

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Hedden, Elisha Calor, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of Main Street and the old  not for publication  
city, town Webster-Sylva road Webster,  vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Jackson code 099 zip code 28788

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Puff 11/13/89  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Elisha Calor Hedden house is the largest remaining house in Webster, a village of some 100 inhabitants. The property covers approximately one acre and the house has a broad, grassy lawn to the south side, a lawn and garden to the rear and a stone retaining wall and planting to the north. A small frame carriage house sits at the southeast corner of the dwelling. A white picket fence crosses the Main Street boundary and very tall and old trees dot the boundaries of the lot.

The Hedden house is a modest Queen Anne style two-story dwelling of weatherboard painted white. The roof is hipped, with a projecting gable on the west facade and cross gables on north and south elevations. The cross gable on the north projects beyond the mass of the house. A porch with slender Doric columns and hipped roof wraps around the front of the house at the first floor level. On the north section of the porch, an enclosure provides an air-lock to a first floor apartment. The porch has a pedimented gable over the entrance steps, which lead to the main door.

The front facade of the Hedden house is two-bay. The front door is set in the bay to the left and a two-over-two window occupies the bay to the right. In the cross gables, windows on the first floor are double, two-over-two. Second floor windows are single and double, two-over-two, and each of the three gables contains a small double louver of wood. All windows have plain surrounds with drip cap. Cornices are boxed and cornerboards, frieze, and simple brackets are wood and painted white. One of two chimneys is interior and open exterior; both are of brick and have been rebuilt. A downstairs bedroom forms an ell which projects from the rear of the house; in 1985 a porch on the rear was enclosed and a deck added.

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Elisha Calor Hedden House, Webster,  
Jackson County, North Carolina

The interior of the Hedden house is notable for the extensive use of random width beadboard on walls and ceiling. A long hall, lined and ceiled with beadboard, runs from front door to rear door, with rooms opening off each side. The first floor contains five rooms and central hall; the second contains five also, all in natural finish beadboard.

The entrance hall of the Hedden house is square, with open string staircase rising with quarter turn and landing at the left, or north side of the hall. To the right of the stairhall is the parlor, covered with unpainted beadboard and having a large oak mantel with overmantel and mirror. Behind the stairhall to the north is the master bedroom with similar beadboard and mantel. Other rooms have openings in the chimneys for stove pipes.

About 1985 the original rear porch was enclosed with glass and an open deck was added at the rear of the house. These additions are not visible from Main Street or from the old Sylva-Webster Road, and the integrity of the house is not diminished.

On the interior, a first floor bedroom at the rear of the house has been converted to a bathroom, and a bath has been added on the second floor. All remaining fabric is original.

At the southeast corner of the dwelling, a frame carriage house was constructed at the time of the main house. It is rectangular in shape and contains one room for the carriage and a storage room entered from outside. It has been unchanged since its construction.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture  
Social History

c. 1910-1938

c. 1910

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Elisha Calor Hedden house was built in Webster about 1910 and is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C because it is one of Jackson County's best examples of a large, frame home built by a mountain family who moved to Webster to take advantage of the rising industrialism of western North Carolina. Hedden worked for the Carr Lumber Company until he retired and lived in this house until his death in 1938. Today it is Webster's largest remaining house. The house is a two-story weatherboarded dwelling of Queen Anne style with a wrap-around porch. The interior is notable for the extensive use of random width beadboard, on ceilings as well as on all walls, and the house, inside and out, stands as a tribute to the business of lumbering and the art of woodworking.

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Architecture and Social History: At the turn of the century, Webster was a village of approximately 200 and the county seat of Jackson County. Its commercial buildings were grouped on Main Street around a large, two story brick courthouse (demolished in the 1930s). The small commercial area contained two hotels, a drug store, general store, church, post office, jail, Masonic Hall and school building. Also on Main Street, stretching in either direction from the courthouse, were the oldest and largest dwellings of the town. (1) Today the Hedden house is the most prominent of the oldest group of houses in Webster, and while eligible because of its architectural significance, it is equally eligible under Criterion A for its social history because it is a symbol of a profound socio-economic shift in Jackson County and

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the Southern Appalachian region of which it is a part: the transition at the turn of the century from self-sufficient farming to industrialized extractive industries such as lumbering and mining, and the accompanying tourist boom.

The architecture of the Hedden house embodies the social history of the lumber era in Jackson County. Lumbering and the rise of the lumber industry were responsible for the fabric and detail of the Queen Anne style house, which with its extensive use of lumber in construction and finish stands as a sort of monument to the business of lumbering and the art of woodworking. The original owner, Elisha Calor Hedden, sold his mountain farm and timber lands to provide funds for the construction of the house and spent the second half of his life working for the lumber industry.

Although Ronald Eller states that the lumber industry began in earnest in Southern Appalachia about 1900, Jackson County, because of its poor transportation systems, did not participate in large-scheme development until the second decade of the twentieth century. (2) A false start by the Blue Ridge Lumber Company in 1890 depressed the lumber industry in the county for a number of years. In 1909 the Jackson Lumber Company, named for the county but actually owned and operated in Asheville, bought 40,000 acres of "Highland Forest" land in Transylvania County from George Vanderbilt. (3) This property was between Mt. Pisgah and the village of Pisgah Forest, where in 1913 Frances Hayes of Philadelphia opened the Carr Lumber Company. Hayes is better remembered for the Toxaway Inn, a popular resort which he developed and opened in 1905. (4) According to Quince Hedden, a cousin of E. C. Hedden, Calor Hedden was working for a lumber company when he bought property in Webster in 1910. In 1913 Hedden began work for the Carr Lumber Company. (5)

Elisha Calor Hedden is typical of the independent farmers of Jackson County who gave up family lands to join the industrial boom of the county, thus becoming a member of that new industrial middle class which since about 1910 has lived in the mountains or small villages but earns a livelihood by working at mills and supporting industries in more densely populated areas. Before the turn of the century, the middle class was composed generally of planters, lawyers and merchants, men well-equipped to confront the problems and opportunities afforded by life on the frontier. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, entrepreneurs from the north and northeast United States came to western North Carolina

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to take advantage of the huge stands of virgin timber in the area and the fast-flowing streams and river which could be harnessed for water power. All across the southern Appalachians, these capitalists began to buy up forest lands and timber rights, and the independent farmers and loggers, having sold their lands, joined the timbering work force for firms such as the Blue Ridge Lumber Company and the Jackson Lumber Company. (6) In 1910, Jackson County's estimated annual production of lumber was 4,000,000 board feet, which sold for \$27.50 per thousand. "Jackson County had begun the era of greater exploitation of its timber resources." (7) In the county, uncertain lumber prices and the high cost of transportation in the mountains did not warrant large scale lumber operations until the 1920s, when the price of lumber went up and private companies could afford to lay out railroad lines to the high ridges and to hire a large local work force. A new industrial middle class was born. (8)

Historical Background: Elisha Calor Hedden (1866-1938) was born in Georgia. (9) We know nothing about his parents or his early years. By 1900 he was married and the father of five children: Herbert, Lucy, James, Myrtle and George. (10) He owned a farm in Hamburg Township, mountainous land some fifteen miles south of Webster in Jackson County, some lots in the town of Hamburg (now covered by the waters of Lake Thorpe), and an inn in Hamburg, and he inherited or otherwise received the acreage of two state land grants on the west fork of the Tuckaseegee River in Hamburg Township, totaling 1280 acres of wooded land. Life was not easy in Hamburg Township at the turn of the century. In 1900 the "E. C. Hedden lot" in Hamburg was confiscated by the county for non-payment of taxes, and one of the land grants was alternately mortgaged and redeemed between 1897 and 1904. Various pieces of property were sold to men with the local names of Alley, Smathers and Harper and to the Bank of Waynesville between 1900 and 1906, usually for about one dollar per acre. (11)

The Census of 1910 lists the Hedden family as living in Hamburg Township, but sometime that year they moved to Webster, having purchased the "old school house lot" on March 24, 1910 from Sophia Coward for \$150.00. (12) Apparently the house was built shortly after the purchase of the lot, for in 1912 Hedden mortgaged house and lot for \$825.00. (13)

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Webster and Sylva were the centers of the growing lumber and mining industries, and a number of small companies were forerunners of the "boom" in lumbering which arrived in Jackson County about 1920. In 1910 Calor Hedden (as he was called in Webster) was 44 and had five rapidly growing children. Sometime after his move to Webster he began work with the Carr Lumber Company in Pisgah Forest where he stayed until his retirement. (14)

At first, life in Webster was not financially easy. In 1912 Hedden was forced to mortgage the house and lot in Webster. From 1911 to 1919 the Hedden family rented a first floor apartment in their house to Lelanora Enloe Moore and her four children. Lelanora Moore was the widow of Judge Frederick Moore. After his death in Asheville she moved to Dillsboro and then to Webster, where her children could take advantage of the Webster school. Her youngest child, Daniel Killian Moore, became governor of North Carolina in 1965, the only governor from western North Carolina. (15) The Moore family occupied a suite of two rooms in the Hedden house, and a private vestibule and entrance were provided for them at the end of the front porch.

After 1915 the fortunes of the Hedden family seem to have improved, coinciding with the improvement in the lumber industry. No more mortgages or other liens appear in the tax records. Loggers and mill workers began to make good wages, from \$15.00 to \$16.00 per week for menial jobs and more for skilled workers. (16) In 1928 Hedden purchased six acres of land on the south and east sides of his dwelling house for \$2500.00. (17) His property stretched along Main Street to the old Sherrill lot and along the old Webster-Sylva Road. The Hedden family, having exchanged an independent life for a wage-earning life, had become a part of the new industrial middle class of Jackson County.

Elisha Calor Hedden died in 1938 and the lot next to the Sherrill Property was sold. The remaining house and lot, as we see it today, were left to his surviving children, and daughter Lucy lived in the house until her death in 1980. (18) The property passed through several hands until it was purchased on July 11, 1986, by Gerald D. and Carol K. Karcher. (19)

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## FOOTNOTES

1. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. II, no. 2, Spring 1975.
2. McCall, Robert Andrew, "The Timber Industry in Jackson County", p. 36.
3. Williams, Max R., ed., The History of Jackson County, p. 161.
4. Van Noppen, Ina and John J., Western North Carolina Since the Civil War, pp. 161-163.
5. Hedden, J. Quince, telephone conversation, October 19, 1988 and August 28, 1989.
6. Williams, op. cit., pp. 160-161.
7. McCall, op. cit., p. 35.
8. Ibid., p. 37.
9. United States Census for 1900.
10. Ibid.
11. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 23, page 368; Book 35, page 134; Book 35, page 574; Book 32, page 742; Book 23, page 317; Book 32, page 247; Book 27, page 86; Book 31, page 593.
12. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 52, page 349.
13. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 57, page 386.
14. Hedden, J. Quince, telephone conversatio, October 19, 1988.
15. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. IX, no. 4, Winter 1983.
16. Williams, op. cit., p. 162.
17. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 105, page 98.



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18. Jackson County Will Book, #1.
19. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 638, p. 347.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Eller, Ronald D., Miners, Millhands and Mountaineers: Industrialization of the Appalachian South, 1880-1930, University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, 1982.

Hedden, J. Quince, telephone conversation, October 19, 1988.

Jackson County Register of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Sylva.

McCall, Robert Andrew, "The Timber Industry in Jackson County, North Carolina, unpublished thesis in partial fulfillment for the MA degree, Western Carolina University, 1984.

Plemmons, Jan, Teasures of Toxaway, AAA Printing Service, Houston, 1984.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1.07 acres

UTM References

A 17 298370 3913510  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The E. C. Hedden property is parcel #3687 as shown on the orthophoto map of Jackson County, North Carolina, inventory of real property, 1980, as distributed by the Jackson County, NC, Department of Planning. Outlined in red on accompanying copy of orthophoto map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The E. C. Hedden house occupies the lot known since 1938 as the "Lucy Hedden property" and includes the property purchased by Hedden in 1910, Deed Book 52, page 349, and a portion of the property purchased in 1928, Deed Book 105, page 98.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn A. Humphries for the Webster Historical Society  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date December 1, 1988  
 street & number Rt. 2, Box 175 telephone 704-526-9462  
 city or town Highlands, state North Carolina zip code 28741

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United States Census for 1900 and 1910.

Van Noppen, Ina W. and John J., Western North Carolina Since the  
Civil War, Appalachian Consortium Press, Boone, 1973.

Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. II, no. 2,  
Spring 1975; Vol. IX, no. 4, Winter 1983.

Williams, Max R., ed., The History of Jackson County, Jackson  
County Historical Association, Sylva, 1987.

4354 IV NE  
(Trailer 166-NE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

83° 15' BRYSON CITY 14 MI. WAYNESVILLE 18 MI. ADDIE  
35° 22' 30" 296000m E. BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY 12 MI. 298

C.E. Hedden  
House  
Webster, NC  
SYLVA SOUTH  
QUAD

Zone 17  
1:24,000  
298

Easting  
298370

Northing  
3913510

JVM



