Historic and Architectural Resources of Yancey County, North Carolina

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Pate House now listed as Sam Byrd House
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YANCEY COUNTY

Yancey County has a history unique to the natural pattern and resources of the area and to the people who settled there. The close community development was due in part to the isolation and confines of the coves and valleys, and of the hardships of a subsistence lifestyle endured by a people of a similar cultural and social economic background. The sense of a close community continues to add special appeal to the county.

The mountain backdrop of Yancey County furnished a unique setting for past generations of conservative, yet resourceful, inhabitants. That unique setting remains a present-day attraction to county residents who cherish tradition and old timey values. The work ethics and social values of past and present generations are reflected in the county's significant architecture and historic resources, which are identified below. Unpretentious structures are nestled in mountain coves or sited along flat bottomlands near cold mountain streams. Through the remaining architectural fabric of these structures, a history of Yancey County unfolds.

Physical Features: Their Impact and Related Visible Traces

Of all the mountainous counties of North Carolina, none features a more rugged and isolated terrain than Yancey County. Elevations run from 6,684 feet atop Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi River, to approximately 2,840 feet at the town square of Burnsville. The Black Mountains, which extend from the Buncombe-Yancey County line northeast to the head of Bowlens Creek in south central Yancey County,[1] boast several summits which are above 6,000 feet--one of which is Mt. Mitchell. The Bald Mountains also extend into Yancey County as well as into Haywood and Madison counties.[2] Other significant peaks, for example, include the Cane and Green mountains.

This area is one of dense woodlands, with evergreens such as spruce, hemlock, and balsam predominant among the higher elevations. Deciduous varieties at lower elevations include poplar, maple, elm, beech and birch trees, to name but a few. Hardwoods, such as oak, walnut and hickory, are also to be found. A 1930 publication informs us that "Yancey used to be noted for its chestnut lumber, but a blight has struck and they are becoming very rare."[3]

The Hervey Lodge, built in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, is constructed of chestnut logs and stands as a monument to the chestnut tree of yesteryear. The logs are of such a size that four logs reach to the chestnut log cornice. They are joined by a full-dovetailed notch. The board and batten door is also of chestnut with massive black iron hardware. It is believed that the house was built by a man from Old Fort, McDowell County, who ran a sawmill in the South Toe section of Yancey County.

From approximately the middle of May to late June the mountainsides are covered in blooms of laurel, rhododendron and azalea. As noted in the History and Geography of Yancey County (1930), shipments of laurel, rhododendron and boxwoods were shipped to markets in Asheville and other cities. Galax was another natural vegetation shipped to market to be used as decoration. In 1930, the price ranged from 30¢ to 50¢ per thousand, depending upon the grade and color of the leaves.[4] Wild herbs and ginseng were gathered and sold to provide income. The mountainous section was one of the foremost suppliers of medicinal herbs.[5] Immense quantities were shipped to the northern cities and to Europe. "In traveling through the mountains bales of these herbs may be seen collected about the country stores as bales of cotton are seen in the middle and eastern regions."[6]. As early as 1837, ginseng was shipped first to Philadelphia and on to Chinese markets. As late as 1850, the total value of ginseng collected in the country was $5,500.[7]

To this day, Yancey retains and protects her forest lands. Out of a total of 199,040 acres in the county, 120,705 acres are in forest management, while another 32,120 acres are in federal ownership and constitute a part of the Pisgah National Forest.

All of the 311 square miles of the county is part of the Toe River Valley. "The name of the valley is taken from the river Toe, an abbreviation of the word Estatoe.[8] According to legend, Estatoe was the name of an Indian princess who drowned herself in the river where her lover was killed by her kinsmen."[9] Being west of the Eastern Continental Divide, the Toe River Valley essentially slopes

westward, with all waters flowing through the Nolichucky and westward.[10] This is worth noting because associated valleys generally provided easier access to settled areas to the west and not areas associated with eastern North Carolina.

Toe River is but one of the many watercourses in Yancey County. William S. Powell, in The North Carolina Gazetteer, names and describes some such rivers, creeks and branches as below:

> Toe River is formed on the Mitchell-Yancey County line near Boonford by the junction of North Toe and South Toe rivers. It flows northwest along the line to join Cane River to form the Nolichucky River; Cane River rises in the Black Mountains of south Yancey County and meanders north to join the Toe River; Prices Creek rises in southwest Yancey County and flows north into Cane River; Indian Creek rises in west Yancey County and flows north into Prices Creek; Bald Creek rises in west Yancey County and flows east into Cane River; Possumtrot Creek rises in west Yancey County and flows north-east into Bald Creek; Bowlens Creek rises in south Yancey County and flows northwest into Cane River; Brush Creek rises in northeast Yancey County and flows north into the Toe River; Jacks Creek rises in west central Yancey County and flows northeast into Toe River; Little Crabtree Creek rises in central Yancey County and flows east into South Toe River; Lickskillet Branch rises in west Yancey County and flows southeast into Bald Creek; Cattail Branch is found in south Yancey County by the junction of North Fork Cattail Creek and South Fork Cattail Creek and flows northwest into Cane River.[11]

The coves where such watercourses flowed became pockets of isolated settlements, separated from one another by the mountains in between. One observation summarizes the effect: "Numerous cross-chains (mountain ranges) intersect the county in all directions, leaving very little valley land except along the margins of small streams, with broader ones along the larger streams,

Toe and Caney rivers.[12] Some early settlers built their cabins near the small creeks which meandered along the mountainsides. However, many were attracted to the fertile river valleys. These valleys not only supplied water and food, but also provided rich soil for raising crops. Large-scale farming operations in the bottomlands to the west provided a comfortable living for many in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The county's abundant swift running streams also helped reduce physical labor in timber and logging operations. In the 1900s sawmills were brought into Yancey County. These sawmills were later replaced by those run by gasoline or steam engines.[13] Until the coming of the railroads, the virgin forests of western North Carolina were virtually untouched, except by the relatively insignificant clearings of the farmers and their very small-scale lumbering operations.

> We done all our chopping, of course, with axes, and squared off the ends with the axe, too. There wa'n't any cross-cut saws yet. Plenty of lumber that went out of here by ox team to Marion and Cranberry was whipsawed. That was real work. We'd pick a sidling bank and roll logs out on skid-poles laid from the top of the bank into the crotch of a tree lower down. That would leave a place for the man sawing on the bottom side to get in under. He and the man on the upside each hewed to a line and it worked very well. Finally, Clem Ellis, that's Ed Ellis' father, and Rube Woody brought in the first circle-saw we ever seen and set hit up on Brushy Creek. That was in 1893 when I was ten years old.[14]

~~This was Doc Hoppas recollection of the lumber business, as told to Muriel~~ Earley Sheppard, author of Cabins in the Laurel.

Present Yancey County is divided into eleven townships known as Ramsey Town, Green Mountain, Brush Creek, Egypt, Jacks Creek, Crabtree, Cane River, Burnsville, Price Creek, Pensacola, and South Toe. Most of these names reflect the influence of the mountains and waterways from whence the townships take their names.

Yancey County is also rich in minerals and gems. Gems, such as garnets and beryl, were mined in the county and mica mining is still a significant industry today. Since the latter industry began in the 1860s Mitchell and Yancey counties have been two of the foremost producers of mica.[15] In the late 1870s a circuit judge mentioned the existence of eight mica mines in Yancey County, one of which was the C. D. Ray Mine.[16] Several mines were also in operation in the early twentieth century. The list includes the Gibbs, Poll Hill, Aley, Young, Bailey Mountain, Hensley, Cattail Branch, Letterman, Ray, and Fannie Gouge mines.[17] In 1926 a block of mica weighing 4,400 pounds was taken from the Fannie Gouge Mine. "Mica from the Ray mines won the prize in the world fair at Vienna."[18] Cutting plants for the mica were the Consolidated Mica Company at Biltmore, North Carolina.[19] Generally, feldspar mines were rich in mica. Feldspar mining began around 1911 when the doors of the North State Feldspar Corporation and the Feldspar Mining Company near Micaville opened for operation. The feldspar was shipped out of the county to market for processing until grinding plants were established in Yancey and Mitchell counties. In order of their establishment, they were:

North State Feldspar Corporation, Micaville, N.C.....1924
Tennessee Mineral Products Corp., Spruce Pine, N.C.....1927
Golding Sons Company, Spruce Pine, N.C.....1928
Feldspar Milling Company, Micaville, N.C.....1929
Southern Feldspar Company, Toe Cane, N.C.....1929[20]

The Goog Rock, originally owned by North State Feldspar Corporation, was worked until the 1950s. It was located on the South Toe River, north of Micaville, and across from the Black Mountain Railroad. The feldspar was put into buckets and carried by a pulley to the opposite side of the river where it was loaded on the train and sent to Micaville for grinding. Today the scars of the open pits--pits which have since filled with water in many instances--are yet visible, but other associated structures have disappeared from the landscape.

Graphite was found near Busick in the early twentieth century and the National Graphite Company was formed. The life of the company was short-lived because the machinery and other processes were inefficient.[21]

Two clay mines, the Pollard Clay Company near Windom and the Harris Clay Company below Micaville, were operated in the 1920s. The clay was shipped to pottery districts in East Liverpool, Ohio.[22]

Such were the raw materials and energy sources to be found and put to use in Yancey County. Most materials served the dual purposes of supplying building materials and supplying jobs, the latter particularly in the twentieth century as the mining and timber industries took hold in the county. Rocks from the rugged hillsides were used for foundations, chimneys and in some instances, the

structures themselves. The forest supplied the materials for log and frame houses. The existence of clay mines in the county indicates that there was an excellent material for chinking between logs for cabins or rocks for chimneys. It is also an indication that brick for chimneys could have been made for use in the county. Though some building materials were brought into the county by wagon, car or train, these ready resources were utilized by most residents.

Initial Exploration and Early Settlement

Historical records indicate that the Spanish may have been the first Europeans to explore western North Carolina. In 1540, Hernando de Soto came out of Florida and, after being directed to the "gold bearing mountains" by Indians along the route, eventually explored the southwestern portion of the state.[23] Western North Carolina's historic native peoples were the Cherokee and the Catawba Indians. Though documentation is scarce, it is a certainty that the Cherokee Indians hunted in what is now Yancey County. A large Indian pot was found on Green Mountain near Burnsville. Other artifacts, such as arrowheads, have also been uncovered.[24]

Settlement of North Carolina's western lands was forbidden by King George, III, in the Royal Proclamation of 1763. The Proclamation line ran along the crest of the mountains, and lands west of the Blue Ridge were reserved for the Indians.[25] However, in 1765, England's agent for dealing with the Indians in the south reported land grants in the North Carolina mountains, which deprived the Cherokee of their hunting grounds. The line established by the Proclamation was generally ignored. Daniel Boone made various forays into the western mountains starting in 1767, often leading new colonists into the back country. In 1767 Joseph Wedgewood sent agents to bring him the fine white clay which he had heard existed near present-day Franklin, North Carolina. By 1768, the Holston Valley settlements in Virginia had grown so large they extended into North Carolina.[26] It was not until 1777, in accordance with the Treaty of Long Island, in the Holston River Valley, that the Cherokee ceded all lands east of

the Blue Ridge to the state.[27] After 1777, North Carolina began to actively issue land grants within the area, with the lands being distributed to people of varying degrees of wealth and aspirations.[28]

Early land grants for land lying in the Toe River Valley were obtained by John McKnitt Alexander and William Sharpe in 1778. The land was considered valuable for agricultural purposes and for its mineral deposits. These two men had secured four grants. "One tract lay at the mouth of Rock Creek, another on the banks of Caney Creek near where Burnsville is now located, and the last on the south side of Yellow Mountain."[29] Alexander and Sharpe did not live on their tracts of land. "Probably the first grant taken out by an actual resident was that obtained by Samuel Bright, March 5, 1780, for 360 acres lying in the Valley of the North Toe."[30] Around 1796, John Gray Blount of Beaufort County, brother of William Blount, a delegate to the 1787 Constitutional Convention, was given a land grant calling for 320,640 acres extending from the Toe River on the north and Crabtree Creek on the east. Practically all of the present day Yancey County was included in this grant.[31] A study of the 1790 census indicated about eighty families and a total population of more than 300 persons as living in the Toe River Valley.[32] Most of these early settlers were of English or Scotch-Irish descent.

For those who had settled in western North Carolina, Indian trails and crude roads of the wagon trains passing westward were the sole link with the outside world. Travelers along these roads would bring news of events of

the "outside", with only an occasional tradesman appearing to sell his wares. The life of most backwoodsmen was one of general isolation which dictated a self-sufficient lifestyle.

During this period of early settlement, building types were simple, generally consisting of small, crude log cabins. The Swedes may have introduced the technique of horizontal log construction in the Delaware Valley in 1638, but it was the Germans who settled in Pennsylvania in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries that have been credited with the spread of log construction techniques along the western frontier. The Scotch-Irish, who landed in Pennsylvania, and the English quickly adapted the construction techniques of the Swedes and the Germans, finding that all necessary raw materials were plentiful.[33]

Unfortunately, in Yancey County no known examples of log building types have survived from the eighteenth century and few from the early nineteenth century. Most examples of log construction dates from around the 1850s into the early twentieth century. The tendency to continue building with logs into the twentieth century was due in part to the isolation and lack of finished materials in the county. This lasted into the 1930s when industries, such as mining and timber, began exporting the natural resources of Yancey County in substantial quantities.

Early County History and Antebellum Architecture

Until the formation of Yancey County in 1833, the area was part of the vast western expanse known as Burke and Buncombe counties. Morganton, located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge, was the county seat of Burke. This was an inconvenient place for administering public service to the mountainous regions. The new town of Asheville, incorporated in 1797, even though located within the mountains, was also inaccessible.

> For example, a member of the county court of Buncombe who resides near Toe River would have to travel more than forty miles over very bad roads to attend the sessions of court at Asheville. His neighbor living just north of the river, in Burke County, would have to travel approximately the same distance to reach Morganton. In either case the round trip would consume two days and the night--this in addition to the time required by the transaction of business.[34]

The area was totally dependent upon the two adjoining counties for government, with the exception of local justices of the peace.

An act establishing the county of Yancey legally described the new county:

> . . .beginning on the extreme height of the Black Mountain; running thence along said mountain to Ogle's improvement; thence along the dividing ridge to Daniel Carter's fork field; thence a direct course to the mouth of Big Ivey Creek; thence, a direct line, so as to include James Allen's house to the Tennessee line; thence with said line to County of Ashe; thence with the line of said County to Grandmother Mountain; thence a direct course to the extreme height of the Humpbacked mountain; thence with the Blue Ridge to where it intersects the Black Mountain; thence with the ridge of said mountain, to the beginning, be, and the same is hereby erected into a separate and distinct county, by the name of Yancey, with all the rights, privileges and immunities of the other counties in this state.[35]

Later the county lines would be reestablished. Portions of Yancey would be used to complete the boundaries of Buncombe, Watauga, Madison and Mitchell counties.

The county was named for Bartlett Yancey. A native North Carolinian, Yancey was both a member of Congress and a state legislator. The act establishing the county also authorized commissioners to purchase land, lay out a town and erect a courthouse.[36] The new town and county seat was named Burnsville in honor of Captain Otway Burns. Burns was a state legislator who acquired distinction during the War of 1812 as commander of a Privateer named Snap Dragon. A statue honoring Captain Otway Burns now stands on the town square. The statue was given to Yancey County in 1909 by Walter Francis Burns, grandson of Captain Otway Burns. Apparently, neither Yancey nor Burns had made a contribution to the exploration or settlement of the area, but were honored by virtue of having supported the formation of the county in the North Carolina legislature.

The location of the town is determined by commissioners appointed by the legislature to select a tract of land, not less than 100 acres, to be located no more than five miles from the home of James Greenlee.[37] A list of early settlers in Yancey County included Thomas Ray, Sr., who settled in the Cane River Valley, M. P. Penland, Samuel Fleming, Sr., John Bailey, Bacchus Smith, and Thomas Young, who settled in the Bolens Creek section. Two of these men, Thomas Ray, Sr. and John "Yellow Jacket" Bailey, offered gifts of land for use as a county seat, with Bailey's parcel of one-hundred acres being the larger of

the two. Bailey felt so strongly about his gift that he traveled to Raleigh and, with the help of State Senator Burns, was allowed to make a personal plea before a committee of the General Assembly. His gift was accepted and the deed acknowledged in 1834.[38]

> Everyone was well pleased with the Central location of the county seat on the Burnsville plateau, equally hard to reach from all sections. Those who lived in the more thickly settled Rock Creek and Cane Creek settlements had farther to come, but the road was more level than for those who came through Ivey and Paint Gap. It all evened up agreeably.[39]

"Yellow-Jacket" John Bailey was so named because of a quick temper and willingness to fight. It is appropriate that the first elected mayor of Burnsville in 1922 would be his great-great nephew, Molton Alexander Bailey. Molton's son, Henry Grady Bailey, would be elected mayor from 1944 to 1948.[40]

John Bailey's home still stands some thirteen miles north of Burnsville near the Mitchell County line. This two-story structure with half-dovetailed construction is an excellent example of a dogtrot-type house, with an open space dividing two equal single units, or "pens" as they are called. A ladder was placed in the passageway. One crude post and lintel mantel remains intact, though another has been removed. The house once had a rock single-shouldered chimney on each end, but one has now been torn down. A projecting front two-story addition was later added to the house, probably by Sampson Bailey. This was a frame enclosure which extended the approximate width of the dog-trot passageway, adding a front gable with a sawn bargeboard. The house stands vacant and is used for storage. Its original exterior and interior has received

little alteration. "Yellow-Jacket" John Bailey's house is one of the few structures in Yancey County which probably dates to the early nineteenth century.

In 1834, the first court in Yancey County was held in the "Caney River" (Cane River) Church. Court was later held in a temporary wooden building in Burnsville. A contract was later secured for the erection of a brick courthouse in 1836. This courthouse was replaced in 1908 by a concrete structure which, at present, is adaptively reused as a town hall.

"The first county jail was constructed of hewn logs, and held substantially together with spikes, made by the village blacksmith. This served as a jail until sometime in 1835, when a brick building was made."[41] In 1908, a two-story concrete jail was also erected. The present Yancey County Courthouse and Jail facility was built in 1965.

Another structure, now known as the Nu-Wray Inn, which is located on the town square in Burnsville, began as a trading post in the early nineteenth century. "In 1833, the inn was an eight-bedroom log structure with a dining room. The kitchen was located in the basement."[42] The inn has since undergone three major stages of construction.

The high-style architecture of the pre-Civil War era did not penetrate the mountain walls of Yancey County. Across the country, architects and builders were executing English and classically inspired designs.

All of this had little effect on Yancey County. However, an awareness of eclectic derivations of certain styles is evident in the architecture of the county. The architectural inventory of the county identified a surviving antebellum frame "I-house" near Micaville--the Abernathy-Angelin-Gouge house. It is a two-story three-bay frame dwelling with a boxed cornice and pattern board. Its exterior end rock chimneys are typical of other chimneys in the county. The door is crowned by a transom and flanked by sidelights, providing light for the center hall arrangement. A dog-leg stair with winders, which was later enclosed, leads to the second floor. The newell is hand-carved. Windows and doors have thin moldings. The tall, simple mantels, upstairs and down, are representative of the federal style. A chair rail runs throughout the house.

Although most antebellum structures in the county were constructed of log, very little of this early building tradition remains. There is no evidence of any buildings of brick before the Civil War. Even the existence of the Abernathy-Anglin-Gouge house at this early date is an anomaly. Because of its uniqueness, the house is well-deserving of continued care, attention and preservation.

Architectural style in Yancey County was influenced more by economic and geographic conditions than by architects and builders. In many North Carolina counties, pre-Civil War conditions were linked to slave labor. Owning slaves in most mountain counties was impractical. "Only a few owners of river valley farms had found it profitable to invest in slaves."[43] Such river valley farms existed in the southwestern section of Yancey. The fertile flat bottomlands

allowed for the production of livestock and grain, which was used by the tobacco and cotton plantations of the east and by other southern states for the upkeep of their slaves. Between 1840-1850 livestock and grain production had increased significantly. The following table, taken from the censuses of 1840-1850 substantiates this claim.

	Number, Quantity or Value Produced	
	1840	1850
Cattle	$ 5,585	$10,379
Sheep	5,041	20,061
Swine	18,718	19,132
Wool	2,931 lbs.	19,829 lbs.
Butter/Cheese	$ 5,182	$ 8,984.20
Rye	418 bu.	6,275 bu.
Tobacco	4,830 lbs.	12,245 lbs.
Oats	33,670 bu.	122,544 bu.[44]

Slavery was more prevalent in the southwestern section where the larger livestock and grain producing farms were situated.

> There were only 362 slaves in the entire valley in 1860, while in 1862 there were only 65 slaves in the portion cut off to form Mitchell County. There seems to have been very little discussion of the institution of slavery, but its merits were not so easily appreciated in those northern districts where it did not exist at all. Three of the five districts in Mitchell County had no slaves. The tendency was to look upon slavery as being in competition with free labor and as constituting a distinct disadvantage to the poor man.[45]

Yancey County's slave population was relatively small compared to other regions of North Carolina. However, within the county the effects of the Civil War were dramatic. An increase in property tax, higher prices for commodities, and a rising crime rate posed serious problems for an already isolated, economically depressed area.

The Civil War

In 1860, the fate of the Union was at stake. North Carolina's Unionist vote in the presidential election of that year indicated opposition to secession.[46] During 1860-1861 the Unionist majority began to weaken. Secessionists were aggressive, launching an enthusiastic public campaign in support of their cause. In February of 1861, a Convention Act was passed which directed people to vote on the calling of a convention. However, the people of North Carolina voted against the Convention which was to determine the issue of secession. It was not until May 20, at the Convention in Raleigh, that North Carolina adopted an ordinace of secession and ratified the Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States of America. Confederate troops had already fired on Fort Sumpter, capturing it on April 14th. On April 15th, Lincoln had issued a call to states in the Union to supress the Southern insurrection.[47] "The outbreak of hostilities and Lincoln's call for troops, followed by his proclamation blockading Southern ports, unified North Carolina. When the only question was the choice of sides in the war, Unionists in every section of the state became Secessionists."[48]

Yancey County had voted for the Convention to consider secession in 1861, while Mitchell County cast its votes against the Convention. Once war was declared, the population of the valley was split into three groups.

> There was a group in the southwestern section of Mitchell County which was opposed to war under any conditions, and it was augmented by various men who felt that they werenot vitally concerned in the war and planned in any event to avoid military service. There was another group whose Union sentiment remained strong despite the fact

> had joined the Confederacy. They hoped for the defeat of the South from the very beginning, and a few of them escaped to the North in the earliest stages of the war and joined the Union army. The third group, consisting of three-fourths of the people, immediately became enthusiastic in their support of the Confederacy, many of them hastening to join the nearest military organization.[49]

The pro-Union northern section of Yancey, made into Mitchell County in 1861, may have so sided for several reasons. Many Western North Carolinians "were opposed to slavery; others felt that the Civil War was a war of the planter class and they had no reason to fight for planter dominance of the state."[50] Families and neighbors were divided as the Civil War brought disunion and discord to the mountains. Some cast their lots with the Union, while others volunteered to fight with the Confederacy.

When war was declared, the Black Mountain boys were organized and reported to Raleigh. Two other regiments were formed as a result of conscription in Yancey County.[51] North Carolina was the only Southern state which had agreed to clothe its own soldiers. Clothing and food were scarce.[52] "High prices were due to scarcities, statewide and regional, and to high transportation costs. Selfish merchants, manufacturers, blockade runners, and farmers charged extortionate prices for goods the people needed and could not get elsewhere. Relief of distress and destitution among civilians, especially soldiers' families, was a major problem.[53] Within the county, conditions deteriorated from the beginning of the war. In 1862, the property tax was raised from $1.90 to $4.65. This became a problem for people who were accustomed to living on a day-to-day basis.[54]

> The Confederate tax that most drastically affected the mountain people, however, was the tax in kind. It required that ten percent of all farm products above a specified exemption for home use must be delivered by the producer to the nearest railroad for shipment to Confederate warehouses.[55]

Perhaps the most serious problem of all in the mountain counties was the rising crime rate. Home Guard units were organized and charged with local defense. "John W. McElroy was made Brigadier General in charge of western units and made his headquarters at Burnsville."[56] The "war in the hills" took the form of raids carried out by individuals or by small bands of deserters or marauders. Some guerrilla raids by Confederate soldiers were directed against Union sympathizers in the mountain counties.[57] A recorded incident of looting took place in Burnsville on April 10, 1864. Union sympathizers broke into an ammunitions magazine, taking what they wanted and destroying the rest. Wives of Union sympathizers had previously broke into a storehouse taking wheat and other food.[58] Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany counties were subject to constant raids, but the raids most feared were those by Colonel George W. Kirk's Third North Carolina and Tennessee Federal Volunteers.[59] As one who experienced the strife of the Civil War put it: "Hit was awful for the folks in the mountains which ever army came through."[60]

The Civil War ended, but the bitterness caused by opposing factions lives in the form of sharp political divisions between counties. Until recently, Yancey County had voted predominately Democratic, while Mitchell County's voters generally expressed Republican sentiments.[61]

Log Construction

The virgin forests of the mountain region provided a readily available building material. In addition, rock was accessible and often used in structures for foundations and chimneys. Early cabins were square or rectangular structures with simple interiors displaying a fireplace and oftentimes, a ladder or crude stair rising to the loft. Hewn logs were frequently used to build these one or two room cabins, generally measuring sixteen-by-sixteen to sixteen-by-twenty feet, which were constructed in the county's earlier period of settlement. This method of construction stretched into the twentieth century, as roads and railroads were long in coming. Because of this lasting tradition of building with logs, surviving examples are often difficult to date.

During this period of time (mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century), several cabin and house types emerged. The early one room log structures are sometimes referred to as "single-pen" cabins. When an addition was made to the chimney-free end, a "double-pen" resulted. Other types found in the county include a "saddlebag" and "dogtrot" house form. The saddlebag and dogtrot dwellings often indicate that a new unit had been added. "When the new unit was added to the chimney end of the cabin--so that the chimney became central--a 'saddlebag' house had formed. If the addition were made to the chimney-free end and a floored and covered passage was left between the two pens, then a 'dogtrot' house resulted."[94]

In addition to the hewn log cabins, pole barns and other pole outbuildings were popular. These cabins and pole outbuildings are found throughout the county. Corner joints in this horizontal log construction vary. The crude notching techniques employed include saddle, diamond, square, V-notching, half-dovetailing, and full-dovetailing. Most of the log cabins have consisted of one or two rooms, with an exterior end chimney. However, one cabin, located in the Crabtree Township on Ed Young Road (SR 1162), boasts single logs approximately forty-five feet in length. A square notching technique was employed. The house dates from the turn of the century.

It is no surprise that one of the earliest surviving log structures in Yancey County was a rather pretentious dwelling owned by "Yellow Jacket" John Bailey. As noted previously, Bailey donated the land for Burnsville, the county seat. His home was no simple cabin, but instead a two-story impressive structure with a dogtrot running between units at the ground level. Another well-to-do landowner in Yancey was Strawbridge Young. Young's land stretched as far as Boonford and Micaville, including a large portion of present day Yancey County. Descendants of Strawbridge family populated the eastern end of the county. The issue of Strawbridge and Martha Wilson Young were: Thomas, Mary "Polly", Joshua, George, Jessee, Wesley, Seth, Naomi, Josiah, John and Ellen "Nellie" Young. The Strawbridge Young place has not survived the years. However, his grandson, Zephania Young, issue of Seth and Seth's wife Sarah, constructed a two-story, one-bay, log house (of quite a grand scale) which stands today as a symbol of a type of architecture able to withstand even a

hundred years of harsh climate and neglect. At least thirteen of the issue of Zephania and Melissa Marsh Young are named here: Tarter, Scionce, Gertie, Sallie, Taudie, Agnes, Dollie, Sudie, Nell, Lizzie, Lon, Nat and Molt Young. The log house was larger than most other log cabins in the county and was built to accommodate Zeph's large family, or at least in anticipation of such a family. The hewn logs measure approximately one-and-one half feet in height and are joined by a half-dovetail notch. An exterior end chimney stands in the one room section and an interior chimney also stands in the ell of the house. The interior chimney is comprised of a back-to-back double fireplace. The mantels have been removed and the interior gutted, but exposed rafters seem to have been beaded. The structure, sited on a gently sloping hillside, is now used as a corn crib and tobacco barn. Zeph inherited this portion of the Strawbridge Young property from his father, Seth. The property is located on what is now known as Rice Road. That section of Yancey County has, in the past, been called by the name of "Pors Creek". The Zeph Young house was probably built during the middle of the nineteenth century.

These two structures are representative of the exception, and not the rule, in early building practices in the county. The norm for erecting shelters, temporary or permanent, is best depicted by nineteenth century examples such as the Hensley-Ray-Silver cabin and a cabin in the Micaville vicinity. The Hensley-Ray-Silver cabin could date as early as the 1850s, but is most likely a post-Civil War example of a one-story-and-loft log dwelling. Inside, a ladder leads to a loft. The logs are joined at the corner by a half-dovetail

notch--the most prevalent form of notching in the county. The porch extends across the full facade, covering the one-bay entry. The chimney is of either river rock or fieldstone and is chinked with mud. A log springhouse supplied water for the cabin, while a creek flowed nearby. The builder used a V-notch to join these logs. Another one-story-and-loft log cabin near Micaville also features half-dovetail cornering. Here an enclosed stair leads to the loft. The rock chimney is basically dry-laid with some mud. This cabin probably dates from the late nineteenth century.

The Mitchell King house, circa 1873, near Silver's Peak, also displays half-dovetail cornering. This one-story three-bay log house was built by the present owner's grandfather, Mitchell King. The two-room plan has been extended by a frame addition placed to the side of the house and by a rear shed. One exterior end rock chimney has been partially removed. Mitchell King was a farmer. Two apple orchards were once located on this property. His son, Riley, was married around 1903. Riley built a frame house near his father, which now stands in ruins.

The Lennie Brinkley house on George's Fork, probably constructed in the third quarter of the nineteenth century, is a good example of the V-notch corner joining techniques. This one-room log cabin has received a later frame addition, becoming L-shaped in form. The mantels have been removed, but a large flat rock lintel faces the opening of the fireplace. The rock chimney is basically dry-laid.

Many of the log structures in Yancey County were covered in weatherboarding. This practice could have begun as early as 1850 when there were two sawmills in the county, but such use was not customary. The Anglin-Edge house is a later example of this practice. Weatherboards cover most of the exterior, while flush board sheathing was placed under the semi-engaged porch. The interior sheathing is of flush boards and narrow-beaded tongue and groove materials. This one-story house, with an addition to the front, is located at the head of a hollow. The road to the house follows a small creek. A natural spring is located at the base of a large beech tree. This tranquil setting is typical for homesites throughout the county.

Log dwellings were modified over the years to accommodate the needs and desires of their owners. Often they received additions, usually of frame. They became large farmhouses, were merely enlarged for additional living space, or were incorporated for other uses. The James Woodby house exemplifies such modification. The house began as a one-room log structure, but is now emblematic of a typical one-bay, two-story county farmhouse. Even though the entire interior is covered with flush board sheathing and the exterior is covered in weatherboards, the presence of the one-room log structure is discernable. The size of some walls, which measure almost a foot in width, helps to locate the original logs. It is, however, the Washington Green house on Double Island whose adaptations tell a story which stretches from the late nineteenth century to the present day. This two-room log structure has a later rear ell kitchen addition, built at some unknown date. Recently, a final

chapter was written when the exterior was covered with modern materials. A suggestion of what once existed remains only in form and in the rock chimney whose stack rises above the roofline.

Log farm buildings have a longevity surpassing that of other structures--illustrative of architecture which remains unencumbered by changing times. There was no real need to make them warmer or finer. They served functional purposes which have endured. Such log and pole outbuildings served as barns, corn cribs, animal pens, sheds, etc. These are scattered throughout the county and can be found adjacent to a small log cabin or a sizeable farmhouse. The existence of these buildings often communicates a message of self-sufficiency and a folk tradition of small-scale farming.

1870s - 1920s: An Era of Modest Progress

The Civil War and Reconstruction era left its mark on the entire state of North Carolina, and it was several years before adjustments to the effects allowed for a new surge of progress. Even though agriculture continued to be the basic economic pursuit, it was handicapped by the destruction of farm property and loss of livestock during the war.[62] In the county of Yancey, between the 1880s and 1920s, a period of modest prosperity emerged. This held especially true for families in the flat bottomlands of western and northwestern Yancey County, and is verified in the number of substantial farmhouses remaining today. Judge David Schenck, who held circuit court in the mountain counties between 1877 and 1880, wrote in his diary that "this sparsely settled county of 7,694 persons was a grazing area, and there were eight cattle dealers who bought up cattle from the farms and had them driven to market in South Carolina or Tennessee, where there were rail connections."[63] Land speculators advertised to boost sales and boasted that "hundreds of cattle fatten here in summer."[64] An 1896 State Board of Agriculture publication also noted that Yancey County was "well adapted to stock-raising."[65] This publication listed the domestic animals in the county as 1) 1,265 horses; 2) 875 mules; 3) 4,599 cattle; 4) 5,818 hogs; and 5) 4,520 sheep.[66] This list indicates that sheep, seldom mentioned in other reports concerning the county, were raised in substantial numbers.

Crops in the mountains were not generally produced in large quantities. Most were grown and used by the farmers themselves, according to a report issued by the State Board of Agriculture in 1986.

> No great surplus of valuable crops finds its way to distant markets from this region; few big farms require the labor of many hands; but the conditions excel for the industrious farmer, who may here surround himself with all those products of comfort and luxury which constitute an independent living: corn, wheat, rye, oats, hay, Irish potatoes, apples, sorghum, buckwheat, butter, cheese, milk, honey, and numerous vegetables. The field is a wide one for growing the finest winter apples; for dairy products, for vegetable growing, and for canning establishments.[67]

The mountains were particularly suitable for apple growing. Many of the large and small farmers in Yancey County planted orchards, and their traces are yet visible upon the landscape. Even though Cane River was named for the...

> heavy canebrakes that clothe its banks in places, supplying fishpoles, pipestems, and reeds for the loom, ... the river valley is more noted for the products of its farms--grains, grass, and apples. No one can visit this region in the summertime without noticing the orchards loaded with handsome apples, fruit of so fine a quality that it took a prize at the Paris Exposition.[68]

Although this 1913 account specifically refers to the Cane River section where the larger farms were situated, smaller orchards thrived in other sections of the county.

Peaches and grapes grew well in the mountain counties as well.[69] One account in the 1870s refers to "Big Tom" Wilson. After a hunting and fishing expedition in the county "Big Tom went to a mountain orchard and filled his hat and pockets with October peaches, large white freestones, and brought them down for the party to feast on."[70]

These were the days of wagons and carriages--of muddy roads and unsuccessful attempts at building new thoroughfares. Since the creation of the county in 1833, the construction of roads had been a primary issue. The first

act relating to roads was passed in 1834, and the vast majority of enacted legislation concerning the county before 1860 was road related. A number of false starts occurred. Generally, road building was expensive and beyond the resources of the county. The road commissioned in 1834 was only partially complete when abandoned temporarily in the 1840s. In 1847, a new commission was appointed to lay out a road from Burnsville to the Tennessee line.[71] Road building was dependent upon free labor, and the county courts of Buncombe and Yancey were directed to "call out all hands subject by law to work upon said road and to make the route which shall be laid off by said commissioners.[72] This attempt also proved unsuccessful. Similar unsuccessful attempts were made to extend the road in the direction of Morganton. "For this project $1,000 was to be paid from the public improvement fund of the state in the event the citizens of Burke and Yancey expended $500 in cash or labor upon the road."[73] In 1849 the McDowell and Yancey Turnpike Company was to "secure subscriptions of $7,000 from the citizens of Yancey and McDowell counties and to receive $3,000 from the state public improvement board."[74] The $7,000 subscription could not be secured, and an amendment by the legislature reduced the subscription to $3,000 with further provisions if this plan failed. Additional funds were authorized in 1861, but because of interruption by the Civil War, the road was not finished until several years later.[75] Similarly, "in 1857 the internal improvement board was authorized to subscribe $3,000 to the capital of the Laurel Turnpike Company, but this amount was insufficient and the road was not finished until after the Civil War."[76]

The roads linking Yancey with the outside world were important, but connecting roads within the county were critical.

> These were usually opened up by county court without reference to any special act of the legislature authorizing each particular project. For example, in 1835 a road from William Baker's on Rock Creek to D. D. Baker's on Cane Creek was ordered built; in 1836 one connecting the Yellow Mountain on Bright's Road with the Iron Mountain Road; and in 1851 one from Jack's Creek across the Green Mountains to Burnsville.[77]

A system of good roadways connecting the mountainous areas to eastern sections of the state and other states did not become a reality until the turn of the century. A 1914 account of an automobile trip to Yancey County spoke of muddy roads and places where the river could not be forded, making roads impassable.[78] In 1915, a state highway commission was created to advise counties about road building. The U. S. Government became involved in 1916 through the Department of Agriculture, which administered federal aid to the states. Construction costs for federal projects were to be split by the states. North Carolina committed to raise one-half the funds for new roads in order to participate in the federal funding. The State Highway Commission was authorized to raise the required funds. Obviously, those counties with sufficient resources took advantage of the proposal, but due to limited resources and rough terrain, road building in the mountains was not as advanced as in other sections, with some areas relying on turnpikes (toll roads). In 1921, the General Assembly established the state highway system. The state assumed control of the state highways, including construction and maintenance. Unlike prior enactments, the counties were relieved of this burden. In 1931, the state assumed

responsibility for the maintenance of secondary roads.[79] "In spite of the state take-over of secondary roads in 1931, their condition had not been much improved when Kerr Scott became governor in 1949."[80] Kerr Scott requested a $200,000,000 road bond and a one-cent-a gallon increase in the gasoline tax to retire the debt. The bond was approved by a voter referendum. The people did not reject a proposal which would "get them out of the mud." Those counties with good railway connections voted against the bond, but rural counties, such as Yancey, carried the election. The county voted 4,351 for to 54 against, by far the greatest margin of passage of all of the western North Carolina counties in the election.[81]

It would be 1880 before rails would cross the mountains into Asheville. The Toe River Valley would have to wait until the early twentieth century for the arrival of railroad tracks, engines, passenger, and freight cars. The Carolina, Clinchfield, and Ohio railroad, (originally chartered as the Charleston, Cincinnati, and Chicago Railroad Company), passed (from Erwin, Tennessee) through upper Yancey County to reach Spruce Pine in 1902. The CC & O opened new economic opportunities for Yancey County, primarily through the timber and mining industries. It also affected the life-style of the people, bringing with it a new prosperity and contact with the outside world. In 1907 the Scutt-Lambert Lumber Company connected an eight mile spur to the CC & O at Kona, establishing the first section of what was to become the Black Mountain Railroad. The railroad was extended to Pensacola in order to connect a total of some 18,000 acres owned by the Carolina Spruce and the Brown Brothers Lumber Companies. The lumber business was a growth industry, with Pensacola taking on

all of the activities and attributes of a boom town, and the area was given an international flavor by the many Italian and Austrian families imported to meet the labor shortage. By 1926 the bulk of the timber was gone, and by 1933 the tracks linking Pensacola with the remainder of the system were removed. In 1954, the Black Mountain Railroad had fallen into a state of disrepair. It was sold to local citizens to prevent economic loss in the county and was renamed the Yancey Railroad. In 1977, a flood damaged the tracks of the Yancey Railroad, and despite efforts to replace them, the railroad remains inoperable and has been abandoned.[82]

As previously stated, not until the early twentieth century did the coming of the railroad and good roads open up the natural boundaries created by the mountains and allow for an influx of new economic and social ideas. "In the period 1830-1860 this mountain section began to be shut off from the remainder of the state, but the poorness of the mountain roads was not as much a deterrent to travel before the Civil War as afterwards."[83] After the War, the more prosperous eastern counties began to build better roads. Immigration from east to west was subsiding. Progress was slower than in other counties and the isolation of the Toe River Valley increased.[84]

The hierarchy which had developed between those who lived in the towns, villages, and large farms and those who lived on the hills or in coves also grew more distinct in the years after the War. "For those who lived in the hills and in the coves, frontier conditions persisted and poverty was widespread, (whereas) life in the villages and towns of Western North Carolina was not very different from that of rural villages in other parts of the state."[85] For

a primitiveness in housing, clothing, manners, and customs would remain for those of the hills and coves until the coming of the railroads. An indication of the ruggedness of the pioneer life is given in the following description by traveler William James about 1880:

> Some years ago...in the mountains of North Carolina, I passed by a large number of 'coves'...which had been cleared and planted. The impression on my mind was one of unmitigated squalor. The settler had...cut down the more manageable trees and left their charred stumps standing. The larger trees he had girdled and killed...He had then built a log, cabin, plastering its chinks with clay, and had set up a tall zigzag rail fence around the scene of his havoc, to keep the pigs and cattle out... He had planted the intervals between the stumps with Indian corn...; and there he dwelt with his wife and babe--an axe, a gun, a few utensils, and some pigs and chickens ...being the sum total of his possessions. The forest had been destroyed; and what had 'improved it out of existence was hideous ...without a single element of nature's beauty, ugly indeed seemed the life of the squatter ...beginning back where our first ancestors started and ...hardly better off for ...the achievements of ...intervening generations.
>
> Then I said to the mountaineer who was driving me, 'what sort of people ...make these new clearings?' 'All of us,' he replied. 'Why we ain't happy here unless we are getting one of those coves under cultivation.' I instantly felt that I had been losing the whole inward significance of the situation. Because to me the clearing spoke of naught but denudation, I thought that to those whose sturdy arms and obedient axes had made them they could tell no other story. But when they looked on the hideous stumps, what they thought of was personal victory. The chips, the girdled trees, and the vile split rails spoke of honest sweat, persistent toil, and final reward.[86]

However, according to Judge Schenck, when he visited Burnsville in the 1870s he had a choice of two inns, the Sol W. Carter or the G. D. Ray hotel. G. D. Ray also owned a flour and grist mill in Burnsville.[87] There was no mention of the "squalor" as described in James's diary. A 1930 recounting of Burnsville in the

1870s lists three barrooms, six dry goods stores, numerous boots and harness shops, four blacksmiths, four hotels, three tanning yards, doctors, lawyers, and dressmakers as available services, businesses, and residents.[88] Even though some discrepancy exists in the number of hotels available in the 1870s, both accounts suggest that Burnsville was indeed a thriving trade center, much like those in other counties in the state. Again in 1913, a description of Burnsville sounds quite appealing:

> As you drive on down Cane River, now along the bank, now crossing a wide ford, you see a village ahead of you very beautifully placed in an opening between surrounding mountains. This is Burnsville, one of the most important and interesting mountain villages north of Asheville. Here are schools as well as hotels, and from points in and near the village are superb views of the high mountains. Within a short time Burnsville has come into easy communication with the outer world by way of the railroad that crosses the mountains a few miles to the north of here.[89]

In addition, the distinction between town folks and those on the mountains and in the coves extended to settlements where large farming operations were geographically possible, allowing for faster economic growth, and to boom towns developed in response to mica mining, timbering, and other industrial activities. The affluence accompanying the extended hierarchy is visible in the larger framed houses in the Cane River Valley and in Boonford, where the Sam and Edna Silvers place marks a once-thriving rural crossroads.

By the turn of the century, the isolation of the mountain region was beginning to dissipate for a variety of reasons. Some areas were susceptible to the lure of the cotton mills developing around Greenville, Spartanburg, Gastonia, and other towns surrounding the Blue Ridge. The younger generations

left to seek their own way in these and other towns. The coming of the railroads provided expanded economic opportunity and contact with the outside and was a great force for change. Later, an expanded road program by the state coupled with the advent of the automobile would complete the process.

During the 1870s-1920s log houses co-existed in popularity with large, rather auspicious framed houses--of which most served as farmhouses. Although the advent of a new era in the 1920s gave rise to a change in architectural "style", until that time a folk tradition represented by log structures and frame two-story houses predominated. The form of the two-story farmhouse was uncomplicated, having a depth of one room, and most frequently, a symmetrical center-hall arrangement. A one-story ell containing the kitchen and dining area were usually added at a later date, though may have been constructed at the time of the original house. This vernacular style has been characterized as an "I-house", originating on the eastern seaboard and spreading across the country during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The use of this form in more isolated areas extended into the twentieth century. "When compared with a classic Georgian dwelling, it is easy to see it as a simplification of the Georgian idea. Its central hallway, symmetrical plan, and paired chimneys all echo the Renaissance spirit, here greatly reduced in the alembic of the folk mind."[90] These spacious houses were suitable for large families and, in addition, presented an impressive facade to friends, neighbors, and others passing by. "By the beginning of the nineteenth century an elaborate social order was emerging over much of the state's rural countryside. No doubt this newly arrived formality to life made welcome both the Georgian facade and the central hallway with its implications for reception and separation."[91]

In Yancey County, the I-house gained in popularity. They are to be found in all sections of the county, sitting on large flat bottomlands or gently-sloping flats, commanding views of the farm itself and/or the surrounding mountains. The floor plan is simple, but rigid. A large room is located to the right of the center hall, with another of equal size and characteristics located to the left of the hall. The center hall contains the staircase, which is usually open. The second floor is executed much the same as the first, though the materials may be somewhat rough and unfinished. Exceptions to the center hall arrangement are few. However, the "hall-and-parlor" plan was used in several homes. An example of such a plan is the J. Z. Grindstaff house on Halls Chapel Road. Here, the front door enters directly into the larger of the two rooms, which is called the "hall". Another deviation from the center hall plan is seen in the Allison Briggs house on Jacks Creek. The symmetrical facade consists of two front entrances flanked by windows, with each entry leading into the two separate rooms. Yet another later plan shortens the hallway to a mere foyer, directing traffic through doors to the right or left once inside. The "hall" itself is cut short by the placement of the fireplace in the center of the house. The Piercy house on Jacks Creek typifies this arrangement.

A porch is attached to the front facade of each I-house. The earlier porches covered only the entry bay. The length of the porch was extended as time passed, with most covering a three-bay facade--just falling short of extending the entire width of the house. A more elaborate porch was two-storied. The exterior covering under these porches was often of flush board sheathing.

An I-house variation is known as a "triple-A" house, featuring a front gable as well as side gables.

> The center gable thus appears to have arisen out of pattern books and standardized plans displaying romantic Gothic cottages and Tuscan villas. The one feature that could be taken from these plans without disturbing the requirements of the accepted house form was the decorative gable set at dead center of the facade. Tradition was maintained while a certain concession was made to fashion, and a balance was achieved between the two.[92]

The "triple-A" variation is present in Yancey County. The Sam and Edna Silvers house displays this triple-A gabled roof line. Another house, unique in form and further interpretation of the triple-A style is the Taylor Horton house. Taylor Horton, the present owner's grandfather, bought this farm in 1904. At that time, the upstairs was added to the house. Originally the house consisted of two rooms, with another room added as an ell. In 1918 Jason Laughren became the owner of the farm, with title later passing to the present owner, Luke Laughren. The house has a three-gable front, with fish scale shingles in each gable. The one-story porch covers all three bays of the front, but does not extend full facade.

A more elaborate variation of the typical I-house form is best represented by two notable structures, the Harm and Hattie Whittington house and the Wilson Whittington place. Both have two-tiered porches, with entrances on both levels--much like those designed for warmer coastal climates to allow for cool waterfront breezes. The latter of the two is probably the most elaborate I-house in the county. Homer and Maude Whittington Banks are the present owners of the Wilson Whittington farm. (Maude is a descendant of the original

Whittington owner, who was of English descent). This two-story I-house was built in 1888. Its extraordinary attention to detail sets this house apart from many of the traditional I-houses which were built in this and other sections of the county. The weatherboard exterior of the house has a center groove etched in each board. The pilastered corner boards and returns are "reeded". The wide raking cornice of the house is ornamented with large decorative scrolls, as are the chamfered porch posts of the house. The porch itself is two stories high and has entrances on each level. It extends across the entry of the front facade only. Flush board sheathing, which is beaded, covers the facade here. Sidelights flank each side of the front entry. The bottom panels of the sidelights retain remnants of the yellow and deep red trim once used. The sawn rail on the second level also accentuates the many carefully planned details of the house. A stick rail partially encloses the first level of this porch. The interior of the house is covered with flush board sheathing. The stair is enclosed and placed to the rear of the center hall, making a quarter turn with a landing as it angles to reach the second floor. The Harm and Hattie Whittington house, located within a mile of the Wilson Whittington place, is similar in style. However, the ornateness of the Wilson Whittington house has not been recaptured in this 1890's I-house.

These I-houses comprise a large portion of the surviving historically significant architecture in the county. Their existence suggests an economically secure period of time in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century--at least for some.

During the 1920s, a change in architectural style began to develop in Yancey County. This was, in part, due to the influence of the developing textile industries of the piedmont. House types such as those used by North Carolina mill owners arrived in Yancey on schedule during the 1920s, though there were no mill towns. One-story double pile cottages with high hip roofs are found down almost every "holler" in Yancey County. Three of these houses, located on Bill Allen Branch (SR 1141) were built by Jess Autrey in the 1920s. Others are located on Ed Young Road (SR 1162), on SR 1300 in the Arbuckle Community, on George's Fork (SR 1142), and on Bear Wallow Road (SR 1144). A more universal bungalow style of frame or brick can be found within the town of Burnsville. Also, in the Busick Community on South Toe River, the Frank Bowditch house is a fine example of the bungalow style--constructed of native river rock carefully chosen for color and size.

In 1929, both the state and the rest of the country appeared prosperous. However, "there were already signs of impending economic disaster, which finally came with the stock market crash in October, followed by the Great Depression."[93]

Boom Town Settlements: Indications of Prosperity

Most early patterns of settlement followed the paths of mountain streams, however large or small the size of the stream. Later centers of small development sprung up alongside roads or railways which were built to transport minerals and timber from the county. Whatever the impetus behind the development, some such centers have thrived up to present day, while others have become virtual ghost towns with little historic fabric left to indicate their past. Two such ghost towns are Boonford and Lost Cove.

Boonford's development was spurred by the arrival of the Clinchfield Railroad. One local historian states that "it was easier to go to Boonford to take the train to Spruce Pine than to drive".[95] Several general stores competed for trade in this small town. It was also the site of many bloody brawls among the local citizens. Almost every structure associated with the small, lively, turn of the century town has been erased from the landscape. One remaining structure, known as the Sam and Edna Silvers Place, is a triple-A two-story I-house with a center hall plan. The front gable projects from the three-bay facade of the house. The house lacks attention to detail and ornamentation. Even so, its size and style suggests that its original owner was financially well-off considering many of the other structures erected in the eastern section of the county prior to the middle of the twentieth century. The exact date of construction is unknown, though it was probably built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

Lost Cove is yet a legend and a mystery to many in Yancey County and to those who come to visit and listen with interest to the history of the county. Velmer Bailey and his family were the last settlers to leave Lost Cove in 1957.

> Velmer's forefather, Morgan Bailey, had evidently started the whole thing when he came into the Cove just before the Civil War, seeking most probably refuge from the bitter altercations already taking place over the impending war. There is evidence that at that time many of those who soon followed came also either as neutralists in the controversy or as Union sympathizers. Strong evidence of this may be seen in the fact that all the Covians were and remained Republicans--once a pretty good indication in those parts of pro-Union leanings.[96]

Lost Cove was a logging and farming village. "A saw mill even was set up for a time and a mile long spur from the Clinchfield reached in a bit closer to a nearby site and seemed to bring the world outside nearer. But the mill did not stay when the big timber was cut, it moved onto more virgin territory, the tracks were torn up, and the Covians were again alone."[97]

The Cove is now privately owned and is surrounded by National Forests and Wildlife Reserves. The only remaining access to the cove is by trail, but it is well-known that visitors are not welcome. Very little respect has been shown to the historic remains of Lost Cove by many of its visitors. "The walls of both dwellings and the church house have been marked with graffiti, all the windows have been broken, boards and doors and porch floors have been ripped from the buildings."[98] This was the state of the remaining dwellings as seen through the eyes of artist Everett Kivette in 1971. Deterioration, caused by time and man, has not halted. Very little of Lost Cove's vernacular architecture remains intact today.

Another area whose development is linked with mica mining and, pursuant to the mining, the Clinchfield Railroad, is the town of Micaville. Though most remaining architectural fabric of the town dates from the 1920s, what remains is representative of the kinds of businesses once located in the town. A general store once stood across the river which flows through the town. Even though this structure does not still stand, what used to be a general store now stands on the opposite side of the river, at the crossroads of the small town. Originally, the store was known as the Harris Clay Company General Store. It was built during 1927-1928. Leland Robinson bought the store in 1942 and operated it as a general store until sold to the present owner. The interior has been remodeled for restaurant use, but the pressed tin ceiling with decorative cornice remains. The structure is a pebble-dashed structure with diagonal braces of wood. Large windows stand to each side of the entry. A small round window is built into the gable front.

The Dellinger and Silver General Store, (ca 1932), also operates in the town of Micaville. This building was once used as a movie theatre. In addition to the general store, a service station (ca 1928), a barber shop, and other dwelling houses comprise the town. The John Riley Thomas house, built in 1910-1911, is one such dwelling. Micaville is located west of the Newdale Community on Highway 80 South.

Pensacola, another small town in Yancey County, is located South of Burnsville on Highway 197 South.

> The hub of lumber business and excitement was found at Pensacola where the offices and commissary of the Carolina Spruce Company were located. The Carolina Spruce Commissary was a self-contained business, making it one of the most

> complete "shopping centers" in Yancey County. Such features included a post office, a full department store..., a grocery store, hardware, seed and feed stores, a barber shop, and an up-to-date drug store. Movies were shown every Friday and Saturday nights in Pensacola's own make-shift theatre. The Carolina Spruce Company produced lumber for constructing airplanes during World War I.[99]

The Clinchfield Railroad ran a passenger train from Kona to Pensacola around the turn of the century. The railroad tracks used to lay where the main road now runs, and therefore preceded the road location.

The Laurel Branch Baptist Church still stands in what used to be this small timber town. Many of the houses in Pensacola were built to house the lumber officials, and one structure to house a railroad superintendent and depot agent. In addition, a high school (now being torn down) stood behind the church. Ruth Riddle went to school there, before attending the Yancey Collegiate Institute in Burnsville. An old log schoolhouse behind this structure has already been torn down.

Education

Archibald D. Murphy, State Senator from Orange County, 1812 to 1818, presented a series of revolutionary reports on public education to the legislature during these years. "Murphy was the first North Carolina statesman to envision the democratic goal of state provision for universal education of all white children."[100] In 1825, the State Literary Board and Fund was established. "Reports of the Literary Board and legislative reports and bills eventuated in the final passage of the public school law of 1839",[101] which required each county to vote on the issue of public schools. "Any district which supplied a school building for fifty pupils and raised $20 in taxes, which the county court should levy, would receive $40 from the State Literary Fund."[102] Sixty-one of the sixty-eight counties voted in favor of schools in 1839. Yancey County was one of the seven who later voted to participate in the fund.[103] "Yancey County did not participate in the State Literary Fund before 1844. It is to be supposed, therefore, that there were no public schools in the county before that date."[104] The schools become popular once established, evidenced by the fact that between 1853 and 1854 the number of districts increased from thirty-seven to forty-six and the number that contained active schools increased from twenty-two to thirty-three.[105]

> In 1860, 1,703 children out of a total of 3,409 were taught in the schools. The total revenue for that year was $2,250.32 of which amount $467.36 remained unexpended at the close of the year--a condition which seems to have been characteristic of the prewar period. There was a surplus of revenue over expenditures in all years in which reports for the county were completed.[106]

One explanation forwarded for the surplus educational money was that "no very great demands were made upon it."[107]

Most of Yancey County's early private schools originated in affiliation with the various religious sects popular in the county. The Methodist church opened a school between 1845 and 1852 (various sources give conflicting dates)[108] which enjoyed a reputation as an excellent institution. This institution, known as the Burnsville Academy, offered educational training for almost half a century. Ed Hunter, superintendent of Yancey County Schools from 1971 to 1983, states that no visible evidence of the Burnsville Academy remains.[109] A description of this once thriving school is given below:

> The brick that was used in this building, as well as the brick used in the other buildings of the county, was burned and furnished locally. The inside was plastered. The building was not expensively furnished. The seats were made mostly of long boards very similar to old-style church pews. There were also a few rough wooden desks and a few rough wooden seats made of split logs. Blackboards were made of hand-dressed lumber.[110]

Later, in 1899, the Presbyterian Church opened the doors of the Stanley McCormick School, which operated until 1922, when it was changed to a trade school under the name of Carolina New College. It operated in this capacity for only a few years.[111] A foundation of a two-story dormitory, a house which was once the President's home, and the present American Legion and Community Building in Burnsville, (once believed to house administrative offices), are the surviving remains of the Stanley McCormick School.[112]

The Yancey Collegiate Institute of Burnsville, a Baptist affiliated church school, opened its doors for the first session in 1901. Growth was limited by competition from public schools being opened in the county. In 1926 the property was sold to the public school system. The Brown Home for Boys, built in 1914 as a part of the Yancey Collegiate Institute, yet stands and has been adaptively reused to house Parkway Playhouse students in the summer. The first classes of Yancey Collegiate Institute "were held in a pebble-dashed building where the brick building now stands on the Burnsville Elementary School campus. This building was burned in 1917 and was rebuilt the following year. In 1922 this building was partially burned and parts of it were restored in order for classes to begin the following term. This is the brick building that is now in use by Burnsville School."[113]

A 1904 Biennial Report lists teachers salaries and terms for Yancey County.

White		Colored		Terms in Weeks	
Male	Female	Male	Female	White	Colored
$24.79	$18.64	$15.66	$12.50	20	20

> In 1907 the General Assembly passed a law permitting any county board of education to establish and maintain for a term of no less than five months per year one or more high schools. An appropriation of $40,785 was made to aid in establishing such schools. In western North Carolina dormitories and mess halls were essential to the plan because of the long distance students must travel. By 1911 there were thirty-six rural high schools in the twenty-four counties of Western North Carolina.[114]

In 1922 Yancey's high schools were accredited by the State.[115]

James Hutching served as superintendent of the Yancey County Schools from 1935-1941. During his administration five new high school buildings were constructed, all built of native stone. These new buildings were Bald Creek High School, Bee Log High School, Clearmont High School, Micaville High School, and Burnsville High School.[116] The WPA's assistance program made such a feat possible by furnishing money for labor and materials. Two identical schools were built in 1958, the East Yancey and Cane River High Schools, replacing the high schools built in the 1930s. However, these five schools of native stone are still used as elementary schools. Only two graded schools for Negroes existed in the region in 1924, Asheville with 217 students, and Hendersonville, with 19.[117] At a much later time a brick school was built for Negroes in Yancey County. That school was abolished in 1960, following a gradual program of desegregation occurring in the rural counties of the west.

Religion

Religion was a strong influence in the lives of the settlers, providing both an arena for spiritual discourse and social interaction. Most surviving examples of early churches in Yancey County date from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Many have necessarily fallen prey to modernization. Such is the fate of the Estoa Presbyterian Church on South Toe. The congregation was first established circa 1905, and held services in a one-room church which was also used as a schoolhouse. The steeple is reminiscent of a much older structure, which has been brick veneered. The belfry was removed in the thirties. Abandoned churches have also suffered from neglect and deterioration. A Presbyterian church on Jacks Creek, which also served as a school, stands vacant and in disrepair. This church was probably established by Presbyterians from Philadelphia, but the date of their arrival in the county is unsettled. The one-story church/school is a plain frame structure, one room deep and four bays wide. The deep red trim on window and door surrounds and corner boards lingers. The recessed apse and platform is the focal point of the now empty interior.

A few churches have maintained the simplicity of form and design which suggests a place of peace and refuge. These unpretentious, yet inspiring, structures are capped with belfries or spires. Clean, white weatherboards cover the exterior. Flush sheathing, painted or unpainted, usually covers the interior. Double doors opening into a single room sanctuary with a recessed apse, illuminated by large double hung windows of clear glass are a reoccurring

architectural theme. Variations in design are few, with distinguishing marks becoming features such as dentiled moldings, decorative scrolls, corner blocks, and shutters. The Laurel Branch Presbyterian Church is one of these, having resisted threats and alterations to its historic fabric. The congregation takes pride in its history and talks of the first Pastor, Reverend Benjamin Riddle. The minister also preached to nearby congregations, so church was held sometimes on Saturday and sometimes on Sunday. The church was the hub of a small timber town at Pensacola. It remains the hub of a thriving community in Yancey County today.

1930s to Present: In the Name of Progress

Governor J.C.B. Erhringhaus took office in 1933 when the state was experiencing severe economic decline during the Great Depression. However, the self-sufficient rural people of Western North Carolina did not experience the same hardships as those living in industrial areas. Industrial wages continued to drop and the unemployment rate was high.[118] "The income of the farmer had always been very low, and their homes and farms lacked the convenience of an urban or suburban society, but the farms were as readily available as they ever had been."[119] Even so, federal standards established to promote the New Deal plan of recovery, relief, and reform affected the western counties. A survey of the Southern Appalachian Region concluded that:

> The depression of the 1930's introduced relief and public works to the mountains and changed the practices of generations in one short period. Without any lowering of the customary "live-at-home" and "do-without" economy, the application of federal standards made at least half the population in certain Appalachian areas eligible for relief. Public Works, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and National Youth Administration, all introduced the people to the money economy and increased their wants.[120]

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) recruited men for work on roads, reforestation, and flood-control. By the end of 1935 there were sixty-six CCC Camps in North Carolina. The National Youth Administration paid students for part-time work on state projects. The Public Works Administration (PWA) provided funds for low-cost housing, hospitals, public schools, highways, etc. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) established in 1935, took over the relief aspects of PWA.[121]

Five new high schools were constructed of native stone in Yancey County by the Workman's Progress Administration under the New Deal Policy. These five buildings were located at Bald Creek, Bee Log, Clearmont, Burnsville, and Micaville. The overseer for the project at Micaville was John Bowditch. Many locals were employed by the WPA. Micaville High School is a one-story structure, twenty-six bays long and eighteen bays deep, with a rear recessed patio. (The building plan is U-shaped.) All five of the buildings are extremely similar in plan and materials. All five are still in use today as elementary schools.

North Carolina manufacturers began to recover from the Great Depression by 1935. "Between 1939 and 1967 the number of manufacturing establishments in the state increased two and a half times from 3,225 to 8,266."[122] Not surprisingly, the urban population increased at a rate "ten times" that of the rural population.[123] "Counties experiencing out-migration of more than sixteen percent during the decade 1950-1960 were McDowell, Rutherford, Wilkes, Watauga, Yancey, Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, and Mitchell."[124] Yancey County's population dropped from 14,008 in 1960 to 12,629 in 1970. In 1954 there were 52,161 farms in Western North Carolina. In 1964 there were 29,955.[125]

Though many farms were lost in Yancey County during the past years, the county remains rural in character. The vast majority of the population still garden in the summer and can for the winter. Industry has crept into Yancey County during the last decade. Textile and garment manufacturers employ many of the local residents, though it is estimated that as many as 40% of the work

force must commute outside the county for employment. Two of the largest employers in the county are the Glen Raven Mill, Inc. and Pacemaker.

Mount Mitchell has long been a scenic attraction.[126] As roads improved, more and more tourists were attracted to the beauty of Yancey County. Present-day tourists find the county so attractive that many of them decide to call Yancey home. Many Floridians have bought many of the old home places and use them during the cool summer months. Recreational activities include golf, hunting and fishing, hiking and camping, and water sports.

The landscape of the county has also changed with passing time. Strip development along major highways (especially those leading to Burnsville) is evident, though not yet prevalent. Older homes, often located on the banks of a creek or river or high on the mountains overlooking valley waterways, coexist with numerous post-World War II ranch style brick veneer houses. The paths early settlers once traveled are now covered by state roads.

Yancey County is, as of yet, unspoiled by excessive development. Though some of the architectural fabric has been subjected to remodeling and modernization, the county's residents are proud of their remaining heritage. Such appreciation will, hopefully, slow the destruction of significant architectural and historic resources and provide a means of preserving a heritage.

FOOTNOTES

[1]William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazeteer: A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 51.

[2]Ibid, 21.

[3]Teacher Training Class, History and Geography of Yancey County (Teacher Training Class, 1930), 24.

[4]Ibid, 24, 28.

[5]State Board of Agriculture, North Carolina and Its Resources (Winston: M. I. & J. C. Stewart, Public Printers and Binders, 1896), 157.

[6]Ibid.

[7]John Basil Deyton, "The Toe River Valley to 1805", The North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. 24, No. 4 (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1947), 454 and Muriel Earley Sheppard Cabins in the Laurel (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1935), 44.

[8]Deyton, 424 and n. 3.

[9]Powell, 494.

[10]State Board of Agriculture, 122. ("Topographical causes also largely influence the course and direction of these rivers. Those rising west of the Blue Ridge are diverted by that barrier towards the north and northwest and towards the valley of the Mississippi with ultimate destination to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.")

[11]Powell, 20, 60, 67, 86, 95, 244, 249, 281, 286, 394, 396, 494.

[12]State Board of Agriculture, 413.

[13]Teacher Training Class, History and Geography of Yancey County, 24-25.

[14]Sheppard, 87-88. (A sash sawmill built by James Bailey in 1887 was similar to a crank whip-saw which ran up and down in a frame, using water power... The circle-saw bought by Ellis and Woody was run by steam.) (As told by Doc Hoppas, "who lives up the Hollow above the first Bailey mill, [and] likes to talk about the lumber business in the old days, as he sits on the porch of a Sunday afternoon cooling off from the hot walk up the hill to a church at Estatoe and back.")

[15]State Board of Agriculture, 100.

[16]Ina W. and John H. Van Noppen, Western North Carolina Since the Civil War (Boone: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973), 41.

[17]Teacher Training Class, History and Geography of Yancey County, 39, 40, 41.

[18]Ibid, 38.

[19]Ibid, 41.

[20]Ibid, 33.

[21]Ibid, 37.

[22]Ibid.

[23]Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, The History of a Southern State: North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973), 4.

[24]Teacher Training Class, History and Geography of Yancey County, 5.

[25]Lefler, History of a Southern State, 192.

[26]Hugh T. Lefler and William S. Powell, Colonial North Carolina-A History (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973), 110.

[27]Lefler, History of a Southern State, 243, 270. ("In a series of treaties with North Carolina in 1777 and with the United States in 1785, 1791, and 1798, the Cherokee Indians, who had blocked westward expansion for many years, relinquished and threw open to white occupancy all of their lands in North Carolina north and east of a line approximating the present westward boundaries of Haywood and Transylvania Counties." Lefler, 306.)

[28]Ibid, 306. ("The basic land law of 1777 required each county court to appoint an entry taker and a surveyor; the claimant to land had to make a written claim to the entry taker, stating the location and approximate boundaries of the land. The county surveyor was required to survey the land and prepare two plots with descriptions of boundaries and acreage, both of which with the warrant of survey he should transmit to the secretary of state. The claimant had to pay the entry taker L2 and 10 shillings per 100 acres for amounts not in excess of 640 acres for himself and an additional 100 acres for his wife and each child, and L5 for each 100 acres above 640. In 1783 the entry taker's fee was increased to four shillings for lands not in excess of 300 acres and four shillings for each additional 100 acres. In 1790 the sale price of land was fixed at 30 shillings per 100 acres; in 1794 it was increased to 50 shillings, that is, from 7 1/2 cents to 12 1/2 cents per acre.")

[29]Deyton, 432-433.

[30]Ibid, 433. (Another account of Bright's holdings is given in Muriel Earley Sheppard's Cabins in the Laurel (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1935), 19-20. It reads: "Samuel Bright's homestead grant of March 14, 1780, calls for 640 acres of land in the Toe River near Humpback Mountain. He seems to have been satisfied with that until sixteen years later, when he added 100 acres more on Humpback Mountain, followed by another hundred on both sides of the river. The Brights did not remain long on Toe River. The story runs that a large family named Grant, from the Yadkin valley, started to go through the mountains with sheep and cattle, the men armed. They spent a night at the Bright cabin and started to go on. But it was late autumn, and the travelers ran back to the cabin again. There they were snowed in. Samuel Bright had a large family; so did the Grants. During the winter there were several marriages, and by spring the two families were so interlocked that the Grants persuaded the Brights to go west with them. Thus the name passed out of Valley history.")

[31]Ibid, 435.

[32]Ibid, 434.

[33]Douglas Swaim, "An Architectural History of Asheville and Buncombe County," Cabins & Castles: The History & Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina (Asheville), 55.

[34]Deyton, 439.

[35]David Leroy Corbitt, The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943 (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950), 240.

[36]Ibid.

[37]Deyton, 440.

[38]Theresa Coletta, " 'Yellow Jacket' John Bailey", Common Times: Written and Pictorial History of Yancey County (Burnsville: Yancey Graphics, 1982), 42.

[39]Sheppard, 40.

[40]Theresa Coletta, " 'Yellow Jacket' John Bailey", Common Times, ed. Higgins, 42-43. (Regarding "Yellow Jacket" John Bailey: "It is likely... that he died in the 1880's since the Yancey County census of 1880 lists him 81 years of age.")

[41]Teacher Training Class, History and Geography of Yancey County, 9.

[42]Theresa Coletta, "Famous Nu-Wray Inn," Common Times, ed. Higgins, 55. (Part of the Wray family history begins in 1833 on Bolens Creek, when Garrett Dewese Ray was born. He married Elizabeth Burchfield from Milligan College, Tennessee, who came to Yancey as a school teacher. Their daughter was born in 1870, and was called Julia Sarah Ray. She married William Bryan Wray from Shelby in 1894. He was born on April 23, 1865, and died on November 15, 1932. Julia Wray, his wife, died in 1966 at the age of 96. Their five children were: James Garrett Wray; Mary Elizabeth Wray Hensley; Annie Wray Bennet; William Bryan Wray, Jr.; and Rush Tracey Wray-former owner of the Nu-Wray Inn. "The Wray Family", Common Times, ed. Higgins, 56.) (Mr. Rush Tracey Wray passed away in 1985).

[43]Blackmun, 335. ("The Penlands were about the only slaveholding family north of the river." Muriel Earley Sheppard, Cabins in the Laurel (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1935), 60.)

[44]Deyton, 452-453 and Sheppard, 44.

[45]Deyton, 459.

[46]Lefler, History of a Southern State, 448.

[47]Ibid, 448-451.

[48]Ibid, 450.

[49]Deyton, 461.

[50]Van Noppen, 6 and Ora Blackmun, Western North Carolina, Its Mountains and Its People to 1880 (Boone, Appalachian Consortium Press, 1977), 336.

[51]Lloyd Bailey, Common Times, ed. Higgins, 30.

[52]Lefler, History of a Southern State, 461.

[53]Ibid, 462.

[54]Deyton, 462 and Sheppard, 61.

[55]Blackmun, 343.

[56]Ibid, 344 and n. 3.

[57]Ibid, 351 and Sheppard, 62-64.

[58]Ibid, 346.

[59]Ibid, 349.

[60]Sheppard, 64.

[61]Van Noppen, 17 and "Yancey: A County Divided, Microcosm of a Bitter Struggle", Common Times, ed. Higgins, 26.

[62]Lefler, History of a Southern State, 521.

[63]Van Noppen, 41.

[64]Ibid, 41-42.

[65]State Board of Agriculture, 22.

[66]Ibid, 413.

[67]Ibid, 157.

[68]Margaret W. Morley, The Carolina Mountains (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press Cambridge, 1913), 313.

[69]State Board of Agriculture, 21.

[70]Van Noppen, 44.

[71]Deyton, 443.

[72]Ibid, 444.

[73]Ibid, 443.

[74]Ibid, 443-444.

[75]Ibid, 444.

[76]Ibid, 443.

[77]Ibid.

[78]"First Automobile Trip", Common Times, ed. Higgins, 8.

[79]Van Noppen, 329-340.

[80]Ibid, 341.

[81]Ibid, 341-342.

[82]Theresa Coletta, " 'Timber!' Started Railroad Boom," Common Times, ed. Higgins, 74-79.

[83]Deyton, 446.

[84]Ibid.

[85]Van Noppen, 18.

[86]Ibid, 59-60.

[87]Ibid, 40.

[88]Teacher Training Class, History and Geography of Yancey County, 9-10.

[89]Morley, 314.

[90]Douglas Swaim, "North Carolina Folk Housing", Carolina Dwelling (North Carolina State University: The Student Publication, 1978), 38.

[91]Ibid, 39.

[92]Michael Southern, "The I-House As a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeastern Piedmont," Carolina Dwelling, ed. Swaim, 80-81.

[93]Lefler, History of a Southern State, 605.

[94]Douglas Swaim, "An Architectural History of Buncombe County," Cabins & Castles, ed. Swaim, 55.

[95]Ronald Howell, Interview with Mitzi Presnell, 1983. Attorney and local historian.

[96]Everett M. Kivette, "Epitaph for Lost Cove," Common Times, ed. Higgins, 38.

[97]Ibid, 36.

[98]Ibid, 38.

[99]Theresa Coletta, " 'Timber!' Started Railroad Boom," Common Times, ed. Higgins, 74.

[100]Lefler, History of a Southern State, 329.

[101]Ibid, 368.

[102]Ibid.

[103]Ibid.

[104]Deyton, 448.

[105]Ibid. 449.

[106]Ibid, 449 and n. 67.

[107]Sheppard, 46.

[108]Edgar F. Hunter, Jr., A History of Yancey Collegiate Institute (1952), 12 and Deyton, 450 and n. 69.

[109]Edgar F. Hunter, Jr., Interview with Mitzi Presnell, 1983. Former Superintendent, Yancey County Schools, North Carolina.

[110]James Hutchins, "Burnsville Academy Founded by Adams, Met Educational Need in Yancey", Common Times, ed. Higgins, 60.

[111]Hunter, A History of Yancey Collegiate Institute, 12.

[112]Hunter, Interview with Mitzi Presnell.

[113]Edgar F. Hunter, Jr., "Yancey Collegiate Institute Founded 1901," Common Times, ed. Higgins, 63.

[114]Van Noppen, 136-137.

[115]Ibid, 137.

[116]James Hutchins, A Sketch of the Yancey Collegiate Institute, Burnsville, NC (Burnsville: Edwards Printing Company, 1951), 4.

[117]Van Noppen, 143.

[118]Lefler, History of a Southern State, 611.

[119]Van Noppen, 283.

[120]Rupert B. Vance, "The Region: A New Survey," The Southern Appalachian Region: A Survey, ed. Thomas R. Ford (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1962), 5.

[121]Lefler, History of a Southern State, 615.

[122]Ibid, 630.

[123]Ibid, 639.

[124]Van Noppen, 369.

[125]Ibid, 284.

[126]Ibid, 374-377.