



Figure 71. NCDOT Survey #11. Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, site plan.

disrupt the historic integrity of the original mass. Directly abutting the original house is a one-story side-gabled extension fronted by a full-width porch, which is sheltered beneath an extension of the primary roofline. A secondary entry with a wood panel door and a series of single windows and a tripartite window—all exhibiting multi-light wood sash windows—span the elevation. At the rear of this mass, a second large rectangular addition extends the building even farther north. Like the previously described addition, it exhibits materials comparable to the historic core, evidenced in the brick veneer and multi-light wood sash windows. A secondary entry offset toward the east on the façade of this addition is sheltered by a gabled hood with decorative scroll-sawn brackets. This addition also has 1/1 double-hung windows at its north end.

***Outbuildings:***

**Flower House:** To the south of the house is a ca. 1900 one-story, shed-roofed flower house, constructed of load-bearing uncoursed stone walls. The roof is clad in shake shingles. The façade has a centrally-located wood panel door with upper nine-light opening. To either side are three four-light wood sash windows.

**Tenant House:** To the east of the house is a ca. 1890–1900 one-story residence, perhaps a tenant house, built of brick. The building has a side-gable roof of two heights, clad in metal panels. An interior brick chimney pierces the east slope, just off the ridge. A single-leaf façade entry, housing a wood paneled door, opens onto a small stoop sheltered by a front-gabled hood. The house has 6/6 and 8/8 double-hung wood sash windows. Each opening is flanked by decorative louvered shutters. A one-story, shed-roofed mass, housing a single-leaf entry with flush wood door, adjoins the north elevation.

**Office:** To the north of the house is a one-story, front-gabled frame office building, dating from the 1980s. Walls are clad in hardy plank siding, and the roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The façade is characterized by a single-leaf entry with a wood paneled door that opens onto a modern handicap ramp. A single 6/6 double-hung sash window lies to the west. The openings and ramp are sheltered by a shed-roof extension, which frames a concrete patio area. The side elevations have 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows with louvered shutters.

***Historical Background:*** The land currently associated with the Joseph Bason Whitsett House was purchased for \$222 by Joseph Bason Whitsett as the highest bidder at public auction on September 25, 1880 at which time he was a carpenter living on Lavinia Faust's (his mother-in-law's) property (GCDB 69:378; USFC 1880). The house was most likely constructed by Whitsett as a frame T-plan house in the early 1880s, shortly after he acquired the property.

The name of J.B. Whitsett is associated with this house on the 1895 map of Guilford County by Benbow and Johnson. The original 35-acre tract and 16 additional acres were sold by Whitsett and his wife, Mary L. Whitsett, to Lewis F. and Mary V. Troxler, of Alamance County on September 12, 1898 for \$1,050 (GCDB 113:712). Just two days later, on September 14, 1898, the couple sold the same tracts of land back to the Whitsetts for \$500 (GCDB 112:547). J.B. Whitsett appears as the owner of the property on the Miller 1908 map of Guilford County and is recorded in the 1900 and 1910 U.S. censuses as a farmer (USFC 1900, 1910). Upon the death of Joseph B. Whitsett in 1917, the tracts of land were granted to his son Dr. William Thornton Whitsett.

Dr. Whitsett was a professor of history at the University of North Carolina, founder of the Whitsett Academy, a poet, and writer of several family histories. He was listed as a principal at the Whitsett Institute (1898–1918) on the 1900 U.S. census, and as a high school teacher in 1910 and 1920. On the 1930 U.S. census he was listed as a superintendent owning \$10,000 worth of property. At his death on March 24, 1934, Dr. W.T. Whitsett was listed as an author and poet (USFC 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930).



Figure 72. NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, main house looking northwest, with 1980s rear addition visible on right of photo.



Figure 73. NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, main house and extensively landscaped grounds looking north from US 70.



Figure 74. NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, employee parking lot, looking east from center of lot.



Figure 75. NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, main house looking northeast showing modern brick veneer.



Figure 76. NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, main house at left with a section of the 1980s rear addition on the right.



Figure 77. NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, north section of the rear addition to the house built in the late 1980s, looking northwest.



Figure 78. NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, north section of the rear addition to the house built in the late 1980s, looking south.



Figure 79. NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, flower house located south of main house, looking northwest.



Figure 80. NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, tenant house located northeast of main house, looking northeast.

The Joseph Bason Whitsett House is depicted, along with three other buildings, as part of the Whitsett Institute in the *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina, for the Scholastic Years 1898-'99 and 1899-1900*. In the same publication, the author states:

*“A number of large and well-furnished dormitories and boarding halls now grouped around the Institute offer to our students every convenience and comfort. Five excellent houses have been built here during this year, 1899-1900, affording additional accommodation for our rapidly growing patronage. Excellent families have come here and built homes to place their children in school. A post-office (daily mails) is on the grounds; two general supply stores have been opened—in short, a beautiful school village, Whitsett by name, has grown up around the Institution, affording a safe and pleasant place for students from every section. Bar-rooms are prohibited in the village, and temptations to vice and dissipation do not exist. The moral and social atmosphere is pure.”*

The Whitsett Academy operated until the mid-1920s when fire destroyed nearly all of the buildings save the Whitsett House and the two historic outbuildings.

The property passed to Whitsett’s widow on his death and remained in the family until 1979 when 11.3 acres of the Whitsett property was sold to Tommie R. Bowman and his wife, Kay Bundy Bowman (GCDB 2996:519). On February 5, 1987, the Bowmans sold the tract to Nat T. Harris (GCDB 3562:1913). On October 8, 1987, the current owners, Whitsett Partners of Burlington, North Carolina, purchased the property, described as a tract located north of lots 19 and 20 of the Annie L. Foust Estate, as outlined on page 400 of Plat Book 5 (GCDB 3620:1253).

**Statement of Integrity:** Although the original core of the house retains its massing, roofline, porch, and wood decoration intact, its appearance has been greatly altered by the brick veneer cladding and thus lacks integrity of materials. The rear additions from the 1980s have completely overwhelmed and altered the appearance of the house from any perspective but from the front and have impacted the integrity of design, workmanship, and feeling. The setting, now elaborately landscaped and with extensive parking facilities, bears little similarity with its original appearance. Finally, the house, which served as both a residence and then an academic building during its history as Whitsett Academy, is now an insurance office, which impacts its integrity of association.

**NRHP Criteria Assessment:** The Joseph Bason Whitsett House is recommended **not eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion A. According to the NRHP: “[t]o be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property’s specific association must be important as well” (NPS 1990:12). Although the building is associated with the locally important Whitsett Academy, the loss by fire of all of the other academic buildings in the 1920s and the drastic additions to the house and consequent loss of integrity have diminished the ability of the Whitsett House to convey its educational significance.

The Joseph Bason Whitsett House is recommended **not eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion B. According to the NRHP: “[f]or a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person’s productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person’s historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group” (NPS 1990:15). Although the building was the home of the locally prominent North Carolina educator William Thornton Whitsett and part of his Whitsett Academy, the loss by fire of all of the other academic buildings in the 1920s and the drastic additions to the house and consequent loss of integrity have diminished the ability of the Whitsett House to convey its significance.

The Joseph Bason Whitsett House is recommended **not eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion C on the local level. According to the NRHP “[f]or a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction” (NPS 1990:18). Although the original core of the house has retained its massing, roofline, porch, and decorative detail, it is otherwise so altered in appearance and scale that the house no longer conveys its significance as a late-nineteenth-century rural residence.

The Joseph Bason Whitsett House is **not eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion D. According to the NRHP: “[f]or a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important” (NPS 1990:21). The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of education in Guilford County nor to building design or technology.





Figure 81. NCDOT Survey # 11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House (GF-2148), 7241 Burlington Road, Guilford County, aerial photograph (2010) showing site plan.

**NCDOT Survey #s12–16,  
F.W. Haymore Subdivision (GF-8512)  
South side of US 70 (Burlington Road), Whitsett,  
Guilford County**

**Location and Setting:** The area referred to in legal documents and deed records as the F.W. Haymore Subdivision is located along the south side of US 70 (Burlington Road) and east of its intersection with NC 61 in Whitsett (Figures 82–94). Built between 1932 and 1935, the subdivision consists of five residences built on narrow rectangular lots. (It is not known whether any other houses were built and then subsequently demolished).



*NCDOT Survey #s12–16, GF-8512, view of F.W. Haymore Subdivision and US 70, looking west.*

- NCDOT Survey #12, Ingle House, 7232 Burlington Road (GF-8174)
- NCDOT Survey #13, Friddle House, 7226 Burlington Road (GF-8175)
- NCDOT Survey #14, Foster House, 7216 Burlington Road (GF-8176)
- NCDOT Survey #15, Edwards House, 7210 Burlington Road (GF-8177)
- NCDOT Survey #16, Gaither House, 7206 Burlington Road (GF-8178)

Each residence was built close to and oriented toward the road, with an unpaved driveway and detached garage. The houses are surrounded by grass lawns and have mature trees and landscaping. A one-story, non-historic dwelling is located on a lot between 7216 and 7226 Burlington Road, and a large ca. 2000–2005 brick veneered house stands at the south end of a paved driveway between 7232 and 7226 Burlington Road. The northwest corner of the subdivision is occupied by a vacant lot, now used for selling portable storage sheds. A historic Sinclair gas station (now demolished) stood at the southeast corner of the US 70 and NC 61 intersection.

***Architectural Description of Individual Resources within the F.W. Haymore Subdivision:***

All resources 50 years or older within the F.W. Haymore Subdivision were recorded and photographed individually, although none were accessible for interior inspection or photography. Although the houses on the five surveyed properties all were built at approximately the same time, they do not appear to have had a common builder or architect and there is no overriding architectural theme or style.

The four properties at 7206, 7216, 7226, and 7232 Burlington Road are described in detail below and are recommended **not eligible** for individual listing in the NRHP. The Edwards House (NCDOT Survey #15), located at 7210 Burlington Road, is recommended eligible for individual listing in the NRHP and is described in a separate section above.

***NCDOT Survey #12, Ingle House (GF-8174) 7232 Burlington Road:***

This 1932 Period Revival dwelling is oriented to the north. The one-story, three-bay balloon-frame house with brick veneer is built on a modified L plan and has an intersecting jerkinhead roof. The house features brick in a running bond pattern, has a soldier course beltcourse at the foundation and soldier course lintels, and is set on a raised brick foundation. This house features a core with a jerkinhead roof and a prominent steeply-pitched, front-gable projection. Asphalt shingles clad all roof surfaces of the house. A shouldered chimney projects slightly from near the center of the gable-front façade and features