

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Russell House
other names/site number 380C106

2. Location

street & number South Carolina Highway 28 /NA/not for publication
city, town Mountain Rest /XX/vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Oconee code SC 073 zip code 29664

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u> </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u> objects
		<u>12</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register None

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.

Goran J. DeBoros DEC 02 1987
Signature of certifying official Date
AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER USDA Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Mary W. Edmunds 11/4/87
Signature of commenting or other official Date
Acting Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, SC Dept of Archives and History
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. Army Schlager 3/29/88
- 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 dwellingDomestic/hotel (inn)

Current Functions (enter categories
from instructions)Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)No style

Materials enter categories from
instructions)foundation stonewalls weatherboard

roof stamped tinother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Reputed to have been constructed after 1867 by William Gannaway, the Russell House was enlarged and remodeled in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Besides the two-story frame farmhouse, the complex includes a spring house, the ruins of a born, and eight other outbuildings. The complex occupies about 10 acres of high ground above the flood plain of the Chattooga River in rural Oconee County. The house is situated near South Carolina Highway 28 and is visible from the highway. A stream flows from a spring adjacent to the house. Although the house and outbuildings have deteriorated, the complex retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The main house underwent considerable expansion, in several campaigns, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to arrive at its present form. The original hewn sills and their foundation piers suggest that the original house was an I-house with a central hall, two rooms per floor, and two exterior stone chimneys. Little original fabric remains from this period other than the sills, the lower parts of the chimneys, and one section of beaded weatherboarding preserved within one of the added rooms. A doorway with a transom and sidelights is also preserved, marking the original entrance to the central hall.

The expansions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, which corresponded with the growth of the Russell family and the increasing popularity of the house as a boarding house for travelers, encompassed the original house and resulted in the present two-story frame house with its two-tiered porch on the front (west elevation), two-story rear wing, large stone chimneys, and numerous outbuildings.

Around 1890 the first major expansion was a two-story addition on the front, which included a two-tiered porch, and a two-story coachroom/dining wing on the rear. The coachroom space was added to provide lodging for the growing numbers of travelers. A one-story bath addition was constructed at the intersection of the main block and the coachroom/dining wing in the twentieth century.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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The present plan of the house is an expanded central-hall, with four rooms on the first and second stories of the main block. A two-tiered porch on the rear addition provides access to two rooms on each story. The original two rooms and central hall on the first floor survive as the two rear rooms of the main block. The expanded house is sheathed in unbeaded weatherboard.

The Russell house facade, as expanded, is three bays wide with a central door on each level of the two-tiered porch. Chamfered wooden posts, with simple balustrades, enclose each level of the porch. The east elevation includes the stone chimney, with the two windows of the original house flanking it on the first floor. Two other windows, for the front rooms of the expanded house, are on the first and second floors. The rear wing includes the kitchen and the dining room, which open onto a small porch. A stair from the porch leads to the second story. The west elevation repeats the fenestration of the east elevation. Three windows light the dining room and kitchen.

The interior of the Russell House has undergone continuous reconstruction, alteration, and addition. A stairway, believed to have been in the main hall, is no longer present. Mantels have been removed from most rooms; those that remain are of wood, with minimal elaboration. The rooms of the first floor were modified by the Forest Service to accommodate displays. Some of the original doors, floors, ceilings, and trim remain.

The log barn (ca. 1820) was built of hewn logs with saddle notching. The barn roof has collapsed in recent years, owing to vandalism and insect damage. Parts of the log walls and some of the added horse stalls remain; however, all have deteriorated.

The outbuildings at the Russell House include a spring house, an outhouse, a garage, a corn crib, a potato cellar, and other agricultural structures. Most of those outbuildings are of frame construction and date from the early twentieth century. Their conditions range from dilapidated to comparatively good shape.

A spring house is located about 75 feet north of the house. The spring has rock walls that form a sitting surface about 20 feet long and channels the water into the spring house, which is about 6 by 14 feet. Both spring and spring house are in good condition and are in a very attractive setting beneath very large white pines.

In September 1867, William Gannaway Russell (1835-1921) of Macon County, North Carolina, purchased 600 acres of land on the Chattooga River, in what was then Pickens District, from Balus Nicholson for the sum of \$1,200. Since the deed transferring the property stated that Nicholson lived on the tract at the time of the sale, a house was evidently on the land when Russell purchased it (Deed Book A, pp. 362-363, Records of the Clerk of Court, Oconee County). According to family tradition, the Nicholson House burned and was replaced by Russell (Seneca Journal 1970).

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)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Transportation	ca. 1867-1921	N/A
Architecture		
Agriculture		
	Cultural Affiliation	
Significant Person	Architect/Affiliation	

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

The Russell House was constructed some time after 1867 and considerably expanded around 1890 and in the early twentieth century. The house is significant in the area of transportation for its role as a late nineteenth and early twentieth century stage stop and inn, which was operated by William Gannaway Russell (1835-1921). The inn provided accommodations for travelers between Walhalla and the mountain resort area around Highlands, North Carolina. The Russell House complex, which includes 10 agricultural outbuildings constructed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is also significant in the area of agriculture. The outbuildings are representative of the diverse aspects of a small, turn-of-the-century Appalachian farmstead. In addition, the Russell House complex is significant in the area of architecture. The house is a good example of an expansion of an I-house to adapt it to a growing family and commerce-related functions. The various outbuildings illustrate common building types and construction techniques used in the region in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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William Russell married Jane Nicholson (1851-1935) around 1870 (Keowee Courier 1935). By 1880, the couple had seven children and were operating a self-sufficient farm. Fifty-two of Russell's 600 acres were farmed; the rest were in forest. Crops grown by Russell included Indian corn, oats, rye, potatoes, and apples. Russell also had 1 horse, 2 mules, 4 milk cows, 11 beef cows, 15 sheep, 15 hogs, and 52 fowl. In addition, he kept bees that produced 50 pounds of honey in 1879 (Agricultural Census 1880). According to Russell family members, W. G. Russell only went into Walhalla, the county seat of Oconee County which was located approximately 14 miles from the Russell farm, twice a year for supplies (Independent 1981). By 1900, the Russells had 14 living children (Twelfth Census 1900).

In addition to farming, the Russells operated an inn for travelers between Walhalla and the mountain resort area around Highlands, North Carolina. The end of the Blue Ridge Railroad was in Walhalla, and many travelers who continued by carriage to the North Carolina mountains stopped for the night at the Russell House. According to local tradition, numerous prominent South Carolinians spent the night there (Keowee Courier 1935).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce

1880 Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. Manuscript Schedules, South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

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 hist. preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 5 acres

UTM References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>301520</u>	<u>3864960</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Russell House and farmstead is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Russell House Property, Oconee County, South Carolina." The nominated property is approximately five acres in area and is located adjacent to SC Highway 28, approximately 0.7 mile from the bridge crossing the Chattooga River.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Five acres encompasses the Russell House, log barn, spring house, and nine additional contributing structures which together form the Russell farmstead.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Robert T. Morgan, Forest Archaeologist</u>	date	<u>27 October 1987</u>
organization	<u>USDA Forest Service</u>	telephone	<u>(803) 765-5222</u>
street & number	<u>1835 Assembly St., P.O. Box 2227</u>	state	<u>SC</u>
city or town	<u>Columbia</u>	zip code	<u>29202</u>

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Bureau of Census (continued)

1895 Report of the Population of the United States at the Eleventh
Census: 1890. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

1971 United States Census: Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics and
Mortality Schedules for South Carolina. South Carolina Department of
Archives and History, Columbia.

Cram, George F.

ca. 1900 Railroad Commissioners' Map of South Carolina. Chicago.

Independent

1981 "Mountain Refuge." Anderson, South Carolina. March 1981.

Keowee Courier

1935 Untitled article. Walhalla, South Carolina. April 1935.

Oconee County Probate Office

Records of the Clerk of Court and Probate Records.

Seneca Journal

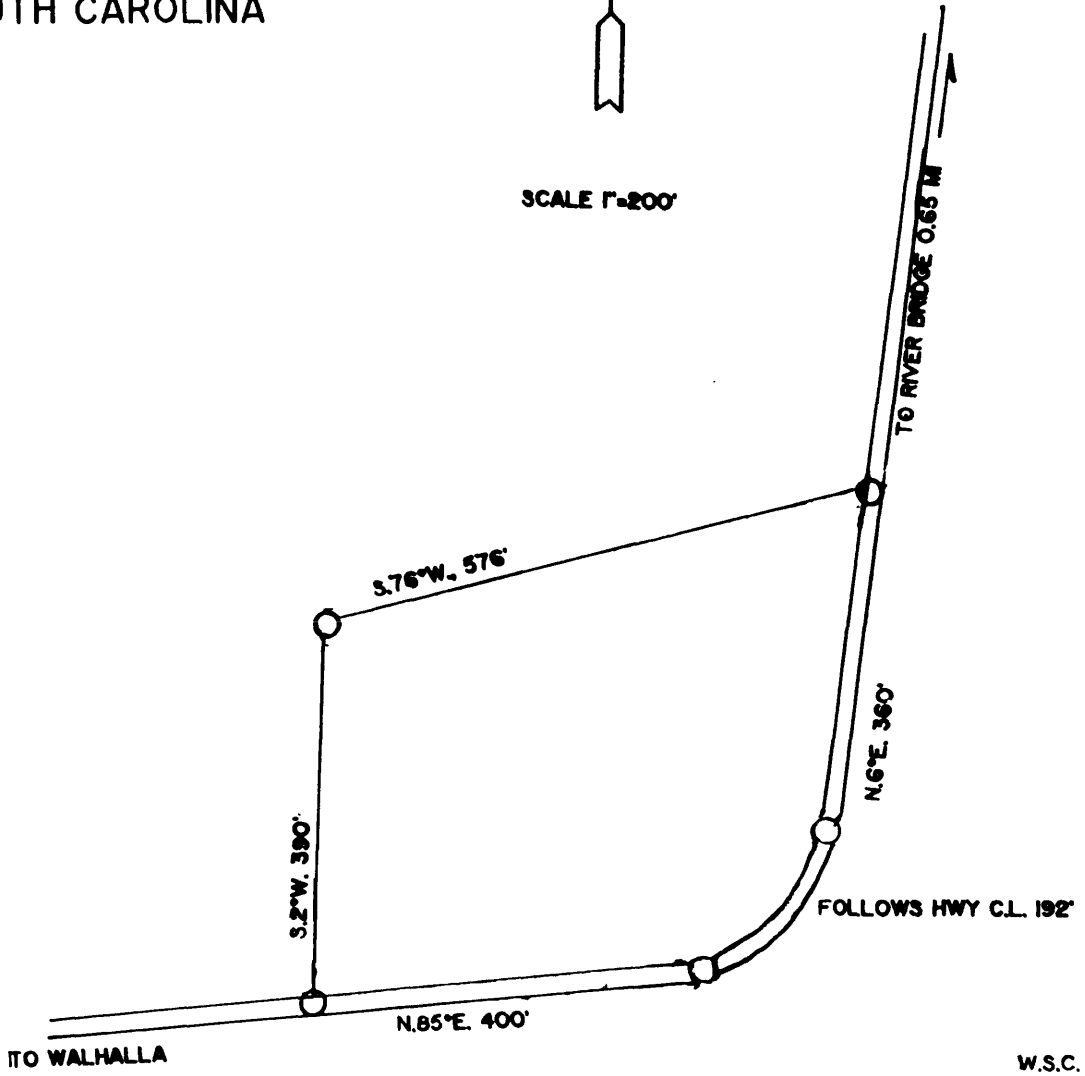
1970 "Halfway House was Stopping Place for Travelers of Old."
Seneca, South Carolina. September 23, 1970.

RUSSELL HOUSE
PROPERTY

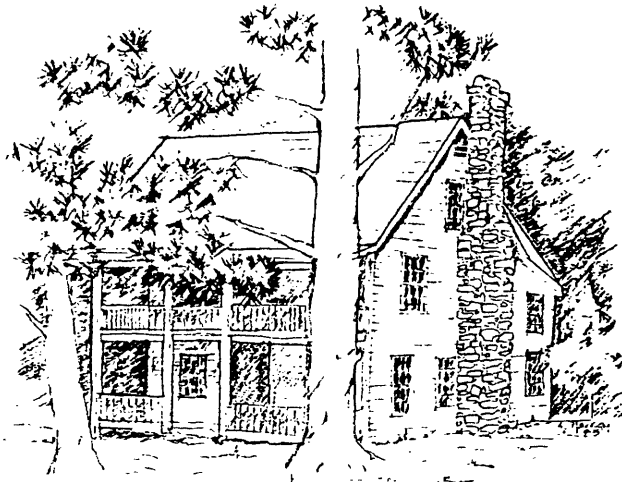
OCONEE COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA



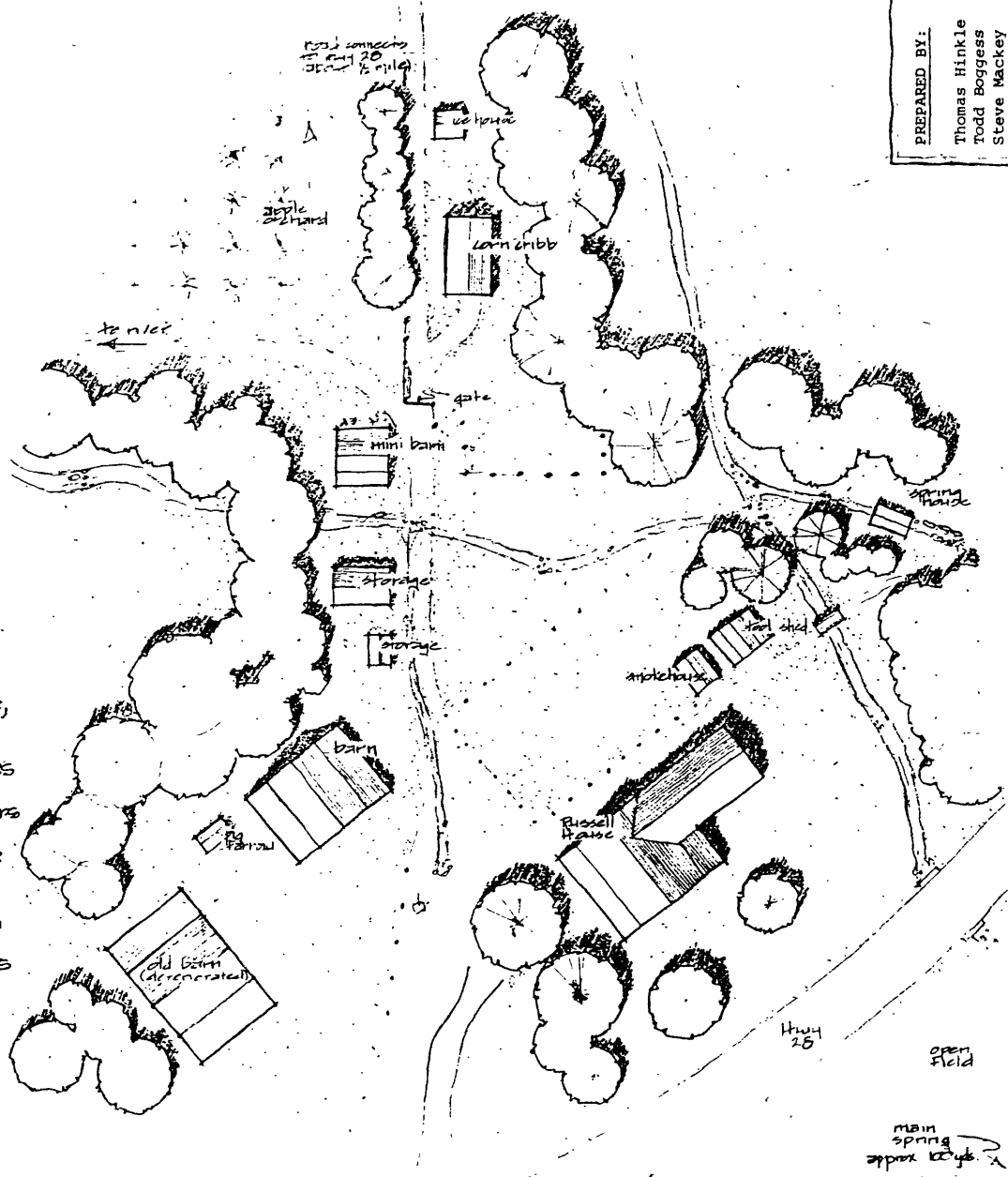
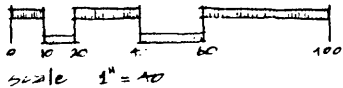
SCALE 1"=200'



W.S.C. 2/1/88



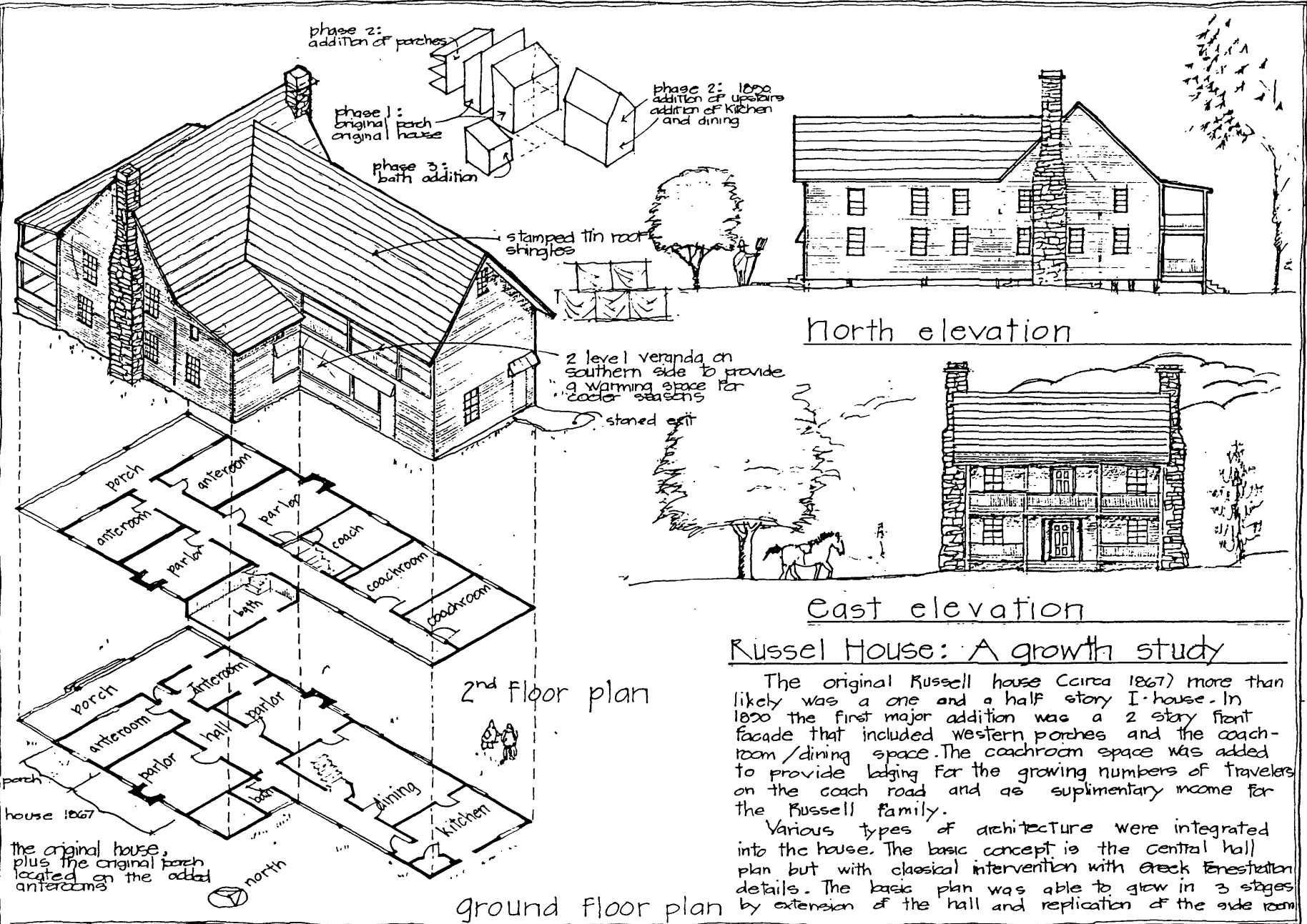
The Russell Complex, built by Ganaway Russell in 1867, is representative of a nineteenth century self-sufficient farm of the Appalachian Region. The house is located on the west side of Highway 28 nearly halfway between Walhalla, S.C. and Highlands, N.C. The farmstead is composed of the two story frame house, a large log barn, eight outbuildings and a spring house, which occupy almost seven acres of high fertile land. A stream flows from the spring adjacent to the site across the north-east side of the complex, and divides into several smaller streams. These smaller streams eventually release into the Chattooga River which borders the eastern side of the lot. Nearly one hundred acres of fertile bottomland on both sides of the river were cultivated by the Russells. The large log barn was reportedly constructed before the existing house, around 1820, and its condition has deteriorated recently to a point where entry to the structure is unsafe. Entry to the house is also no longer advised due to recent acts of vandalism and unsafe conditions.



PREPARED BY:
Thomas Hinkle
Todd Boggess
Steve Wackey

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
CAAR 490, PROF. GEORGE POLK

THE RUSSELL FARMSTEAD
MOUNTAIN REST, S.C. CA. 1867



North elevation

East elevation

Russel House: A growth study

The original Russel house (circa 1867) more than likely was a one and a half story I-house. In 1890 the first major addition was a 2 story front facade that included western porches and the coachroom/dining space. The coachroom space was added to provide lodging for the growing numbers of travelers on the coach road and as supplementary income for the Russel family.

Various types of architecture were integrated into the house. The basic concept is the central hall plan but with classical intervention with Greek fenestration details. The basic plan was able to grow in 3 stages by extension of the hall and replication of the side room

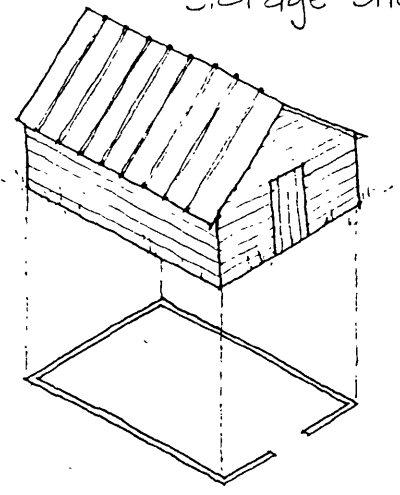
the original house, plus the original porch located on the added anterooms

2nd floor plan

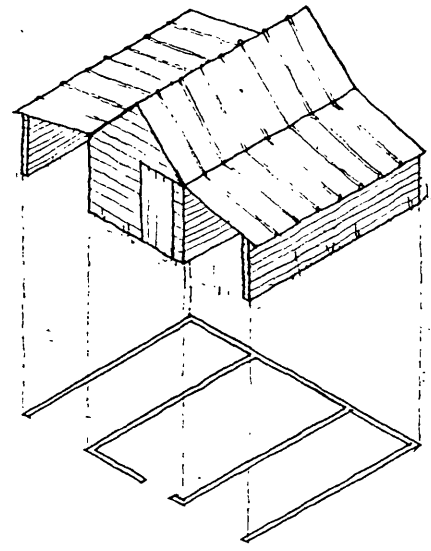
ground floor plan



Storage Shed

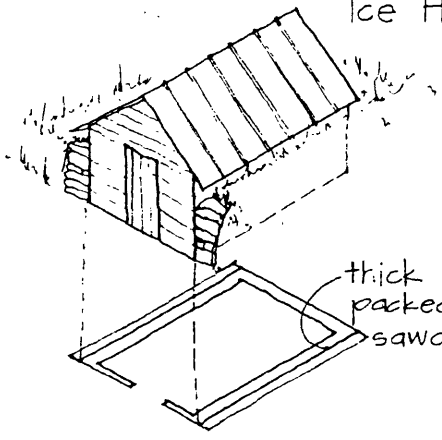


Mini - Barn

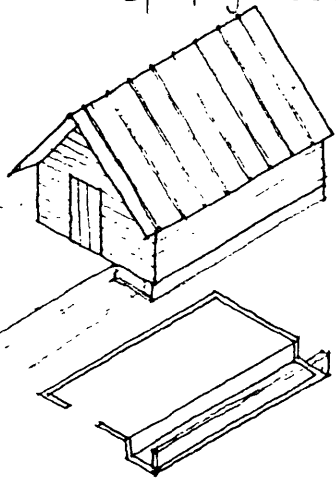


- a barn sized barn scaled down for smaller animals and storage.

Ice House



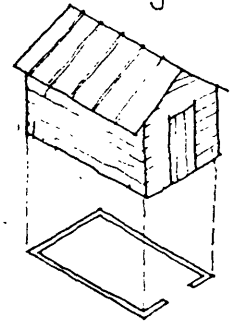
Springhouse



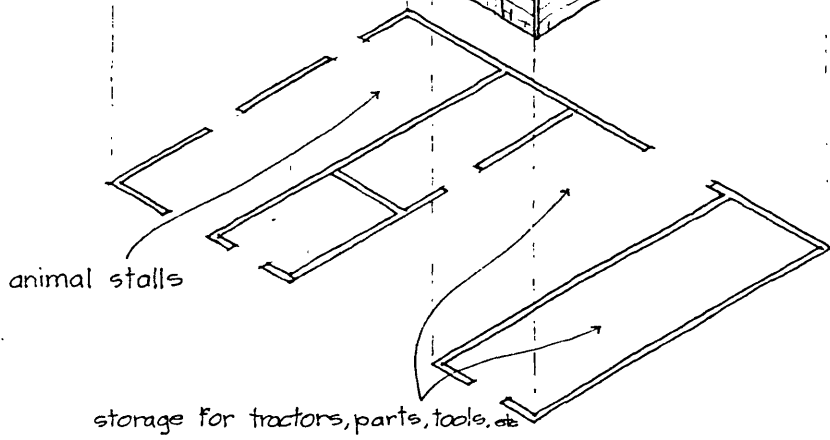
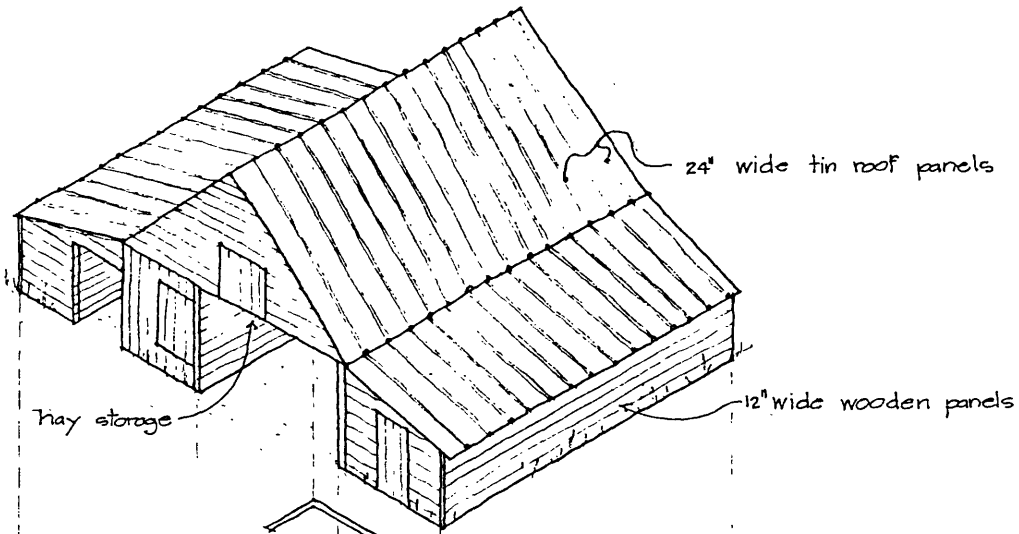
thick log walls packed with sawdust

spring

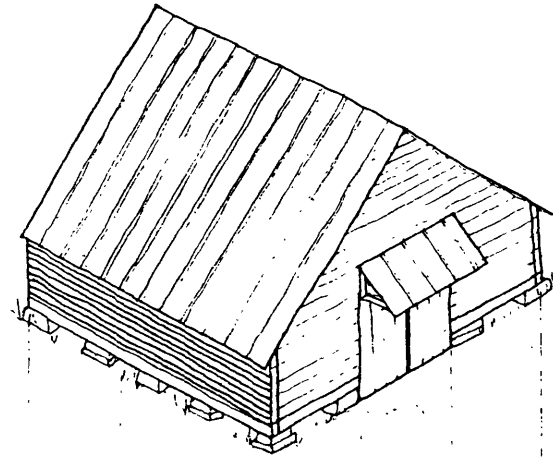
Meat Curing



- Storage space for meats, milk, eggs, etc.
- continuous cooling by fresh spring water

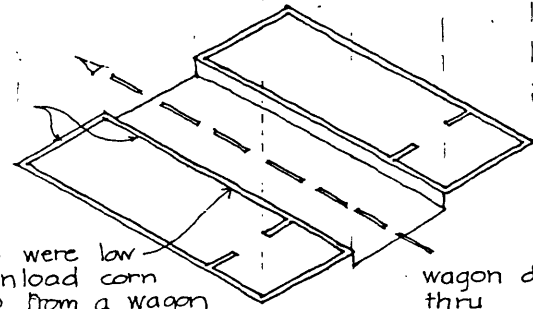


Big Barn



slatted wood walls

interior walls were low enough to unload corn into the crib from a wagon



wagon drive thru

Corn Crib

Siteplan

