

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 Hall, Lucius Coleman, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number private road, N side NC 116, 0.1 mile east N/A not for publication
city, town of junction with SR 1367, 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>1</u>	<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>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

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. Pin 1-25-90
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: vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls weatherboard

roof asphalt
other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Lucius Coleman Hall house, about one mile west of Webster, is a two-and-one-half story frame house with a rear one-and-one-half story ell sited on the west bank of the Tuckaseegee River at the end of a gravel road which parallels the river bank. The house, one of the largest in the area, overlooks a grassy lawn and flat field to the river itself, and beyond the river to the hill where the town of Webster is located. The large, white aspect of the house, set amidst boxwood and large trees, gives a manorial look to the property. The house opens to a brick courtyard in the rear, where there are two modern storage buildings.

The rear ell of the Hall house originated as a free-standing, story and one-half saddlebag house with gable roof and central chimney of brick. Believed to have been built about 1850, the original appearance is uncertain, but the house has now a plain cornice with returns, cornerboards and small gabled and weatherboarded dormers, two to each north and south elevation. Each dormer has a slight, decorative return on the cornice. The little house is constructed of horizontal planks covered with weatherboard. On the north elevation, a two-story frame stair tower has been constructed to enclose what were apparently outside stairs to the attic rooms. Dormer windows on this elevation are narrow, with four-over-four moveable sash. Sometime after 1980, a french door was built into the first floor on the north elevation of the old cabin, and a protective shed roof added above it. On the south elevation is an open porch with shed roof and two small dormer windows containing modern, square windows. Two six-over-six windows flank a door on the first floor of this elevation.

Any visible remnants of the original interior of the c. 1850 plank cabin are now concealed. The two rooms on the interior of each floor of the early dwelling have been covered with wallboard and the chimney openings have been closed and covered over. A stairway opens on the first floor and attic from the stair tower addition constructed for it on the north elevation of the old house; there is no evidence or knowledge of an earlier boxed interior stair.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Lucius Coleman Hall House, Webster,
Jackson County, N.C.

In 1891-92 a two-and-one-half story, one-room-deep T-plan house with large central hall was added to the east gable end of the smaller and older house. It was probably at the time of the addition that Lucius Coleman Hall renovated the c. 1850 cabin. On each floor, the large 1892 block contains two rooms and a large central hall which forms the main stroke of the "T", extending on the main elevation toward the east and terminating in a two-story rectangular bay containing a triple window on the first floor, facing the river. The front unit was constructed of frame and weatherboard, painted white, with center front and gable end pedimented gables covered with wood shingles and eyebrow dormers on each side of the front gable. The 1892 addition has two interior chimneys of brick and an asphalt roof. The front gable features a semicircular louver and sawn brackets under the lower corners. About 1950 a porch with low-pitched hip roof was added to the entire river facade of the Hall house by David McKee Hall, Jr., who purchased the property in 1949. The porch replaced a pair of Queen Anne-style porches on either side of the entrance hall, shown in a documentary photograph c. 1895 (copy of photograph enclosed with this nomination). Double leaf doors, opening from porch to entrance hall, are set into the sides of the "T". These doors have transoms of small panes of colored glass. All windows in this portion of the house are one-over-one Queen Anne-style windows, the upper panes having small colored squares surrounding a larger clear pane.

Sometime after the turn of the century, a kitchen and storage area with shed roof was added across the rear of the 1892 addition, joining the small, old cabin and opening out to a brick courtyard formed by the L-shape of the two buildings.

The interior of the 1892 section of the house features magnificent, well-preserved woodwork: fluted door and window surrounds, beadboard wainscot, mantels with brackets and shelves, and plaster ceiling medallions. Distinctive decorative elements are the bull's-eye blocks in the door surrounds: a block appears at each side of the surrounds in line with the top of the flanking wainscoting, while those at the upper corners are crested. The central hall contains a stairway with half turn and landings, adorned with massive newel posts and turned balusters. To the north side of the central hall, a broad doorway with molded surround topped with a shell motif opens to the parlor. The mantel in the parlor features a pair of brackets supporting the shelf, the brackets themselves supported by a fluted architrave. A door in the rear of the parlor leads to the c. 1850 house. On the opposite side of the hall, a less elaborate doorway with transom leads to the dining room with its plaster ceiling medallion, mantel with two shelves, plaster and wood cornice, tray molding, crown molding and picture molding. The second floor of this section of the house contains

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Lucius Coleman Hall House, Webster,
Jackson County, N.C.

two bedrooms, each with fireplace and mantel, and doorways with fluted surrounds, bull's-eye blocks and crests. The stairhall on the second floor opens to a very large bathroom, comprising the head of the "T" and having a pair of Queen Anne windows looking over the river. Although it is said that the house contained the first indoor bathroom in Jackson County, the present bathroom appears originally designed for a dressing or sewing room.

The dining room of the 1892 structure opens into the kitchen addition, and the parlor opens into the sitting room of the original plank house. Another entrance into the c. 1850 dwelling, under the landing of the stair in the central hall, has been converted into a closet. On the rear of the house, both kitchen and old plank house open to a brick courtyard which contains a weatherboarded storage house built after 1960. To the rear of the c. 1850 dwelling is a concrete block storage and garage building. A gravel driveway passes between the house and this garage building and continues through the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Lucius Coleman Hall House, Webster,
Jackson County, N.C.

Documentary photograph of Hall House taken in the 20th century.



8. Statement of Significance

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)

Architecture
Social history

Period of Significance
1892

Significant Dates
1892

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 Lucius Coleman Hall house, on the bank of the Tuckaseegee River, Webster, is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The rear of the frame house is a story-and-one-half plank house built about 1850. In 1892 Lucius Coleman Hall built a two-story I-house to the front of the c. 1850 cabin. The 1892 construction features elaborate woodwork, ceiling medallions and Victorian-era mantels and overmantels. A broad staircase dominates the house. The house is a good representative example of classically-influenced vernacular Victorian/Queen Anne styling and, as such, reflects Hall's rise from a middle-income small farmer to a prosperous large-scale farmer and small industrialist.

Architectural context: In 1892, after the railroad had come to Jackson County and farm income was at its peak, Lucius Coleman Hall added a large and elaborately-detailed I-house to the front of an old cabin, which he renovated at the same time. The 1892 addition, a vernacular interpretation of the national, popular Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles, resulted in the finest house in the Webster vicinity. Family history contends that the Hall house was the first in the Webster vicinity, or perhaps in Jackson County, to have indoor plumbing and bathroom facilities. The T-plan used in the design of the Victorian addition set an example for other frame houses built later in Webster and vicinity, but no house in the area has the grand staircase and entrance hall seen in the Hall house. Although the 1950 porch renovation is a major alteration, the unique plan of the house, all of its other original exterior detailing and its outstanding interior ornament remain intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1Lucius Coleman Hall House, Webster,
Jackson County, N.C.

Social History context: As settlers moved into the mountainous lands of western North Carolina after the Indian Treaty of 1819, large acreages were purchased through state land grants. The best tracts were those having rich bottom land for planting, and the Webster area, where the Tuckaseegee River meanders through a wide valley, provided some of the best farming land in the region. Webster, by 1853 the county seat of Jackson County, was also close to the junction of the only state roads then open in the county, the Western Turnpike from Haywood to Macon County, and the Keowee and Tuckaseegee Turnpike to South Carolina. (1)

By 1850 prosperous farmers in the Tuckaseegee Valley were producing far more than their families needed. "They were growing more grain, primarily corn, than farmers in other communities and were selling it to drovers on their way to autumn markets in South Carolina and Georgia. They were also maintaining large herds of cattle and hogs which they sold to drovers or took to markets themselves." (2) In 1884 the railroad arrived in Jackson County, and farmers of the Tuckaseegee were able to ship produce by rail as well as by wagon. (3) In 1893 the farmers of Jackson County shipped 46 carloads of cattle and sheep to Richmond, Charleston and Augusta, in addition to grain, and most of these shipments came from river bottom land. (4)

By 1860, the farm of David Fronzie Hall, father of Lucius Coleman Hall, was one of the most valuable farms in Jackson County. Located on the banks of the Tuckaseegee River, Hall's 4,000 acre spread was valued at \$4,200. (5) Much of it was good bottom land. When his son purchased 175 acres of the family farm, including a plank cabin, in 1882, a tannery and a sawmill had been established on the river bank. The tannery provided a "lucrative business", according to his descendants, through the tanning of hides purchased locally or shipped to the farm. The farm was producing, in addition to leather and shoes, livestock, wheat, molasses, and corn, and the surplus was sold in Webster and Sylva. (6) In 1892 Lucius Coleman Hall constructed an addition to the c. 1850 cabin on his property, an addition which would reflect his position as prosperous farmer and civic leader. The new house, with four rooms and central hall with Victorian detail and a renovated cabin ell, was hailed as the finest in Jackson County.

Historical background: In 1829 Joshua Hall, born in Maryland and raised in Burke County, North Carolina, settled with his wife Jane Queen near present-day Webster. (7) The Halls raised a large family and, in the Census of 1850, Hall is described as a wealthy farmer and Baptist minister. (8) The oldest child of Joshua and Jane, David Fonzie Hall, married Rachel Wilson of the Webster area and about 1860

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 Lucius Coleman Hall House, Webster,
Jackson County, N.C.

purchased a large tract of land from Dr. John Woodfin. The land, some 350 acres, apparently contained a house, "... used and occupied by the said William Higdon (the tenant) as his home place." (9) This little house became the nucleus of the Hall family farm. Family history tells us that the attic of the little house was used for slaves, who reached their rooms by an outside staircase. (10)

Over the years, David Fonzie Hall acquired more land on the bank of the Tuckaseegee surrounding the family house, and in 1882 sold the family home and 175 acres of land to his son, Lucius Coleman Hall (1847-1892). (11) In 1883 Lucius Coleman Hall married Hannah McKee of Webster and the golden days of the farm began.

The Hall family farm, when purchased by Lucius Coleman Hall, contained not only the little cabin but also a tannery and sawmill, located on the bank of the Tuckaseegee River near the house. According to Hall's daughter, Grace Hall Brown, the tannery had been established before 1883 and provided a "lucrative business" for many years. Some hides were bought locally and some were shipped to the farm. An expert tanner, who had come from Indiana, lived and worked at the tannery, and ran a shoe shop in connection with the tannery. (12)

Lucius Coleman Hall and Hannah McKee Hall raised three children on the family farm. Hall was a trustee of the Webster Methodist Church and contributed to the Webster Baptist Church. He was Treasurer of Jackson County from 1884 to 1888 and one of the incorporators of the Tuckaseegee Bank in Webster. (13) In 1891-92 he enlarged the little cabin by building an imposing two-story house in front of it. His daughter relates that the "new" house was "...at that time...the finest and most complete one in Jackson County." It contained a bathroom and toilet facilities inside, a dairy house with running water, a wash house with stationary tubs and a furnace with built-in wash-pots. (14) (The dairy house and wash house have been removed.)

Lucius Coleman Hall died in the summer of 1892 and in 1912 his daughter, Grace and her husband, David Brown, purchased the family homestead from Lucius Coleman Hall, Jr. (15) The farm property passed through several hands until it returned again to the Hall family in 1949 when David McKee Hall, Jr., grandson of Lucius Coleman Hall and nephew of Grace Hall Brown, purchased the homesite and its surrounding lawn. (16) David Hall, Jr. added a porch on the front of the house overlooking the Tuckaseegee River and remodeled the kitchen. David Hall died in 1960 and in 1963 his widow sold the homestead property to North Carolina Attorney General and Mrs. Lacy Thornburg. (17)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Lucius Coleman Hall House, Webster,
Jackson County, N.C.

FOOTNOTES

1. Williams, Max R., ed., The History of Jackson County, p. 115.
2. Ibid., p. 84.
3. Ibid., p. 199.
4. Ibid., p. 148.
5. United States Census for 1860.
6. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. I, no. 2, March 1974.
7. Williams, op. cit., p. 89.
8. Ibid.
9. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 3, page 40; Book 2, page 517.
10. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. X, no. 4, Winter 1984.
11. United States Census for 1900 and Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 8, page 265.
12. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. I, no. 2, March 1974.
13. Williams, op. cit., pp. 565 and 619.
14. Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. I, no. 2, March 1974.
15. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 59, page 401.
16. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 184, page 105.
17. Jackson County Register of Deeds, Book 273, page 528.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

United States Census for 1860 and 1900.

Webster Historical Society, Historic Webster, Vol. I, no. 2, March 1974; Vol. V, no. 1, Winter 1978; Vol. IX, no. 4, Winter 1983; Vol. X, No. 4, Winter 1984.

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

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

Acreage of property 5 acres

UTM References

A

1	7	2	9	7	4	7	0	3	9	1	3	3	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Lucius Coleman Hall property consists of those contiguous parcels described in Deed Book 184, page 104, and Deed Book 190, page 434, in Jackson County Register of Deeds, County Courthouse, Sylva, which together constitute the five-acre house lot.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Lucius Coleman Hall property consists of the five acres on which the family homestead is located and approximately 503 feet of river bank, as shown on plat of 1951, Book 190, page 434, Jackson County Register of Deeds, Sylva. This parcel constitutes the immediate setting of the house and has been continuously associated with the dwelling.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn A. Humphries for the Webster Historical Society

organization Route 2, Box 175 date December 1, 1988

street & number _____ telephone 704-526-9462

city or town Highlands state NC zip code 28741

