

I. General Information

1. Hall Family Farm House
2. 9935 HWY 801, Mt Ulla, NC 28125
3. Tax parcel # 763-002
4. Turner Correll and Patricia Hall
5. 9935 HWY 801, Mt Ulla, NC 28125
6. Appraised value: House: \$256,157, Land: \$26,000

Total Value: \$282,157

II Abstract

The Hall Family House located in and around a grove of trees on the southeast side of Sherrill's Ford Road (NC 801), has been the seat of the Hall family's agricultural operations since 1856 when Major Newberry Franklin Hall purchased two tracts from the heirs of James A. Gillespie.

The farm house thought to have been built by James G. Graham is a large two-story frame Greek Revival dwelling which retains its original appearance and finish including vernacular interpretations of the plates published by Asher Benjamin. Expansions of the house to suit the changing needs of the decedents of Major Hall who have continually occupied the home, have not distracted from the architectural integrity of the house. The house is an outstanding example of a nineteenth century prosperous Rowan County farm seat. Approximately, one acre of land, the setting of the house, is to be included in the designation. Only the exterior of the house is to be included in the local designation. The house along with farm related out buildings was recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Because the local designation will be restricted to the family house under the criteria of architecture, the out buildings will not be included in this report.

III Historical Background

(Summarized from the Hall Family House National Register of Historic Places Nomination)

1. The Hall Family House, built for Major Newberry Franklin Hall, is located in the Bear Poplar community of western Rowan County. Settled well before the Revolution, this area has remained overwhelmingly rural in character, with agriculture being the chief means of livelihood. Since its beginnings during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, dairy farming in particular has become an increasingly important factor in the local economy; and the Hall family dairy farm has now been in continuous operation for slightly more than a century.

Newberry F. Hall, the son of Joseph Wells and Margaret Linster Hall, was born in Davie County on the 24th of April 1811. His father Joseph was the son of Col. John Hall, and was a prominent Yadkin River planter. Reared on his father's plantation, young Newberry F. Hall attended Jerusalem Presbyterian Church, obtained his education in Davie

County, and is said to have been an avid reader even as a boy.¹

By 1850 Hall had established himself as a prosperous Davie County planter in his own right. In that year he was the owner of a farm of 350 acres, 200 of which were improved. He was engaged primarily in the cultivation of corn and was the owner of twenty slaves.²

Hall was twice married while still a resident of Davie County: first, to a Miss Crump in 1840; second, to Elizabeth Lowery in 1850. Each of these marriages was ended by the death of his wife; and a small child, apparently an only child, also passed away.³ It was quite possibly the death of his first two wives (the latter dying in October of 1852) which brought about Hall's removal to the Bear Poplar area of Rowan County about 1853.

His first place of residence in this area appears to have been approximately one half mile east of the house which his descendants still occupy.⁴ On 22 March 1854 Hall married his third wife, Martha Ernaline Shuford. Their marriage of thirty-five years produced nine children.

The land upon which the Hall House stands was acquired by Newberry F. Hall from the widow and heirs of James A. Gillespie. The purchase was made on 4 December 1856, for a recited consideration of \$2,681. Some 495 acres were conveyed in this transaction, consisting of two contiguous tracts of ninety-five and 400 acres.⁶ This land had formerly belonged to Richard Gillespie, who died in 1830, and subsequently to his son, James A. Gillespie, who died in 1845. Documentary evidence suggests that the property was not substantially improved at the time of Newberry Hall's purchase.³

Though family tradition maintains that the Hall House was constructed by Newberry Hall in 1856, the house may not have been built until soon after Hall's purchase of the Gillespie property. The builder is thought to have been James G. Graham, who built homes for at least two other prominent residents of western Rowan County.⁴

In September of 1856 Hall officially transferred his membership to Thyatira Church from Unity Church, where he had been a member since the early 1830s. For more than three decades he played a leading role in the life of the Thyatira congregation. In 1860 he was ordained an elder in the church and continued in that position until his death in 1889. In addition, he served as a member of the building committee which supervised the construction of the present church building at Thyatira in 1860, and was called upon, on several occasions, to represent the congregation at meetings of the Presbytery and Synod.

A fellow member of the Thyatira congregation recalled that: *Major Hall was a man of far more than ordinary intelligence, and his knowledge and judgment were sought far and wide by friends and acquaintances ...*⁵

¹ Hall Family House: National Historic Register of Historic Places # 82001305, October 5, 1982

² Hall, NRHP

³ Hall, NRHP

⁴ Hall, NRHP

Although he had been a resident of Rowan for only a few years, Hall was elected in 1856 to represent the county in the North Carolina House of Commons. There he served three consecutive terms, leaving office in 1861. During the period of his service in the legislature, Hall established an apparently prosperous and expanding plantation around his new home in Rowan County. By 1860, he owned 700 acres of farmland, 250 of which were improved. The cash value of the farm was placed at \$15,500. Hall was keeping a considerable amount of livestock at this time and was engaged in the cultivation of a variety of crops, especially wheat and corn. His labor force consisted of 22 slaves, many of whom had probably come with him from his former plantation.⁶

In Rowan County and throughout the entire South, agriculture suffered a severe and prolonged depression following the Civil War. Hall's farm appears to have been no exception. By 1870 his acreage had declined to 405, with 140 acres under cultivation. The cash value of the farm was now put at \$2,075; and the number of livestock and the amount of crop production showed marked declines from a decade earlier.

In 1880 Hall's farm comprised 225 acres, with seventy-five acres under improvement. Cash value of the farm at this time was placed at \$3,000. During the preceding year, however, Joseph S. Hall and George A. Hall had begun to establish, on their father's farm, the family dairying tradition which is still carried on today. The dairying operation begun by the sons of Newberry F. Hall is said to have been one of the earliest in Rowan County. As such, it anticipated what was to become a thriving form of agricultural activity in the county's future. In 1870 Rowan had ranked very low in the state in the production of dairy products, despite a high ranking overall in agricultural production. By the early 1950s, Rowan would rank among the top four counties of the state in dairy farming, with over 200 grade A dairies.

Newberry F. Hall died on 3 March 1889, at the age of 78. He was buried in the cemetery of Thyatira Church. His wife Martha survived him by fifteen years, dying on 18 April 1904. The year after her death, long-term financial difficulties and a legal dispute brought about the sale of the family farm at the Rowan County Courthouse in Salisbury, on 25 September 1905. Last and highest bidder at that time was Joseph S. Hall, who paid \$3,000 for the farm, then consisting of 244 acres. Joseph S. Hall, the second child of Newberry F. and Martha E. Hall, was probably the one individual most responsible for establishing the dairying tradition in the Hall family.⁷

During the early years of the dairying operation, he had worked closely with his younger brother George A. Hall in carrying on the business. George, however, passed away in 1894, and the dairying operation and the family farm as a whole fell on hard times in the last years of the nineteenth and early years of the twentieth century.⁸

Joseph S. Hall married Ida Eliza Correll in 1882. Their union resulted in the birth

⁵ Hall, NRHP

⁶ Hall, NRHP

⁷ Hall, NRHP

⁸ Hall, NRHP

of eight children. Following his acquisition of the farm in 1905, Hall succeeded in placing it once again on a firm financial footing, and in gradually expanding the dairying operation.

The family dairying business had begun with the shipment of cream by rail to Winston-Salem. By the turn of the century, milk was being transported by horse-drawn wagon to Salisbury, and bottled there under the Hall Farm label. The first truck was purchased for the dairy business about 1915, and J. S. Hall and other members of the family continued to expand their operation during the following years. Eventually, J. S. Hall relinquished primary responsibility for the farm and family business to his son, Frank Grady Hall, father of the present owner.

In addition to being a successful dairy farmer and businessman, Joseph S. Hall was an agent for the Rowan County Extension Service and served two terms on the Board of County Commissioners. Like his father and other members of the family, he was also active in the congregational life of Thyatira Church, serving as a deacon for more than thirty years. He died on 10 October 1935 and was interred in the church cemetery. His wife Ida had passed away three years earlier, on 11 September 1932.

Frank Grady Hall, third child of Joseph S. and Ida C. Hall, was born in 1889. His 1918 marriage to Martha Pauline Turner produced seven children. For many years he assisted his father in the family business, finally assuming primary responsibility for its day-to-day operations. In 1937, he acquired sole ownership of the farm; and under his ownership and management the enterprise expanded considerably. In addition, he acquired other sizable holdings of farmland in Rowan County and in South Carolina and engaged in timbering and milling operations. Finally, Hall was active in community affairs and was chairman of the board of deacons at Thyatira Church.

In 1950 Frank and Martha Hall made major alterations and additions to the family residence. The kitchen, which had been added after the Civil War, was replaced by a larger kitchen and a dining room. Other additions occurred on the west gable end. It was several years after this that the house was covered by aluminum siding. (The aluminum siding was on the house when it was approved by the NRHP. However, the siding was removed in 2005 and the original German siding was restored.)

Frank Grady Hall died on 8 May 1951, at which time the family farm passed to his widow Martha. In July of 1952 Mrs. Hall conveyed ownership to her son, Turner Correll Hall, and his wife, Hazel Palmer Hall, reserving for herself a life estate in the property. In August of 1960 Mrs. Hall relinquished her life estate and conveyed full title to the 250 acre farm and homeplace to Mr. and Mrs. Turner C. Hall.

In 1975, a fire did considerable damage to the south section of the house; but this damage was repaired with only minor alterations to the structure. In addition to the house, two other original structures remain on the property: a log smokehouse and a log barn, moved to its present location in the early twentieth century.

(The above information is taken directly from the 1984 National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form)

(Neither the smokehouse nor the log barn is included in the designation as they are not within the confines of the land that is to be designated with the house.)

Per Correll Hall, the farm operated under the name, Hazel and Daley Dairy Farm, until 1986. The farm is no longer a dairy but does grow crops. Correll Hall is the fourth generation of Newberry F. Halls descendants.

After his father, Turner Hall, died in January of 2004, Correll Hall and his wife Patricia moved into the house in October of 2005.

2. The Hall Family House was built in 1856-1857.

3. Dates of Alterations:

Circa 1865: The first addition to the house occurred shortly after the Civil War when the loss of slaves required the construction of a new kitchen replacing the original free-standing kitchen. A kitchen with pantry and porch was constructed as an ell off the house's dining room. This kitchen ell occupied the entire first story elevation of the west elevation of the main (two-story) ell.

1951: Following the death of Frank Grady Hall in May, 1951, Mrs. Hall and her son and daughter-in-law (who moved into the house with her) effected a number of changes and improvements to the house. The most substantial of these was the construction of a new (third) kitchen and (second) dining room which was, in part, an overbuilding of the porch carrying inside the "L" plan of the house. The crotch of the porch remained in place as a (the aforementioned third) hall and a bathroom was built here. The new (second) dining room was built to the east of this hall and to the south of the living room. The new (third) kitchen was built across its south end and extended over what was the south end of the earlier porch. The new kitchen occupies the southeast corner of the house with doors into the original and second dining rooms. It has pairs of six-over-six sash windows in its east wall. The kitchen has sheet rocked walls while the dining room has plaster walls.

Circa 1930: Changes were made simultaneously to the old kitchen ell. The large chimney on its west gable end had been pulled down and replaced by a pair of six-over-six sash windows about 1930. A flue stack was then built on its north elevation for a wood cookstove.

1950: In 1950 Aluminum siding was added to the exterior.

1951: In the 1951 remodeling the old kitchen became the furnace room and Turner Hall's office. The old flue stack was pulled down and a new one built for the furnace. The screened porch was enclosed and the pantry at its east end was converted to a kitchen for Mrs. Turner (Hazel Palmer) Hall.

1965: About 1965 Mrs. Frank Grady Hall had a shallow ell constructed off her bedroom to house a sewing room. Following her death in 1973 the sewing room was fitted with closets

when Turner and Hazel Hall moved their bedroom down from the second story to her room and assumed occupancy of the entire house. Hazel Hall's kitchen (in the former pantry adjoining the second kitchen) then became Mr. Hall's office when she moved into the larger (1951) kitchen. The furnace room remains the furnace room.⁹

2005: In 2005, the exterior aluminum siding was removed and the original exterior wood siding was restored.¹⁰

IV Assessment

1. Description of Significance:

The Hall Family House is locally significant under the category of architecture as one of the few examples of a nineteenth century Greek Revival farmhouse in Rowan County. The house has undergone numerous renovations to accommodate the needs of the Hall family descendants who have continually owned and lived on the property. However, the renovations have been consistent with the design of the original building and do not distract from the architectural integrity of the property. The house, with its alterations, qualified the National Register of Historic Places criteria for architecture in 1982. Additionally, the removal of the aluminum siding and the restoration of the original wooden siding and the restoration to the porch in 2005, further enhances the architectural integrity of the house by returning the materials to their origins. Per the national Register of Historic Places nomination in 1982, the exterior additions and changes in 1930, 1951 and 1965, did not distract from the original symmetry or integrity of the house.

2. Architectural Description:

The Hall Family House, occupied by members of the Hall family since 1856, consists of the large two-story farm seat clustered in and around a grove of oak and elm trees on the south side of the Sherrill's Ford Road. The house is located on a tract of 244 acres which is a part of the 425 acres purchased in 1856 by Major Newberry Franklin Hall, the progenitor of the Hall family in Rowan County. Approximately, one acre of land, the setting of the house, is to be included in the designation.

The Hall Family House, a two-story frame house with a handsome Greek Revival finish, was built as the residence of 'Major Newberry Franklin Hall in 1856-1857. According to local tradition the carpenter was James G. Graham which was also responsible for the construction of two other major ~family houses in the mid-1850s. When first built the house was a traditional three-bay, two-story L-plan frame. with a two story rear ell and secondary stair. The house was covered with aluminum siding in the 1950s. The front (north elevation) has a full-facade shed porch protecting the central entrance and the flanking Bays. It is supported by wood posts-, square in-plan, connected by a round handrail and shaped bottom rail carrying thin square-in-plan balusters. The

⁹ Hall, NRHP

¹⁰ Alfred Wilson, Wilson Construction Company, Interview. October 20, 2019.

porch floor is wood. The entrance contains two three-panel doors flanked by sidelights above blind wood panels. It is framed in a plain aluminum surround with mitered corners. The window surrounds follow the same form and frame six-over-six sash windows.

A brick chimney flanked by fenestration at both levels stands in the center of the main block's east gable end rising through the wide eave of the gable roof which return here as they do on all the gable ends. On the house's west elevation are a pair of chimneys placed off-center to the ridge line of the gable which provide fireplaces to the two-room plan of this end of the house. The west elevation of the two-story ell is continuous with the main block's gable end. The first story, however, has been obscured by a one-story addition. The second story features a window in the south. end of the elevation; The fourth of the house's four chimneys stands in the center of the ell's gable end and is flanked by fenestration on both levels. The porch which once stood inside the "L" has been subsumed by additions.¹¹

(The above description was taken directly from the National Register of Historic Places 1984 Nomination. The interior will not be designated)

3. The property has no known archaeological significance.

4. Based on the National Register of Historic Places the Greek Revival Hall Family House qualifies as an architecturally significant property. The rural setting of the house, as well as the surrounding grounds, are congruent with the setting that would have been present in 1856 when the house was built. The house alterations that were made to accommodate the four generations of descendants who have lived in the house have not distracted from the architectural integrity of the house. The aluminum siding alteration that was completed in the 1950s was determined acceptable by the NRHP. However, in 2005, the aluminum siding was removed and the original wooden exterior was restored thus improving the visual integrity of the house. No additional changes to the footprint of the house have been made since the NRHP nomination was accepted. The house is significant to Rowan County historic preservation as one of the few remaining mid-1980s prosperous farm seats.

5. One acre of land that is to be designated along with the house are similar to the original setting. The land includes the large front lawn, the half circle unpaved driveway, large trees and the well-established plantings that enhance the elegant lines of the house.

GPS coordinates for designation boundary

Lat 35.685629 Lon -80.664875

Lat 35.684941 Lon -80.664456

Lat 35.68513 Lon -80.663905

Lat 35.685856 Lon -80.664355

¹¹ Hall, NRHP

V. Supporting documentation

1. Photographs

1. NW Elevation (front) 298 degrees
2. NW Elevation (front)
3. SW Elevation, 240 degrees
4. SW Elevation from rear
5. NW Elevation (rear) 315 degrees
6. NE Elevation of ell
7. NE Elevation 1
8. NE Elevation 2
9. Large tree in rear

2. Floor plan

10. Floor plan first floor
11. Floor plan second floor

3. Site Plan

12. Site plan

4. Maps

13. Tax Map

VI. Bibliography/ Source Citations

Correll Hall, current owner, Interview. October 18, 2019.

Hall Family House: National Historic Register of Historic Places # 82001305, October 5, 1982

Alfred Wilson, Wilson Construction Company, Interview. October 20, 2019.



Hall Farm Local Designation



- Tax_Parcel
- Roads
- Designation area
- Parcel



1 inch = 100 feet

0 50 100 Feet

The designation area is approximately one acre
The entire property is approximately 148 acres



Kitchen

Dining Room

Living Room

Breakfast
Nook

Closet

Bathroom

Closet
under the
stairs

Stairs

Foyer

Hallway

Hallway

Master
Bedroom

stairs

Closet
under
the
stairs

Closet

Library

Den

Hall

House

Bottom
Floor

Key:

Doors

- 5 panel
- 4 panel
- 3 panel
- 2 panel
- Board

Windows









