

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Wemple-Shelton HouseOther names/site number: Shelton House (CSO256)

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

**2. Location**Street & number: 2215 U.S. Highway 158 WestCity or town: Yanceyville State: North Carolina County: Caswell CountyNot For Publication: ☐ N/AVicinity: ☒ X**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

     national      statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

   A    B   X   C    D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐

Site

☐

Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

Structure

☐

Object

☐

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

2

Noncontributing

0

buildings

0

0

sites

0

0

structures

0

0

objects

0

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Federal-Greek Revival**

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: **STUCCO, BRICK, WOOD/weatherboard, ASPHALT, TIN, WOOD/log, METAL/tin**

### Narrative Description

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

#### Summary Paragraph

The Wemple-Shelton House is a remarkably intact one-and-a-half-story Federal-Greek Revival style brick house built between 1843-1845. A contributing Log Building to the east of the main house is still extant. Built in the early years of Caswell County's tobacco-driven Boom Era (1840-1860), the Wemple-Shelton House possesses intact interior and exterior woodwork attributed to renowned master craftsman Thomas Day, whose work can be found in nearby homes built for other successful planters and merchants during this period.<sup>1</sup> The house has a high level of integrity. The main house remains in its original location and is an outstanding example of the Federal-Greek Revival style transitional period in Caswell County. Although the setting has been compromised by later encroachment and subdivision of the original parcel, its rural setting maintains its feeling. The current property owner completed a careful restoration of the house in 2022, leveraging Historic Tax Credits. The rehabilitation was done with appropriate materials and a high level of workmanship which mirrors original construction materials and methods. The home is still utilized as a single-family domestic dwelling.

#### Narrative Description

The Wemple-Shelton House and contributing log building are located atop a slight rise on the southern side of U.S. Highway 158 West about three and a half miles west of Yanceyville and sit facing north on just over one and three-quarter acres. It is in a rural setting comprising farmland and residential properties, both historic and modern. In front of the house, the northernmost portion of the site is mostly grassy. Concentrations of mature trees and shrubs exist along the

<sup>1</sup> Patricia Phillips Marshall and Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, *Thomas Day: Master Craftsman and Free Man of Color*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010, p. 137.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

eastern and western perimeter. According to Bill Chandler, grandson of Bessie Shelton, an early resident in the house, laborers enslaved by Dabney Cosby dug clay from a deposit behind the house to make the bricks on site. Afterwards, the pit was filled with topsoil and became a garden. Three wooden steps, now rotted away, led down into the garden area. Today there is a sizable depression in the soil behind the house. Chandler shared that his grandmother recalled another building standing to the west of the house, and she stated this was the original kitchen. She also described a long brick walkway connecting the house to the road.<sup>2</sup> This brick walkway has been reconstructed by the current property owner.

The Wemple-Shelton House features an L-shaped plan consisting of two modest brick masonry sections built approximately a year or two apart, as evidenced by exterior thresholds and thick masonry wall openings present in doorways separating the two sections, which otherwise exhibit similar construction methods and interior styling. The main block is a one-and-a-half-story, single-pile structure, built c. 1843. It is surmounted by a low hipped roof with gabled ends featuring exterior end chimneys. The current property owner has removed all asphalt shingle roofing and replaced it with standing seam tin roofing, which was utilized historically based on both photographic and physical evidence. In the attic, original standing seam roof matching the Log Building is still visible. A pedimented entry portico centered on the house's façade shelters two separate entrance doors, each leading to nearly equal-sized front chambers. These two rooms are connected via an interior door located along their dividing wall; both rooms perhaps served as public spaces, such as parlors or reception rooms, given their dual exterior entrances and grand interior features. Based on finishes, the single-story, single-pile rear block of the house was constructed c. 1844-1845, no more than two years after the main block was completed.<sup>3</sup> It extends south from the east side of the main block and terminates with an exterior chimney on its gabled end. Around 1930, a single-story, weatherboard-clad, wood frame addition with a rear porch (later enclosed c. 1997) was added alongside and behind the rear ell of the original structure, resulting in the house's current footprint, all of which rests on a raised basement "roughcast" stucco foundation, scored to resemble cut stone. This method of foundation construction was utilized by builder and mason Dabney Cosby, who also constructed the Caswell County Greek Revival home Dongola in c. 1832-1838. Cosby "specialized in rough casting, a technique of plastering or stuccoing the outside of a brick structure and then scoring the surface to resemble stone blocks."<sup>4</sup>

The pedimented entry portico, which is supported by four Doric columns and two Doric pilasters, dominates the house's north-facing symmetrical façade. The bricks are sitting on a raised stucco foundation with a two-course water table on the front block. The two entrance doors are symmetrically spaced under the portico and feature eight raised panels and original

<sup>2</sup> Interview with Bill Chandler, mother Ruby Chandler, daughter of James Spencer Shelton and Bessie Shelton. Interview conducted with Jerry Nix on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Construction date for the brick ell is estimated based on the size and shape of the thresholds, which match exterior rather than interior thresholds, and thick masonry wall openings present in doorways separating the two sections. The owner provided dates of other changes and additions based on oral history interviews.

<sup>4</sup> J. Marshall Bullock and Catherine W. Bishir, "Dabney Cosby," North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary, Raleigh: NC State University Libraries, <<https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000019>> Accessed December 13, 2022.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

hardware. Above each door is a transom with irregularly sized panes presented in a lattice pattern—a design which can be found in entrance transoms and sidelights of other nearby houses, including Melrose (c. early 19<sup>th</sup> century, NR- 1985), the William and Sarah Holderness House (c. 1851, NR- 2014), and the Poteat House (c. 1855, NR-1979)—and traced to Asher Benjamin pattern books.<sup>5</sup> Two impressive nine-over-nine sash windows are symmetrically spaced on either side of the entrance portico. The handmade bricks forming the house's masonry walls are set in a Flemish bond ubiquitous in the Yanceyville area of Caswell County.<sup>6</sup>

The east-facing elevation shows the progression of the house's construction over time, beginning with the gable end of the c. 1843 brick masonry block, continuing to the c. 1844-1845 brick masonry block, and ending with c. 1930 wood frame porch, enclosed c. 1997. The c. 1843 gable end features an exterior end chimney symmetrically flanked by two large nine-over-nine sash windows on the first story and two diminutive casement windows with four panes each on the upper half story. The c. 1844-1845 block is a single story, with proportions smaller than that of the c. 1843 block. It features two six-over-nine sash windows, asymmetrically spaced.

The west-facing elevation features the gable end of the c. 1843 brick masonry block and the c.1930 wood frame addition and enclosed porch. The c. 1843 gable end is identical to its east-facing counterpart, possessing an exterior end chimney symmetrically flanked by two large nine-over-nine sash windows on the first story and two diminutive casement windows with four panes each on the upper half story. The c. 1930s addition is a single story clad in weatherboards and is smaller in its proportions than the c. 1843 block. It has three three-over-one sash windows, two of which are the same size and closely spaced; the other window is smaller in size and farther along the elevation.

The rear, south-facing elevation reveals the c. 1930 porch, enclosed c. 1997 and clad in weatherboards. Above the porch's shed roof, the peaks of the two gable-ends for the c. 1930 addition and the c. 1844-1845 brick masonry block are visible, as is the brick end chimney for the c. 1844-1845 block. The rear door of the enclosed porch is asymmetrically placed left-of-center along the rear elevation. The deep overhang of the shed roof provides shelter for the entrance door. When the property was acquired by the current property owner, a small set of concrete steps led to the entrance of the enclosed porch. In spring of 2022, the current property owner installed a block wall to enclose the steps, added decking, a new handrail, and wooden steps. The concrete stairs leading to the back door have been retained. They are underneath and enclosed by the new back porch deck.

Moving inside the house from the front entry porch, the interior layout is dominated by two large rooms. Arranged in a two-room plan, the dual chambers feature twelve-foot ceilings which lend a scale of grandeur. Accessed via separate exterior entrance doors, the rooms in this c. 1843 block are connected by a door in their shared dividing wall. An enclosed staircase rises along the east parlor's west wall (the interior dividing wall between the two rooms). This stair lands at the

<sup>5</sup> Asher Benjamin, *The Practice of Architecture*, Boston: Carter, Hendee, and Co., 1833, plates 26, 28-30.

<sup>6</sup> Tony P. Wrenn and Ruth Little-Stokes, *An Inventory of Historic Architecture: Caswell County, North Carolina*, The Caswell County Historical Association, 1979, p. 104.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

rear or south wall and turns on triangular treads into the west room. The stair also opens into the east room via a door on the landing that leads to two steps into the east room.

In the back wall of the east parlor, a door connects the main block to the rear ell. This door still bears the original sloping exterior threshold and provides evidence that the rear ell was built after the main block. The ell is divided into two spaces. The space closest to the main block has been altered several times, most notably in 1983, 1997, and 2021. It is currently subdivided to create a hallway and two bathrooms. The south portion of the ell is a large bedroom with a fireplace centered on the south wall.

In 1930, the owner made a frame addition along the ell's western length. This addition added two rooms: a dining room immediately south of the west parlor and a new kitchen to the south of the new dining room. When the builder made this addition, he converted the ell's northernmost western window into a door, and he enclosed the west parlor's south window, leaving the window framed behind wall sheathing. He took the trim from this now-enclosed window and used it to trim the door between the new dining room and kitchen. Recently, the current owner removed this trim and reinstalled it around the now restored window in the west parlor's south wall. The door between the dining room and 1930 kitchen has been replaced with a salvaged c.1840 six-paneled door to match the other doors in the space.

When the 1930 dining room and kitchen were added, the carpenter also constructed a porch across the south elevation of the ell and the 1930 addition. Around 1997, the owner at that time enclosed the porch to create a closet and mudroom. The ell's bedroom and the 1930 kitchen both used to open onto this porch. Now, the enclosed porch, utilized as a mudroom and laundry room, can only be accessed by the south door of the kitchen. The current property owner has added two new walls to create a home office and closet for the bedroom in the ell.

Ceiling heights differ throughout the house. The front two rooms of the c. 1843 footprint boast twelve-foot ceilings, and the two small bedrooms in the half story above have six-and-a-half-foot ceilings which slope down to three-foot knee walls on the north and south sides of the rooms. Ceilings in the c. 1844-1845 block and the 1930 addition are eight feet in height. The mudroom has an eight-foot sloped sheetrock ceiling accommodating its shed roof.

Both front parlors and the rear bedroom possess intact mantels, window and door surrounds, and trim moldings attributed to Thomas Day. Mantel designs differ in each of the three rooms and are typical of Day's early projects, which demonstrate an adherence to popular pattern books of the period, particularly *The Practice of Architecture* produced by Asher Benjamin in 1833.<sup>7</sup> Intact rim locks and other accompanying door hardware can also be found in these three rooms.

The east parlor contains a mantel design adapted from a pattern found on plate 47 of *The Practice of Architecture*. The mantel features fluted pilasters and a fluted frieze, both punctuated by pyramidal corner blocks and a pyramidal centerpiece, as well as an early occurrence of Day's

<sup>7</sup> Asher Benjamin, *The Practice of Architecture*, Boston: Carter, Hendee, and Co., 1833, plates 47-48.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

triangular mantelshelf back, also adapted from Benjamin's design.<sup>8</sup> Elsewhere in the room, door and window surrounds are scaled proportionally to match the tall ceiling height. The surrounds mimic the fluted pilaster and frieze detail found on the mantel and feature a bullseye corner block design. Chair rail molding circles the room and serves as the apron for each of the windows, resulting in a pleasing, continuous line wrapping the circumference of the room. Baseboards are relatively short and simple, with only a small bead detail. Apart from the door to the stairs, which is a six-panel door, the room's interior doors feature eight raised panels matching those on the entrance doors.

Accessible to both front rooms, the stairwell enclosure protrudes into the western rear corner of the east parlor and runs parallel along the dividing wall shared with the west parlor. At the rear of the east parlor, a small set of steps placed perpendicular to the dividing wall rises to meet a paneled door to the stairwell. An intact crotch mahogany faux finish can be found on the interior side of this stair door. The door opens to a narrow triangular landing that also serves a small set of winder steps accessed from the west parlor. These winder stairs are entirely enclosed within the stairwell, and the open doorway leading to them is usually concealed behind an open door in the eastern rear corner of the west parlor. A faux marble finish is visible on the winder step riser faces. The staircase leading to the upper half story is quite steep, very nearly like a ladder to two small rooms on the upper floor.

The west parlor mantel design is also adapted from a pattern found on plate 47 of Benjamin's *The Practice of Architecture*.<sup>9</sup> This design features a triangular mantelshelf back, a fluted frieze, and pilasters with flutes terminating in an arch. The mantelshelf itself is particularly wide, cutting into the window surrounds on either side. As in the east parlor, the window and door surrounds are fluted with bullseye corner blocks. Chair rail molding, again serving as the windows' aprons, circles the perimeter of the room. Baseboards in this room are both taller and more elaborate than those found in the east parlor. The interior door leading to the c. 1930 addition has eight raised panels.

In the c. 1844-1845 block forming the house's rear ell, the former dining room features a mantel design adapted from a pattern found on plate 48 of Asher Benjamin's *The Practice of Architecture*. Large corner blocks with a Greek key motif dominate the otherwise plain frieze, which features only a flat rectangular centerpiece. Fluted pilasters flank the firebox, and a delicate triangular mantelshelf back completes the design. Window and door surrounds are much simpler than in the two front parlors, appropriate for both the smaller window and door sizes and the lower ceiling height found in this room. Interior doors feature six raised panels. Continuous chair railing molding is carried over into this room, still serving as a window apron, which assists in creating design continuity between this block and its c. 1843 counterpart.

The basement/summer kitchen has a packed red clay floor, deteriorated plaster and lathe ceilings, and plastered brick walls. This space was entered historically from a batten door on the ell's

<sup>8</sup> Patricia Phillips Marshall and Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, *Thomas Day: Master Craftsman and Free Man of Color*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010, p. 137.

<sup>9</sup> Asher Benjamin, *The Practice of Architecture*, Boston: Carter, Hendee, and Co., 1833, plates 47-48.



Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

south foundation. This door has been closed off from the exterior and the stone steps that lead down to it were removed when the back porch was enclosed around 1997. This door opened from the exterior into a room with a small fireplace and a window in the south wall. The west wall has a one-sash window with four lights, which is hinged on the right side and opens into the room. The identical window on the east wall was restored by the current property owner.

A cinderblock wall extends across the basement, from the north to south to brace the east wall. Although the wall extends across the room as a brace, it does not divide the room. The basement is the size of the master bedroom. In the northwest corner of the basement, a large, circular pit is still present. According to an interview with Bill Chandler, descendant of James Spencer and Bessie Shelton, this was the location of an ice pit where dairy products and other perishables were stored.<sup>10</sup> Bill Chandler also described the use of this room for tobacco storage. Cold storage and tobacco storage both used pits.

## Log Building

Contributing Building

c. late 18th to early 19th century

A log, side-gabled structure with standing seam roof stands to the east of the property. On the south elevation, evidence of a chimney, now reconstructed, suggests that the structure was used for habitation. The west-facing elevation features a cornice similar to that found on the main house. The interior has wide floorboards, exposed ceiling joists, and ladder stairs ascending to a loft above. Traces of whitewash are present on the exposed log walls. The exterior logs are in remarkably good condition with little weathering. Because nail marks are present where weatherboards were installed and there is no evidence of chinking on the exterior of the structure, it is likely that the structure was originally weatherboard clad. In 2022, the current property owner installed, primed, and painted new, period appropriate weatherboard siding. The structure's west-facing elevation with decorative cornice was likely once a north-facing façade, oriented towards the main road. The uneven foundation of the structure along with the altered orientation suggests that the building was moved to make room for the construction of the Wemple-Shelton House. After the construction of the main house, the dwelling likely served as a residence for laborers, both enslaved and free.<sup>11</sup> Over time, the structure served varying purposes, including as a tobacco pack house—with storage in the cellar for hanging tobacco—as well as a grist mill and later garage and storage building. Although no equipment is left from the

<sup>10</sup> Interview with Bill Chandler, mother Ruby Chandler, daughter of James Spencer Shelton and Bessie Shelton. Interview conducted with Jerry Nix on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

<sup>11</sup> 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for John D. Wemple. The National Archive in Washington D.C.; Washington, D.C.; NARA Microform Publication: M432; Title: Seventh Census Of The United States, 1850; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for J. D. Wemple. The National Archives in Washington D.C.; Washington D.C., USA; Eighth Census of the United States 1860; Series Number: M653; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29.

Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

grist mill, Bill Chandler and his sister Suzanne Foster, grandchildren of the Sheltons, both recalled that it was used as a grist mill for quite some time.<sup>12</sup>

### Statement of Archaeological Potential

The Wemple-Shelton House is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological deposits and remnant landscape features such as filled-in privies and wells, planting beds and gardens, fence lines, and accumulated debris from building construction and domestic activities can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the property. Other remains which may be present include deposits associated with the log outbuilding that served as a home for enslaved peoples. Information concerning social standing and mobility, the character of daily life in nineteenth-century Yanceyville during the "Bright Leaf Boom" era, the operation of Dr. John DeGraff Wemple's dental practice, the material culture of Wemple's enslaved laborers, as well as structural details and landscape use, can be obtained from the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the property. At this time no investigation has been done to document these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

<sup>12</sup> Interview with Bill Chandler and Suzanne Foster, mother Ruby Chandler, daughter of James Spencer Shelton and Bessie Shelton. Interview conducted with Jerry Nix on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐

A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

☐

B. Removed from its original location

☐

C. A birthplace or grave

☐

D. A cemetery

☐

E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

☐

F. A commemorative property

☐

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**ARCHITECTURE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

**1843-1845**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

**1843**

**1845**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**N/A**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

**N/A**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

**Architect/Builder**

Cosby, Dabney

Day, Thomas

DRAFT

Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

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

The Wemple-Shelton House is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a representative example of a masonry Federal-Greek Revival transitional style house in Caswell County with architectural features attributed to Thomas Day (1801-1861) and Dabney Cosby (1779-1862). The Thomas Day mantles in the home were noted as significant works in *Thomas Day: Master Craftsman and Free Man of Color*.<sup>13</sup> Dabney Cosby's ties to the Wemple-Shelton House are slightly more tenuous. Oral histories and building construction evidence of "roughcasting" on the Wemple-Shelton House's stucco foundation, a characteristic of Cosby's work, tie him to the construction of the home along with Cosby's association with master craftsman Thomas Day.<sup>14</sup> Two known, extant examples of Cosby's work in North Carolina are the Dr. Beverly Jones House (c. 1846, NR- 1976) in Bethania and Dongola (c. 1832-1838 - NR 1973) in Caswell County.<sup>15</sup> Cosby's shop was one of the largest in North Carolina and over his long and distinguished career, he worked on twenty-seven documented projects in the state of North Carolina, including residences, commercial buildings, churches, and public buildings.

Constructed in Caswell County during the transition period between the early nineteenth century (1800-1840) and the Boom Era (1840-1860), the Wemple-Shelton House (c. 1843-1845) is an outstanding example of a small but mighty residence with a two-room plan designed in the transitional Federal-Greek Revival style. Although the two-room plan and nine-over-nine, double-hung windows of the Wemple-Shelton House reference earlier Federal forms, exterior and interior classical architectural features are representative of the Greek Revival style, including the side gabled roof with chimneys on the gable ends, the pedimented portico supported by Doric columns, and classical mantles featuring Greek keys and other classical motifs. Apart from the 1930 addition and the c. 1997 enclosure of the porch at the rear of the addition, few changes have been made to the interior or exterior of the house. The c. 1843-45 footprint of the home continues to be clearly identifiable, and its original interior and exterior woodwork elements and door hardware, plaster walls, fireplaces, and windows remain intact as character-defining features. The period of significance is the home's c. 1843-1845 construction date.

<sup>13</sup> Patricia Phillips Marshall and Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, *Thomas Day: Master Craftsman and Free Man of Color*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010, p. 137.

<sup>14</sup> Interview with Bill Chandler, mother Ruby Chandler, daughter of James Spencer Shelton and Bessie Shelton. Interview conducted with Jerry Nix on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

<sup>15</sup> Ruth Little-Stokes and Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr. (March 1976), "Dr. Beverly Jones House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination and Inventory. North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

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

### **Historic Background**

The Wemple-Shelton House was built between 1843-1845 nearly three miles west of Yanceyville, Caswell County, North Carolina for Dr. John DeGraff Wemple and his wife Dorothy Gwynn Wemple. Dr. Wemple was a trained dentist and represented a rising cadre of professionals in Caswell County of the "Bright Leaf Boom Era," a period of wealth accumulation facilitated by the discovery of the charcoal-curing process that produced Bright-Leaf tobacco in 1839.<sup>16</sup> Later, the house was owned by William Thomas Shelton (1849-1911) and his family, a middle-income farming household.

John DeGraff Wemple was born June 15, 1809 in Fonda, New York to Johannes A. Wemple (1778-1814) and Maria "Maryte" Degraff Wemple (before 1785-before 1880).<sup>17</sup> The Wemple family were early Dutch settlers to the North American colonies and held associations with shipping and as merchants. The "DeGraff" family name can be traced to a former governor of the Netherlands Antilles, Johannes de Graff (1729-1813). A biography found in an unpublished manuscript written by William Barent Wemple II explained that Dr. Wemple "went to New York City when he was fourteen years old and served seven years apprenticeship in the harness business. He then went to Petersburg, VA, where he lived and worked one year, then to Yanceyville, Caswell County, North Carolina, sixteen miles from Danville, VA. He worked for years, during which time he studied dentistry, attended lectures and graduated in Baltimore, MD."<sup>18</sup>

In this undated letter from Dr. Wemple to his cousin Dr. D. F. Wemple in Ohio recorded by William Barent Wemple II provided further detail to his life. Dr. Wemple stated in the letter, "I commenced my studies with Dr. Kendall, at Utica, in 1840, after leaving him I came to this place [Yanceyville, NC], commenced the practice of dentistry & continued until 1841, when I went to Baltimore to attend lectures in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, where I graduated in 1841. I have had a good practice for some years & have realized some money - enough to render me quite comfortable."<sup>19</sup>

A newspaper report on October 31, 1836, provides one of the earliest references to Dr. Wemple who was noted as attending a political dinner in Yanceyville given to the senators and republican

<sup>16</sup> Ruth Little-Stokes, "An Inventory of Historic Architecture Caswell County North Carolina, the built environment of a burley and bright-leaf tobacco economy," The Caswell County Historical Association, Inc., and Division of Archives and History North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1979, p. 3.

<sup>17</sup> "The descendants of Jan Barentse Wemp (Including Female Lines) from the work of William Barent Wemple, II (1866-1924) George Jesse Wemple (1913-1977)," compiled by David R. Wemple. Volume One. Home of the Wemple Family Ancestry Webpage <<https://www.wemple.org/getperson.php?personID=I2020&tree=Wemple>>; Accessed May 12, 2018.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

representatives of North Carolina in congress. The (pro-Democrat) Weekly Standard news article published Wemple's toast in which he stated: "May the freedom of Election be preserved, the trial by jury maintained, and the liberty of the press be secured by the latest posterity."<sup>20</sup>

The next year saw a second reference to Wemple's attendance at "The Great Dinner in Caswell County" held at the house of Zera Gwyn, the soon-to-be father-in-law of Dr. Wemple. The "sumptuous and splendid dinner" took place on the beautiful and spacious lawn, shaded by lofty and spreading forest trees. Wemple was quoted as referencing "Agriculture Commerce, and Manufactures: Three great founts of American industry; equal distribution of protection will secure national prosperity," which was perhaps an acknowledgement to protectionist trade policies being debated at the time.<sup>21</sup> Considering the apolitical tone of the toast relative to other toasts that referenced President Jackson in positive terms and his rival Henry Clay in negative terms, Wemple's political enthusiasm might have been less a motivation for attendance than the attention of the host's daughter, Dolly Gwynn.

Dr. Wemple married Caswell County native Dorothy "Dolly" Gwynn on March 17, 1841.<sup>22</sup> Dorothy was born on May 3, 1813 to Zera Gwynn (1778-1840) and Temperance Goodson (1756-1829). The Gwynns participated in the slavery-based planter economy of the Dan and Roanoke River valleys with roughly two generations of residency in Caswell County at the time of their marriage.<sup>23</sup> Although the will cannot be found, according to family history, Dorothy Wemple inherited the land on which the Wemple-Shelton House was constructed from her paternal grandfather, Daniel Gwynn.

In the letter to Dr. D. F. Wemple, Dr. John Wemple further describes his family, stating, "I married in the spring of 1841 to a Miss Gwynn, of this county. We have 4 children, 3 daughters and one son. One daughter died in infancy. Those that are living are aged one daughter 14 years last July, one 12 years old last March, only son was 9 years old last September."<sup>24</sup> Youngest daughter Elizabeth Wemple did not survive infancy when she was born in 1851.

The 1850 census listed John D. and Dorothy Wemple with three children, identified as Maria J., Laura, and Orlando, with real estate valued at \$2,000. Other professionals in the county in the 1850 census accompanied by monetary values include physician John F. Garland with real estate valued at \$49,000, lawyer Calvin Graves with real estate valued at \$8,145, lawyer Nathaniel Palmer valued at \$7,000, physician Samuel Bracken with real estate valued at \$5,300, merchant Stephen Neal with real estate valued at \$4,000, minister Solomon Lea and merchant David

<sup>20</sup> *The Weekly Standard*, Raleigh, North Carolina, Wednesday, October 31, 1838, p. 2.

<sup>21</sup> *The Weekly Standard*, Raleigh, North Carolina), Wednesday, October 2, 1839, p. 2..

<sup>22</sup> Caswell County Genealogy: Daniel Gwynn Webpage.

<<https://caswellcountync.org/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I8565&tree=tree1>>, Accessed December 12, 2020.

<sup>23</sup> Year: 1830; Census Place: Caswell, North Carolina; Series: M19; Roll: 119; Page: 317; Family History Library Film: 0018085; and Caswell County Genealogy Webpage: Daniel Gwynn

<<https://caswellcountync.org/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I5692&tree=tree1>>, Accessed December 12, 2020.

<sup>24</sup> The descendants of Jan Barentse Wemp, William Barent Wemple, II.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

Richmond both with real estate valued at \$2,000, and teacher John Rainey with real estate valued at \$300. Within that spectrum, Dr. Wemple falls into the middle-income bracket among professionals.<sup>25</sup>

John D. Wemple of Caswell County is listed as a transient member of the Dialectic Society of the University of North Carolina for the class of 1847 in the Order of Exercises for Commencement 3rd June 1852.<sup>26</sup> It is not known in what capacity he was enrolled in the university.

The 1850 Slave Census reveals that John D. Wimpte [sic] enslaved a nine-year-old girl.<sup>27</sup>

Wemple offered dentistry services across the state, apparently in communities that lacked established professional dental services. In May 1856, Dr. Wemple was in Kinston advancing his services. "A Card," the promotion stated, "Dr. J. D. Wemple, Dentist, graduate of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, respectfully tenders his professional services to the ladies and gentlemen of Kinston and vicinity. He is prepared to perform all the operations connected with the science of Dentistry upon the latest improved principles. He may be consulted at Mr. Barwick's Hotel, for a few days."<sup>28</sup> He returned to Kinston numerous times through the late 1850s.

Additional insights may be gleaned from the 1860 census data. In that year, J. D. Wemple is listed as a dentist with \$10,000 of real estate and a personal estate valued at \$7,000. D. Wemple, his wife, and 16-year-old farmer J. A. Stephens, who was white, are listed in the household along with daughters, M(aria) and Laura, and son, Orlando. The family's wealth is conspicuous, exceeded by few other non-farming professionals in the county including the \$24,300 value of physician W. H. Henderson, the \$29,500 of physician Jonathan Q. Anderson, the \$47,000 value of merchant Stephen Neal, and the \$52,000 value of farmer and physician Jon L. Williamson.<sup>29</sup>

The 1860 Slave Census recorded that J. D. Wemple enslaved a 50-year-old Black man, a 26-year-old Black woman, a 20-year-old Black woman, a nine-year-old "mulatto" girl, and two additional girls aged 3 and 2 years. The nine-year-old is noted as a fugitive from the state, though this might be a tick-mark for accounting the "mulatto" population. One "slave house" is indicated for the listing.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Year: 1850; Census Place: Caswell, North Carolina; Roll: 623; Pages: 178a-226a.

<sup>26</sup> "University of North Carolina Order of Exercises for Commencement," Printed by Seaton Gales, Raleigh, June 3, 1852..

<sup>27</sup> 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for John D Wemple. The National Archive in Washington DC; Washington, DC; NARA Microform Publication: M432; Title: Seventh Census Of The United States, 1850; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29.

<sup>28</sup> *American Advocate*, Kinston, North Carolina, Thursday, May 15, 1856, p. 3. Accessed December 16, 2020.

<sup>29</sup> Year: 1860; Census Place: Caswell, North Carolina; Page: 354-395; Family History Library Film: 80389.

<sup>30</sup> 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for J D Wemple. The National Archives in Washington DC; Washington DC, USA; Eighth Census of the United States 1860; Series Number: M653; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29



Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

By the time of the 1870 Federal Census, Dr. Wemple was 60 years of age. Still recognized as a surgeon dentist, his real estate is valued at \$1000 and his personal estate at \$300. His wife, acknowledged as "Dolly," was recorded as "Keeping house," and eldest daughter Mariah was teaching school. Two additional Black residents of the property include Lewis, a 16-year-old farm hand and Rebecca, a 17-year-old house servant, neither of whom would learn to read or write.<sup>31</sup>

The three surviving Wemple children enjoyed productive lives. Mariah Temperance (1843-1900) married James Nunnally in 1876. They lived in the Pelham community of Caswell County. Laura (1845-1906) married Henry Howard in 1867. They lived in the Pelham community and had five children. Orlando (1848-1914) married Elizabeth Pinnix in 1872. They had six children and moved to Danville where Orlando operated the Wemple & Company, a tobacco company.<sup>32</sup>

Dr. Wemple died on 10 February 1873. His death was referenced in the Wilmington Star newspaper, which simply stated "D. Wemple, dentist, of Caswell county, is dead."<sup>33</sup>

Dorothy died on the 4th of June, 1886 and her death attracted more attention than her husband's. The Raleigh Christian Advocate reported "Wemple - On the 5th day of June, 1886, at the residence of her son-in-law, H. O. Howard, in Caswell county, Mrs. Dorothy Wemple, consort of the late Dr. John D. Wemple, died in the 74th year of her age. She was converted 44 years ago and joined the Methodist church 12 years ago. She lived a true Christian life and after several weeks of great suffering, died in peace."

Dr. Wemple and Dorothy are both interred in the Gwynn family cemetery in Locust Hill, Caswell County.

The family home along with 170.35 acres was sold to William Thomas Shelton and his second wife, Martha Elizabeth Page Shelton on July 8, 1893. It was deeded by Orlando, Maria, and Laura Wemple, the three Wemple children.<sup>34</sup> The Shelton's eldest son, James Spencer Shelton expanded the house in 1930 by adding a frame rear wing and porch (now enclosed) to the west of the original brick rear wing. The house was also among the first in the community to have electricity and a phone.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Year: 1870; Census Place: Locust Hill, Caswell, North Carolina; Roll: M593\_1128; Page: 371A; Family History Library Film: 552627. Accessed 20 December 2020.

<sup>32</sup> Caswell County Genealogy: Orlando Wemple.

<<https://caswellcountync.org/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I8561&tree=tree1>>, Accessed December 14, 2020.

<sup>33</sup> *The Wilmington Morning Star*, Wilmington, North Carolina, Tuesday, March 4, 1873, p. 4.

<sup>34</sup> Interview with family descendent, (Deed Book YY, Page 119, Caswell County Courthouse).

<sup>35</sup> Caswell County Genealogy Webpage: Dr. John DeGraff Wemple.

<<https://caswellcountync.org/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I8564&tree=tree1>>.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

William Thomas Shelton was born in 1849, son of James and Martha Martin Shelton.<sup>36</sup> The Sheltens were prosperous farmers who lived in the immediate neighborhood among the Gwynns, Watlingtons, and Browns.<sup>37</sup> His first marriage to Bettie Watlington took place in 1871 and resulted in three daughters: Eugenia, Martha, and Mary.<sup>38</sup> His second marriage was to Martha Elizabeth Page.<sup>39</sup> Martha was born in 1869, daughter of James and Mary Page. The pair were married in 1893 and they had three children, James "Jimmie" Spencer (1895-1983), William Brown (1904-1952), and Nettie Malloy (1908-1962).

William died in 1911 at the age of 61. Martha died in 1921 at the age of 52. They are both interred at the nearby Prospect United Methodist Church. Their eldest son, Jimmie, held the greatest associations with the Wemple-Shelton House.

Upon the death of his father, Jimmie Shelton took responsibilities of the family farm, as indicated in the 1920 United States Federal Census in which he is listed as a laborer on his mother's farm. In 1921, he married Bessie Poteat, and the couple had five children: William Thomas, Stephen, Sarah, Ruby, Margaret and Betsy.

Jimmie, also known as J. S, in adulthood, was a farmer, and an Instructor for the V.A. Farm Program, and a member of the A.S.C.S. [Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service] for 33 years. He died in 1983. Bessie died in 2001. Heirs of the family sold the house in 2019.

### Architectural Context

The Caswell County Boom Era (1840-1860), brought on by the success of the charcoal-curing process of Bright-Leaf tobacco, resulted in a period of incredible prosperity for white planters in the region.<sup>40</sup> This flush of rising fortunes for the planter class resulted in a period of prosperity and wealth accumulation for a rising group of Caswell County professionals, including trained dentist John DeGraff Wemple. As a result of this rising prosperity, the architectural landscape of Caswell County changed drastically. Wealthy planters and other successful members of the commercial class, bolstered by the local economy's sudden influx of cash from tobacco profits, began building new houses in the Greek Revival style to replace early nineteenth century homes, which were often built in the Federal style.<sup>41</sup> Constructed in Caswell County during the transition period between the early nineteenth century (1800-1840) and the Boom Era, the Wemple-Shelton House (c. 1843-1845) is an outstanding example of a small but mighty residence with a two-room plan designed in the transitional Federal-Greek Revival style. The two-room open plan

<sup>36</sup> "William Thomas Shelton," Find a Grave, <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98768097/william-thomas-shelton>>, Accessed May 19, 2021.

<sup>37</sup> 1850 United States Census.

<sup>38</sup> State of North Carolina, Caswell County Office Register of Deeds Marriage License, November 11, 1871.

<sup>39</sup> State of North Carolina, Caswell County Office Register of Deeds Marriage License, October 31, 1893.

<sup>40</sup> Ruth Little-Stokes, "An Inventory of Historic Architecture Caswell County North Carolina, the built environment of a burley and bright-leaf tobacco economy," The Caswell County Historical Association. Inc., and Division of Archives and History North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1979, p. 3.

<sup>41</sup> Ruth Little-Stokes, "William and Sarah Holderness House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination and Inventory. North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 2014.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

and nine-over-nine, double-hung windows of the Wemple-Shelton House echo the earlier Federal style forms, while stylistically both exterior and interior architectural features follow the design trends and styles of Greek Revival, including the side gabled roof with chimneys on the gable ends, the pedimented portico supported by Doric columns, and classical mantles featuring Greek keys and other classical motifs.

The most common open plan form in North Carolina in the early nineteenth century was the hall-parlor plan. Although two-room plans were far less common than hall-parlor, both forms are part of the same family of plans and are characterized by their instinct to not use a hallway. Open plans dominated North Carolina architecture through the early 1800s and into the 1840s. Despite the growing popularity of classical styles like Greek Revival, the traditional open plan form persisted. Both large and small houses from the 1840s transition period retained room arrangements that featured entrances that opened directly into the main room.<sup>42</sup> Although property owners seemed to prefer traditional forms, they often engaged with trending classical fashions by emphasizing symmetry in their designs and favoring classical embellishments in architectural details like mantles, moldings, and staircases.

Other small yet high style, open plan residences in the North Carolina/Virginia border counties trend a bit earlier than the Wemple-Shelton House. However, these smaller, high style homes, including the Wemple-Shelton House, signify the importance homeowners placed on craftsmanship and fine interior details rather than exterior expressions of wealth like large massing or high-style exterior treatments.<sup>43</sup> Rather than house size, these owners prioritized good materials and craftsmanship. Examples of other small, high style, open plan homes in Caswell County, comparable to the Wemple Shelton House, include the Sally Martin House (c. 1800, NR- 1973) located at 303 West Main Street in Yanceyville, the Dr. Nathaniel Roan House (c. 1834, SL- 1972) located at 216 East Main Street in Yanceyville, and the Wooding Place House (c. 1840, NR- 1973) located at 81 North Bridge Street in Milton.

These houses, modest in size but elaborate in their materials and craftsmanship, differ from Caswell County's larger, grander homes of the 1840s-1860s because they represent the values and abilities of the commercial class rather than the wealthy planter class. Though successful, the commercial class of Caswell County could not afford massive, stately, high-style homes. What they could afford, however, was to display their modest wealth in the materials they chose and the craftsmen they employed. The Wemple-Shelton House, for example, though small, represents John DeGraff Wemple's values and aspirations. It is clear in the design choices he made, for example his decision to commission Thomas Day to craft his classical style mantles, that Wemple had hopes and expectations of climbing the socioeconomic ladder. These high-style design decisions sent the message to clients and other professionals in his network, that John Wemple had taste, class, and refinement. Although he pursued a lofty vision for his home's

<sup>42</sup> Catherine Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003, p. 69, 132.

<sup>43</sup> Catherine Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003, p. 129.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

design, Wemple's decision to retain the more traditional, outdated open plan and informal double main entrances reflect his practical needs.

One of the best local examples of the Greek Revival masonry construction in Caswell County is the Jeremiah Graves House, also known as Dongola (c. 1832-1838 - NR 1973), located at 336 West Main Street in Yanceyville. Although Dongola does not fit the Wemple-Shelton House's modest form, stylistically it is the only other brick structure among the many other houses of the period present in the Yanceyville vicinity of Caswell County. Notably, both Dongola and the Wemple-Shelton House feature "roughcast" stucco foundations, a construction technique associated with brick mason Dabney Cosby (1793-1862).

Dabney Cosby was a highly successful and sought-after mason in the border counties of Virginia and North Carolina. His work can be found all over North Carolina and Virginia, but his work was especially prolific in the Dan River region. His shop, which moved from Virginia to North Carolina in c. 1853, was among the largest in the state of North Carolina. There are 27 known properties attributed to Cosby in North Carolina, one of which is Dongola in Yanceyville.<sup>44</sup> Throughout his long and distinguished career, Cosby worked on brick residences, public buildings, schools, churches, and commercial buildings in both North Carolina and Virginia. Another influential builder of the period known for his masonry construction was John Berry (1798-1870). Although Berry is attributed as mason for the 1831 Caswell County Courthouse, his residential work is concentrated in Orange County, where he lived, so it is unlikely that he was the builder of the Wemple-Shelton House.<sup>45</sup> Based on the stucco foundation treatment of the Wemple-Shelton House which was designed using Cosby's characteristic "rough casting" method, Cosby's other known work in the region, and Cosby's association and documented working relationship with master craftsman Thomas Day, it is most likely that Cosby was the builder of the Wemple-Shelton House.

The Wemple-Shelton House's local significance is bolstered by its association with master craftsman Thomas Day (1801-1861). Mantles in the Wemple-Shelton House were identified and noted as significant works in *Thomas Day: Master Craftsman and Free Man of Color*. Thomas Day, a free Black master craftsman, was a highly sought-after artisan known for his distinctive furniture and architectural interiors in the Dan River region. As the most successful cabinetmaker in the state of North Carolina, Day's work became synonymous with taste and refinement. His exploration into classical styles and mastery of popular pattern books distinguished him from other artisans in the region. Day, who often worked with Dabney Cosby, fabricated mantles, doors, moldings, staircases, and other interior woodwork for white patrons across the state of North Carolina.

<sup>44</sup> J. Marshall Bullock and Catherine W. Bishir, "Dabney Cosby," North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary, NC State University Libraries <<https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000019>>.

<sup>45</sup> J. Marshall Bullock and Catherine W. Bishir, "John Berry," North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary, NC State University Libraries <<https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000065>>.

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

**Log Building**, contributing, c. late 18th to early 19th century

In the 1990s, the chimney on the south elevation of the Log Building collapsed, taking out an addition and shifting the house on its already uneven foundation. When the property was acquired by the current property owner in 2019, the Log Building was in disrepair. Over the years, parts of the building had deteriorated severely, and past owners had made extraneous additions. The structure's slight stone foundation was uneven, and the building was near collapse.

The current property owner removed the debris and extraneous additions from around the building. The siding on the front of the building (not original) was removed. Because the logs were hardly weathered underneath the new siding, and there was no evidence of chinking, it was evident that the logs had never been exposed and had always been covered in weatherboard siding. In 2022, new weatherboard siding was installed, painted, and primed. The historic standing seam roof was repaired, and the chimney was reconstructed where the previous one had fallen. The non-historic front door was replaced with a 19th century board-and-batten door with strap hinges, pintles, and door-lock to match the surviving door on the east elevation. The historic whitewashed walls on the interior were untouched. The log construction and architectural details of the building point to an earlier construction date than the main house (c. 1843-1845). According to oral tradition, the house predates the Wemple's purchase of the land and was inhabited by the Wemple family while they waited for their new house to be completed.

The structure's west-facing elevation with decorative cornice suggests that this elevation was once a north-facing façade, oriented towards the main road. The uneven foundation of the structure along with the altered orientation suggest that the building was moved from its original location. The chimney on the south elevation of the Log Building suggests that the structure was used as a dwelling and likely served as a residence for enslaved and free laborers after the brick house was completed.<sup>46</sup>

Other known dwellings for enslaved laborers in Caswell County are found behind the William and Sarah Holderness House (c. 1851, NR- 2014) in Yanceyville, the Milton State Bank (c. 1860, NR- 1973) in Milton, and the Friou-Hunt-Hurdle House (c. 1860, NR- 1973) in Milton. Unfortunately, in Caswell County and other rural communities, dwellings for enslaved laborers, which were once ubiquitous in this region, seldom survive.

The William and Sarah Holderness House dwelling for enslaved laborers (c. 1855) was significantly deteriorated and, at the time of its nomination to the National Register in 2014, was partially dismantled, numbered, and stored for future reconstruction. Before its severe

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<sup>46</sup> 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for John D Wemple. The National Archive in Washington DC; Washington, DC; NARA Microform Publication: M432; Title: Seventh Census Of The United States, 1850; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for J D Wemple. The National Archives in Washington DC; Washington DC, USA; Eighth Census of the United States 1860; Series Number: M653; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29.

Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

deterioration, the dwelling was constructed of square-notched logs, chinked with wood chips, stone and stucco. The building was designed as a saddlebag construction, with two dwelling units flanking a chimney. Photographic evidence reveals that the log walls were once covered with weatherboard, like the Wemple-Shelton Log Building.<sup>47</sup>

The upstairs, heated rooms of the kitchen and laundry building located behind the Milton State Bank were likely used as dwellings for enslaved laborers.<sup>48</sup> Similarly, the outbuilding behind the Friou-Hunt-Hurdle House was also used as a kitchen downstairs and a heated sleeping quarters upstairs for enslaved laborers.<sup>49</sup> Like the Wemple-Shelton Log Building and William and Sarah Holderness House outbuilding, the Friou-Hunt-Hurdle outbuilding was also constructed of hewn timbers and has a whitewashed interior.

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<sup>47</sup> Ruth Little-Stokes, “William and Sarah Holderness House,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination and Inventory. North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 2014.

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Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

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<https://www.wemple.org/getperson.php?personID=I2020&tree=Wemple>

Wrenn, Tony P., and Ruth Little-Stokes. *An Inventory of Historic Architecture: Caswell County, North Carolina*. The Caswell County Historical Association, 1979.

"Yanceyville Historic District." Living Places. The Gombach Group. Accessed July 25, 2021.  
[https://www.livingplaces.com/NC/Caswell\\_County/Yanceyville\\_Town/Yanceyville\\_Historic\\_District.html](https://www.livingplaces.com/NC/Caswell_County/Yanceyville_Town/Yanceyville_Historic_District.html)



Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

Year: 1830; Census Place: Caswell, North Carolina; Series: M19; Roll: 119; Page: 317;  
Family History Library Film: 0018085

Year: 1850; Census Place: Caswell, North Carolina; Roll: 623; Pages: 178a-226a.

1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for John D Wemple. The National Archive in Washington DC; Washington, DC; NARA Microform Publication: M432; Title: Seventh Census of The United States, 1850; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29

Year: 1860; Census Place: Caswell, North Carolina; Page: 354-395; Family History Library Film: 803891

1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for J D Wemple. The National Archives in Washington DC; Washington DC, USA; Eighth Census of the United States 1860; Series Number: M653; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29.

Year: 1870; Census Place: Locust Hill, Caswell, North Carolina; Roll: M593\_1128; Page: 371A; Family History Library Film: 552627. Accessed 20 December 2020.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** CS0256

Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 1.77 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.405999

Longitude: -80.505464

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐

NAD 1927

or

☐

NAD 1983

1. Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

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

The nominated boundary encompasses the entire 1.77-acre Caswell County tax parcel number 0053000000370000, as indicated by the line on the associated National Register boundary map.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary is drawn to include the Wemple Shelton House and historically related log building on the residual 1.77-acre parcel, which provides an appropriate historic setting for the nominated resources. The boundary excludes later, non-historic development on all four sides of the nominated parcel. Although the land was once part of a 170-acre parcel purchased by Thomas Shelton in 1893, and possibly an even larger parcel when it was originally owned by Dr. John DeGraff and Dorothy Gwynn Wemple, it was later subdivided and sold off for redevelopment and is no longer associated with the historic property.<sup>50</sup>

## 11. Form Prepared By

<sup>50</sup> Deed Book YY, Page 119, Caswell County Courthouse.

Wemple-Shelton House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

name/title: Samantha Smith, Benjamin Briggs, Laura Clifton  
organization: Gate City Preservation L.L.C.  
street & number: 211 Tate Street  
city or town: Greensboro state: NC zip code: 27403  
e-mail: samantha@gatecitypreservation.com  
telephone: (919) 389-0564  
date: August 23, 2021

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

Description of Photograph: Front (north) elevation of structure showing restored columns, double entrances.

1 of 13.

Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: Side (west) elevation of structure showing 1930 addition.

2 of 13.

Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: Rear (south) elevation of structure showing c. 1997 porch enclosure and 2022 rear porch decking.

3 of 13.

Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: Side (east) elevation of structure showing the single-story, single-pile rear block of the house was constructed c. 1844-1845.

4 of 13.

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Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: Log building, south and east elevation.

5 of 13.

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Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: View of the inside of the west parlor, facing southwest.

6 of 13.

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Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: View of faux marbling on the stair risers in the west parlor staircase.

7 of 13.

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Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: View of the inside of the east parlor, facing southeast.

8 of 13.

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Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: View of the full bath located in the single-pile rear block, facing east.

9 of 13.

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Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: View of the bedroom located in the single-pile rear block, facing south

10 of 13.

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Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: View of the kitchen, facing west.

11 of 13.

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Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: View of the dining room, facing southwest.

12 of 13.

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Wemple-Shelton House

Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina

County and State

Name of Property: Wemple-Shelton House

City or Vicinity: Yanceyville

County: Caswell County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Smith

Date Photographed: June 10, 2022

Description of Photograph: View of the west second floor bedroom, facing west.

13 of 13.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours  
Tier 2 – 120 hours  
Tier 3 – 230 hours  
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.