

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Camp, William Nelson, Jr. House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 92 Flat Top Mountain Road N/A not for publication

city or town Fairview N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Buncombe code 021 zip code 28730

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jason Brown SHPO 11/6/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Camp, William Nelson Jr. House

Buncombe, North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
		sites
3		structures
		objects
7	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

-0-

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls shingle

log

roof asphalt

other stone

wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Camp, William Nelson Jr. House

Buncombe, North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1926

Significant Dates

ca. 1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Western Office, Archives & History

Camp, William Nelson Jr. House

Buncombe, North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 10.75 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 373800 3934840
Zone Easting Northing
2 17 374000 3934780

3 17 373860 3934400
Zone Easting Northing
4 17 373640 3934460

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sybil Argintar Bowers, Preservation Consultant

organization Bowers Southeastern Preservation date July 14, 1998

street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone (704) 253-1392

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28801

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Pat and Paul Samuels

street & number 92 Flat Top Mountain Road telephone (704) 628-2600

city or town Fairview state NC zip code 28730

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The William Nelson Camp, Jr. property is a collection of mid-1920s Rustic-style buildings situated within a picturesque mountain setting. The property is located on both sides of Flat Top Mountain Road, which is to the north of Old Fort Road in Fairview, North Carolina, in the Swannanoa Mountains just east of Asheville, North Carolina. Old Fort Road runs in an east-west direction, approximately parallel with, and to the north of, U.S. 74. The nominated tract is 10.75 acres, and includes all of the complex built ca. 1926 by William Nelson Camp, Jr. It is the residential portion of an original fifty-two-acre tract which was purchased by Camp in the fall of 1925. The remaining approximately forty-two acres, located to the northeast of the nominated property, were sold in 1985; most of that tract has been subdivided for newer housing. The nominated property consists of a complex of Rustic-style buildings constructed with native materials that help integrate them into the landscape. All of the buildings date from ca. 1926, except the 1996 new log cabin built by the current owners. All of the buildings are built on stone foundations with half-round log construction on the first floors and wood framing covered with shingle siding on the upper floors. Steeply pitched gable roofs and multi-light casement windows characterize the buildings. The only exception is the barn, which is frame construction covered completely with shingle siding. However, the roof pitches and the stone foundation are consistent with the rest of the complex.

The landscape of the nominated property is wooded on the north, west, and southwest, and drops to grassy meadows to the southeast. In addition to Flat Top Mountain Road, a gravel road which runs roughly south to north through the middle of the property, there is an upper gravel driveway which leads to the main house and garage, and a lower gravel drive to the south of the road which leads to the cottage, barn, spring house, and new log house. A split-rail fence lines the east side of Flat Top Mountain Road to the northwest of the cottage, and another one lines the lower drive, dividing the meadow from the group of buildings here. To the northwest of the main house, there is a small split-rail fence dividing a garden area from the lower grassy yard to the southwest of the house. An original spring house stands at a bend in Flat Top Mountain Road just before the upper driveway begins.

Many granite outcroppings are located within the grass-covered hillsides throughout the property. Laurel Branch Creek runs through the property near the northeastern boundary. Woods line the east side of the creek and there are several rock ledges located over the creek to the rear of the new log cabin. An expanse of meadow is located west of the creek and forms most of the southeastern boundary of the property. The southwest corner of the property also consists primarily of wooded hillsides rising in elevation to the north of Flat Top Mountain Road and dropping sharply in elevation to the south. Rhododendron thickets and hardwood trees line both sides of the road.

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The nominated property consists of seven contributing resources (the main house, the water storage building, the garage, the cottage, two spring houses, and the barn), and one non-contributing resource (the new log cabin). In addition to these resources, there are two field stone foundations remaining on the property. One, located to the southwest of the new log cabin, was built for a cabin, and the other, located to the northeast of the barn, was constructed for the battery storage building for the small hydroelectric facility which originally stood on the property.

1. William Nelson Camp, Jr. House. Contributing. ca. 1926.

Surrounded by low stone retaining walls and set on the top of the hill overlooking the rest of the complex, the one-and-one-half story main house built by William Nelson Camp, Jr. faces southeast and is carefully placed so as not to disturb the natural landscape. One of these walls forms the foundation of the front patio. Boxwoods screen the drive from the patio on the northeast side of the house, and a stepping stone path leads from the drive to stairs on the side of the front patio. Rock outcroppings blanket a hillside to the southwest as it slopes to the garage below. A split rail fence divides the hillside from a flat area to the northwest of the house which is used for a garden.

The house is rectangular in shape on the first floor, with the half story forming an L-shape over approximately three-fourths of the first floor (see Exhibit A, floor plan sketch). The house, covered with a multiple gable roof supported by knee braces under the deep roof overhangs, and punctuated by shed-roof dormers, is an excellent example of log and frame construction, built with the use of a saw mill on site and the help of local builders¹. Not quite full "pole log" or saddle-notched construction, the lower walls of the house are half logs planed flat to fit in neat stacks without notching. The first floor utilizes these logs, while the upper portions and all gable ends are wood framed and covered by shingle siding. Windows throughout the house are multi-light casement with simple framing.

The southeast or front elevation is six bays wide, with a series of casement windows located within the front gable and on either side of the front entrance door. The prominent fieldstone chimney extends up into the half story above. A roof, not original to the building, projects out from the front door over the full-length patio. Granite slabs set into concrete form the patio floor, with a low stone retaining wall surrounding it on three sides. Stairs to the patio are located on the northeast and southwest sides. The northeast elevation of the house is two bays wide with casement windows on the upper and lower levels. On the northwest or rear elevation the upper story forms an "L-shape" over the kitchen area (see Exhibit A). This elevation is seven bays

¹Interview with Ollie Guffy, daughter of M.L. Wright, a previous owner of the land, and one of the early caretakers of the property, August 29, 1997. Mrs. Guffy remembers Mr. Camp's "paper plans" and his directing local builders in the construction of the property.

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wide, and is comprised of a series of casement windows, the entrance into the kitchen, and field stone chimneys. Shed dormers occupy the upper roof and project out over the kitchen. Like the front of the house, there is a field stone central chimney located at the juncture of the two rooflines. The southwest elevation is three bays wide, with a side gable roofline, two shed-roof dormers, and casement windows.

Inside, the first floor is made up of the great room, kitchen, an ice box room (now a boiler/storage room, and two original bedrooms (now a den and sewing room) with a bath between them (see Exhibit A). Walls throughout are original v-board paneling in variable width boards. Floors throughout the first floor are oak tongue and groove. Sills at all windows are approximately eight inches deep, with simple door and window framing. The Rustic style of the exterior continues in the great room through the use of natural materials such as field stone and an exposed ceiling structure. Across from the front door in this room is a random-laid field stone fireplace with an oak mantel shelf and a granite slab hearth. The ceiling structure is hand-hewn beams (a composite of 8 x 8s, 4 x 4s, and 2 x 4s) notched over 4 x 4 joists. Ceiling boards above the joists are left exposed. Bookcases have been added by the current owners. The den and sewing room (originally two bedrooms) have the same rustic ceiling as the great room.² Floors in the den are carpeted and the V-board paneling is unpainted. The closet in this room has horizontal knotty pine board walls.³ The bathroom's original ceramic tiles cover the floor. Larger tiles extend two-thirds of the way up the walls and into the bath/shower area. There is a decorative tile band near the top of all the tile, on all four walls. Original ceramic hooks and towel bars also remain. The ceiling and the walls above the tile are plaster. The current owners added period fixtures. Most of the kitchen was modernized in the 1950s to 1960s when the Satters owned the property, but the original floor plan remains intact. A picture window has been added on the northeast wall, replacing casement windows there. A Dutch door leads from the kitchen into the boiler/storage room (originally the ice box room). Wainscot, of the same v-boards as elsewhere in the house, extends halfway up the plaster walls. Above the dropped ceiling enclosing current ductwork are original beaded boards. An enclosed staircase is located off of the great room.

Three bedrooms, a closet (now an office), and a bath are located upstairs, with carpeted floors throughout. Two of the bedrooms are located at the end of a long hall which runs northeast-southwest. Ceilings in the bedrooms have been covered with acoustic tiles. Walls in the hallway are the same v-boards as downstairs. There is a built-in seating/storage area in the hall. All

²According to Ollie Guffy (interview 8/29/97), these rooms were used for guests. Mr. Camp used the upstairs bedroom.

³It is possible that this is how all of the walls in the house were originally. George Satter may have added the current v-board paneling in the 1960s, but it seems unlikely the entire house would have been renovated in this way.

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hall. All rooms have angled ceilings, plaster walls, and some added bookcases. On the opposite end of the hall is the master bedroom. A bath and the office are located adjacent to the master bedroom. The bath is original to the house, but has been renovated by the current owners.

2. Water storage building. Contributing. ca. 1926.

This small, square random-laid stone structure was used for storing the property's water tank. Built into the hillside to the rear of the house, it now serves as a garden storage facility. A stone retaining wall stands to the northeast. New posts and lattice and a roof have been added in front of this retaining wall.

3. Garage. Contributing. ca. 1926.

A granite slab path with locust pole railing connects the garage and main house; a similar path winds along behind the building. There is a large granite outcropping at the northern corner of the garage. Similar in style and construction to the main house, the garage is built on a stone foundation, with log walls at the first floor, and frame construction and shingle siding on the second. This rectangular building, facing southeast, roughly the same as the main house, is two stories in the front, and one at the rear. In order to not disturb the natural terrain, the building is set into the hillside at the rear. The asphalt-shingle-covered roofline of the garage is a steep side gable, punctuated in the front by a shed dormer which extends almost the entire width of the elevation. On the front (southeast) elevation of the building the first floor is at ground level. This elevation is divided into four bays, each consisting of a plank board door with transoms and original iron hardware. The rear (northwest) elevation consists of the roof line which is broken only by the center entrance door. Skylights have been added. The side (northeast and southwest) elevations consist of shingled end gables. There is currently a random-laid field stone chimney on the southwest side of the building. Originally there was an identical chimney on the northeast.

Inside, the first floor of the garage retains its original concrete slab floor and adjacent storage room. The second floor has been converted to an apartment, consisting of a living room, a dining room, a small kitchen, a bedroom, and a bath. Original tongue and groove heart pine floors remain. Sheet rock covers all walls and ceilings.

4. Cottage. Contributing. ca. 1926.

Originally the caretaker's cottage, this building is currently used as a rental cabin. Located down the hill from the main house and on the south side of Flat Top Mountain Road, the one and one-half story cottage is consistent in construction technique, materials, and style to the main house and garage. This building was constructed on the same site of a log cabin which pre-dated the rest of the complex of buildings. Old hewn logs from the first cabin, combined with newer logs, were used for the ca. 1926 cabin. There is one central brick chimney.

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The front (southwest) elevation faces Flat Top Mountain Road. The doorway is in the center of this elevation, with a window on either side, and a window in the gable end above. The northeast or rear elevation has a casement window adjacent to the rear entrance with another in the gable end above and a deck has been added on this elevation which continues on to the southeast side of the building. A granite slab path leads from the north corner of the cottage down the hill to the drive below.

Inside, there is a kitchen and a living room on the first floor, with a painted brick chimney stack facing into the living room. Portions of the original hewn log walls are visible in the kitchen and along the stairs, while sheet rock covers all other walls and ceilings. Tongue and groove oak floors on the first floor replace the original rough-hewn boards. Floors on the second floor are carpeted.

5. Spring House. Contributing. ca. 1926.

This square, random-laid field stone structure, surrounded by a rhododendron thicket, has served as a spring house for this property since ca. 1926. It is built on a stone foundation, with a shed roof, and wood framing for the doorway, which faces east. It still serves as a source of water for the neighboring properties located to the east down the hillside.

6. Barn. Contributing. ca. 1926.

This frame construction building covered with shingle siding is one and one-half stories with a stone foundation. Facing southwest, an original sliding board door is still intact on the ground-level. A steeply pitched, tin-covered, side gable roof with exposed rafter ends, is interrupted on the northwest elevation by a shed roof covering a carport. Tree log posts, typical of the Rustic style, support this roof. The exterior northwest wall contains a rough-sawn vertical board door and original hardware. The upper central portion of this wall opens into the loft area. Inside, original horse stalls remain on the first floor level. Walls are rough-sawn planks, some as wide as fourteen inches. Roof structure is exposed in the upper loft, reached by stairs located along the northeast wall of the building (added by the current owners). Flooring in the loft is rough-sawn tongue and groove boards.

7. Spring House. Contributing. ca. 1926.

This square, stone spring house is smaller than the one located on Flat Top Mountain Road. This structure is freestanding on the east side of Laurel Branch Creek, to the rear and down the hill from the barn. It, too, is still a working spring house.

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8. Log Cabin. Non-contributing. 1996.

This cabin, built by the current owners, occupies the same site as a previous cabin. There was a stone foundation in existence when construction on this building began, but it was removed and replaced with the current concrete block one. This small rectangular one to two story cabin sits on a rise above Laurel Branch Creek. Overall, the building is very compatible with the original complex of buildings elsewhere on the property.

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Summary

The William Nelson Camp, Jr. House was built ca. 1926. W. N. "Buster" Camp, Jr. built his home in the Fairview area of Buncombe County with the help of local builders. Camp appears to have been drawn to the area for its scenic beauty, remote location as a summer retreat, and for the land which adapted so well to the development of a complex of buildings along with a small hydroelectric plant. The incorporation of the hydroelectric plant was in keeping with his and his family's history of business successes which included paper production (Union Camp Corporation), phosphate mining, and hydroelectric development ventures. Camp owned the property until 1946, when it was sold by his wife, Roxie Lee Camp. The property then passed through four additional owners until it was bought by the current owners. The William Nelson Camp, Jr. House is significant under Criterion C, in the area of architecture. The complex of buildings associated with this property form a highly intact example of Rustic style architecture of the early part of the twentieth century in Buncombe County.

Historic Background

The land which is currently the William Nelson Camp, Jr. property was originally part of a large parcel of land owned by William Whitaker, one of the earliest settlers in Fairview, North Carolina.⁴ When he moved there in 1794, Fairview had very few inhabitants. Settlement occurred up the mountainsides rather than in the valleys due to the high incidence of typhoid and other diseases which were more prevalent in the "lowlands". Timber was logged off the mountains for homes. William Whitaker built his log home on the present-day Old Fort Road, approximately one-eighth of a mile from the current Flat Top Mountain Road.⁵ By 1811, Whitaker owned approximately 1,460 acres, ". . . from the top of Flat Top Mountain to Cane Creek Cemetery. . ." ⁶ Whitaker was a farmer primarily, but also owned a saw mill and mined for gold. William Whitaker and Mary Canady Whitaker were married in 1792 and had ten children, only eight of which lived to adulthood.⁷ The Whitaker descendants owned ". . . a

⁴Whitaker, Bruce C. The Whitaker Family of Buncombe County, North Carolina. Asheville, North Carolina: Ward Publishing Company, 1989, p. Wh. 28.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid, p. Wh. 29.

⁷ First was Margaret (1793-1858), then the infant who died in 1795, then Joshua (1797-1881), Mary (1799-ca. 1872), Sarah ("Sally", 1801-1896), William, Jr. (1803-1872), James (1805-1892), Martha (1807-1900), a daughter born and died 1809, and Henry (1811-1883). Son James moved to Missouri in 1834 and joined the Mormon Church in 1838 when he married Nancy Woodland. He came back to Fairview in the 1870s from Utah, where he was a High Priest in the Mormon Church. He converted many Fairview residents during his missionary stay in the area, including several of his brothers and sisters, namely Joshua, Margaret, Sarah, Martha and Henry.⁷ Previous to this, most members of the Whitaker family had been members of Cane Creek Baptist Church, but were excluded from this church for becoming Mormons.

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large section of Flat Top Mountain . . . the deeds were not recorded. . ."⁸ Some of the Whitaker children married into the Wright family, with the Flat Top Mountain land holdings apparently passing on to this next generation of Wrights.⁹

Marcus Lafayette (M.L. or "Fate") Wright and Eliza Duckett were the next owners of the property. Married in 1911, they had three children, Garren Valley Wright, born 1916, Ollie Wright, born 1918, and Blanch Wright, born 1921.¹⁰ According to Ollie Wright Guffy, she was not born on the property, but her sister Blanch was.¹¹ The Wrights owned the property from approximately 1920 until 1925. The 1920 census records show Lafayette Wright as head of household, so it is likely the family was on the land by then.

Herman Hiram Kaplan purchased the Fairview property from the Wrights.¹² Kaplan, by profession a dentist, purchased the property on August 8, 1925, and then re-sold it two months later.¹³ Like so many others active in the real estate boom period in Asheville, it appears Mr. Kaplan bought this property speculatively and then quickly re-sold it. He was not listed in Asheville directories prior to 1925, and the "boom" may have been part of what brought him here. He was listed as President of United Realty Company in 1926, with a home at 619 Merrimon Avenue in Asheville. William Nelson Camp, Jr. bought the property, a total of fifty-two acres, from Kaplan on October 21, 1925, and began construction of the house and complex of buildings included in this nomination.¹⁴

William Nelson Camp, Jr. (1893 - 1947) was the youngest child of William Nelson Camp and Texana Gay Camp. His father, William Nelson Camp, Sr., was one of eight sons of George Camp and Sallie Cutchins Camp of Franklin, Virginia (Southampton County). All of the Camp sons were involved initially in timbering and sawmill operations in Southampton County which later expanded into Camp Manufacturing Company, a full paper production company. (The

⁸Ibid, p. Wh. 61.

⁹Ibid, p. Wh. 194.

¹⁰Buncombe County marriage and birth records.

¹¹Interview with Ollie Guffy, 29 August 1997.

¹² Buncombe County deed records are unclear prior to this, as to exactly when the Wrights acquired the land. According to Bruce Whitaker's book, The Whitaker Family of Buncombe County, North Carolina, the Camp property plus several hundred more acres was originally in the Whitaker family. The land was passed down through various wills and marriages, with many of the Whitaker descendants marrying into the Wright family. Some of the Wrights also married into the Earwood family, from whom this land supposedly was bought by Marcus Lafayette Wright (interview with Ollie Guffy, daughter of M.L. Wright, 29 August 1997).

¹³Buncombe County Deed Book 310, p. 196

¹⁴Buncombe County Deed Book 319, p. 30.

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Camp Manufacturing Company merged in 1956 with Union Bag and Paper Company of New York, becoming Union Bag-Camp Paper Company, and in 1966 the company was renamed Union Camp Corporation, which it remains today.)¹⁵

Benjamin Franklin Camp and William Nelson Camp, Sr., made their fortunes primarily in Florida, during its boom years in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. W. N. Camp, Sr., was known as the "maverick" in the family, compared to his brothers.¹⁶ He was involved in many endeavors in southeastern Virginia, including the lumber firm of Gay Manufacturing Company which he founded with his father-in-law William Gay in 1884 in Suffolk, Virginia, in Nansemond County. The success of this firm may have led to his brothers' decision to buy their first sawmill for Camp Manufacturing Company.¹⁷ Having always been interested in hydroelectricity, he helped build a dam in Roanoke, Virginia in the 1880s to create electricity for the town. In 1899, William bought 40,000 acres of land for \$76,500, known as the Dismal Swamp, also in Nansemond County, Virginia.¹⁸ He also continued to scout for timbering opportunities throughout the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida.

The lure of wealth finally drew W. N. Camp, Sr. to join his brother Benjamin Franklin Camp in Florida, where the two men made most of their fortunes. He moved his family to a farm near Albion, Florida, northwest of Gainesville, in 1891. They lived there thirteen years, and then moved, in 1903, to Ocala, Florida where he built a large Queen Anne style home. During his years in Florida, ". . . Bill Camp created an empire to rival that of his Franklin brothers."¹⁹ While separated geographically, Camp Manufacturing Company in Virginia invested in many of Benjamin Franklin and William's projects in Florida, and William Camp often borrowed money from Camp Manufacturing. In 1890, William Camp had joined with Camp Manufacturing to form the Albion Mining and Manufacturing Company, a phosphate mining operation. William and his sons grew wealthy from these operations, selling phosphate overseas to many German firms. Camp Phosphate Company was founded in 1899, with sons Clarence and Jack. By the

¹⁵Three of the sons, Paul Douglas (1849-1924), James Leonidas (1857-1925), and Robert Judson (1854-1915) were the primary founders of the first Camp Company, but Benjamin Franklin (1852-1927), William Nelson (1847-1911), and John Stafford (1840-1899) all helped to finance the purchase of the company's first sawmill in 1887 (The Timber Tycoons, p. 14). The remaining two sons, Joseph E. Camp (1843-1862), and James E. Camp (1845-1857), both died young and were not involved in either operation. There were also two daughters in the family, Mary Eliza Camp (1838-1910), the eldest of all the children, and Sarah Virginia "Jenny" Camp (1852-1934), a twin of Benjamin Franklin Camp.

¹⁶Ibid, p. 86.

¹⁷Rouse, Parke Jr. The Timber Tycoons: The Camp Families of Virginia and Florida and Their Empire 1887-1987. Richmond, Virginia: The William Byrd Press, 1987, p. 88.

¹⁸Ibid, p. 87.

¹⁹Ibid, p. 88.

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late 1890s, however, some of the Florida phosphate boom had started to decline, and William's Virginia brothers again helped him out. William then began investing in land, and by 1907 he was the largest landholder in Florida, with over 150,000 acres.²⁰ In 1909, William developed another hydroelectric power plant on the Withlacoochee River in Florida, generating electricity first for his mines, and later for individual customers. Additional investment ventures of William Sr. included cattle, and lumber interests in both Florida and North Carolina. After William died in 1911 his seven surviving children sold the hydroelectric plant to the newly formed Florida Power Corporation for \$1,500,000.²¹

The sale of the hydroelectric plant enabled each of the Camp children to live comfortably for many years, and William Jr., eighteen years old at the time of his father's death, was no exception. He attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia and took over the family's citrus groves in Florida. All three of William's older brothers, Robert, Clarence, and Jack, built large homes in Ocala, on the same street as their father's home. Robert headed the Florida Power Company; Jack continued in the phosphate industry and was a founder of Florida National Bank; and Clarence, with Jack, founded the Camp Concrete Rock Company, a limestone mining operation. Clarence also ran the Camp Phosphate Company, Fernandina Terminal Company, and Ocala Ironworks.²²

William Jr. continued to live part of the year in Ocala, and, in 1925, when he was thirty-two years old, bought the property in Fairview, North Carolina, where he lived during the summers.²³ William Jr. was a large man, like the other Camp men, and was a diabetic. He was an "eccentric," a "nonconformist," but was "loved and adored by nieces and nephews because he never grew up. . ." ²⁴ He was known, both in Florida, and later in the Fairview community in North Carolina, as an affectionate man who loved to play with children. Camp was well-known in Fairview during the time he lived there, and would often gather up local children, taking them for a ride in his car to Biltmore for ice cream.²⁵ He was more of a loner than his older siblings, known as a "gifted mechanic who never found his niche", and who "dressed carelessly and shunned social life".²⁶ Camp, like his father, was an intelligent man, educated, but with an ability to create what he needed just from what was available and from his common

²⁰Ibid, p. 92.

²¹This plant was the beginning of the Power Corporation's holdings. When they no longer used the plant, they gave the land to Florida for use as a park, names for the W. N. Camp family.

²²Ocala Historic District brochure

²³There is no record of a home that William Nelson, Jr. built in the Ocala area. Since he did not marry until late in his life, it is likely he lived part of the year at the family home built by his father.

²⁴The Timber Tycoons, p. 99.

²⁵Interview Ollie Guffy, 29 August 1997.

²⁶The Timber Tycoons, p. 95.

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sense. Camp's timbering background helped him design his house in Fairview.²⁷ After the death of William, Jr.'s uncle, Paul D. Camp, in 1924, Camp Manufacturing Company built a hunting lodge near Como, North Carolina, in the pine woods of the northeastern part of the state, on some of the family's timbering lands there. The design of this building may have been what inspired William, Jr. to build his Fairview home in 1926 in much the same style.²⁸ When William Nelson Camp, Jr. built the house and complex of buildings in Fairview, he obviously carried with him much of the knowledge his father had passed on to him about the use of hydroelectricity. The Camp property was sited on a creek, Laurel Branch, which he used to generate electricity from a small hydroelectric plant on the property.²⁹ Camp also utilized other natural springs on the property in building the stone spring houses. According to Ollie Guffy, when Camp bought the property in 1925, there was a cabin on the property which he later incorporated into the structure of the cottage building.

In addition to the main house he built for himself, Camp built three other cabins (including the cottage which still stands and two others that have been removed), for the use of a caretaker and a cook.³⁰ Other structures built at the same time included the spring houses, the garage, and the barn. Ollie Guffy remembers that Mr. Camp hired local Fairview residents to help him build the complex of buildings and that "Fate" Mitchell did much of the stone chimney work. Logs for the buildings came from the sawmill on the adjacent Pinkerton property. Oscar Wright, another local builder, also helped, along with Camp himself. A mule team was used to clear the land, haul logs, and carry the field stone. Mrs. Guffy also remembers that much of the furniture for the house was either made by Mr. Camp or brought from Florida. Some of the acreage above the house was used for livestock pasture, and there were apple orchards on the lower portion of the land, to the east of the cottage.³¹

Camp, a bachelor most of his life, married Roxie Lee Gambill in approximately 1942. There are no marriage records in either Buncombe County or Marion County (Ocala, Florida) of the exact

²⁷Mrs. Guffy remembers seeing Mr. Camp with some "paper plans", but apparently there was no architect except Camp himself.

²⁸See working file photo of the Camp P.D. hunting lodge.

²⁹According to Ollie Guffy, daughter of Marcus Lafayette Wright, a previous owner and later caretaker of the property, there was a much larger volume of water coming from the creek in the early twentieth century. She remembers the battery storage building located on the property, all of which remains is the foundation. (Interview 29 August 1997).

³⁰The foundation of one of these cabins is still visible on the hillside below the main house, and apparently the foundation of the other one was what was removed from the site of the new log cabin when it was built.

³¹Interview with Leona Koonce, daughter of James Haire, a caretaker of the property, 14 September 1997.

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date, suggesting they may have been married elsewhere. Roxie Lee Gambill had been widowed in 1941 when her husband Charles Gambill, a "laborer", died.³² Roxie worked as a beautician and owned Roxie's Beauty Shop on Rankin Avenue in Asheville for many years. She and Charles Gambill lived on Barnard Avenue and on Magnolia Avenue from 1935-1941.³³ Buncombe County records show that William Nelson Camp, Jr. and Roxie Lee Camp bought a house together on Lakeshore Road in Lake View Park in Asheville in 1942, where Roxie Lee Camp later lived after selling the Fairview property.³⁴ He may have bought the Lake View Park house as a wedding gift for Roxie, because, according to Ollie Guffy, Roxie did not like the remote Fairview property and wanted to live in town.³⁵ The Wright family, "Fate", Eliza, Blanche, Ollie, and Vollie, served as caretakers for Mr. Camp until the early 1930s. The next caretakers on the property were James and Frances Haire. According to Leona Koonce, daughter of the Haires, James had worked with Camp in his orange grove operations in Bushnell, Florida, and was then brought to the mountains in the early 1930s to take care of Camp's mountain property year-round.³⁶ James Haire lived in the main house until his wife moved to the mountains in 1935. The Haire children, Leona, Vera, and Emmett, visited in the summers. The family then lived in the cottage on the property and remained as caretakers year-round until 1946 when Mr. Haire became ill and they all moved back to Florida.

William Nelson Camp, Jr. died in 1947. His wife Roxie had sold the property to George Edmonstone in 1946, probably due to the fact that Camp may have already been ill.³⁷ Edmonstone was also from Florida and this may have been someone the Camps already knew. According to Asheville city directories, Roxie Lee was no longer in Asheville after 1951, although she may have lived in Fletcher.³⁸ Edmonstone owned the property until 1951, when he

³²Asheville City Directories, 1937.

³³Asheville City Directories 1935-1941.

³⁴Buncombe County Deed Book 547, p. 40. Ollie Guffy (interview 29 August 1997) remembers she lived in a Lake View Park house after Mr. Camp died.

³⁵In addition to the Fairview and Lake View Park properties, W. N. Camp and Roxie Camp also purchased another property in Asheville on September 18, 1944, on Woodrow Avenue. This property was sold soon after this, on November 9, 1944 (Buncombe County Deed Books 561, p. 140 and 568, p. 262)

³⁶Interview with Leona Koonce, daughter of James Haire, 14 September 1997.

³⁷In addition to selling the Fairview property, Roxie Lee Camp also sold the Magnolia Avenue property on June 20, 1946 (Buncombe County Deed Book 613, p. 445) and the property she had bought in 1945. This last property was sold on August 21, 1946 (Buncombe County Deed Book 619, p. 7). She apparently kept the first Lake View Park house, and also purchased another property in the neighborhood, on Edgewater Lane, in 1949 (Buncombe County Deed Book 675, p. 585). She lived here in 1950, but not after this time.

³⁸Ollie Guffy (interview 29 August 1997), remembered that Roxie lived in Fletcher for a while.

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sold it to Delos E. Wait.³⁹ Wait owned the property until 1956, when it was sold to George A. Satter.⁴⁰ The original fifty-two acres remained with the property until Satter sold it in two separate tracts. In 1985, Satter sold 41.66 acres to Edwin R. Risberg, and the remaining 10.75 acres, including all of the buildings, to Fern and Howard S. Samuels.⁴¹ The current owners, Pat and Paul Samuels, bought the 10.75 acre property on December 30, 1994.⁴²

Architecture Context

Fairview, North Carolina, located approximately half way between Hickory Nut Gorge to the southeast and Asheville to the northwest, was sparsely populated at the end of the eighteenth century.⁴³ The Hickory Nut Turnpike Company was formed in 1841, by order of the North Carolina General Assembly. This later became the Old Charlotte Highway, now U.S. 74, which runs in a north-south direction through Fairview. By 1859, some of the early stagecoach routes were being developed through Fairview into Hickory Nut Gorge.⁴⁴ After the Civil War, many of the families who had settled in Fairview subdivided their land for economic reasons. Farming was a primary occupation, including the production of tobacco around Laurel Branch on Flat Top Mountain, livestock production, and fruit orchards.⁴⁵ By 1872, the township of Fairview had a post office and a growing population.⁴⁶ Like the rest of Buncombe County, Fairview "boomed" after the arrival of the railroad in 1880. According to the North Carolina census records, by 1910, more families had settled in the area, with occupations being primarily farming. Other trades included merchant, builder, carpenter, stone mason, teacher, mail carrier, clergy, weaver, and lawyer. By the middle of the 1920s, the township of Fairview included three stores, a phone company, a grist mill, a blacksmith, and the post office.⁴⁷

Tourism here, in the 1920s and 1930s, as in other parts of the county, had started to become a big business, as more people traveled U.S. 74 and, beginning in 1935, the Blue Ridge Parkway, which snakes along the mountains just west of Fairview.⁴⁸ Settlement along Flat Top Mountain

³⁹Buncombe County Deed Book 706, p. 197.

⁴⁰Buncombe County Deed Book 769, p. 608.

⁴¹Buncombe County Deed Books 1379, p. 132, and 1384, p. 226.

⁴²Buncombe County Deed Book 1830, p. 534.

⁴³Some of the earliest families in Fairview included Whitaker, Ashworth, and Cooper (from The Whitaker Family of Buncombe County, North Carolina, p. Wh. 28).

⁴⁴Fiegel, Jayne Henderson. "Historic-Architectural Resources Study of the U.S. 74 Highway Widening Project Between I-40 and SR 3136, Buncombe County, North Carolina".

⁴⁵Ibid.

⁴⁶Branson, Reverend A.M. The North Carolina Business Directory, Raleigh, North Carolina: J. A. Jones, 1872.

⁴⁷Tessier, Mitzi Schaden. The State of Buncombe. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company, 1992, p. 124.

⁴⁸Fiegel, Jayne Henderson. "Historic-Architectural Resources Study", p. 19.

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in Fairview in the 1920s was still primarily large land holdings passed down through several generations. Farming remained a primary occupation, but other families had begun to settle in the area for its beauty and healthful climate. There were schools available, and roads had been improved by this time so that access in and out of the area was easier than in the nineteenth century. At the time that W.N. Camp, Jr. bought land in Fairview in 1925, much of the architecture he would have seen included typical turn-of-the-century I-houses, some Queen Anne style dwellings, and a few modest bungalows. Hewn log building traditions were also still prevalent.

It appears that none of these traditional rural architectural styles were incorporated into the design of the W. N. Camp, Jr. House. Instead, the inspiration for Camp's rustic complex seems to have come from an architectural style closely tied to the booming tourist and resort industry of the 1920s. There were many sources of the "rustic style" available to Camp. Perhaps one of the best examples was the Manor and its cottages, an "in-town" community in Asheville (National Register 1977). This neighborhood of rustic-style cottages surrounding a rambling, shingled hotel, was designed to create a picturesque, "mountain camp" community, with the buildings fitting closely within the natural terrain. The use of natural materials in an unaltered state such as shingles, stone, and tree trunks added to this aesthetic of blending architecture and landscape. To the west the Highlands community in Macon County was growing rapidly as a summer resort community, primarily for the wealthy from Atlanta and New Orleans. In the Satulah Mountain Historic District (National Register 1995) in particular, are many examples of rustic houses built of log, stone, bark shingles, or green or brown wood shingles and weatherboard.⁴⁹ Houses were placed to take advantage of the views, and blended "...harmoniously with their wooded and mountainous backdrop..."⁵⁰ Roads follow the natural terrain. Support buildings such as spring houses and wells were built as part of these resort homes. The mountains of western North Carolina also hold many examples of the round log construction technique, something which was embraced in the 1920s and 1930s in particular, due in part to the popularity of the Arts & Crafts movement and the works of Gustav Stickley. The saddle-notched Glen Choga Lodge in Macon County (National Register 1996), built in 1934, is one of the region's grandest rustic buildings. Built of chestnut logs felled on the property, this massive former inn displays a full staircase with rhododendron balustrade. The Linville Historic District (National Register 1978), a summer resort community in Avery County is an example of a collection of summer cottages focused around an inn and a golf course, similar to the Manor in Asheville. Due in part to its remote location high in the mountains of western North Carolina, and in part to the popularity of the

⁴⁹Elaine Luxemburger and Jennifer Martin. National Register nomination for Satulah Mountain Historic District, 1995.

⁵⁰Ibid.

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style at the turn of the twentieth century, houses in Linville used native materials, including chestnut bark shingles.⁵¹

Camp probably visited the mountains of western North Carolina many times before buying property here, and likely gained exposure to the rustic style. His sister Lucy Camp Armstrong Moltz had built a large home in the Lake Toxaway area in Transylvania County in 1913.⁵² As part of the wealthy upper class, he could have bought property in Asheville or in any of the resort communities to the west. However, taking into account his more "rebellious" nature and his apparent disinterest in mixing with the wealthy, it makes sense that he bought property in the more remote farming community of Fairview. He still utilized many of the principles prevalent in the rustic resort buildings elsewhere, including the use of native materials, careful siting of buildings so as to create a picturesque setting with minimal impact upon the land, and placement of the main house to take advantage of the beautiful views. There were practical considerations he must have had also, in particular finding a piece of land large enough to allow him to be somewhat self-sufficient and which would work for his hydroelectric plant.

Even with all of the many "rustic" examples available, it appears that one of Camp's main sources of inspiration for building his home appears to be the family hunting lodge built at Camp P. D. in Como, North Carolina (see exhibit B). From the photo shown, the construction technique of half round logs stacked close together on the first floor, with frame construction covered by shingle siding on the second, appears to be very similar to the Fairview house. In the 1930s in Fairview, and in many of the western North Carolina resort communities, full pole log construction became popular. In Fairview, it was utilized for the building of Shady Side Court, a group of tourist cabins no longer in existence, the 1935 B. K. Miller House, and a former service station located along Highway 74.⁵³

⁵¹Claudia P. Roberts. National Register Nomination for Linville Historic District, 1978.

⁵²Laura Phillips and Deborah Thompson. "The Architectural History of a Mountain County", 1996.

⁵³Fiegel, Jayne Henderson. "Historic-Architectural Resources Study".

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Boundary Description

The boundaries of this nomination are indicated on the accompanying county tax map.

Boundary Justification

All of the property which is currently associated with the William Nelson Camp, Jr. property was historically part of the original parcel of land of fifty-two acres which Camp purchased in 1925. The boundary includes all of the complex of buildings dating from ca. 1926, as well as the surrounding wooded landscape and fields associated with the property, historically and currently.

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NC

William Nelson Camp, Jr. House Photographs

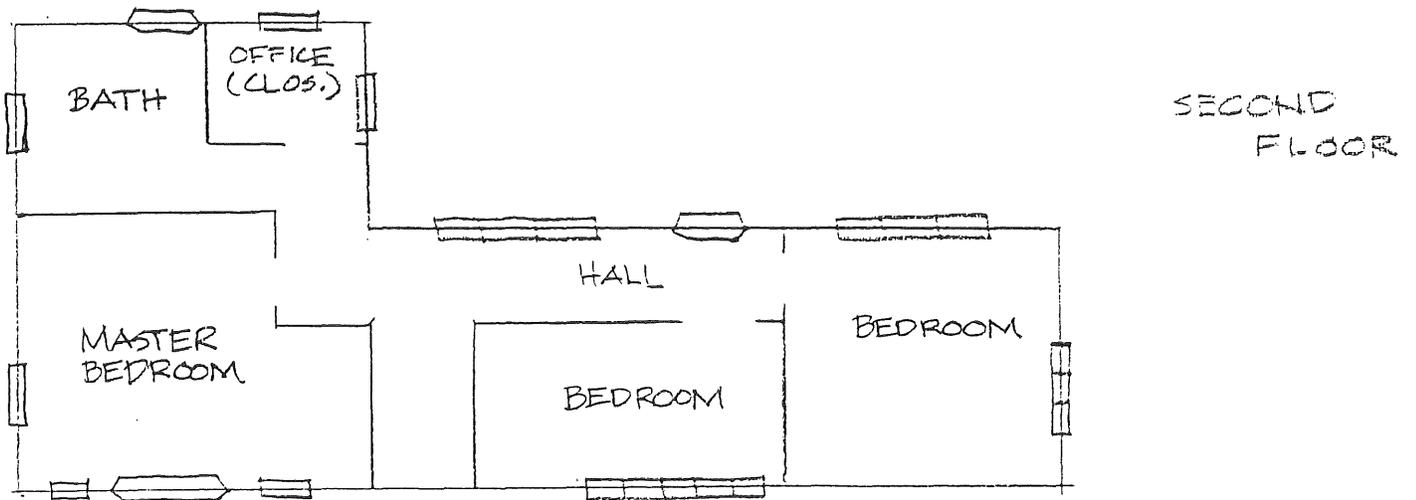
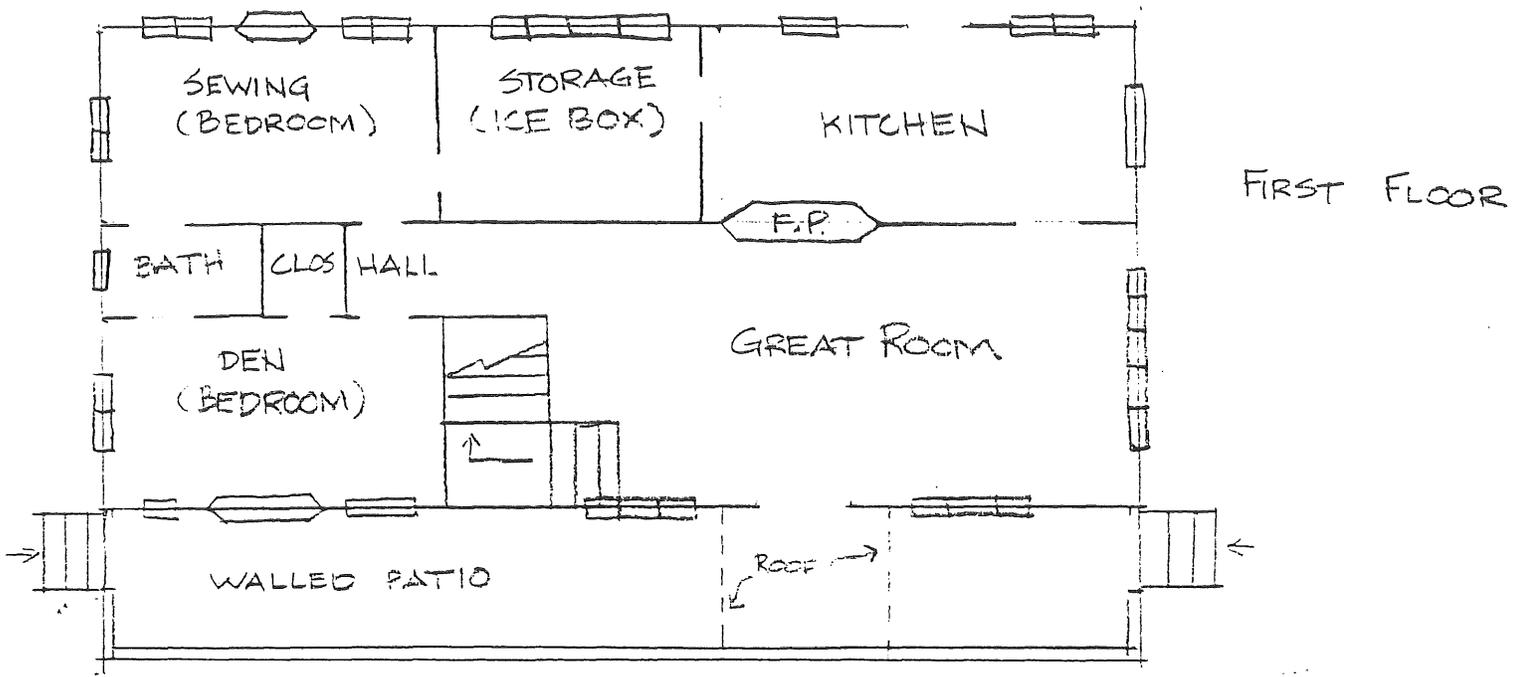
The following information applies to all of the photographs, except where noted.

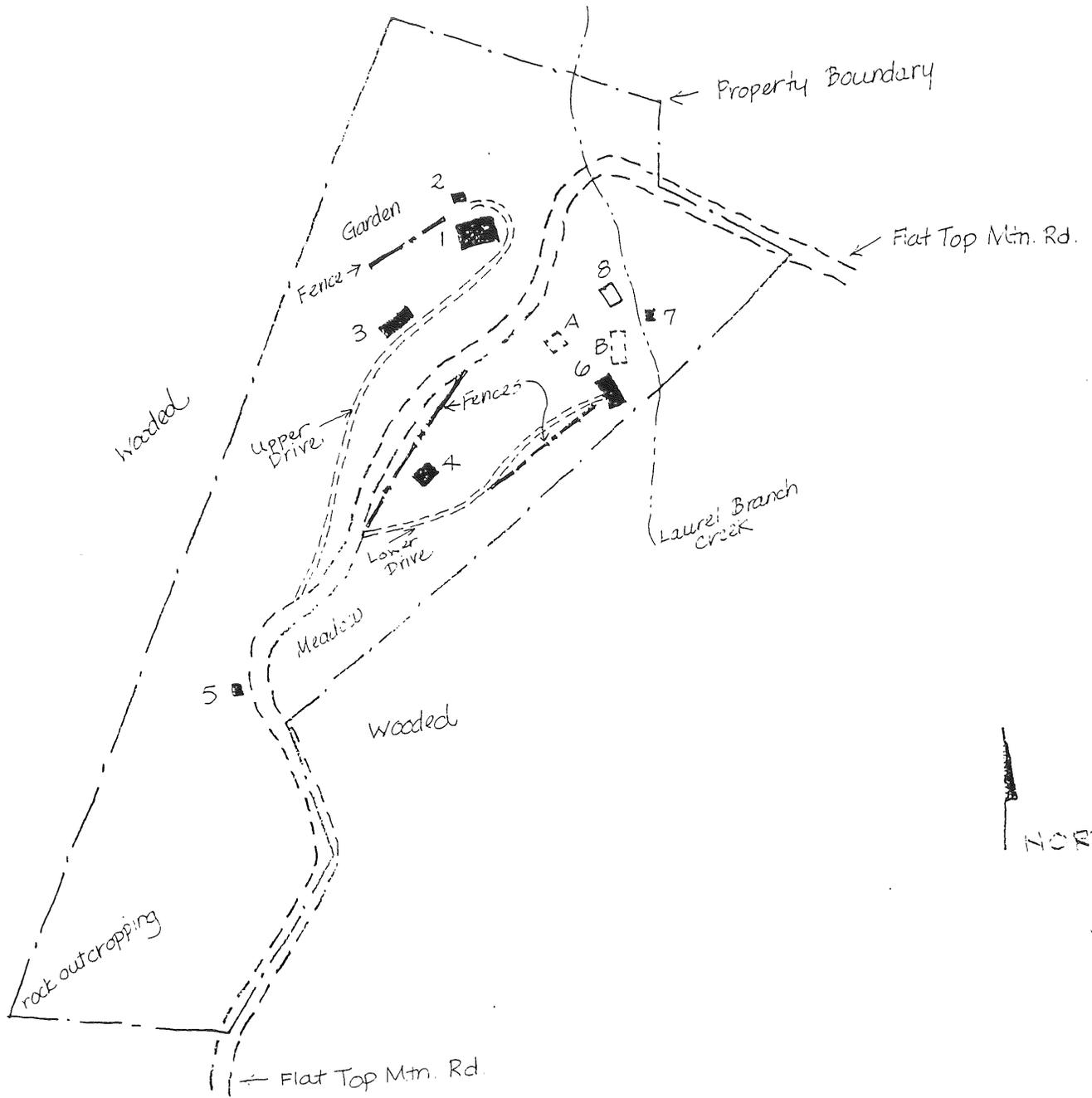
Name of Property: William Nelson Camp, Jr. House
92 Flat Top Mountain Road
Fairview
Buncombe County
North Carolina

Photographer: Sybil Argintar Bowers
Date of photos: September 1997
Location of Division of Archives and History
original negatives: One Village Lane
Asheville, North Carolina 28803

1. View from garage to main house, looking north
(date of photo October 1997)
2. Main house, detail of log construction
3. Interior, main house, great room, view SW
4. Interior, main house, upstairs hallway, view NE
5. View down Flat Top Mountain Road, view S
6. Cottage, lower drive, view NE
7. Cottage, view SE
8. Cottage, interior, living room, view SW
9. Barn and new log house, view NE
10. Garage, view W
11. Garage, interior, living room, view S
12. View from upper garden at main house, looking SE

EXHIBIT A
FLOOR PLAN SKETCH
WILLIAM NELSON CAMP, JR. HOUSE
(NOT TO SCALE)





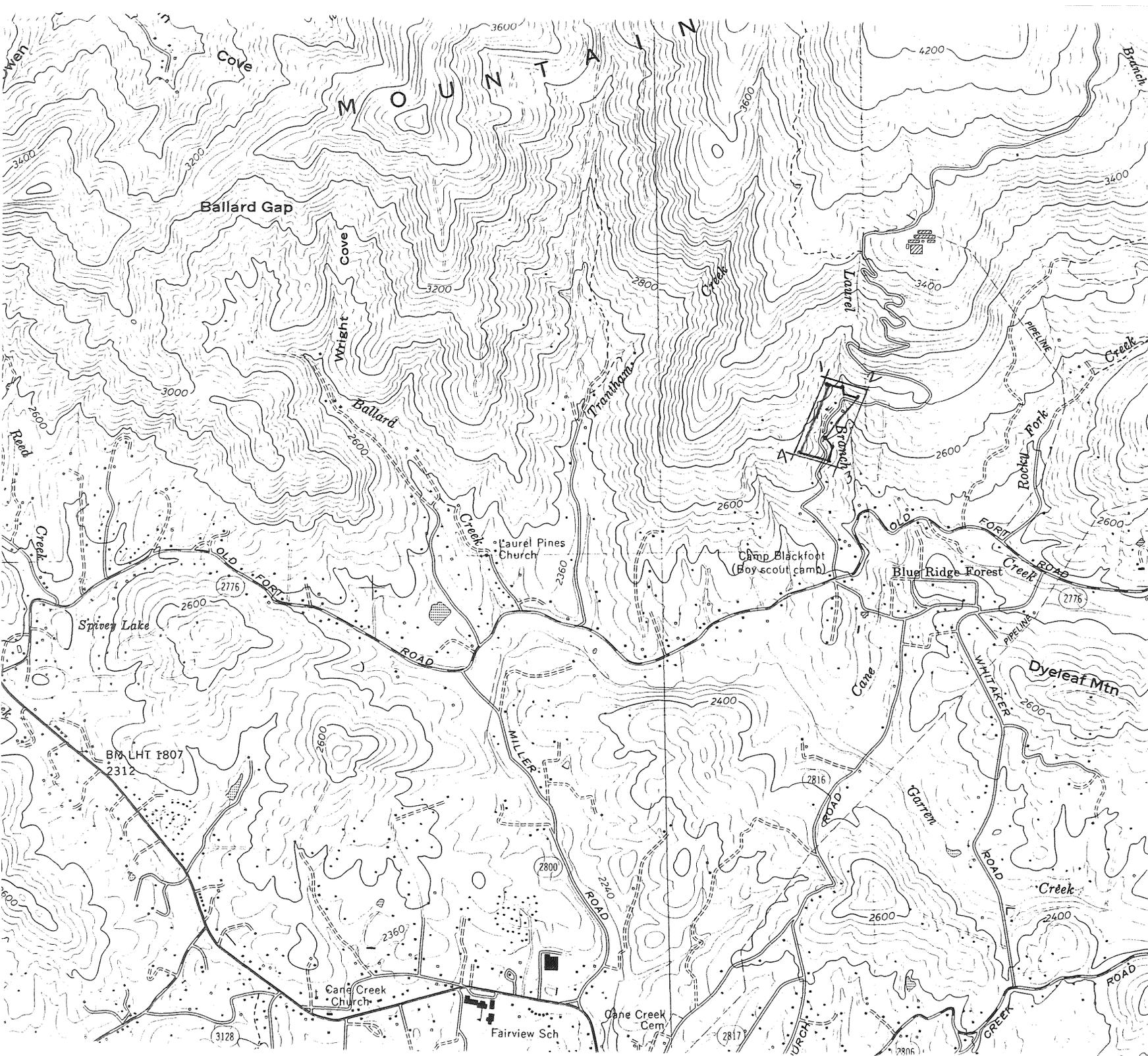
SKETCH MAP
SCALE 1" = 200'

WILLIAM NELSON CAMP, JR, HOUSE

- 1 William Nelson Camp, Jr. House
- 2 Water storage bldg.
- 3 Garage
- 4 Cottage
- 5 spring House
- 6 Barn

- CONTRIBUTING
- NON-CONTRIBUTING
- FOUNDATIONS

- 7 Spring House
- 8 New log cabin
- A former cabin fndtn.
- B former electric generating facility/kitchen storage fndtn



(BLACK MTN. 201-SE)
4555 III SE
3936

Camp, William
Nobson Jr. Hse.
3935
Oteen, NC
Rt 17
Buncombe
City

3934
5.7 MI. TO NORTH CAROLINA 9
32° 30'

- 1. 17 373800
3934840
- 2. 17 374000
3934720
- 3. 17 373860
3934400
- 4. 17 373640
3934400

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3932

