

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Spears House
other names/site number Caldwell Creek Farm
Eudy Farm

2. Location

street & number 1615 Morrison Road not for publication
city, town Concord vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Cabarrus code 025 zip code 28025

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
None

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Pinn
Signature of certifying official 13 June 89
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.

_____ removed from the National Register.
r, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Secondary Structure

Agricultural/Subsistence: animal facility

Agricultural/Subsistence: storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Half-dovetail log dogtrot

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Log

roof Metal

other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheet 7.1

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Continuation Sheet

Spears House, Cabarrus County

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DESCRIPTION

The Spears House is situated on its original site on a 38.5 acre tract of land on Caldwell Creek in rural Cabarrus County near the Mecklenburg County line. Architectural features such as hand-hewn oak logs joined with half-dovetail notches, wooden pegged door and window casings, hand-rived boards framing one gable end, and a 12/12 roof pitch with half-lapped, pinned rafters (no ridge pole) suggest the house was constructed in stages and, prior to 1825, reached the form of a dogtrot, to which it was restored from 1982 to 1987.

The Spears House has undergone several architectural changes, most of them occurring prior to 1850, which typify the progression of houses of the early settlers. Yet none of these changes substantially altered the architectural integrity of the house from the time it assumed the form of a dogtrot.

The original pen, probably built sometime between c. 1760 and 1795, was a primitive, one-story, 17' 10" X 16', one room cabin which faced east. Half-dovetail notches join the small oak logs (with the exception of V-notches on the bottom round), some of which were hewn with a felling axe as opposed to a broad axe. The faces of the joints were chopped and not sawn. The original plate log (which is in storage) contained square pegs which were in chopped holes, suggesting an auger was not available. The framing of the current east gable end, which was constructed after the house reached the form of a dogtrot, consists of frame-sawn boards. There is no remaining evidence of a chimney having been located on either of the original north and south gable ends, nor is there any evidence of ashe residue under the floor indicative of a central hearth.

The second pen, probably built between 1796 and 1800, was a 1-1/2 story, 17' 10" X 22.5' pen with finely hewn larger oak logs and well-fitting half-dovetail notches. The front and back doors are centered in the north and south walls, respectively. This pen faced north, with a 12/12 pitch roof, square-hewn oak rafters (the ends of which are presently visible under the eaves) which are half-lapped and pinned with wooden pegs. The west gable end is framed with hand-rived boards with mitered ends. The faces of the joints are sawn. A stepped, single shoulder corbeled chimney made of hand-made bricks was on the west gable end. In the 1970's, the chimney in this location, probably a replacement, fell due to deterioration of the bricks. It was replaced in the 1980's with the current step-shouldered brick chimney.

The spacing between the two pens (both stand on their original sites) and their identical widths indicate that the second pen was designed and

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positioned in relation to the first with the intention of joining them as a dogtrot. When the house was put into its dogtrot form, the roof was removed from the original pen and three rounds of logs were added to bring it to the height of the second pen. The square plate log was butted to the plate log of the second pen and round-hewn pine pole rafters (the ends of which are also visible under the eaves) span both the first pen and the breezeway. Details such as axe marks, style of hewing, and differences in materials and sculpting of the rafter ends support the theory that the man who built the roof framing on the second pen was not the same man who raised the top of the first pen and built its second roof framing extending across the breezeway to the second pen at a later date. Thus, it appears evident that the two pens stood independently of each other, their roofs and main entrances oriented at ninety degrees to each other, for a period of time.

At the time the house was put into dogtrot form, doors were cut into both pens in the interior walls and these doors were cased and pegged with the same materials, single hewn pine beams and oak pegs. It is also believed that the front and back doors on the second, larger pen were enlarged at this time as they are also cased and pegged with the same materials and show evidence that one side of the openings had been chopped and the other side sawn. The logs were predominantly chinked with a clay and straw mixture and the interior walls were heavily whitewashed. It could not be determined on the basis of physical evidence if the space between the pens was left open as a breezeway for some time and later enclosed, or if it was enclosed initially; either practice was characteristic of dogtrots. (Bealer and Ellis, 1978, pp. 25, 143, 151.) During restoration, it was decided to leave the passage enclosed to accommodate modern plumbing and wiring (which the house had never had) in order to avoid substantial alteration to the logs which would have been necessitated in order to meet building code requirements. Hence, the modern kitchen is on the first floor of the enclosed dogtrot, with the bath above it on the second floor, and the integrity of the original logs has been maintained.

Evidence such as numerous re-chinkings with various clay formulas and the even and consistent staining of the log exteriors indicate that the house was not weatherboarded upon its adaptation as a dogtrot. Apparently, when the pens were joined the original main entrance of the earlier pen was replaced with a fireplace. By the 1960's, this chimney was gone and a door flanked by windows was in its place, but the chimney foundation and original casing remained as evidence of the chimney.

The final major change in the house occurred around the mid-nineteenth century. A frame, two room rear ell was added which served as a dining room and kitchen. The south end room of the rear ell survives in its

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original location in deteriorated condition; however, the room which was connected to the original structure was destroyed when a tree fell on it in 1979. It is believed that the entire house was weatherboarded when this frame ell was added as the frame sawn boards and cut nails and craftsmanship were the same on the ell as on the furring strips and weatherboarding of the original structure. Also, the Prussian blue two-part door surrounds in the addition matched the door frames on the first floor of the larger pen (which covered the original casings) in lumber (heart pine), cut nails and workmanship.

Sometime during the history of the house, the original floors were replaced with tongue and groove flooring. Prior to restoration, the severely deteriorated oak shingle roof was replaced by a tin roof which matched the roof of the frame addition. This was necessitated to prevent further water damage to the pole rafters and to the interior log walls.

In restoring the house to its early nineteenth-century dogtrot form, care was taken to preserve as much of the original materials as possible. The majority of wall logs and log floor joists were retained and replacement logs were hand-hewn on site. All of the pole rafters from the time the house became a dogtrot are in place. The house sits on its original rock foundation with logs exposed, inside and out, and the replacement exterior chimneys on each end were placed to fit over the original rock chimney foundations.

A shed porch was added across the front as there would have likely been a functional porch if the dogtrot had been enclosed. This was framed with hand-hewn oak joists and hand-hewn pine pole rafters, the materials coming from the farm site itself, as were most of the replacement materials used during restoration.

The floor joists of the original pen run east-west with half-lap mitered floor joists cradling the hearth. The floor joists of the second pen run north-south and the hearth is supported by straight half-lap joists. No alterations were made in restoration to the windows and doors in numbers or sizes although replacement sashes, six over six and two four over four, were necessitated due to dry rot. Most of the original pegged casings remain. Two of the original vertical board and batten doors remain complete with hand-forged strap hinges and barbed pintles. An early mantle, severely damaged by fire, was reproduced.

Allowances for the conveniences of modern living were made by additions rather than alterations to the original structure (sheetrock in the upstairs ceiling to allow for insulation and wooden raceways to allow for electrical wiring) so that the remarkable integrity of the original materials could be maintained, and the house could be easily transformed to museum quality if ever desired.

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The site is bordered by Caldwell Creek to the west, and is bisected by a small unnamed tributary of Caldwell Creek. The north half of the acreage consists of the house, outbuildings, and pastures. The southern half of the property is rolling, wooded land with horseback riding trails. These unpainted weatherboarded buildings with exposed rafter ends are traditional simple building types, in keeping with the historic character of the property.

Four deteriorated outbuildings of indeterminate date located south of the house site were demolished in the 1980s. In 1979, a new 7-stall pole barn was constructed approximately 100 feet south of the house. The following year, a small storage barn was constructed 20 feet north of the stall barn. Three years later, a 40 foot pole storage shed was built approximately 50 feet southeast of the pole barn.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1st quarter 19th
century

Significant Dates

1st quarter
19th century

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

See Continuation Sheet 8.1

See continuation sheet

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spears House is a log dogtrot built in stages, acquiring the form of a dogtrot, to which it was restored, in the first quarter of the 19th century. The original pen is probably one of the earliest houses still standing in present day Cabarrus County, and the dogtrot itself is the only remaining example of a log dogtrot in Cabarrus County. The house is eligible for the Register because of its local architectural significance. The early families associated with the property, the Caldwelles, Spears, and Pharrs, were not only among the first families to settle this region, but were instrumental in establishing the Rocky River community and active in the Rocky River Presbyterian Church, one of the earliest churches of the region (circa 1761) and once the largest Presbyterian Church in North Carolina.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Spears House is located on a site which has been in three counties. It was first in Anson County; the original pen, however, was probably not built until after this area became Mecklenburg County in 1763. By the time the second pen was built, this site was within the boundaries of Cabarrus County. Cabarrus County was formed in 1792 and named after Stephen Cabarrus, Speaker of the House of Commons, who gave support to the county being established. The county's economy is basically industrial (textiles), yet the county is still predominantly rural and agriculturally based. Unlike the coastal plain, the early plantations were not large. This area of the county was predominantly settled by the Scotch-Irish who migrated from Pennsylvania via The Great Wagon Road.

The Spears House was identified in a comprehensive architectural inventory conducted by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. (Kaplan, The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, 1981, pp. 3, 201.) Much of the log building history of the early settlers has been lost from the county. The frontier dwellings were modest, mostly log structures like this one that have not been valued by subsequent generations. The dogtrot form and the fine craftsmanship of the second pen are representative of a more prosperous farmer of the early nineteenth century and indeed, William Wallace Spears was active in community and county affairs. Both pens, by the size of the pens, the half-dovetail notches and door placements, reflect the Scotch-Irish heritage of log cabin building, most of which was borrowed from the Germans (Pennsylvania Dutch) during their association in Pennsylvania.

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Although the first pen lost its original integrity when it was modified for the dogtrot house, it should be noted that it exemplified early settlement dwellings. Evidence gathered during the restoration and explained in the description support the theory that the earlier pen originally was the standard type of crude shelter, with possibly a smokehole in lieu of a fireplace and chimney, that was commonly erected for brief use or as a temporary initial shelter for settlers. In light of the increasing scarcity of early log buildings in the county, it is likely that the older pen is the remains of one of Cabarrus' earliest surviving buildings.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The builder(s) of the Spears House is obscure. David Caldwell (b. circa 1710), the first settler on Caldwell Creek and for whom the creek was named, was living in the area prior to 1755 as Reverend Hugh McAden, a traveling Presbyterian minister documented in his journal that he preached at David Caldwell's house in October of 1755 prior to going to Sugar Creek (Mecklenburg County), (Foote, 1846, p. 169.) David Caldwell's first land grant, for 287 acres was not until 1762 (Mecklenburg Deed Book 1, Page 542), but it acknowledged that he was being granted land on which he already lived on Caldwell Creek. David Caldwell was one of the first Elders of Rocky River Presbyterian Church, and in that capacity attended the Synod at the 2nd Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia in 1761 and was placed on a commission to study the Indian Mission. Both David Caldwell, two of his sons, and William Spears were among 28 citizens of the community who signed a petition in 1771 to the Governor at New Bern to pardon the "Black Boys", a group of nine young men from the Rocky River Congregation who set fire to gunpowder en route to loyalists which was to be used to suppress insurgents. Caldwell's house tract (size unknown), which encompassed the present 38.5 acre Spears House property, passed by Will to one of his sons, William Caldwell, in 1781 (Mecklenburg Will Book A, pp. 185-186.) David Caldwell's house site is not known, nor is there any mention in the Caldwell documents of a primitive structure matching the presumed original appearance of the first unit of the Spears House.

William Caldwell (b. circa 1739), sold this land in two tracts prior to moving to Georgia, and his wife, Ruth, signed both deeds. The wife's signing of a deed was typical in North Carolina if a house was involved and not just vacant land. The first tract, on which the Spears House sits, was sold to Samuel Stewart in 1784 (Mecklenburg Deed Book 15, Page 185.) The second tract was sold to Thomas and Elizabeth Marsh in 1786, the same year William's mother, Ann, remarried.

Samuel Stewart, a planter, acquired three more vacant tracts of land over the next eleven years due to tax foreclosures for absentee ownership

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(Mecklenburg Deed Book 15, Page 176; Book 15, Page 184; and Book 15, Page 217.) Sam Stewart left the county in 1796 and sold his entire 233 acres to William Wallace Spears (b. circa 1769.) (Cabarrus Deed Book 2, Page 314.)

William Wallace Spears, the only son of a prosperous early settler, William Spears, sold his land in the City of Concord in 1798 and married Elizabeth Gilmore in 1799. It is believed that he constructed the second, larger pen during this time period. Materials and craftsmanship indicate that the house was enlarged to its dogtrot form in the first quarter of the 19th century. Census records indicating that he owned six slaves and that four of his seven children had been born by 1810 suggest that the family required additional room.

By the time of the 1830 census, other houses may have been built on the farm as the older children are not listed in William Wallace Spears' household, yet none of them had been deeded land. No evidence of these houses has been found. By 1840, his son, Columbus W. Spears (b. circa 1807), who had married in 1833, was listed in the census as having three children and three slaves, yet he still had not been deeded land. In 1842, the year William Wallace Spears' wife died, (Blume and Blume, 1958, p. 41), he deeded Columbus 108 acres of his own farm. Subsequent land transfers and William Wallace Spears' Will of 1842 and Codicil of 1843 (Will Book 1, Page 31) indicate the tract deeded to Columbus probably included the original house. Upon William Spears' death in 1843 (Blume and Blume, 1958, p. 42), Columbus acquired additional acreage (the balance of the farm going to his three living brothers) and he later purchased some of his brother, Wade Hampton Spears' land, bringing his total acreage to 140 acres. (Cabarrus Deed Book 15, Page 449; Book 13, Page 45; and Book 21, Page 42.) Records indicate that Columbus Spears primarily grew cotton on this acreage.

Upon his moving to Mississippi, Columbus W. Spears sold the farm to Harvey H. Pharr, descendant of another early settler, in 1867. (Cabarrus Deed Book 34, Page 568.) Harvey Pharr apparently purchased the land for his son, Lafayette M. Pharr, who had fought in the Confederacy, (Pharr, 1955, p. 156), as he gave it to him in 1869. (Cabarrus Deed Book 22, Page 328.) Lafayette purchased other land and deeded the farm back to his father in 1871 (Cabarrus Deed Book 34, Page 570.) It is believed that Harvey Pharr's youngest son, Zinri D. Pharr, then lived in the house as it was deeded to him by his brother and sister, Lafayette and Mary, upon his father's death in 1873. (Cabarrus Deed Book 27, Page 395.) When Zinri D. Pharr, unmarried, died at the age of 28 in 1881, his heirs, Lafayette and Mary, deeded the land to Paul Eudy (Cabarrus Deed Book 35, Page 337.)

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Except for eleven days in 1902 in which there was a foreclosure proceeding whereby the Eudy family regained the land, the farm remained in the Eudy family until 1947 when the heirs of J. T. Eudy divided the land. (Cabarrus Deed Book 61, Page 51 and Book 60, Page 50.) Approximately eighty acres (containing the house) were sold by the heirs of J. T. Eudy to John Wilson and wife, (Cabarrus Deed Book 200, Page 15) in 1947. John Wilson again divided the remaining land and approximately half, containing the house, was sold to Hubert Benton in 1950. (Cabarrus Deed Book 228, Page 95.) The house had been lived in until the current owners acquired the property from the Bentons in 1961, at which time it was vacated. The remaining 38.5 acres were returned to an operational farm in 1979; and restoration of the log house, which began in 1982, was completed in 1987.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet 9.1

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 38.5

UTM References

A 17 53159610 39013710
 Zone Easting Northing

C 17 53163310 390107410

B 17 53163210 39013710
 Zone Easting Northing

D 17 531591210 390108410

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property comprises Lots 0106, 3397, and 9864 on the enclosed Cabarrus County Tax Map #5525.03. The markings in red supplied by the tax office personnel. The subdivision of this acreage into three tax parcels reflects the current ownership of the property by Jill Ray and her mother, singly and jointly, who acquired it in 1961.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property constitutes the remaining 38.5 acres of the original tract of land historically associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill Ray, Owner

organization _____ date February 1, 1989

street & number 1615 Morrison Road telephone (704) 455-6177

city or town Concord state NC zip code 28025

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Blume, C. F. and Blume, M. R., Historic Rocky River Church Buildings and Burying Grounds, Concord, North Carolina, 1958.

Cabarrus County Records - Cabarrus County Courthouse and Microfilm in Lore Local History Room, Charles A. Cannon Memorial Library, Concord, North Carolina:

Estate Records
Will Books
Deed Books
Marriage Records
Court Minutes

Carolina Dwelling, Douglas Swain, Ed., Student Publication of the School of Design, Volume 26, N. C. State University, 1978.

Federal Census Records (1790) and Cabarrus County Census Records (1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, and 1840.)

Foote, W. H., Sketches of North Carolina, Historical and Biographical, Robert Carter, New York, NY, 1846.

The History and Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina, Douglas Swain, Ed., Division of Archives and History, 1981.

Hood, D. F., The Architecture of Rowan County, Glover Printing, Inc., Raleigh, NC, 1983.

Interviews:

Don Chapman, professional restorationist of log and timber frame, consultant.

Max Eudy (b. circa 1894), son of J. T. Eudy.

Helen E. Shue, granddaughter of J. T. Eudy.

Sam Wilson, son of John Wilson.

Kaplan, P. R., The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, Craftsman Printing Company, Charlotte, NC, 1981.

Karr, M. H., "Spears Family Sketch", Lore Local History Room, Charles A. Cannon Memorial Library, Concord, North Carolina.

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Lore, A. and Lore, E., Open the Gate and Roam Cabarrus with Us, Rowan Business Forms, Inc., Salisbury, North Carolina, 1971.

Lore, A. and Lore, E., and Morrison, R. H., The Morrison Family of the Rocky River Settlement of North Carolina, The Observer Printing House, Charlotte, NC, 1950.

Lore, A. and Lore, E., We Have Identified Thousands. Enough! A Compilation of White and Allied Families, Concord, North Carolina, 1967.

Mann, D. and Skinulis, R., The Complete Log House Book, The Bryant Press, Toronto, Canada, 1979.

Mecklenburg County Records - Mecklenburg County Courthouse and Microfilm in Carolina Room of Charlotte Public Library, Main Branch, Charlotte, North Carolina:
Estate Records
Will Books
Deed Books
Marriage Records
Court Minutes

Pharr, H. N., Pharrs and Farris with Other Descendants from Five Scotch-Irish Pioneers in America, Edward Brothers, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1955.

Spence, Jr., T. H., The Presbyterian Congregation on Rocky River, Kingsport Press, Inc., Kingsport, Tennessee, 1954.

Whelchel, M. L. and Caldwell, J. T., "Sketch of the Caldwell Family", Carolina Room, Charlotte Public Library, Main Branch, Charlotte, North Carolina, 1984.

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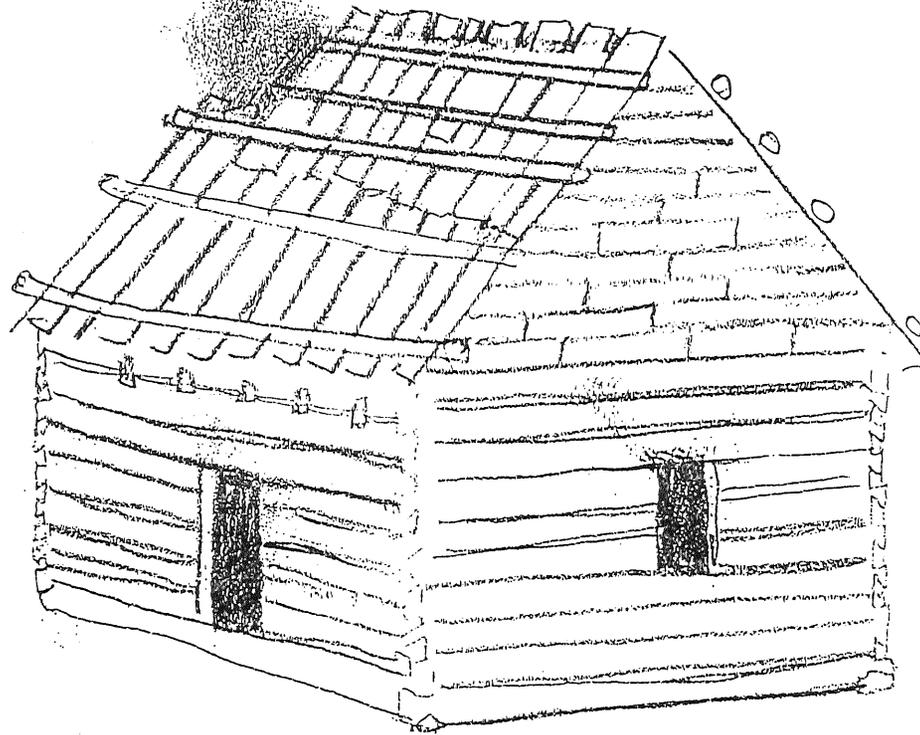
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The following information applies to all photographs, which are keyed to the accompanying sketch map:

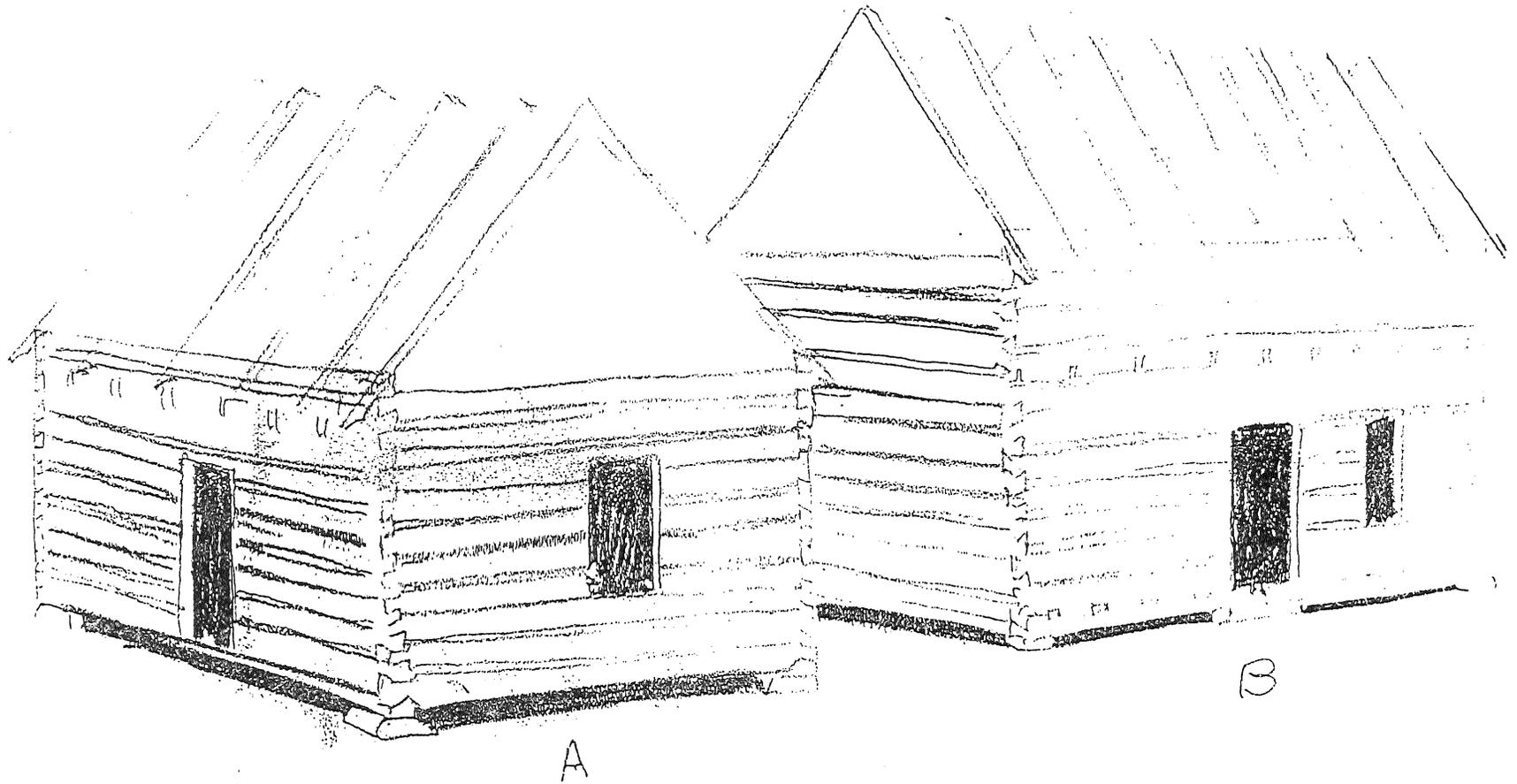
1. Spears House
2. Concord vicinity, NC
3. Jill Ray
5. Jill Ray, owner, 1615 Morrison Rd., Concord, NC 28025

- (1) 4. 1/89
6. main facade of house, to southwest
- (2) 4. 1/89
6. house, to southwest
- (3) 4. 1/89
6. rear facade and remainder of rear ell, to northwest
- (4) 4. 1/89
6. south room of rear ell, to northwest
- (5) 4. 1/89
6. west and rear facades of house, to northeast
- (6) 4. 1/89
6. joining at northeast corner of house
- (7) 4. 1/89
6. interior of house
- (8) 4. 1/89
6. interior of house
- (9) 4. 5/89
6. 7-stall pole barn
- (10) 4. 5/89
6. small storage barn
- (11) 4. 5/89
6. 40-pole storage shed

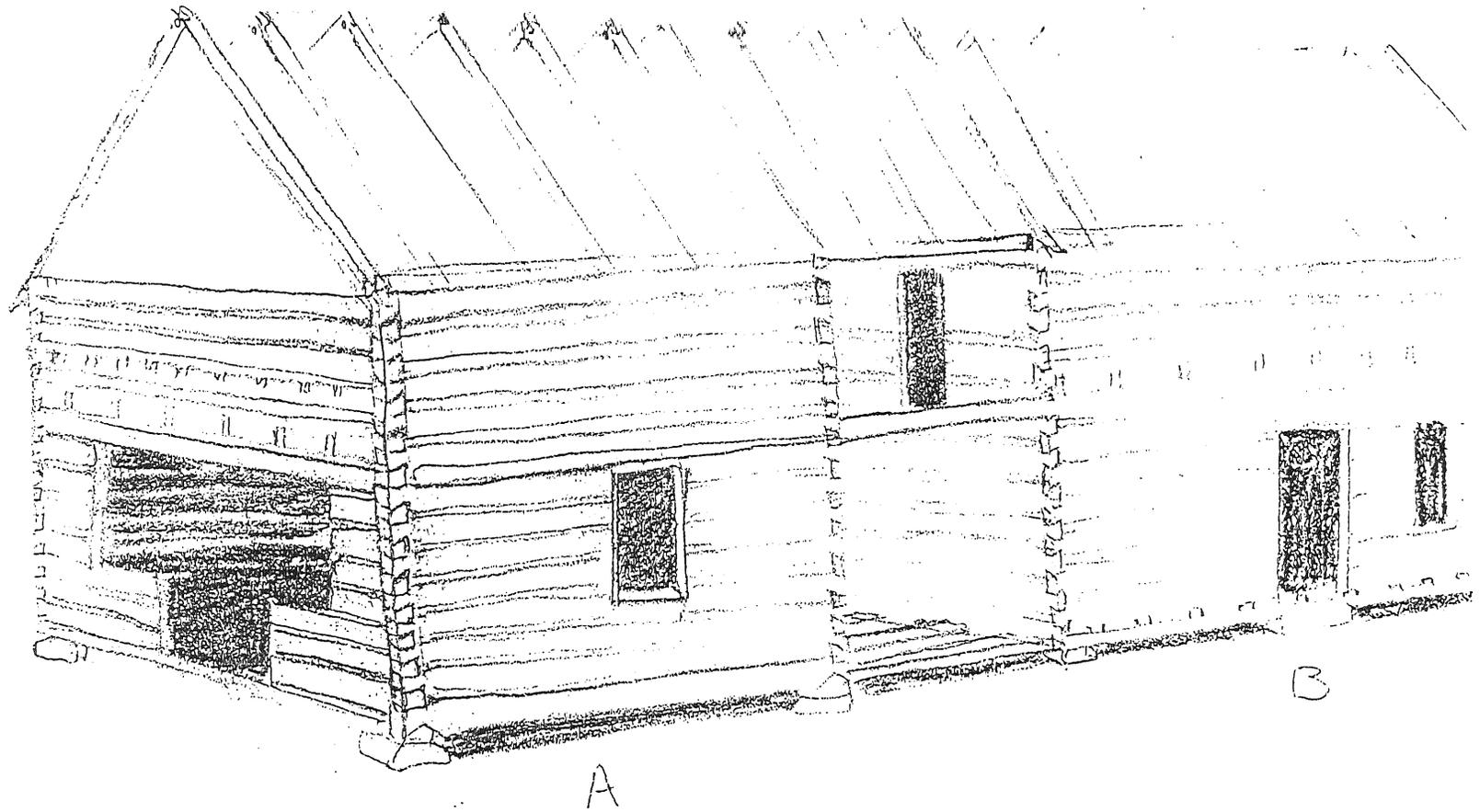


A

Spears House, Concord vicinity, Cabarrus County, NC.
Probable initial appearance of the east pen of the Spears House.
Drawn by Don Chapman, restoration contractor specializing in log
buildings, January, 1989.

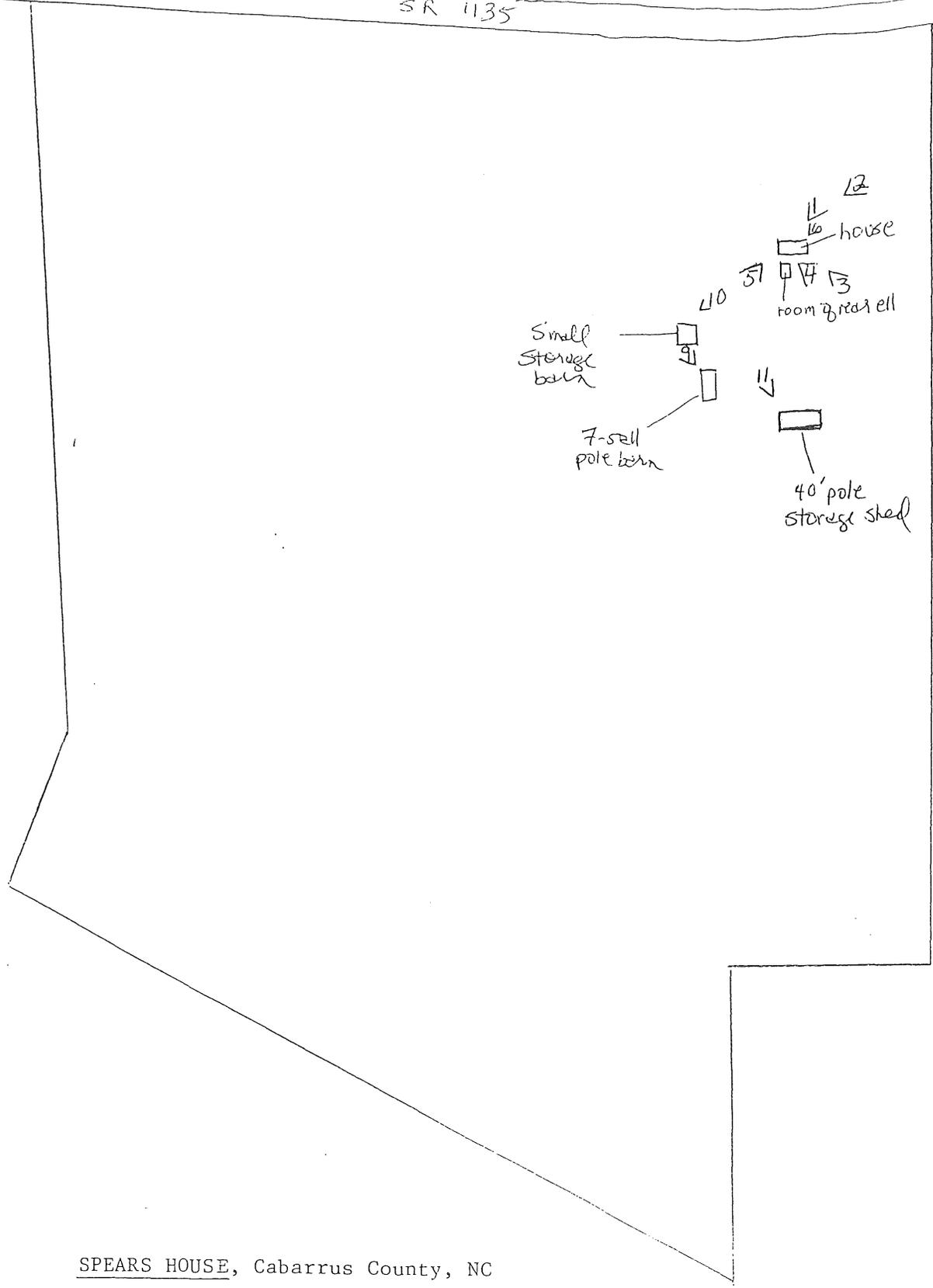


Spears House, Concord vicinity, Cabarrus County, NC.
Probable appearance of the two pens c1800. Drawn by Don Chapman,
restoration contractor specializing in log buildings, January, 1989.



Spears House, Concord vicinity, Cabarrus County, NC.
Spears House following removal of weatherboards, early
1980s. Drawn by Don Chapman, restoration contractor
specializing in log buildings, January, 1989.

SR 1135



SPEARS HOUSE, Cabarrus County, NC

Sketch Map and Photo Key

> = direction of camera

6209

8209

1.9A
0203

1.0A
1272

ROAD

SR 1135

1.5A
9864

11

30.3A
3397

8.4A
0106

7.0A
2965

10

1.7A
0445

