North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Josh Stein
Secretary Pamela Brewington Cashwell

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

September 26, 2026

Jessica Mitchell, Advanced Planning Specialist
Boone Historic Preservation Commission
680 West King St., Suite C
Boone, NC 28607

Email: Jessica.Mitchell@boonenc.gov

RE: Proposed designation of the **John Walter Jones House, 604 West King St., Boone, Watauga County**.

Dear Mrs. Mitchell:

Thank you for the report you submitted on the proposed designation John Walter Jones House, 604 West King St., Boone, Watauga County. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160D-946.

According to the report, the John Walter Jones House is of special local significance for its architecture as it is one of the oldest Queen-Anne influenced properties in Boone and has remained largely unchanged. It is also of special local significance because of its association with Dr. John Walter Jones, one of Boone's earliest physicians.

Assistant State Archaeologist Michael Nelson noted that there is the potential that cultural deposits and remnants of distinct landscape features still exist. The potential for buried cultural resources should be considered in any future development of the property

We commend staff for submitting a thorough and complete report and feel this local designation report will provide the preservation commission and local governing board with sufficient information to determine whether the John Walter Jones House possesses the requisite special local significance and integrity for local historic landmark designation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report. Please note, our comments are advisory only and therefore, non-binding. Once the governing board has received a recommendation from the Boone Historic Preservation Commission, it should proceed in the same manner as would otherwise be required for an amendment to the zoning ordinance. Once the decision has been made, please notify our office or email me a copy of the ordinance.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes the property is worthy of preservation because of its special significance to the local community. Any substantial changes in design, materials, and appearance to the property would be subject to the design review procedures of the preservation commission. The owner may receive an annual deferral of up to fifty percent of the property taxes for as long as the property is designated and retains significance and integrity. (N.C.G.S. 105-278 *et seq*.).

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed designation of the John Walter Jones House, 604 West King St., Boone, Watauga County. Please contact me at Kristi.brantley@dncr.nc.gov (preferred) or 919-814-6576 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,



Kristi Brantley
Local Preservation Commissions/CLG Coordinator

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure