



**M.C. Poyner House
219 Shingle Landing Road
Moyock, NC 27958**

Local Landmark Report

Historic Name of Property
M.C. Poyner House

Amount of land/acreage to be designated:
1.44 acres

Address of Property
219 Shingle Landing Road

Interior to be designated:
No

PIN #
014B00000260000

DEED BOOK: 1306 PAGE: 246

PLAT CABINET: 1306 SLIDE: 251

ZONING:
Single-Family Residential – Mainland

Property Owner's Address, Phone & Email:
Anthony and Virginia Agreste
219 Shingle Landing Road
Moyock, NC 27958
252-339-0461
anthonyagreste@gmail.com
vbserpico@gmail.com

Statement of Significance

The M.C. Poyner House is being proposed for designation because of its local **architectural** significance as an excellent example of Queen Anne style with Eastlake influence in Currituck County. Martin C. Poyner (1847-1906), who originally lived in the house, built it for his family. He was a prominent store owner, farmer and land owner in Moyock. Construction of the house began in 1898¹ and was completed in March of 1899.² The house retains many of its original architectural details as evidenced by historic and current photos. The majority of Queen Anne houses in Currituck County are best described as vernacular, as they lack the complexity of form and roofline that identifies high-style examples more commonly found in urban areas.³ The M.C. Poyner House is one of several of the more high-style interpretations of the Queen Anne style seen in Currituck County.⁴

Archeological Comments

No known archaeological features are present.

Integrity Statement

- **Location:** The M.C. Poyner House remains in its original location adjacent to Shingle Landing Creek at the intersection of Camelia Drive and Shingle Landing Road in the heart of Historic Moyock Village.
- **Design:** The house incorporates Eastlake Influence and Queen Anne exuberance.
- **Setting:** The house's setting has remained mostly unchanged. The house still fronts Shingle Landing Road and is adjacent to Shingle Landing Creek with the north lawn sloping down to the creek.
- **Workmanship:** The exterior architectural details show a high level of craftsmanship and design, specifically the wraparound porch's spindle frieze and detailed milled and pierced brackets, the bracket styling underneath the corner edges of the front gabled bay block, the gable end molded cornice and returns, the sunburst pattern of the gables, the molded drip hoods and saw-tooth ornamentation of the original windows and the heavy, scrolled, console-like brackets of each original window.
- **Materials:** Most of the original materials from the M.C. Poyner House's original construction are still present. The house siding is original pine Dutch lap novelty siding, all original windows and ornamental trim remain. The composite shingle roof looks similar to the original cedar (or possibly cypress) shakes. The original front steps have been replaced with brick ones. In 2017, the beadboard ceiling of the first-story wraparound front porch was replaced with like materials and the missing original wooden front storm door was replaced with a similar one.

¹ *Fisherman and Farmer*, November 16, 1898.

² *Fisherman and Farmer*, March 10, 1899.

³ Meg Greene Malvasi, Penne Smith Sandbeck, and Barbara Snowden. *The Goodliest & Most Pleasing Territory: A Building Survey of Currituck County and the Northern Outer Banks*. (NC: Currituck County Historical Society and Currituck County, 2017), 76.

⁴ *Ibid*, 78.

The original wooden shutters are not installed; however, the owners still have a majority of the original shutters stored on the property.

- **Feeling:** The feeling of the house and property remains as many of its important Queen Anne Style architectural elements have been preserved.
- **Association:** The M.C. Poyner House is associated with the Historic Moyock Village as an exuberant example of the Queen Anne Style architecture in one of the oldest and previously affluent village areas of Currituck County. It is still used as a single-family dwelling. The M.C. Poyner House is associated with the original owner, Martin C. Poyner, who was a prominent store owner in Moyock. One of his general stores built several blocks from the home in 1902⁵, still stands today facing Caratoke Highway.

Proposed Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary for Local Landmark Designation is the property's current 1.44 acre parcel (PIN: 014B00000260000). The boundary is the homestead parcel that is bordered by Shingle Landing Road to the west, Shingle Landing Creek to the north and low lying swamp areas adjacent to Shingle Landing Creek to the east.

Architectural Assessment

Architectural Importance

The M.C. Poyner House is locally significant in Currituck County because it is a fine example of residential architecture in the Queen Anne style with Eastlake Influence. The property has retained a high level of integrity.

Historically, the Tulls Creek Road area in Moyock was considered the wealthier street in the village, particularly three homes on the northeast side of the road, all encompassing a diverse representation of late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century architecture.⁶

The M.C. Poyner House is associated with the Historic Moyock Village as an exuberant example of the Queen Anne Style architecture in one of the oldest and previously affluent village areas of Currituck County.

Mr. Poyner and his wife Mollie clearly had the means to build their family this lovely Queen Anne-style home with much extra ornamentation. Today, all original ornamentation (gingerbread trim) still remains in place, a fact backed up by several historic photographs of the house.

The M.C. Poyner House is stick-built, 2,059 square feet, T-shaped, with a slightly projecting two-story front-gable roof bay block with cutaway bay windows on the front façade. It exhibits Eastlake influence and Queen Anne exuberance including a hipped wraparound porch with a spindle frieze and unusually detailed milled and

⁵ A. Burgess Jennings. *Images of America Currituck County*. (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2012), 13.

⁶ Malvasi, Sandbeck, & Snowden. *The Goodliest & Most Pleasing Territory: A Building Survey of Currituck County and the Northern Outer Banks*, 131.

pierced brackets, and an unusual bracket style underneath the corner edges of the projecting two-story, front-gabled bay block.⁷

The north, south, and west gable ends of the building are highly ornate with molded cornice and returns, narrow, diagonally cut wood strips arranged in a pattern that simulates a sunburst, and paired, single light, hinged windows. The sunburst pattern was achieved by installing the wood strips diagonally on each side of the paired, single-light hinged windows and installing the wood strips vertically above and below the windows. Trim boards extend from the outermost vertical trim board of each window to the molded cornice of the gable. The gable windows have molded drip hoods, scrolled, console-like brackets and sawtooth ornament.⁸

The molded drip hoods, sawtooth ornamentation and heavy, scrolled, console-like brackets are repeated on the 2/2 original wood sash windows of each facade. The east facade of the building has a remaining example of the detailed milled brackets and balustrade detail of the former sleeping porch.

Architectural Context

The Queen Anne Style (1880-1900) is a most varied and decoratively rich style.⁹ According to Virginia McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*, identifying features of Queen Anne Style include a steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front-facing gable; patterned shingles; cutaway bay windows, and other devices used to avoid a smooth walled appearance; asymmetrical façade with a partial or full width porch which is usually one story high and extended along one or both side walls.¹⁰

The M.C. Poyner House has many of these elements including a steep pitched roof, a dominant front-facing gable with two story cutaway bay windows, patterned stick-work and gingerbread ornamentation on three gable pediments; an asymmetrical façade with a one story high partial front wraparound porch extended around the south side. The M.C. Poyner House has a cross-gabled roof and a T-shaped ground plan which is described by McAlester as one of the principal shape subtypes of the Queen Anne Style.¹¹

McAlester further writes that the Queen Anne Style can also be distinguished on the basis of decorative detailing. SPINDLEWORK—About 50 percent of Queen Anne houses have delicate turned porch supports and spindlework ornamentation made possible by machine lathes. This most commonly occurs in porch balustrades or as a frieze suspended from the porch ceiling. Spindlework detailing is also used in gables and under the wall overhangs left by cutaway bay windows. Lacy, decorative spandrels and knob-like beads are also common ornamental elements in this subtype as is incised decorative detail. Spindlework detailing is sometimes referred to as

⁷ Ibid, 131-2.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ John J.-G. Blumenson. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. (Tennessee: American Association for State and Local History, 1977), 63.

¹⁰ Virginia McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019), 345.

¹¹ Ibid, 346.

gingerbread ornamentation, or as Eastlake detailing (after Charles Eastlake, an English furniture designer who advocated somewhat similar design elements).¹²

The M.C. Poyner House has delicate turned porch supports, spindlework frieze ornamentation on the wraparound porch and unusual spindlework detail on the brackets under the front wall overhang by the cutaway bay windows. These are all indicative of the spindlework decorative detailing subtype of the Queen Anne Style.

Eastlake (1870-1890) was a popular decorative style of ornamentation found on houses of various other styles, e.g. Victorian Gothic, Stick Style and Queen Anne. This decorative style is named for Charles Locke Eastlake (1833-1906), an English interior designer and critic of Gothic Revival style. Porch posts, railings, balusters and pendants were characterized by a massive and robust quality. These members were worked or turned on a mechanical lathe, giving the appearance of heavy legged furniture of the period. Large curved brackets, scrolls and other stylized elements often are placed at every corner, turn or projection along the façade. Perforated gables and pediments, carved panels, and a profusion of spindles and lattice work found along porch eaves add to the complexity of the façade. These lighter elements combined with the heavier and oversized architectural members exaggerated the three-dimensional quality.¹³

The scrolled console-like brackets on the window trim, spindle frieze on the wraparound porch, turned porch posts, cutout pattern of the rear porch balustrade, and the unusual turned bracket style at the corner edges of the front projecting gable are indicative of Eastlake influence on the M.C. Poyner House.

Architectural Description

Landscape

There are no particular trees or hardscaping on the property that remain from the original state of the property adjacent to the house; however, the rear of the property still contains a low swampy area with dense trees including cypress trees.

Front (Southwest) Elevation

The M.C. Poyner House is two-story, side facing, T-shaped with a cross gabled roof and a one story hipped porch that wraps around the front façade and the southeast facing façade. The front façade faces Shingle Landing Road and features a two-story projecting gabled bay block to the left (northwest) of the main entrance; the six-panel wood front door is tucked under the hipped unenclosed, wraparound porch and it features a detailed replacement wooden storm door (Fig. 1). The front door features side lights on each side and a transom; under the side lights on each side is a rectangular molded wooden panel (Fig. 2). There are two symmetrical rectangular side lights above the panel on each side of the door and a transom over the door includes three rectangular lights (Fig. 3). The two-story projecting gabled bay block features a

¹² McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*, 346.

¹³ Blumenson. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*, 59.

gable end with molded cornice and returns with centered paired single-light hinged windows with molded drip hoods, saw tooth ornament, and scrolled brackets. The gable pediment features cut wooden strips installed in a sunburst pattern. The sunburst pattern was achieved by installing the wood strips diagonally on each side of the paired, single-light hinged windows and installing the wood strips vertically above and below the windows. Trim boards extend from the outermost vertical trim board of each window to the molded cornice of the gable. At the bottom corners of the gable end are brackets of an unusual style (Fig. 4). The brackets have turned Eastlake style details. The two-story projecting bay block features three bay 2/2 windows on each floor with the same window trim of molded drip hood, saw tooth ornament, and scrolled brackets. The southeast facing wall of the front gable block includes one 2/2 window on the second floor and one 2/2 window on the first floor under the hipped wraparound porch, both windows feature the same original trim (Fig. 5). Above the front door and wraparound porch on the second floor are three windows (2/2) with the same original window trim detail. One window is over the front door, and the other two are in line with the windows on the first floor wraparound porch. To the right of the front door under the wraparound porch are two windows (2/2) directly below each window on the second floor. The wraparound porch features a spindle frieze and pierced brackets; there are four turned spindle porch posts on the front façade and eight decorative brackets (Fig. 6, Fig. 7 & Fig. 8). The porch includes molded trim under the outermost edge of the wood tongue and groove porch flooring (Fig. 8). The entry consists of three brick steps directly in line with the front door. Leading up to the front steps from the road is a narrow gravel path.

Northwest Side Elevation

The northwest façade is the widest, flattest elevation of the house (Fig. 9). It features a nearly centered (slightly to the east) gable and the same gable-end style as the front and south façade with molded cornice, molded returns, the starburst patterned stick work, and paired, hinged, single light windows with molded drip edge, sawtooth ornament and scrolled console like brackets. There are two windows (2/2) on the second floor below each gable return. The first floor has a 2/2 window below the western second story window. The northeastern most window of the first floor is 2/2 but smaller and more square, this window was shortened in 1960 when the library became the kitchen. The kitchen window is located below the northeastern most second story window. All original windows have the same window trim previously described (Fig. 10 & Fig. 11).

Southeast Side Elevation

The southeast façade features a gable end and hipped wraparound porch (Fig. 12). The wraparound porch includes four turned posts (including the corner post that is shared by the front elevation) and six pierced brackets consistent with those of the front elevation (Fig. 13). The easternmost post of the porch is square, not turned, and the two brackets under the spindle frieze match those found on the second story porch of the northeast elevation (Fig. 14). The gable end features the same style, trim and

hinged paired single light windows with the same original window trim previously described (Fig. 15 & Fig. 16). On the second floor façade, below the gable end, inside of each gable return are two 2/2 windows with the same original window trim previously described. On the first floor, there is a 2/2 window below the southwestern most second floor window and a door below the northeastern most second floor window. The door is wooden and it features eight square divided lights and the door trim is the same trim used on the original windows previously described (Fig. 17). On the second story, a shed roof extends (slightly recessed from the exterior wall) from the gable eave to the northeast to cover what was a second story porch (slightly recessed). This portion of the house is enclosed with similar siding to the original and includes one narrow, horizontally installed vinyl window. Below the enclosed porch on the first floor the wall has the typical cladding and no windows and is also slightly recessed from the wall of the first floor.

Rear (Northeast) Elevation

The northeast façade (rear elevation) features the rear T gable, the gable end does not repeat the sunburst pattern, the pediment is horizontal siding (Fig. 18). The gable end does not feature a molded cornice but it does feature molded returns and the same centered paired single-light hinged windows with molded drip hoods, saw tooth ornament, and scrolled brackets. Under the paired single-light hinged windows of the gable end, are centered 2/2 windows on the second and first floor. To the southeast of the gable end and wall on the first story is a rear entrance covered by a shed style roof with asphalt shingles. Above the covered rear entrance, approximately the same width (4') is the remaining balustrade and decorative brackets of the original second floor porch (Fig. 19). To the left of the remaining porch opening and balustrade are four six over one vinyl windows, the windows are not original and do not have notable trim. The enclosed porch includes similar siding as the original. Under the enclosed porch on the first floor are two windows with 2/2 horizontal panes, the window on the right is smaller than the one on the left. The end of the wrap around porch is cladded and the features a spindle railing.

Contributing Barn

The property includes a two story tin-roofed wooden barn that was built at the same time as the house and is the only other remaining building of historical importance within the property's boundary (Fig. 21, Fig. 22 & Fig. 23). The barn sits to the rear (northeast) of the main house. The barn consists of three bays and a hayloft with cutout door in the gable over the middle bay. All sides of the barn are sided with no additional openings.

Construction Timeline & Narrative

1898-1899 Original Construction
 Circa 1920-1940 Rear first level porch enclosed
 Circa 1940 Boiler shed added
 Circa 1960 Loss of kitchen building

Circa 1980 Upstairs sleeping porch enclosed
 After 1987 Two brick chimneys removed
 Unknown Date Loss of boathouse
 2014 Shed adjacent to creek – lost to time and deterioration

Construction of the house was completed in 1899. The downstairs back porch was enclosed circa 1920-1940 to create a small room and bathroom. A small, stand-alone boiler shed was added near the back of the house, circa 1940, based on the style of its siding. The loss of a separate kitchen building many decades ago –circa 1960- is perhaps the most major change from its original appearance. The interior is mostly original, with the original floor plan being much the same. The room that was originally the library became the kitchen circa 1960 and at that point one northwest-facing window was shortened in length. Enclosure of the upstairs sleeping porch in the back of the house was done circa 1980, about four feet of the original balustrade remains above the back door. The two brick chimneys were removed from the roof sometime after 1987. The composite shingle roof looks similar to the original cedar (or possibly cypress) shakes. The original front steps have been replaced with brick ones. In 2017, the beadboard ceiling of the first-story wraparound front porch was replaced with like materials and the missing original wooden front storm door was replaced with a similar one.

The owners are in the process of restoring the interior; repairing plaster and applying new wallpaper in each room. The house has much of its original Victorian feel. It was owned by four generations of the Poyner family when the current owners purchased it, and fortunately, they were content to only minimally alter this architecturally significant home.

A large wooden tin-roofed shed close to the creek and a boathouse (pictured on the cover of the book *Moyock* by Marion Fiske-Welch) were also lost to time and deterioration; the shed in 2014 and the boathouse unknown. The concrete block footprint for the shed, which was not as old as the barn, remains.

Historical Significance

The M.C. Poyner House is also proposed for its local **historical** significance. The Poyner family has been in Currituck County since the very beginning of the 1700's. M.C. Poyner was a seventh generation Poyner in Currituck County.¹⁴

The M.C. Poyner House is associated with the original owner, Martin C. Poyner. Martin C. Poyner (1847-1906), who originally lived in the house, built it for his family. Martin Carney Poyner and his wife Mollie Poyner were the original owners of the home. Construction of the house began in 1898¹⁵ and was completed in March of

¹⁴ Jo Anna Heath Bates (Ed.), *The Heritage of Currituck County North Carolina*. (Winston-Salem, NC: The Albemarle Genealogical Society, Inc. in cooperation with The Currituck County Historical Society, Inc. and Hunter Publishing Company, 1985), 356.

¹⁵ *Fisherman and Farmer*, November 16, 1898.

1899.¹⁶ M.C. Poyner was a prominent and highly respected citizen of Moyock, NC.¹⁷ He was a successful farmer and store owner. His store M.C. Poyner Groceries and Liquors also included a post office and was the center of the community.¹⁸ He was the postmaster in Moyock as evidenced by the Post-Office Department records in 1881¹⁹, 1885²⁰ and 1899.²¹ M.C. Poyner carried the mail and delivered newspapers by boat in the 1880's.²² One of his general stores, built in 1902²³, still stands today several blocks from the home facing Caratoke Highway.

The M.C. Poyner House is adjacent to Shingle Landing Creek, which was historically an important waterway for transporting goods to and from the are

¹⁶ *Fisherman and Farmer*, March 10, 1899.

¹⁷ "Mr. Martin C. Poyner Dead," *Daily Economist*. February 19, 1906.

¹⁸ Jennings. *Images of America Currituck County*, 13.

¹⁹ The Post-Office Department and The Postal Service compiled under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. *Official Register of the United States Containing a List of the Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service on the First of July, 1881. Volume II.* (Washington: Government Printing Office 1881), 518.

²⁰ The Post-Office Department and The Postal Service compiled under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. *Official Register of the United States Containing a List of the Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service on the First of July, 1885. Volume II.* (Washington: Government Printing Office 1885), 584.

²¹ J.G. Ames, Superintendent of Documents. The Post-Office Department and The Postal Service compiled under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. *Official Register of the United States Containing a List of the Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service on the First of July, 1889; Together with a List of Vessels Belonging to the United States. Volume II.* (Washington: Government Printing Office 1890), 679.

²² Jennings. *Images of America Currituck County*, 13.

²³ *Ibid.*

Bibliography

Deed Books

Currituck County, North Carolina Deed Book 87, Page E/37

Currituck County, North Carolina Deed Book 2002, Page E/43

Currituck County, North Carolina Deed Book 1062, Page 446

Currituck County, North Carolina Deed Book 1306, Page 246

Newspapers/ Online News Articles

"Moyock." November 16, 1898. *Fisherman and Farmer*. Edenton, NC.

<http://www.newspapers.com>

February 3, 1899. *Fisherman and Farmer*. Edenton, NC.

<http://www.newspapers.com>

March 10, 1899. *Fisherman and Farmer*. Edenton, NC.

<http://www.newspapers.com>

April 28, 1899. *Fisherman and Farmer*. Edenton, NC.

<http://www.newspapers.com>

"Mr. Martin C. Poyner Dead." February 19, 1906. *Daily Economist*. Elizabeth City, NC

<http://www.newspapers.com>

Sources

Ames, J.G., Superintendent of Documents. The Post-Office Department and The Postal Service compiled under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. *Official Register of the United States Containing a List of the Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service on the First of July, 1889; Together with a List of Vessels Belonging to the United States. Volume II*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1890.

Bates, Jo Anna Heath (Ed.), *The Heritage of Currituck County North Carolina*. Winston Salem, NC: The Albemarle Genealogical Society, Inc. in cooperation with The Currituck County Historical Society, Inc. and Hunter Publishing Company, 1985.

Blumenson, John J.-G. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945.*, Tennessee: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

Fiske Welch, Marion. *Moyock, a pictorial and folk history, 1900-1920*. Norfolk, VA: Donning, 1982.

Jennings, A. Burgess. *Images of America Currituck County*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2012.

Malvasi, M. G., Sandbeck, P.S., & Snowden, B. *The Goodliest & Most Pleasing Territory A Building Survey of Currituck County and the Northern Outer Banks*. Canada: Friesens, 2017.

McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.

The Post-Office Department and The Postal Service compiled under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. *Official Register of the United States Containing a List of the Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service on the First of July, 1881. Volume II*. Washington: Government Printing Office 1881.

The Post-Office Department and The Postal Service compiled under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. *Official Register of the United States Containing a List of the Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service on the First of July, 1885. Volume II*. Washington: Government Printing Office 1885.

Supporting Photographs & Documentation

Fig. 1: Front (Southwest) Elevation



Fig. 2: Front Door



Fig. 3: Storm Door, Sidelights & Transom



Fig. 4: Bracket under Front Gable



Fig. 5: Front Southeast Facing Wall



Fig. 6: Wraparound Porch



Fig. 7: Spindle Frieze and Brackets



Fig. 8: Turned Porch Spindles, Porch Floor and Trim



Fig. 9: Northwest Elevation



Fig. 10: Molded drip edge, sawtooth ornament and scrolled, console like brackets



Fig. 11: Original Window Trim



Fig. 12: Southeast Elevation



Fig. 13: Southeast Wraparound Porch



Fig. 14: Square Porch Post & Brackets



Fig. 15: Gable End



Fig. 16: Gable End Starburst Pattern



Fig 17: Southeast Porch Door



Fig. 18: Rear (Northeast) Elevation



Fig. 19: Rear Elevation



Fig. 20: Balustrade and Bracket Detail



Fig. 21: Contributing Barn - Southwest Elevation



Fig. 22: Contributing Barn - Northeast Elevation



Fig.23: Contributing Barn – Northeast Elevation (rear) with view of bridge and creek.



Setting:

View from north side of bridge



View from intersection of Camelia Drive & Shingle Landing Road



Rear yard



Rear yard

