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National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

__X__ New Submission ___ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Log Buildings in Alamance County, North Carolina c. 1780-c. 1930

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Exploration and Settlement of Almance Co, NC (18th century)

Agricultural, Social and Economic Development in Alamance County, Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Log Building Traditions in Nineteenth Century Almance County

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson

organization _____ date March 1,1993

street & number 4606 Hunt Rd. telephone (919) 732-5439

city or town Hillsborough state North Carolina zip code 27278

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. Price, Jr. SHPO — Signature and title of certifying official

9-30-93 — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

by Mark W. Nay — Signature of the Keeper

11/22/93 — Date of Action

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

_____

E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Introduction

Alamance County lies in the north-central area of North Carolina's Piedmont region. The Piedmont plateau, encompassing about one-half of North Carolina's total area, lies in the approximate center of the state, and is flanked at the east by the broad coastal plain and at the west by the rugged southern Appalachian mountains.

The Piedmont is characterized by gently rolling and forested country, red clay soil, and a mild climate. The prevalent trees are a variety of hardwoods. The numerous narrow, shallow and swift streams are excellent power sources. The largely unnavigable streams, dense forest and relatively rugged terrain retarded settlement of the region until the mid-eighteenth the century, in contrast to the coastal region where settlement had begun in the last quarter of the seventeenth century. The Piedmont, or "Back Country," was settled largely by Scotch-Irish, Germans, Welsh and others moving along established wagon routes in the valleys of Virginia, Pennsylvania and South Carolina.[1]

Scotch-Irish, German and English Quaker settlers began emigrating about 1740 from Pennsylvania and Virginia to North Carolina's frontier. In what would become Alamance County, they found a microcosm of North Carolina's alluring Piedmont. The settlers were attracted by cheap, fertile land, good water and a pleasant climate with "a moderate and short winter and for 7 or 8 months in the year. . .free from all kind of troublesome insects."[2]

Granville County, established in 1746, and Orange County, 1752, were the first northern Piedmont counties. They would serve as "mother" counties, from which several later counties were formed, including Alamance, a part of Orange until 1849. Today, Alamance is a rectangular-shaped county approximately twenty-eight miles long (north to south) and sixteen miles wide (east to west), or about 428 square miles. Alamance is divided into thirteen local townships: Morton, Faucette and Pleasant Grove townships are located in the northern section of the county; Boone Station, Burlington, Graham, Haw River and Melville townships are located in the central section; Coble, Albright, Thompson, Patterson and Newlin form the county's southern townships. The county is well watered by the Haw River, which bisects the county diagonally from northwest to southeast,

and by its major tributaries Stony, Back, Great Alamance, Stinking Quarter and Cane creeks, as well as by dozens of smaller streams.

Geologically, the county's northern townships have a granitic soil, formed by the decomposition of a granite parent rock which underlies, and occasionally outcrops, nearly all of this section. The granite provides an immense deposit of valuable building stone, but rather poor soil for agriculture.[3] The county's central and southern sections, by contrast, possess fertile red clay and sandy loam soils suitable for growing the early settlers' principal staple crops of wheat, corn, oats and grass for animal pasturage. Cotton was also grown on a limited scale in the southernmost townships.

Today, Alamance County remains largely rural, with the major population centers and incorporated towns, Burlington, Graham, Elon College and Mebane, located along the railroad and Interstate 85, which bisect the county from east to west.

1. EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT OF ALAMANCE COUNTY

The earliest written accounts of the area which became Alamance County were by John Lederer, a German who explored North Carolina's back country in 1670, and by John Lawson, an English surveyor who explored the area in 1701. Each explorer traveled through east-central Alamance and recorded information about the native Indians', the Sissipahaw (or Saxapahaw), customs, buildings and agricultural practices. Both Lederer and Lawson were favorably impressed by the natural bounty of the forest and the crop yields of the fields which had been cleared and cultivated by the Indians.[4] Lawson commented that "the Land is extraordinary Rich, no Man that will be content within the Bounds of Reason, can have no grounds to dislike it. . . the Savages do indeed, still possess the flower of Carolina, the English enjoying only the Fag-end of that fine country."[5]

Both Lederer and Lawson describe the Indians' dwellings (or "cabins" as Lawson terms them) as round in shape and covered with bark.[6] Although no Indian buildings are known to survive, the Sissipahaw name, or a variation, occurs frequently in the county. Many places in Alamance County are named for this tribe including the Haw River, Haw Creek, and the villages of Hawfields and Saxapahaw. Construction of the Indian cabins was a communal affair, much as the construction of the succeeding white pioneer cabins would be. Lawson could have been writing about the

pioneers when he reported on the Indians' reasons for their community efforts:

> The same assistance they gave to any Man that wants to build a cabin, or make a Canoe. They say it is our Duty thus to do; for there are several works that one Man cannot effect. Therefore we must give him our help, otherwise our Society will fall, and we shall be deprived of those urgent Necessities which Life requires.[7]

There are no accounts of difficulties between the Sissipahaw Indians and the new settlers, perhaps because the Indians appear to have removed from the area in the early eighteenth century.

The various nationalities and religious sects which first settled in the area which became Alamance County were loosely grouped and scattered around the county. The settlements emerged in various locales depending on which choice tracts could be patented, where individual squatters claimed and developed sites, and where the various churches were established. In general, the Scotch-Irish settled north of the Haw River and in the Hawfields area in east-central Alamance where the mother Hawfields Presbyterian Church was established. Quaker settlements began about 1740 in the southern part of the county and centered around the Cane Creek Friends meeting, established by 1752. The Germans generally settled along Great Alamance Creek in the west-central area of the county, extending into neighboring Guilford County.[8]

After a settler family had claimed land and located a dependable water source, the first priorities were to erect shelters for the family, their goods and animals, and to clear fields for planting crops. Alamance's dense hardwood forest provided ready building materials for the first, minimal, hastily erected dwellings as well as providing a plentiful supply of game and wild fruits. There were ample good building sites available in the thinly settled late eighteenth-century landscape. The houses were sited to take full advantage of the terrain. In contrast to the nineteenth century when houses tend to be arrayed alongside the road, settlers' cabins were usually located away from the road with their main elevations facing south.[9]

Notwithstanding their pleasant, sometimes dramatically beautiful sites, most of these first generation cabins were minimal housing, repeatedly termed "wretched" in travelers'

accounts of the era. Although none of the first generation cabins is known to survive in Alamance, these accounts most often describe them as small, one-story, one-room, unfloored, often windowless, built of round logs, barked or de-barked depending on how much time and construction help the pioneer had, joined with a quick and easy saddle notch, and finished without nails or other ironwork.[10] The dwelling was typically surrounded by a variety of outbuildings, usually including a separate kitchen, barns and corncribs. Usually the first house was later replaced outright, converted to an outbuilding, or perhaps integrated into a larger building.

The pioneers brought with them the small number of tools necessary to construct log structures. These tools included a felling ax for bringing down the tree and cutting the logs to length; a broad ax for hewing one or more sides of the logs; an adze if a finer finish was desired; and an ax, hatchet or saw for the notching. It was possible to raise a cabin, and largely furnish it, with as few as two to four different tools, including a felling ax, a broad ax, and a hand saw or crosscut saw.

A distinction should be drawn between between the terms "log cabin" and a "log house." "Log cabin" refers to the first, pioneer dwelling and generally denotes a simple, one or one-and-one-half story structure, meant to be impermanent, crudely finished, and usually constructed of round unhewn logs. "Log house" denotes a more permanent and architecturally complex, hewn log dwelling of one or two stories, often built as a second generation replacement for the earlier cabin. Many log houses were sheathed with clapboards, either when they were built or as a later refinement.[11]

Log construction in Alamance was not limited to domestic architecture. Log churches and schools were built soon after the pioneers arrived in Alamance County. The German settlers established Lutheran and Reformed Churches. Sallie Walker Stockard, an early Alamance County historian, wrote in 1900 of the German settlers: "[They] not only brought their bibles . . . but they had scarcely reared a log cabin and cleared a few acres of land when they began to build a schoolhouse that served as a place of worship."[12] There are a number of other references in Alamance County histories about the use of log construction in public buildings such as schools, churches, forts and jails. The Quakers, who had settled the village of Snow Camp in the south-central section of the county, constructed at least two successive log meeting houses, as did the Rocky

River Friends Meeting (established in 1753) before frame meeting houses were built.[13]

2. ALAMANCE COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURIES

Throughout the eighteenth century, and well into the nineteenth century, subsistence farming was the norm in Alamance County. The landscape was dotted with small farmsteads cultivated by individual families who consumed locally what they grew. Yeoman farmers grew the food and created virtually all of the goods necessary to support their self-sufficient life. Finer goods had to be hauled from coastal North Carolina, Philadelphia or Virginia to the back country. Wheat, processed at local grist mills, was the probably the only crop grown commercially with flour the principal cash product. Grist mills which served several local farms, sometimes accompanied by saw mills and taverns, were built at convenient stream crossings or fords. The mills and taverns became the county's first commercial centers. The skilled trades represented by the first settlers included millers, blacksmiths, saw mill operators, tanners, and carriage and harness makers.[14]

Tobacco, destined for the Virginia markets, became an important crop in piedmont North Carolina by 1800. In Alamance however, very few of the farmers owned enough slaves or land to cultivate such labor and space intensive crops as tobacco or cotton. Between 1790 and 1840 Alamance's white population grew from 12,216 to 24,356, and the Negro population grew from 2,161 to 7,585.[15] The county's small farmers seldom owned more than 200 to 300 acres of land and a majority held fifty acres or less.[16] Transportation costs were high: in 1842 it cost nine dollars to ship 500 pounds of cotton between Raleigh and Petersburg.[17] As a result, most Alamance farmers cultivated just enough of these crops to supply their domestic needs. Writing in 1900, Sallie Stockard observed that "Fifty years ago our people raised a patch of cotton as they raised a patch of flax--enough for family use."[18]

A comparison of Census Agricultural schedules from 1850 to 1880 indicate the principal crops raised were remarkably consistent. Most farmers raised small grains including corn, wheat and sorghum, fruit trees, flocks of fowl, and small herds

of cattle, swine, and sheep. The 1850 Agricultural Schedule is representative of the typical diversified subsistance farming of that period. It indicates that on the county's 923 farms (improved land totaled 98,260 acres and unimproved land, 114,846 acres) the following crops were grown: tobacco, 14,650 pounds; cotton, 121 pounds; silk, 54 pounds (the growing of mulberry trees to feed silk worms was a short-lived agricultural experiment); wheat 82,877 bushels; rye and oats, 110,935 bushels; Indian corn, 419,120 bushels; Irish potatoes, 39,133 bushels; 12,397 pounds of beeswax and honey; rye and oats, 110,935 bushels; peas/beans, 5,031 bushels; barley, 20 bushels; hay, 3,783 tons; flax, 79,955 pounds and flax seed, 1,407 pounds. Farm animals inventoried that year included: horses, asses and mules, 3,369; cattle, 8,098 (producing 80,675 pounds of butter and cheese); sheep, 8,050; and swine, 22,475.

During the first third of the nineteenth century North Carolina as a whole was so undeveloped, and so indifferent to its somnolent, backward condition, that it was sometimes termed the "Rip Van Winkle State." It was difficult and costly for different parts of the geographically large state to trade with each other. It was easier and cheaper for Piedmont farmers to take their salable goods to Virginia or South Carolina and to buy the goods they could not produce there. Manufacturing on a factory basis did not develop in North Carolina until after 1815. The Piedmont region had "ample resources of climate, raw materials, water power and cheap labor for the development of manufacturing, but scarcity of capital, inadequate transportation, and an impoverished home market discouraged the building of factories."[19] Conditions were such that there was a heavy outmigration to the western and southern states of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Indiana where prospects for economic prosperity seemed brighter. North Carolina dropped in population from fourth place in 1790, to fifth in 1830 (the decade of heaviest migration), to twelfth place by 1860.[20]

The seeds of industry and commerce had been planted along the creeks and rivers of Alamance County. In 1837 E.M. Holt built his first, and the state's fifth, textile mill on Great Alamance Creek. Five cotton mills were operating in the county by 1850, some on or near the sites of former gristmills. Housing built for the mill hands at Snow Camp in the 1830s and at the village of Alamance in 1840, must have seemed familiar to the workers since they were constructed of logs (none of these houses

are known to survive). The Holt family dominated the Alamance County textile industry from the 1840s into the 1920s. (By 1884 there were twelve cotton textile mills in Alamance County, eight of them owned by Holt family members.) Textile production continues as the industrial base of the county to the present.

In antebellum Alamance farm life continued much as it had since earliest settlement days. Men's responsibilites included planting, plowing, hog-killing, and whiskey-making. For women an important and time-consuming task was making clothing for their families. There was wool to be washed and dried, carded, spun into thread, woven into cloth, dyed with bark or herbs, and clothing to be fashioned (wool clothing in the winter and cotton, in the summer).

There was scarce time for recreation, but some popular leisure activities were tied to the seasonal cycles of farm life. These included auctions, barn-raisings, and corn shucking parties. Games included wrestling matches, jumping contests, rifle shooting matches, pitching horseshoes, and "rounders" (an early version of baseball). Camp meetings and patriotic celebrations were enjoyable social gatherings, as were horse racing and fairs later in the century.[21]

The county seat was established at Graham in 1849. The tracks of the North Carolina Railroad were laid through the center of the county in the 1850s. Small towns grew up along the rails and the county prospered. Burlington, the largest town, was first known as Company Shops, reflecting its early primary function as the location of the railroad company's repair facility.

Alamance County suffered little physical damage during the Civil War, but the county's manpower was drained and every area of daily life was affected. Many businesses collapsed, but the railroad and cotton mills prospered. The mills produced cloth which was sent to Raleigh where it was made into uniforms for the Confederate Army. However, in general the economy suffered during the war years and did not rebound until after the Reconstruction years. Many former slaves remained in the county after the war. No log slave dwellings are known to survive, but some of the log dwellings built by the newly freed slaves survived until recent years. These log dwellings were little different from the ante-bellum houses except for the use of circular saws to cut floor joists and other building parts. After 1880 the demise of log construction was rapid. After this period, logs were used mostly for outbuildings such as tobacco barns. Log construction in residential architecture

persisted until c. 1890.

In 1866 the town of Burlington was incorporated. The town had grown up around the new repair facilities of the North Carolina Railroad, but those facilities were moved to Spencer, North Carolina in 1896. Burlington's economy continued to grow however, kept alive by the Burlington Coffin Company (the town's oldest industry today) and the steadily growing textile industry. In 1890 Alamance County had seventeen cotton mills; by 1923 Burlington Industries had become one of the giants of the industry, with fourteen textile factories operating under its name alone. Ironically, the cotton growing belt barely touches the southernmost edge of the county, but this seemingly did not affect the expanding textile weaving and hosiery businesses.

By 1870 the average size of farms in North Carolina had shrunk to 212 acres compared to the 1860 average of 316 acres. The 1870 Agricultural Schedule reveals that crop yields in Alamance were considerably reduced from pre-Civil War numbers. Livestock totals were also greatly reduced. While there were 3,369 horses and mules recorded in 1850, only 478 were counted in 1870. However, there were equally dramatic gains in some crop yields: tobacco poundage in 1850 was 14,650 in contrast to 1870 when 155,570 pounds were counted. Some crops, such as flax, did not appear at all in the 1870 figures. In general, though, the types of small grains and vegetables were little changed from pre-war years. The value of all farm property in Alamance fell almost 54% between 1860 and 1870.[22] Agriculture was slowed, but certainly not stopped. After Reconstruction the number of farms and the value per acre increased steadily with the biggest gains seen in the first years of the twentieth century.

In a report written in 1895 by George Mabry, "Sketch of Alamance County for the Colored Exhibit to the Cotton States and International Exposition in Atlanta," note is made of the changing farm markets:

> Tobacco and market vegetables (cabbage, beans, onions, turnips, green corn and many varieties of fruits, green and dried) are ready money crops and in great demand in this North Carolina's manufacturing center, by the operatives of the mills and the attendant population. The farmer in remote sections from the factories is trying to adapt himself to the new conditions by supplying the demands of the factory and town

population.

By 1900, the majority of Alamance's farms were between 50 and 99 acres with the average size of 88 acres extending through 1930. In 1920 a full 76% of the county's land was found in farms. Between 1900 and 1930 the crop mix changed from the leading staple crops of wheat, corn, oats and tobacco to grains, grasses and clovers which reflected the growing importance of dairy farming in the county.

By the early 1950s hay, a vital crop for the county's 150 dairy farms, had become the third most important crop, topped only by tobacco and corn.[23] By the middle of the twentieth century only 18% of the population was classified as "rural," but agriculture was still an eight million dollar business in the county. The proportion of farm tenancy, 23%, was below the state average of 38%. At that time, only 138 acres in the county were growing cotton for its most important industry, textiles.

3. LOG BUILDING TRADITIONS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY ALAMANCE COUNTY

While log buildings are popularly associated with the pioneer or settlement era which continued until about the time of the Revolutionary War, the practice of building with logs continued throughout the nineteenth and even into the twentieth centuries in North Carolina's rural Piedmont.

When Alamance County's pioneers were ready to replace their first cabins, they built more permanent, carefully crafted log houses. This usually meant a hewn log house. The building materials were readily available and a log house was economical, practical and comfortable. In erecting log buildings, Alamance residents followed patterns seen throughout the piedmont region of North Carolina. Log buildings in Alamance were built by all of the ethnic and religious groups represented in the county. As architectural historian Thomas T. Waterman wrote of the English and German pioneers in North Carolina, "increasing familiarity with the technique of hewing and joining the logs by the English, and familiarity with it in their homeland by the Germans, enabled the North Carolinians to develop it to a high degree of perfection."[24]

Indeed, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth

centuries log houses were the predominant domestic architecture of the rural Piedmont and mountain regions,[25] especially in areas where small farms dominated the landscape. These patterns are evident in the architectural inventories conducted in the region during the past decade. For instance, a 1979 survey of Caswell County's architecture revealed that approximately forty percent of the surviving nineteenth century housing was of log construction.[26] Other inventories conducted in the Piedmont counties of Franklin and Rowan cite a "surprising number" and a "vast body" of surviving nineteenth century log houses.[27] (In those counties, a large number of these houses are are abandoned, not maintained, and in poor to perilous condition. Their survival into the twenty-first century is problematic. The buildings with the best survival chances are those still in use as residences or farm outbuildings. In Alamance the log buildings which exhibit the highest degree of integrity generally have remained in the builder's, or early owner's, family for generations and are maintained to the present for sentimental reasons and used for storage or some other secondary building use.)

The domestic architecture of antebellum Alamance County was rooted in the building traditions established in the eighteenth century. The John Allen House (NR), constructed c. 1782, is the earliest documented surviving house in the county and represents a second generation log house. The story of its construction and many of its features are typical of other log houses in the county, but it displays some unique features not repeated elsewhere. Some of the anomalies may have been common in earlier dwellings, but since none survive it cannot be known for certain.

John Allen, a Pennsylvania native, settled on a 600-acre tract in the south-central, Cane Creek, area of Alamance which had been granted to Allen's father in 1756. (John Allen, Senior died in Pennsylvania before he could settle his new land in Alamance. His son inherited the land grant.)[28] The young John Allen, a wheelwright and carpenter by trade, first built a small, insubstantial log house where he lived with his family until after the Revolutionary War. Allen then built the larger, more substantial dwelling which is exhibited today in Alamance Battleground Park. Typical eighteenth century construction details include the use of logs hewn only on two sides, with both the top and bottom of each log left undressed. The interstices were filled with clay, straw, and small branches, and the corners joined with rough v-notches. Two doors stand opposite each other on the front and rear elevations. To the

left of the front door, an enclosed stairway makes a turn and rises along the gable end wall to a spacious loft. Logs continue for three or four courses making the upstairs a large, unheated space. The feet of the rafters are mortised and pegged into the top plates. On the gable ends the studs are mortised into the plates and into the end rafters.

These construction features passed into the local building idiom and are repeated on most of Alamance's nineteenth century log buildings, but other features are unique to this house (and perhaps earlier houses which do not survive). The massive free-standing stone chimney with its large, open fireplace stands inside the log walls, occupying nearly a quarter of the available living space. Later Alamance builders placed the chimney stack on the exterior. Another feature peculiar to the Allen House is the extension of logs on the side walls to form supports for both the front and back porches. The only other house with this type of cantilevered porch roof is the Gray McPherson House in Newlin Township, constructed in 1870 and now in ruins. The flooring in the Allen House is unusual because the wide floor boards are pegged, not nailed to the floor joists.

Even though the first half of the nineteenth century was, in general, a time of innovative changes in building styles, in Alamance it was also a time of "persistent continuation of traditional building types."[29] As in the eighteenth century, most houses were quite modest in size, rarely larger than two rooms and an attic. Log construction remained the prevalent building form in the county until the end of the Civil War.

Log house construction continued on a diminished scale in rural areas into the 1890s. Much of that construction was done by freedmen, either tenant farmers or small land owners. In form and construction, these houses differed very little from their antebellum counterparts. In post-bellum Alamance frame houses supplanted log houses for several reasons. Probably foremost was the popular perception that log dwellings were inferior and decidedly unstylish housing. Also, large logs necessary for construction were harder to obtain, and log construction skills were not passed on to younger builders. Frame construction became much more affordable as the number of saw mills in the county increased. However, log construction for farm outbuildings and tobacco barns continued into the first quarter of the twentieth century.[30]

F. ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPE: LOG BUILDINGS IN ALAMANCE COUNTY

DESCRIPTION

In Alamance, log buildings represent twenty-two percent of all the county's surviving historic resources. These resources were recorded during a comprehensive survey conducted by architectural historian Carl Lounsbury in 1979, updated and supplemented by smaller surveys conducted in 1983 and 1991. One hundred and fifty (150) log buildings in Alamance County constitute the universe studied for this Multiple Property Documentation Form.

Even though log houses are geographically widespread in North Carolina, only a few distinct forms and types are represented. This may be because builders in both the Piedmont and mountains shared basic folk building traditions, and because of the limitations imposed by the size of the generally unwieldy construction materials. The most obvious variables are the type of notch used to join the logs and the floor plan of the log house.

Bishir observed that notching techniques are obvious examples of the regional variations that appeared in North Carolina's log architecture. Saddle and dovetail notches are the most common in the few log houses located in the coastal plain of North Carolina. The V-notch and the half-dovetail predominate in the Piedmont. The half-dovetail notch becomes more frequent west of the Piedmont, and finally dominates in the mountain region. Full dovetail and diamond notches are rare.[31]

Although the notch type is undetermined on about one-third of the surviving Alamance log houses because they are hidden by weatherboard sheathing or some other covering, in cases where the notch is visible, several types are represented in the county's log buildings. The V-notch is by far the most commonly found, appearing on about half of the surviving houses and outbuildings. The half-dovetail notch is comparatively rare, found most often on the earlier, pre-1820, houses and on a variety of early outbuildings; a notable exception is the Thomas Guy House, a rare Alamance County example of a saddlebag house, constructed in the late 1890s, which displays other features more commonly found on much earlier nineteenth century houses, including an enclosed corner stair and a whitewashed interior. The full-dovetail notch is quite rare, found on only a handful of small outbuildings, including a storage building on the Michael Shoffner Farm. This is a difficult notch to execute

well; it is possible that it was found on very early buildings which do not survive, and that the skill was not passed on when the Alamance builders discovered that the more easily executed V-notch would suffice.

Aside from notching, one remarkable feature of log construction in Alamance is the uniformity of structural characteristics. Methods of securing ceiling joists into the walls, anchoring the rafters into the top plates, and joining the rafters at the apex were repeated over and over. Ceiling joists were nearly always fitted into the walls by mortising the joists into the front and rear walls. To anchor the rafters into the top plate, the feet of the rafters were notched to fit on the diagonally set plates; the wedge-shaped plates were often formed from one quarter of a log. Occasionally, ceiling joists project from the front and rear walls and the rafters lie on top of them. The rafters in antebellum log houses were half-lapped and pegged together at the roof's apex. About 1850 this method changed to one in which the rafters abutted one another and were secured by nails. Floor joists are logs, sometimes debarked. Chimney stacks (either stone or brick) are offset from the gable end, a feature also common to the Piedmont's nineteenth century frame houses.

Other notable conventions followed by the builders of Alamance County's log houses include setting another free-standing log building, usually the kitchen, close by and at a ninety degree (right) angle to the main house; unifying the L-shaped complex, and bridging the gap between the buildings, is a continuous, joined porch roof. The main elevations of the log houses are often sheathed with weatherboards (either flush boards or lapped); or the main elevation may be painted or whitewashed with the paint extending just to the height of the ceiling joists. The sheathing or paint serves to set off the "formal" or sheltered porch space of the main elevation.

The interiors of the houses are plain, without architectural embellishments. Window and door casings are usually nothing more than 1" x 5" planks (very occasionally with beveled or molded back bands). The unfinished and (usually) exposed log walls were often whitewashed to make the interior brighter. Exposed ceiling joists are occasionally enhanced by a decorative bead or chamfer. The loft room is usually open to the roof.

Log buildings are difficult to date accurately from a visual examination because these guileless vernacular buildings have no discernible "style," and because traditional log building methods persisted over a long span of time. Thus there is little

difference between a c. 1820 house and one constructed c. 1890. There are some log houses in North Carolina whose carefully crafted interiors exhibit identifiable styles, such as Georgian, Federal or Greek Revival, but back country Alamance was far from the state's style centers. These are folk houses with few pretensions of style.

What is often most striking about them is the care with which the houses were sited and constructed. The house was usually set on the highest, most commanding part of the house tract. Large hardwood logs were carefully hewn and precisely notched and fitted, so that many of the old houses still stand straight and true. As long as the roofs are kept sound, and the buildings serve on-going functions (and the architectural parts salvagers can be kept at bay), Alamance's log buildings are not likely to vanish soon. These once ubiquitous features of the rural landscape, however, are threatened from many directions. It is hoped that National Register listing will serve both as some protection, and will serve to draw the public's attention to this important chapter in the county's architectural evolution.

Floor Plans: Basis for Sub-Types

The basic log house in the Piedmont, and in the mountains as well, is a single-pen structure measuring approximately twenty feet by eighteen feet, one-story high (often with a loft for storage or sleeping), with a gable roof and an exterior end chimney of stone (sometimes with a brick stack). Larger houses were created in various ways: the placement of a pen on either side of a central shared chimney, a plan known as a "saddlebag" house; two adjoining pens, each with an exterior end chimney; the placement of a floored and covered (open or enclosed) hallway between two pens, known as a "dogtrot" house; or the addition of a second story. While an upper sleeping loft, reached by either a ladder or a corner staircase (enclosed or open), is common in both regions, full two-story log houses in the Piedmont are relatively uncommon.

The 150 log buildings examined in Alamance County were grouped, generally, as single-pen houses with one room; single-pen with multiple rooms; and double-pen houses. (A "pen", or "crib" as it is sometimes termed, is the basic unit of a log structure, formed by four walls joined at the corners with a notch.) Single-pen, one-room houses are further categorized as one-room; one-room with a later, frame addition. Single-pen,

multiple room houses houses include both two-room (hall-and-parlor) plans and three-room ("Quaker") plans. Double-pen houses include saddlebag or dogtrot houses. The last category of buildings examined include log outbuildings, accompanying either a log or frame house.

A large majority, 68 percent, of the study group are single-pen houses with a one-room or two-room plan. These buildings are scattered fairly evenly throughout the county. The four buildings which display a three-room ("Quaker") plan (3 percent) are all located in the south-central part of the county, an area originally settled by Quakers who moved to Alamance County from Pennsylvania. Although the double-pen forms represent only 3 percent of the buildings in the study group, they have a good survival rate with three of them well preserved and still in residential use; these are all grouped in the south eastern portion of the county. The group of log outbuildings studied represent about 10 percent of the study group.

I. Single-Pen, One-Room Log Houses

These typically small (approximately eighteen by twenty feet) houses are usually one or one-and-one-half stories, and more rarely, two stories. They have one exterior end chimney constructed either of dry-laid or mortared fieldstone, or with a fieldstone base and shoulder and a brick stack. Windows are generally small and sparse; some of the earlier houses have no windows on the main elevation. To light the loft area, small windows are sometimes found in the gable ends. Generally a plank and batten door is centered in the main elevation, with a like door on the opposite wall.

These houses have one open heated room. An enclosed or open corner stair (or less commonly, a ladder) leads to an unheated loft which was used either for sleeping or storage. The staircase is found either in the corner of the fireplace wall or in the corner on the opposite wall. After an initial run of three or four steps, the stairway makes a tight turn and runs along the gable end wall.

Several representative, largely intact examples of one-room log houses survive in the county, all dating from the early nineteenth century. While each contains the basic elements of the one-room plan, they are as different as is each individual builder.

The Polly Fogleman House, c. 1820, is a particularly good example with an unusual number of original decorative features. The house features a remarkable exterior end chimney with a mortared fieldstone base, brick shoulder and off-set brick stack. The bricks are laid in an approximate Flemish bond with glazed headers forming diamond patterns. Interior features include a handsome mantelpiece with an arched firebox surround, and molded shelf underscored by a narrow, delicate band of pierced scallops. The enclosed corner staircase has beaded stair noses, and beaded planks sheathe the stair well. Original mud daubing survives on the second story, as do rose head nails on the tapered battens of a small plank door to a crawl space; handmade nails are also found in the diagonals for the roof wind braces.

The early nineteenth century Ward-Baker House, located in the rocky northeast corner of the county, is another good example of the one-room plan. Like the Fogleman House, it is crowned by a steeply pitched gable roof and displays a fine chimney, here formed with blocks of the area's abundant granite. The eave on the east elevation is flush, and an overhanging gable end, apparently unique in the county, is found on the west gable. An enclosed corner stair is located on the fireplace wall of the plain interior.

The William Cook House, located in east-central Alamance, is composed of two freestanding houses, one log and one frame, set close to and at a ninety-degree angle to each other, a county building convention. Hip roof porches on each building join, bridging the gap between the c. 1840 one-room log house and the adjacent two-story, three-bay frame house built in 1903. The log house was remodeled when the two-story house was built and both are now visually unified by the same narrow clapboard sheathing, corner boards, standing seam metal roofs, and handsome red brick exterior end chimneys. The log house originally had a stone chimney; a portion of the stone base supports the replacement brick chimney. The interior of the one-room log house remains largely intact and has exposed hewn logs, a large fireplace with a simple plank mantelpiece, and a open (later enclosed) staircase on the wall opposite the fireplace. The Cook House has an unusually complete and well-maintained collection of outbuildings; all of the outbuildings are in use on this handsome farm. The outbuildings include a two-story barn with half-dovetail notches; frame corncrib; log wood shed with half-dovetail notches; and an open storage shed with V-notches.

The c. 1820 Dixon Log House is a rare full two-story,

one-room-plan weatherboarded log house with half-dovetail notches and stuccoed fieldstone and brick exterior end chimney. The rear kitchen ell is unusual because it is made of logs, rather than the more commonly found frame. The main block has a two-panel front door flanked by six-over-six windows; no second story windows are found on the main elevation, but small boarded-over windows are found in the second story gable ends.

One, apparently unique, single-pen, center-hall plan log house was discovered; now abandoned and derelict, the S.L. Faucette House was constructed by a "neighborhood cabin raising" in 1929 and displays half-dovetail notches.

II. Single-Pen, Multi-Room Log Houses

A. Hall-and-parlor plan

The hall-and-parlor plan consists of two rooms of unequal size divided by a thin vertical board partition wall. The front and back doors open into the larger room, the hall. Generally only the hall is heated, with the parlor left unheated. Most of the county's surviving hall-and-parlor houses have a habitable loft area or a second floor which is reached by an enclosed corner staircase located on either the chimney wall or on the partition wall. Perhaps because these buildings are relatively commodious, they tend to remain in use longer as residences and are in better condition, with the logs kept sound by attention to the weatherboards or other coverings.

According to Carl Lounsbury, the two-story hall-and-parlor house first appeared in Alamance in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. He observed:

> Improvement over the one-story house was naturally in the upgrading of the status and space of the room upstairs. . . .Log houses with the two-room plan rarely provided as much space as their frame and brick counterparts. Because of the inherent limitations of construction, log houses could never exceed much more than thirty feet in length. . . .Few log houses were divided into more than one room upstairs and fewer still were heated by a fireplace upstairs.[32]

The 1834 A.L. Spoon House is an especially good, virtually unaltered example of a two-story hall-and-parlor log house;

adjoining is a c. 1860 frame side wing. The house is abandoned and somewhat deteriorated but retains a remarkable number of original features on both the log and frame blocks. On the log portion these include narrow six-over-four sash windows on the first story and six-light windows on the second story which slide sideways into a pocket between the logs and the interior's hand-planed sheathing; flush sheathing on the main elevation extends just to the ceiling rafters under the shed-roofed front porch (porch extends the full length of the adjoining blocks); a six-panel front door; and on the interior, an arched fireplace opening with tall mantel, crudely divided into three panels; a chair rail on the thin partition wall; molded baseboards on the partition and beveled baseboards elsewhere; oak tongue-and-groove plank flooring on the first floor and poplar flooring on the second story; and a narrow enclosed staircase rising against the partition wall. The one-story frame wing has hand-planed poplar sheathing on the walls and a mixture of beveled and molded baseboards. Surviving outbuildings include a well house, corn crib, and a good example of a double-pen V-notch log barn.

The c. 1800 Hatter John Clapp House is another example of a two-story hall-and-parlor house. The house has a one-story attached log kitchen wing and a rare Flemish bond brick chimney. The half-dovetail notch logs were sheathed with weatherboards at an early date. This carefully restored house displays rafters which are half-lapped and pegged at the apex, beaded ceiling joists, and some original hardware.

The Camilus McBane House, c. 1850, is a one-story hall-and-parlor plan log house with an 1892 frame side addition. A free-standing, c. 1850 single-pen log kitchen is set close to and at a ninety degree angle to the log house; following the county building convention, the gap is bridged by a continuous porch roof. Both log buildings display exceptionally precise, well-fitted V-notches, and each retains a handsome exterior end dry-laid fieldstone chimney with brick stack; the frame addition to the log house also has a stone exterior end chimney with a 1892 date brick in the stack. On the interior of the log house, the partition wall was removed at an undetermined date, but the ghost marks remain. The mortise-and-tenon two-panel mantelpiece in the hall frames an arched fireplace opening; the mantel in the frame addition is ornamented by four, square recessed panels.

The George Morgan House is another example of the county's two-part, or L-shaped, compounds. Here the one-story,

hall-and-parlor log house has a free-standing frame addition placed at the rear; the short gap between the buildings is bridged by a continuous shed-roof back porch. The date of the Morgan House is uncertain, but the absence of windows on the main elevation, small four-over-four windows on the side elevations, its overall small size, and large stuccoed stone chimney suggest an early nineteenth century construction date.

Other largely intact antebellum hall-and-parlor plan log houses include the G. Jones House, a one-and-one-half story house with a frame rear ell, full-width shed roof porch, exterior end fieldstone chimney with brick stack, and four-over-four windows. On the interior, the corner staircase is located the partition wall. Also notable is the Judge Sharpe House, a V-notched log hall-and-parlor plan house, covered with poplar weatherboards sawn from trees on the property in 1938.

B. Three-room-plan

The three-room plan log house was a minor house type which appeared in Alamance in the antebellum period. Its distribution was limited to the southern part of the county, with most of the half dozen examples (both log and frame structures) found near the Snow Camp community, an area settled by Quakers from Pennsylvania. In the three-room plan, two small unheated rooms open at one end onto a larger heated room. The origin of this plan, sometimes called the "Quaker" or "Continental" plan, is uncertain and has been attributed to a variety of sources, from William Penn to German Rhineland houses.[33] Whatever its source, the three-room house plan flourished in southeastern Pennsylvania in the eighteenth century and was brought south to Piedmont North Carolina with the first settlers.

Perhaps the relative scarcity of three-room plan log houses is because, in the mid-nineteenth century as Bishir suggests, "families who wanted and could afford spacious and well-finished houses increasingly chose to build them of frame or brick." She observes that "gradually during the nineteenth century, changes began to appear in choices made about log houses. After about 1820 or 1830--the timing varied from region to region--fewer families built large, single-pen log houses that were divided into hall-parlor or three-room plans."[34]

No intact log examples of the three-room plan were discovered in 1991. The most commonly found alteration is the removal of the interior room partitions in order to create a larger living space. In the George Graves House, a rare early

nineteenth century two-story example, the partitions were removed creating a large open room on the first floor. The partitions in the 1860 Hiram Braxton House were removed to accommodate its use for tobacco storage.

The Hiram Braxton House is a one-and-one-half-story c. 1860 log house with an 1884 frame side addition. Both sections of the house have handsome dry laid stone chimneys with offset brick stacks; the brick stack on the log portion retains the original painted mortar joints. The V-notched logs on the main elevation are whitewashed up to the ceiling joist line, and clapboards sheathe the other elevations. The log unit retains the original six-over-six sash windows set in hand-planed poplar casings, and four-panel doors stand opposite each other on the main and rear elevations. The stairs to the loft area were originally located on the rear wall next to the door. In recent years the stairs were removed, as were the room partition walls, and a new open string staircase and a large trap door to the loft were installed for ease in moving and storing tobacco. The building is presently in use for miscellaneous household storage. The log pen has a full-width shed-roof porch. The frame addition is set slightly forward of the log building and does not have a porch; entrance to the addition is through a plank door which opens onto the log building's porch.

III. Two-Pen Log Houses

Frame additions to log houses, usually in the form of rear or side ells, are fairly common in Alamance's log houses. There are, however, very few examples of log construction other than the single log unit. Because of the interdependent nature of log wall construction, any addition to an existing log structure has to be done in complete units, that is, built with four walls.[35]

One method used to expand a log house is the addition of a unit to create a saddlebag house, a plan in which a pair of log pens share a common central chimney. The Thomas Guy House is an example of such a plan. Both units of this one-story house were constructed within a few years of each other in the 1890s. The smaller of the two units illustrates the conservative nature of the log house building tradition in its half-dovetail notches and narrow, steep enclosed corner staircase, features more commonly found on log houses dating from the early nineteenth century, rather than from the end of that century. Here, a larger hall-and-parlor plan V-notched log unit was added

to a single-pen, one-room unit. The original stone chimney was then rebuilt to incorporate a second flue for the new fireplace and a new corbeled brick stack was set on the original stone base. The main elevations of both pens were sheathed with clapboards. The interior of both pens were whitewashed and a connecting interior door was cut in the wall next to the fireplaces.

Another method of arranging multiple log pens is to set two individual units next to each other, each with an exterior end chimney. Alamance has two good examples of such an arrangement in the Sam Lewis House and the James Monroe Thompson House or "Shady Rest."

The Sam Lewis House is composed of two individual one-room, one-and-one-half story log pens with corner enclosed staircases set next to, and one slightly ahead of, the other. The house has recently been moved across the road from its original site and has lost one of its stone body/brick stack chimneys. The construction dates are not known, but one of the units is thought to pre-date the other by a few years.

In 1872 James Monroe Thompson built a two-story log addition to a one-and-one-half story, one-room log house. He named his house "Shady Rest," referring to the large hardwood trees in the yard. The one-room log house, used by Thompson as the kitchen, has a stone exterior end chimney and was covered by unpainted weatherboards, applied when the two-story addition was built; the two-story wing is also covered by the original unpainted weatherboards. The interior of the kitchen has chamfered ceiling beams, whitewashed logs, a large stone hearth, six-over-three windows (some with old, perhaps original glass), and a loft area with exposed rafters of stripped round logs. The rafters meet at a ridge board, a feature found in the county's post-1850 log buildings. The two-story pen contains one large room on the first floor, sheathed with wide vertical planks, and has a two-panel door at the main entrance, a rear plank and batten door, and beaded ceiling joists. The stairs to the second floor are located in a narrow center hall behind a partition wall at the rear of this room. Upstairs, one large room was partitioned into two bedrooms originally, and features whitewashed log walls, a plank ceiling, and wide plank floor boards.

Another type of double-pen house is the dog-trot house. This type is characterized by a small, either open or closed breezeway which separates the units. A continuous roof covers both units and two separate chimneys are located on the two

outer gable ends. The sole example of this type recorded by Lounsbury, the Alfred Iseley House in Morton Township, could not be located in 1992 and apparently does not survive.

OUTBUILDINGS

As Catherine Bishir observes, outbuildings are an important component of farm complexes throughout North Carolina:

> Whether on a coastal plain plantation or a Piedmont farmstead, the house was only one part of the complex of domestic agricultural life. However large or small it might be, the dwelling stood among a cluster of outbuildings. . . .Visitors continually remarked on the appearance of such farmsteads, comparing a plantation to a sow with piglets or, more often, to a village.[36]

In Alamance County during the first half of the nineteenth century, logs were commonly used to construct farm outbuildings. Later in that century, frame construction was popular for these buildings, and metal outbuildings were favored in the twentieth century. A large number of farm outbuildings survive in Alamance County in various states of repair. They appear in village-like clusters, arranged in neat rows or in casual groupings near the main dwelling, as well as singular surviving examples. Outbuildings are essential elements in their historic and architectural context, the farm complex. Many farm complexes contain a mixture of log buildings, as well as later frame and metal structures.

Three unusually complete farm complexes survive and provide a picture of agricultural domestic life in the county. These are the c. 1824 Polly Fogleman farm, the 1827 Michael Shoffner farm, and the c. 1840 and 1903 William Cook farm. The outbuildings at each complex include log, frame, and metal examples. Each complex provides an evocative picture of the continuing development of the farm. Each contains buildings which span a long period of time, dating from those contemporary with the main dwelling, through the nineteenth century and to the present.

The earliest surviving outbuildings associated with the Polly Fogleman House are constructed of log and include a

one-story gable-roof V-notched log structure (original purpose unknown) with an open shed-roofed side addition used to store firewood, and a smaller V-notched log shed. A fine V-notched log smokehouse, with the 1825 construction date carved on the door, was moved to the nearby Alamance Battleground Park. It now stands behind the John Allen House and is used to represent the type of outbuildings traditionally found on Alamance County farmsteads. Located near the Fogleman House is the waist-high rock foundation of a fruit drying house. Twentieth century outbuildings include a greenhouse and a pole barn for stabling horses.

The William Cook farm boasts a full complement of agricultural outbuildings, all in use and well maintained. These include a tall two-story single-pen unchinked barn with half-dovetail notches and a large shed-roofed open side addition used to shelter tractors and other mechanized farm machinery; a large log wood shed with half-dovetail notches; a V-notched shed, open at one end; and a frame corncrib.

The complex of outbuildings found at the Michael Shoffner House demonstrates the self-sufficient nature of the farm. The outbuildings illustrate the various arrangements and types of outbuildings. The centerpiece of the 289-acre farm is a two-story 1827 Federal style frame house which was extensively enlarged and remodeled in its present eclectic classical revival style. The house is set back from the road in a large tree studded yard. A few steps from the back door of the house is a virtually intact c. 1827 V-notched log kitchen with early shed roof frame additions, one used as a "provision room" and the other, a "loom room." An extensive kitchen garden is sited at the rear of the kitchen. Arranged along a dirt lane at the side of the house are a large two-story early twentieth-century frame barn; an early twentieth-century gas pump which served the farm's vehicles; a late nineteenth-century one-story frame blacksmith shop which contains several pieces of original equipment including a large bellows; a two-story frame corn crib; a c. 1930 one-story cubical poured concrete smokehouse which replaced an earlier log smokehouse; and a small, c. 1830 gable-front full dovetail-notched wide plank storage building (original purpose unknown).

Some properties retain only a small number of outbuildings but they often remain in use, even though the farm dwelling has been abandoned. For instance, the Nathan Garrison House is derelict but the three log tobacco barns in the field adjacent to the house are in good repair and in use. Log tobacco barns

are a common feature of piedmont North Carolina's rural landscape, but they are rapidly being supplanted by maintenance-free metal bulk barns. Often the log barns have been covered with asphalt shingles or corrugated metal in an effort to lessen their maintenance. Since they are located on the edge of the tobacco fields and are really not in the way of field work, many farmers allow them to rot away quietly, not bothering to take them down or clear the site. Perhaps they feel a sentimental or familial attachment to the building and it is allowed to stay because an ancestor once put it there.

Some outbuildings survive because they still serve a useful purpose. A fine two-story double-crib barn with wagon passage survives on the A.L. Spoon farm. The farm house has been abandoned, but the barn is used by a neighboring farmer to store hay. Bishir described this type of barn:

> The most imposing agricultural landmarks of the western Piedmont and mountain are the great double-crib log barns. In these structures, two cribs flank a runway that is entered on the long side. Doors into the cribs may open either from the front or from the runway. This barn form was found in Pennsylvania in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. . . . In Piedmont and western North Carolina, the double-crib log barn continued as the dominant large barn form throughout the nineteenth century. . . .Though they are especially common in German areas and on German farms, they became part of the region's architectural repertoire for both German and Scotch-Irish farmers.[37]

On some farmsteads only the main dwellling and none of the outbuildings survive. The Dixon House is one such example. It stands alone, encircled by cultivated fields. The types of outbuildings it once had are unknown. On others, such as the James Monroe Thompson farm, the barn, smokehouse and corncrib survive only in the owner's memory.

SIGNIFICANCE

The log buildings being nominated in conjunction with this Multiple Property Documentation Form, as well as others included on the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's Study List

for possible nomination in the future, are significant under National Register Criteria A and/or C. They are associated with the settlement and agrarian social organization of Alamance County during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The buildings embody the distinctive characteristics of log construction in Alamance County and illustrate traditional building methods and forms brought to the North Carolina piedmont by settlers principally from Pennsylvania and Virginia.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Introduction

It is difficult to draw up a hard and fast list of registration requirements for Alamance County's surviving log structures. Except perhaps for a lone tobacco barn here and there, there appear to be no completely unaltered log buildings in the county. The "purest" and least altered examples are often found abandoned, and are endangered as much by neglect as they would be by even the egregious alterations. Other log buildings are ruinous, but may have archaeological significance as yet undiscovered.

Integrity problems associated with non-ruinous buildings include new replacement chimneys, often built of cinder blocks or brick, or the removal of the chimney altogether; replacement doors and windows; a radical change in the building's orientation (i.e. the main entrance moved to a gable end); major alteration in the roofline (for instance, the addition of bungaloid dormers); the addition or deletion of a story; multiple additions which obscure the original log block; and heavily "restored" buildings, some of which now sport truncated chimneys, added or deleted stories, Portland cement daubing, and replacement doors and windows; moved buildings not exceptional enough to justify a criteria exception; and log buildings completely encased within a much expanded and redesigned house.

Other buildings presented more problematic questions of integrity. For instance, one largely intact one-room log house with a notable double-shoulder stone and brick chimney, is dwarfed by a large two-story frame wing. Another log house with a largely intact interior has been remodeled on the exterior (including a new porch) and now serves as a small rear wing of a large c. 1895 two-story frame house. This wing may be an interesting chapter in the evolution of the whole house, but its log character has been subsumed by the later house.

Registration Requirements

The following list of considerations and requirements was used to assess the potential National Register eligibility of Alamance County's log structures. Ideally, a nominated property would meet all of these considerations, but it can also be argued that any log building not hopelessly compromised by later changes and/or additions will be eligible. These considerations will not apply to all buildings, but National Register eligible buildings will meet most of them to varying degrees. To be eligible for National Register listing, in terms of "integrity," the following considerations should be met:

1. A log building should be on, or very near, its original site.

Log buildings seem particularly "site specific." They were constructed from the building resources close at hand, with logs for the walls often cut from trees growing on the property and rocks for the foundation and chimneys also gathered from the property. Many of the log houses are located on beautiful sites, surrounded by stunning rural vistas, and often shaded by huge deciduous trees. The integrity of the original location and setting is important. The relocation on the property of a small log outbuilding which is an integral part of a farmstead would not seriously diminish the farm's integrity if the building is not otherwise extensively altered.

2. A log building should retain its original chimney or a carefully repaired or reconstructed chimney of like materials.

In many cases, chimneys have been rebuilt or extensively repaired with little resemblance to their original forms or craftsmanship. Chimneys are important components of the profile of log buildings in the landscape. Inappropriate replacement chimneys, or poorly repaired ones, are visually jarring and historically dubious. The most commonly found chimney type on log buildings in Alamance County is an exterior end chimney with a fieldstone base and body (either mortared or dry-laid) and a brick stack. Several retain their original fieldstone stacks. The Ward-Baker House, located in the northeast corner of the county where granite outcrops are common, has a unique, exceptional chimney constructed of granite blocks.

3. If a building is significant mainly for its log construction, it should retain its basic original form or profile. It cannot be obscured by overwhelming additions or wings, or by a new roof type added or changed to accommodate the additions.

Additions and expansions to the log buildings are to be expected. The most commonly found additions to Alamance's log buildings are small, frame side or rear wings. These additions usually do not compromise the basic character and feeling of the original log building. If the size and scale of an addition overwhelms the core log building, in essence making the log building a mere wing of the addition, the enlarged building would not be eligible for listing as a log building, but may be considered as a composite.

4. Ideally, the log building should maintain the original window and door openings, whether or not the original sash and doors are present.

A common alteration to log buildings used as residences is the installation of modern, energy efficient windows. When these are sized to fit the original window opening they do not unduly detract from the overall impression of the building. However, when the window openings are greatly enlarged or additional openings are cut, the building is compromised by the loss of original fabric and proportions.

5. The presence of artificial siding (such as asphalt "brick," vinyl or aluminum) or replacement weatherboards should not automatically disqualify a building from National Register listing.

Many log buildings were originally, or soon after construction, covered with weatherboards in order to protect the logs and mud daubing from the elements. Artificial siding is intended to serve the same purpose, but it compromises the "feeling" of a log building and the installation process can be quite destructive to the original fabric. A judgment about the probable conditions of the original fabric needs to be made on an individual case basis. Replacement weatherboards are generally much easier on the fabric than an impermeable vinyl or aluminum casing.

6. To be individually listed in the National Register, log outbuildings must be of exceptional historical and architectural significance.

Outbuildings are essential in telling the story of life on an Alamance County farm, and they are best understood if their context survives. Log barns, storage buildings and tobacco barns, in various states of repair, are still fairly common in Alamance County, although they are being lost at a steady rate. It is conceivable that their numbers will diminish to a point when scarcity alone will qualify some for individual listing, but that judgment cannot be made yet. Free-standing log kitchen buildings are scarce, but the ones that do survive are often in use as storage buildings and thus are relatively secure and part of a complex.

Notes

[1] Hugh T. Lefler and Albert R. Newsome, North Carolina: The History of a Southern State (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1952), p. 19.

[2] A. Roger Ekirch, "'A New Government of Liberty': Herman Husband's Vision of Backcountry North Carolina, 1755," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser., XXXIV (Williamsburg: Va., October 1977), p. 638.

[3] G.N. Coffey and Hearn W. Edward, "Soil Survey of Alamance County," in Field Operations of the Bureau of Soils, 1901 (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, 1902), p. 298. A large area of sandy soil, found in the northeast corner of the county, bordering Caswell County, was considered nearly worthless until c. 1840 when a combination of this soil type and a heat curing process (discovered and perfected in Caswell County) produced an exceptional bright yellow smoking tobacco. After the Civil War, the demand for this "fancy leaf" made land values in this part of the county skyrocket; in 1860 land values ranged from one to three dollars per acre, but by 1880, the land sold for about twenty dollars per acre.

[4] Walter Whitaker, Centennial History of Alamance County (Burlington, N.C.: Alamance County Historical Association, 1950) pp. 1-3.

[5] John Lawson, Lawson's History of North Carolina (London, 1714; rpt. Richmond, Va.: Garrett and Massie Publishers, 1952), pp. 52-54.

[6] ibid., p. 187.

[7] ibid., p. 189.

[8] Carl Lounsbury, Alamance County Architectural Heritage (Graham, N.C.: Alamance County Historic Properties Commission, 1980), p. 1.

[9] Douglas Swaim, ed., Carolina Dwelling,Towards Preservation of Place: In Celebration of the North Carolina Vernacular Landscape (Raleigh: North Carolina State University School

of Design Student Publication, 1978), p. 30.

[10] William K. Boyd, ed., William Byrd's Histories of the Dividing Line betwixt Virginia and North Carolina as quoted in Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941), p. 2.

[11] U.S. Department of the Interior, Preservation Briefs: The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings by Bruce D. Bomberger. (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1991), pp. 2-6.

[12] Sallie Walker Stockard, The History of Alamance (Master's Thesis, University of North Carolina, 1900; rpt. Alamance County Historical Museum, Inc., 1986), p. 79

[13] Juanita Owens Euliss, History of Snow Camp (n.p. Snow Camp Historical Drama Society, 1971), pp. 12-18.

[14] Whitaker, p. 163.

[15] United States Census, Alamance County, North Carolina. Population Schedules 1790 and 1840.

[16] Lefler, p. 113.

[17] Whitaker, p. 84.

[18] Stockard, p. 89.

[19] Lefler, p. 113.

[20] Lefler, p. 305.

[21] Whitaker, p. 84.

[22] United States Census Data, "Agriculture, North Carolina, 1920." Table 3, Value of Farm Property: 1850-1920.

[23] Bill Sharpe, "Alamance, the Bootstrap County" in The State, May 16, 1953, p. 22.

[24] Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina (Chapel Hill:

University of North Carolina Press, 1941), p. 3.

[25] Catherine W. Bishir, North Carolina Architecture (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), p. 142.

[26] Ruth Little-Stokes, An Inventory of Historic Architecture Caswell County, North Carolina (Durham: Caswell County Historical Association, Inc., 1979), p. 9.

[27] See T.H. Pearce, Early Architecture of Franklin County (Freeman, S.D.: Pine Hill Press, 1977), pp. 1-9; Davyd Foard Hood, The Architecture of Rowan County (Raleigh; Rowan County Historic Properties Commission, 1983), pp. 20-25; Rachel Osborn and Ruth Selden-Sturgill, The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County (Charlotte: Chatham County Historic Association, 1991), pp. 15-43; Michael Ann Williams, Marble and Log: The History and Architecture of Cherokee County, North Carolina (Murphy, N.C.: Cherokee County Historical Museum, 1984) pp. 19-38; and Douglas Swaim, Ed., Cabins and Castles; The History and Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina (Asheville: The City of Asheville, 1981), pp. 55-63.

[28] Lounsbury, p. 4.

[29] Lounsbury, p. 7.

[30] Lounsbury, pp. 44-45.

[31] Bishir, p. 142.

[32] Lounsbury, p. 9.

[33] Lounsbury, p. 13.

[34] Bishir, p. 145.

[35] Lounsbury, p. 17.

[36] Bishir, p. 149.

[37] Bishir, p. 158.

G. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The geographic area covered by the multiple property group is all of the area within the boundaries of Alamance County, North Carolina.

H. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

The multiple property listing of log buildings in Alamance County, North Carolina, is based on a comprehensive architectural survey of the county conducted in 1978-1979 by Carl Lounsbury for the Alamance County Historic Properties Commission, under the auspices of the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History; smaller, follow-up surveys were conducted by the staff of the Alamance County Historic Properties Commission in 1983 and, also under the auspices of the Survey and Planning Branch, by Patricia Dickinson in 1989-1990. A total of approximately 675 properties were inventoried. Working files for each of the properties are on deposit at the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History in Raleigh. The earlier surveys produced a publication, Alamance County Architectural Heritage, written by Carl Lounsbury and published by the county's Historic Properties Commission in 1980; a supplement was printed in 1983.

In the course of evaluating the county's resources for the preparation of this Multiple Property Documentation Form, each of the working files was examined by looking at the photographs, floor plan sketch, notes, and "building material" notation on the survey computer forms. One hundred and fifty (150) files for individual log buildings, or groups of buildings were identified.

An examination of the file photographs of the 150 buildings which formed the initial study group revealed that approximately one-third of them, of 31%, were either ruinous or had other obvious, serious integrity problems which made them ineligible for National Register listing under Criterion C. Nearly all of the ruins appear to have had a major hole in the roof; some of the ruined buildings were leaning at extreme angles, probably the result of rotten sills or a failed log; a few were already piles of logs on the ground when the photos were taken in 1979 and 1983, and it can be assumed these no longer survive in any form. The ruin sites may have archaeological significance and

be rich in buried artifacts, but a discussion of such significance is beyond the scope of this study.

Ninety-two buildings were selected for a windshield survey to assess their present condition. These were chosen because they appeared, from the existing file photos and notes, to the the best representatives of their type, and the ones most likely to have National Register potential. About half of this group was eliminated from further consideration, primarily due to the properties' deterioration or major alterations which had seriously compromised their integrity. The buildings were grouped and studied according to type (single or double pen) and by floorplans within those types. [See "Floor Plans: Basis for Sub-types" pp. F: 3-11 of this Multiple Property Documentation Form for a detailed discussion of these various groupings.]

After consultation and field reconnaissance with the Survey and National Register coordinators for the Historic Preservation Office of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, a group of fourteen buildings was chosen for inclusion on the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's "Study List" of properties potentially eligible for National Register listing [list attached, pp. H: 3-4]. National Register nomination forms for seven of these properties are included as a part of this Multiple Property Documentation Form. It is presumed that when funding is available other log properties will be added to the Study List and additional National Registration nominations will be made in the future.

The nominated properties are representative of the diversity of the immigrant groups who settled in Alamance County. For instance, the Hiram Braxton House was built by English Quakers; the A.L. Spoon and Polly Fogleman houses were built by Germans; the Camilus McBane House was built by Scotch-Irish Quakers; and the Thomas Guy house was built by an African American. The initial seven properties nominated in conjunction with this form were not deliberately chosen because they represent such a broad cultural diversity--that they do is happenstance.

One common feature of all the properties, however, is their continued family ownership to the present. Except for the Polly Fogleman House, none of the nominated properties is now used as a main dwelling. However, all are maintained at some level because they are still useful, and for sentimental reasons because they are the "family homeplace."

LIST OF LOG BUILDINGS IN ALAMANCE COUNTY ON THE NORTH CAROLIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE'S "STUDY LIST"

Single-pen, one-room plan

* 1. Polly Fogleman House
Coble Township
Down lane, .25 mi.; N side SR 1133, .1 mi. W of SR 1134

2. Ward-Baker House
Pleasant Grove Township
E side SR 1904, .25 mi. N of jct. with SR 1901

*3. William Cook House
Melville Township
W side SR 2131 at jct. with SR 2132

4. Dixon House
Newlin Township
E side SR 2178 at jct. with SR 2173

Single-pen, hall-and-parlor plan

* 5. A.L. Spoon House
Patterson Township
N side SR 1107, .7 mi SW of jct. with SR 1005

6. Hatter John Clapp House
Boone Station Township
Down lane .1 mi., SE side SR 1149, .3 mi. S of jct. with SR 1150

*7. Camilus McBane House
Newlin Township
Down lane .2 mi.; N side SE 2345; .3 mi. W of jct. with SR 2340

8. George Morgan House
Newlin Township
E side SR 2178; .3 mi. N of jct. with SR 2173

9. G. Jones House
Thompson Township
N side SR 2135; 1.4 mi. W of jct. with SR 1007

10. Judge Sharpe House
Albright Township
End of SR 2121; 1 mi. E of jct. with NC 87

Single-pen, three-room plan

*11. Hiram Braxton House
Newlin Township
N side SR 2347; .1 mi. W of jct. with SR 2345

Double-pen log houses

*12. Thomas Guy House
Thompson Township
N side SR 2135; .3 mi. W of jct. with SR 2142

*13. James Monroe Thompson House
Thompson Township
E side SR 2158; .1 mi. S of jct. with SR 2150

Frame house, log outbuildings

14. Michael Shoffner House
Coble Township
SE side SR 1113; .15 mi. NE of jct. with SR 1122

Note: Properties marked with an asterisk (*) are being nomated to the National Register in conjunction with this Multiple Property form .

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