

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Henry Shoaf Farm

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER N side of new NC 64 1 mi. W of I-85

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE North Carolina

CODE 037

COUNTY Davidson

CODE 057

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME W. Frank Shoaf etal (Wiley Lee Shoaf heirs)  
c/o James R. Shoaf

STREET & NUMBER 1 Shamrock Drive

CITY, TOWN Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE North Carolina 27292

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Davidson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lexington

STATE North Carolina

**6 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Ruth Little, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch

DATE July 22, 1983

STREET & NUMBER Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE 919/733-6545

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh

STATE North Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1970s</u>

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Henry Shoaf Farm, located just west of Lexington on US 64 in an area now undergoing rapid commercial development, is a remarkably complete log homestead with a two-story log house, double pen log barn, smokehouse, corn crib, granary and potato house. The log barn has a date "1811" and initials "H.S." believed carved by Henry Shoaf, builder of the homestead, and the other buildings are probably contemporary. In 1860 the house was enlarged and remodeled in a vernacular Italianate style, and a 1902 documentary photograph shows that only one change had been made in the intervening years--about 1900 a gabled frame kitchen was added to the west gable end to replace the original freestanding log kitchen. The photograph reveals that the house was attractively painted in light and dark paint colors, and the fenced, trellised front yard had a well-tended flower garden.

The original house is a rectangular structure, two bays wide and two bays deep, of large handhewn square logs with half-dovetailed corner notching. The west exterior end chimney, probably original, is a large double stepped-shoulder chimney laid in one-to-five common bond. This is the only original feature visible on the exterior. The present structure resulted from a two-story one-room addition to the house on the east end and a one-story rear shed addition with a center recessed porch. Two chimneys were added on the east end, one chimney was added to the west shed end. The date "1860" is painted on the inside face of the stack of the rear east chimney, and is believed to be the date of the renovation. The low gable roof, sheathed with tin, with wide, overhanging boxed eaves, dates from the remodeling. The main entrance, in the center bay of the main (south) facade, is a single door with two vertical flat panels, flanked by four-pane sidelights, set in a wide plain surround with corner blocks. The windows date from three different periods. The upper west gable end windows, narrow six-over-four sash, may be original to the log house. The wide six-over-six and six-over-three sash on the sides and rear and upper story of the main facade date from the 1860 remodeling, and the paired six-over-six sash beneath the main front porch were added after 1902. With the exception of the paired windows, all have wide surrounds with mitred backbands. The weather-boarded walls are accented with plain corner pilasters. A one-story hip-roofed porch, supported on slender turned posts, shelters the entire main facade. The decorative brackets visible in the 1902 documentary have been removed. The only other alteration to the 1860 structure was the enclosure of the rear recessed porch, probably in the early twentieth century.

The interior is a well-preserved example of the vernacular Greek Revival-Italianate finish typical of mid-nineteenth Piedmont North Carolina farmhouses. The center hall one-room-deep floor plan, with a rear shed with an open center recessed porch, is also typical. Proportions are wide, moldings almost non-existent, and the woodwork is hand-planed, thus probably custom-made for its location. With the exception of the log walls visible in the attic of the rear shed, and the wide, original floor boards, nothing of the log house is visible on the interior. In addition to the flooring, the only difference in finish between the original structure and the additions are that the first floor of the log structure has vertically-sheathed walls, while the added rooms on the first floor and the entire second floor have

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horizontally-sheathed walls. The walls have plain baseboards and the ceilings are covered with flush sheathing. All interior doors are identical to the front door. Two different styles of door and window surrounds, the same wide surround with mitred backband found on the exterior windows, and the same plain surround with corner blocks found on the main entrance, are mingled through the interior. In the wide center hall, an open-string stair rises in a single flight against the east wall to the second floor. The crude, obviously handmade railing consists of a thick, tapering newel, plain balusters and a thick rounded handrail. Each room in the house has an original mantel, all of similar plain, Greek Revival design with wide friezes, narrow shelves, and flanking "Doric" pilasters. The only deviation from the standard design is the mantel in the parlor (west room), which features concave reeded corner blocks.

Although the log outbuildings conform to the log construction techniques typical of early nineteenth century log structures throughout Davidson County, several interesting deviations occur. The unique feature is the rafter construction of the 1811 dated double pen barn, which has a butt-type principal rafter roof instead of the usual common rafter construction. This is the only known example of this early roof construction in Davidson County. The corners are joined with V-notching, and several original appendages remain: a front and east side pent roof, a rear frame shed, and a frame bay on the front east side of the central passageway. Typical of log outbuildings in the county, the gates of the center runway and front bay have wooden pentels and wooden strap hinges. The carved initials and date are located on the east wall of the center runway just inside the gates. This barn and the half-dovetailed granary just east of it were moved to their present locations east of the house from the original sites south of the house when US 64 was rerouted several years ago.

The half-dovetailed smokehouse is located just behind the house, with a low door in the south flank. The V-notched corn crib, located near the highway between the house and the barn, is quite large, with a center passageway and a gable facade. An original, wide pent roof shelters the north gable facade. The half-dovetailed potato house, constructed in the early twentieth century, is located between the smokehouse and the barn. A number of other log outbuildings have disappeared. Directly behind the house was a one-room log structure which, according to family tradition, housed Henry Shoaf during the construction of his two-story log house. The slave cabins are said to have been located west of the house, down on the branch.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

\_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL

\_\_\_\_\_ STATE

XX

\_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1811 (?); 1860 (?) BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Henry Shoaf Farm is one of the most intact early nineteenth century log farms remaining in Davidson County. The most significant building in the complex is the fine half-dovetailed double pen barn, distinguished by a butt-type principal rafter roof, unique to the county, and by the carved initials, "H.S." and the date, "1811." According to family tradition, substantiated by historical records, Henry Shoaf (1792-1881) built the barn in that year. The two-story log house is disguised by a Greek Revival-Italianate style addition, circa 1860, which also has architectural interest. A log smokehouse, corn crib, granary and potato house complete the farm. It has been in the continuous ownership of the Shoaf family since its construction.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Contributes to the understanding of the physical appearance of typical medium-sized farmsteads in Davidson County in the early nineteenth century. The barn's unique principal rafter roof may identify the barn as the oldest standing one in the county.
- B. Associated with Henry Shoaf, wealthy farmer who owned nearly 2,000 acres of land on Swearing Creek west of Lexington during the mid-nineteenth century.

In the year of Henry Shoaf's birth, in 1792, a few months following the death of his father, Henry's grandfather deeded to his four grandsons a tract of land on both sides of Swearing Creek adjacent to his own land west of Lexington.<sup>1</sup> Thus three generations of Henry Shoafs owned land on Swearing Creek: Henry I; Henry Jr., who was granted 200 acres in 1784; and Henry III.<sup>2</sup> The first land acquired by Henry III after coming of legal age was a 100 acre tract on Swearing Creek which he bought in 1815 for \$230.<sup>3</sup> By 1852 Henry had acquired nearly 2,000 acres in west Davidson, and became known in family tradition as "Rich Henry." In the 1860 census his personal estate was valued at \$20,825 (perhaps representing slaves).<sup>4</sup>

Henry's first child was born in 1814, indicating that the twenty-two year old farmer had probably married Elizabeth Berrier, a young widow, a year or two earlier.<sup>5</sup> Because of the initials "H.S." and the date, "1811" carved on the log barn on the Henry Shoaf Farm, the Shoaf descendents have always assumed that Henry built the homestead in that year. This is neither fully substantiated nor disproven by existing documents. It is impossible to pinpoint which of the tracts owned by Henry is the homesite because the legal descriptions specify only that they were located "on the waters of Swearing Creek." If the 1811 date is authentic, Henry would have built the barn at the tender age of nineteen on the only land which he owned at the time, the tract in which he had a one-fourth interest since his birth. It is possible, however, that the barn is older than 1811, as the principal rafter framing system of the roof is an early construction technique, and Henry could have carved his name and the date on the barn not as a record of its construction, but as a whim. Given the uncertainty of construction date, it is also possible that the barn was built by either Henry's father or his grandfather.

Although Henry and Elizabeth had eight children, Henry survived his wife and two of his three sons. At his death in 1881 he left his daughter-in-law, Sarah Shoaf, widow of his youngest son Eli, who was a casualty of the Civil War, 292 acres of his farm which included "my dwelling house and other improvements."<sup>6</sup> Sarah and her two children, Robert Lee and Mary Elizabeth, had been living with Henry since his wife died in 1863, and as Henry was an invalid during his last years, Sarah ran the farm.<sup>7</sup> Sometime before 1890, Robert acquired the house from his mother, who retained a life estate. At his early death in 1890, his wife Clara and their three children, Clinton, Wiley and Robbie, inherited the homestead.<sup>8</sup> In 1910, the now

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Continuation Sheet

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 10.65 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	5 6 4 8 4 0	3 9 6 5 9 0 0	B	1 7	5 6 5 2 6 0	3 9 6 5 8 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 7	5 6 5 0 6 0	3 9 6 5 4 6 0	D	1 7	5 6 4 8 2 0	3 9 6 5 6 3 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Tax Map 335, Davidson County Tax Office, Lot 6, bounded on the north by an unknown lot on adjacent map, on the east by a city street and Lots 4 and 50, on the south by New Highway 64, and on the west by Tax Map 331, as outlined in red on map.

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366-acre tract was divided among the three children with Clara reserving a life estate for herself to go along with the life estate already given to Sarah Shoaf. Wiley, the youngest son, received a 106-acre portion containing the house and farm buildings.<sup>9</sup> Wiley and his wife Marjorie lived in the house and raised eight children, who inherited the property at Wiley's death in 1970 and continue to own it jointly. The actual tract containing the farm buildings has been reduced to 10.65 acres, and is in the legal name "W. Frank Shoaf et al."<sup>10</sup>

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Rowan County Deed Book 13, page 14, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>2</sup>Mary Jo D. Shoaf, "Henry (Rich) Shoaf III," The Heritage of Davidson County 1982 (Lexington, N.C.: The Genealogical Society of Davidson County, 1982), entry 986.

<sup>3</sup>Rowan County Deed Book 23, page 633, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>4</sup>Shoaf, "Henry (Rich) Shoaf III"; United States Census, Population Schedule. Davidson County. 1860, page 122, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>5</sup>Shoaf, "Henry (Rich) Shoaf III."

<sup>6</sup>Will of Henry Shoaf, written 1870, probated 1881, Davidson County Wills, North Carolina State Archives.

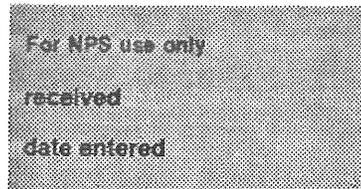
<sup>7</sup>Estate File of Henry Shoaf, 1881, Davidson County Estates, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>8</sup>Robert Lee Shoaf Estate File, 1890 Davidson County estates, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>9</sup>Davidson County Division of Land Book 2, page 56, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>10</sup>Davidson D. B. 391, page 362; D. B. 405, page 135; D. B. 497, page 84, Davidson County Register of Deeds, Lexington, N.C.

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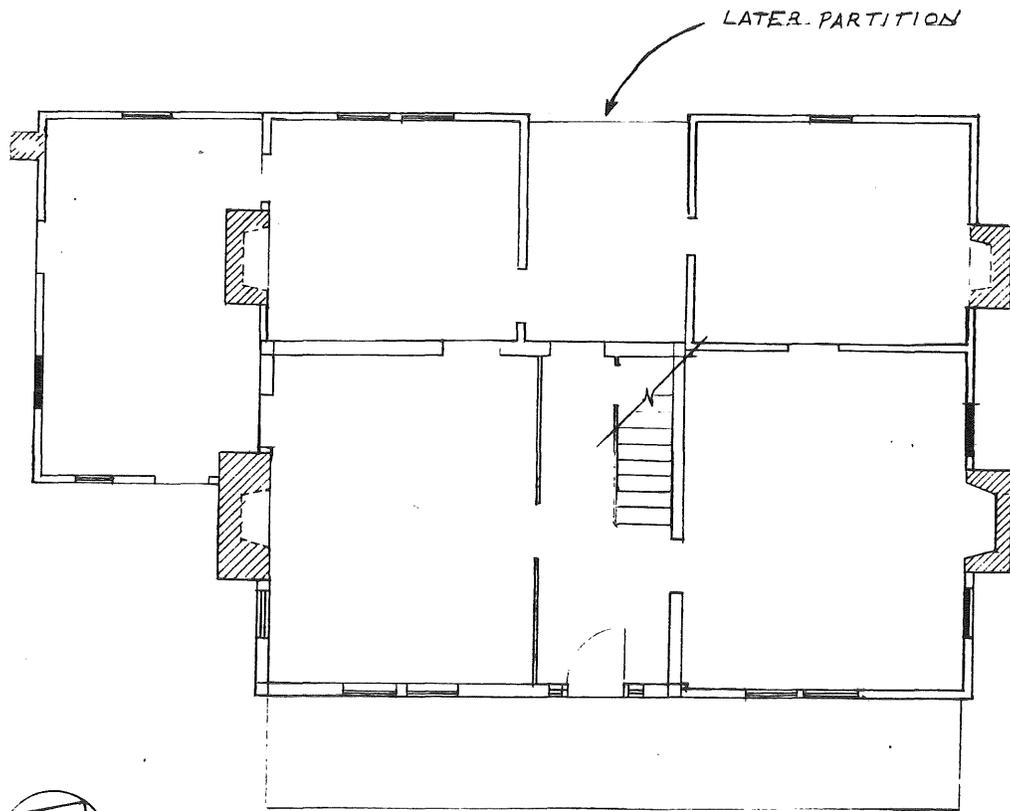
Page

Davidson County Deeds, Wills, Estates, Division of Land Books, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina and Davidson County Courthouse, Lexington, North Carolina.

Rowan County Deeds, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Shoaf, Mary Jo D. "Henry (Rich) Shoaf III," The Heritage of Davidson County 1982.  
(Lexington, North Carolina: The Genealogical Society of Davidson County, 1982.)

United States Census, 1860. Davidson County. Population Schedule. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.



HENRY SHOAF FARM NR LEXINGTON  
c. 1810, REBUILT c. 1860

$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'0''$   
10-25-83 PBT



LEXINGTON WEST QUADRANGLE  
NORTH CAROLINA-DAVIDSON CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4955 I NW  
(ELLERY)

17°30"

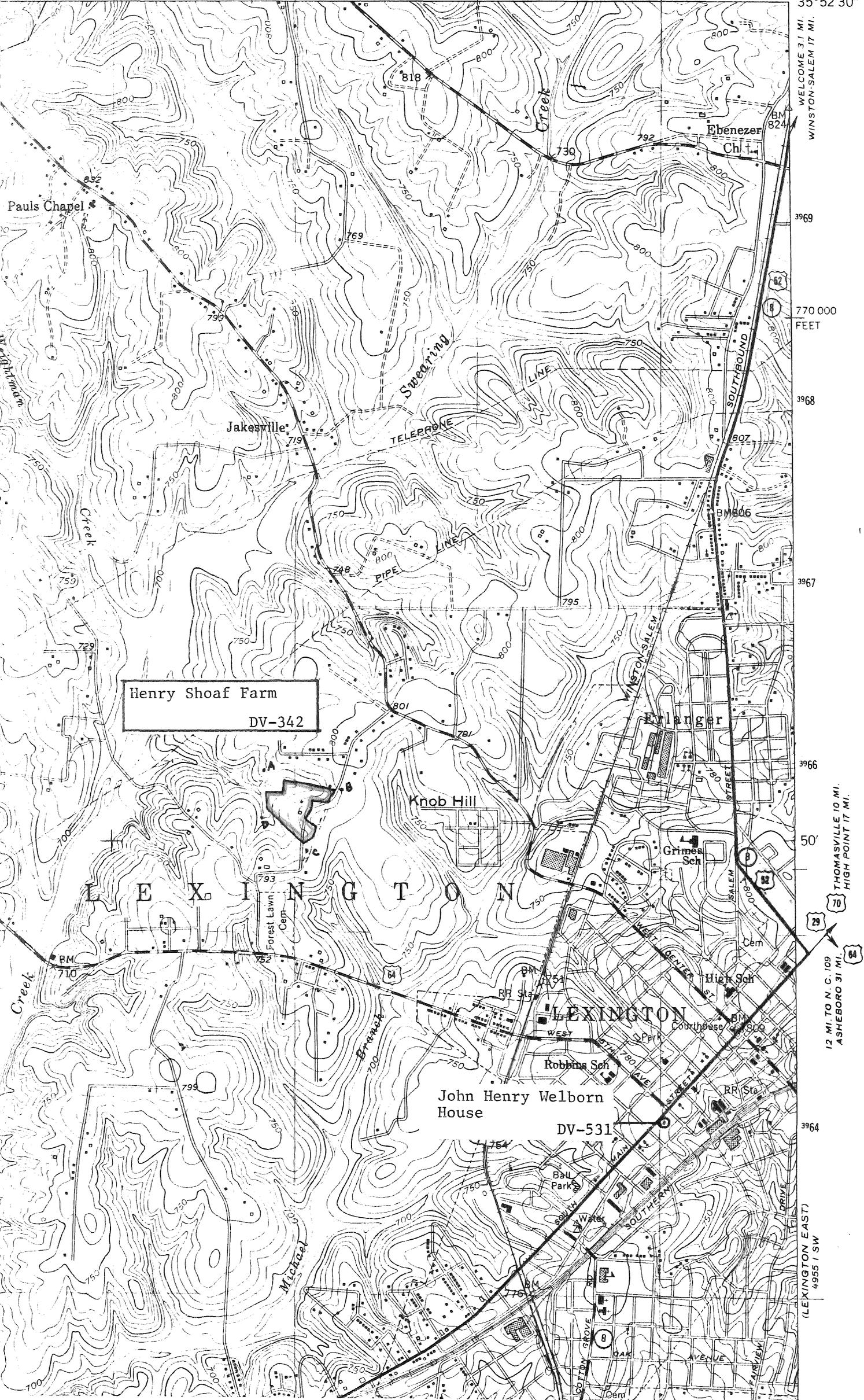
1 620 000 FEET

566

567

80°15'

35°52'30"



WELCOME 31 MI.  
WINSTON-SALEM 17 MI.

3969  
770 000  
FEET

3968

3967

3966

50'

THOMASVILLE 10 MI.  
HIGH POINT 17 MI.

12 MI. TO N. C. 109  
ASHEBORO 31 MI.

3964

(LEXINGTON EAST)  
4955 I SW



