought to be a box gutter, the flat extension allowed rainwater to pool at the top of the walls and had penetrated to the interior in several places, causing damage to the plaster ceilings and walls. Completion of the new roof has allowed the owners to repair and replace damaged plaster in the second-story rooms.

³⁴ Deed book 75, page 515, Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, NC.

³⁵ John Gautier obituary, *The Miami Herald*, November 10, 1991, 4B.

³⁶ Roscoe Conkling Fitch, *History of the Fitch Family A.D. 1400-1930*, Volume II (Haverhill, MA: Record Publishing Company, 1930), 102-105 and 109-110.

³⁷ Deed book 97, page 545, Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, NC.

³⁸ David Pittman Gautier obituary, *The Miami Herald*, March 11, 1975, 3B; Malinda Messer, "The Smathers-Gautier-Messer House," in Evelyn Coltman, ed., *Legends, Tales & History of Cold Mountain*, Book 4 (Waynesville, NC: Richard Coltman, 2008), 42.

³⁹ Deed book 281, page 712, Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, NC; Coltman, *Legends*, 43-44.

⁴⁰ Deed book 1095, page 1000, Haywood County Register of Deeds, Waynesville, NC.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HW0045

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Name of Property

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County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.49 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: 35.486761 Longitude: -82.996036

B. Latitude: Longitude:

C. Latitude: Longitude:

D. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: 17 | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: 17 | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: 17 | Easting: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The eligible boundary is shown by a thick dashed line on the accompanying Haywood County tax map. The boundary encompasses the full 2.49-acre tax parcel containing the house, barn, and other associated structures [PIN 8615-05-5889]. The boundary follows the legal parcel line on the northwest side of the property but is drawn along the edge of pavement where the property abuts Daisy Avenue, Clifton Street, and Balsam Drive.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The eligible boundary for the Smathers-Gautier contains the full extent of Lots 1 and 2, Block A, of the Oak Park Addition (Plat book D, page 20) acquired by George H. Smathers in the 1890s and encompasses all of the historic resources associated with the house on the 2.49-acre property.

Smathers-Gautier House
Name of Property

Haywood County, NC
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Clay Griffith
organization: Acme Preservation Services, LLC
street & number: 825 Merrimon Ave., Ste. C, #345
city or town: Asheville state: NC zip code: 28804
e-mail: cgriffith.acme@gmail.com
telephone: 828-281-3852
Date: March 16, 2026

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Smathers-Gautier House
Name of Property

Haywood County, NC
County and State

Photographs

The following information pertains to each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Smathers-Gautier House
Location: 124 Daisey Avenue, Waynesville, North Carolina
County: Haywood
Name of Photographer: Clay Griffith / Acme Preservation Services
Date of Photographs: August 30, 2024 (exteriors) and March 11, 2026 (interiors)
Location of Digital Master: Historic Preservation Office
North Carolina Division of Archives and History
109 E. Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2807

Photographs:

1. Smathers-Gautier House, façade, view to southwest
2. Smathers-Gautier House, side elevation, view to southeast
3. Smathers-Gautier House, oblique rear view to north
4. Smathers-Gautier House, side elevation, view to northwest
5. Smathers-Gautier House, porch, view to northwest
6. Smathers-Gautier House, interior, main hall, view from front entrance
7. Smathers-Gautier House, interior, main hall, view to front from rear
8. Smathers-Gautier House, interior, living room, view to northwest
9. Smathers-Gautier House, interior, parlor, view to south
10. Smathers-Gautier House, interior, dining room, view to southeast
11. Smathers-Gautier House, interior, bedroom, view to east
12. Smathers-Gautier House, interior, second-story hall, view to northeast
13. Springhouse, façade, view to south
14. Well, view to southwest
15. Staff Cottage, façade, view to northwest
16. Barn, façade, view to southwest
17. Barn, oblique rear view to northeast

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.