

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 Wagoner, Simeon, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 5838 North Carolina Highway 61 (Friedens Church Road) not for publication N/A

city, town Gibsonville vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081 zip code 27249

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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.

Signature of certifying official William S. King, Jr.

Date 7-22-91

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.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingDomestic/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingDomestic/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

ItalianateGreek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Brick

roof Asphaltother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Simeon Wagoner House
Guilford Co., North Carolina

Summary

The Italianate style corbelling and recessed panels of the brick Simeon Wagoner House are unique in antebellum Guilford County. Its up-to-date Italianate finish and less stylish, but still elegant, Greek Revival interior, along with its vernacular center-hall plan, two-story, single-pile form, are an unusual local marriage of fashion and tradition. A contemporary, hip-roofed, brick dairy and two twentieth-century outbuildings stand to its rear. The four buildings are set amidst shade trees and evergreens on 2.85 acres of property historically associated with them. Their setting is that of most of northeastern Guilford County, a rural area marked by rolling open fields and woods, punctuated by nineteenth-century farmhouses and modern ranch houses. Its exterior brickwork and interior woodwork intact, a contemporary brick outbuilding to its rear, and open fields and rural countryside still surrounding it, the Wagoner House retains all aspects of its physical and spatial integrity.

Description

The main block of the Wagoner House faces south and a bit west, towards the old Fayetteville Road, now North Carolina Highway 61 or Friedens Church Road. Its three front bays, at both first and second stories, are inset, their recesses climbing from a slightly projecting watertable of headers to within three courses of the eaves. The recesses are a single brick deep, allowing the corbelling and segmental arches of the first story, and corbelling and flat arches of the second, to project out flush with the brickwork of the main body of the house. The corbels of the side bays and wide trabeated entry consist of single depending bricks at the corners of the arches. The second-story central bay is pierced by a six-over-six window the same size as the windows in the bays to either side; nevertheless, it is set in a recess as wide as that of the entry below. This wide recess is topped by a flat arch with a row of brick corbels to either side.

The side elevations have the same recesses and corbelling as the front elevation. Their brickwork, a row of Flemish bond separated by five courses of stretchers, is also identical. Exterior chimneys separate their two bays. An entry to the basement further marks the east elevation. The two-story rear ell, contemporary with the main block, is pierced by an interior chimney stack and has more simply finished recesses which lack corbelling. A one-story, hip-roofed wing

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Guilford Co., North Carolina

within the legs of the main block and two-story ell was probably built at the same time as the remainder of the house or shortly thereafter; it has a segmental-arched side window laid flush with the wall with no recess or corbelling, and identical brick laid in six-over-one common bond. A tall exterior chimney stack rises from its rear elevation and a tiny later brick addition is set atop it; a window in the ell adjacent to this addition has been altered. Referred to as "Granny's Room," the wing is said by Wagoner family descendants to have been added for Simeon Wagoner's mother while the house was under construction.

The only notable changes to the exterior of the house involve its porches. At least two different porches, both now gone, once shaded the front facade. Turn of the century photographs depict a one-bay, hip-roofed porch supported by four square posts. It was replaced in the 1920s by a one-story, full-facade porch (the shadow of which is still visible) and porte cochere, which gave way in 1969 to the current semicircular brick steps. At the west side of the two-story ell, in the mid-1970s, a one-story, flat-roofed, German-sided room was added. There was probably a porch or at least a stoop here, for a doorway pierced this elevation. A small, shed-roofed, frame room and porch open off of the other side of the two-story ell. The final twentieth-century change to the exterior of the Wagoner House was the application of asphalt shingles to the gable-end roof; the house had a wood-shingled roof at the turn of the century according to documentary photographs.

The less up-to-date but still neatly worked Greek Revival style replaced the Italianate at the interior. The front entry, its six-panel door a replacement of the original, opens into a center hallway. Facing the entry are stairs which retain their original polygonal handrail, slender turned newels, stick balusters, and simplified tulip-pattern stair ends. The doorways opening into the rooms to either side of the hall have post and lintel surrounds with cornerblocks and convex central molding. The doorway to the west room is deep, for it passes through a brick interior wall; its recess is adorned with inset panels. To the rear of the hall an original four-panel door leads into a modern bathroom which, with "Granny's room," occupies the one-story rear ell.

The two front rooms have the same surrounds as the hall. At their end walls are plain post and lintel mantels. The surrounds of

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Simeon Wagoner House
Guilford Co., North Carolina

their windows match those of their doorways. Their crown moldings, chairrails, and marbleizing are modern, as are these features in the hall. The panelled ceiling in the west front room is also modern. To the rear of the east front room is the bedroom ("Granny's room") of the one-story wing. Beaded boards dating from renovations to the house in the 1920s cover its ceiling. It retains a post and lintel mantel and similar, though simpler, surrounds, which have flat posts and lintels with incised grooves rather than convex surfaces. To the rear of the west front room are two rooms, one behind the other, contained within the two-story ell. The first, the dining room, has an original post and lintel mantel and a four-panel door opening onto stairs to the basement; its flat-panelled wainscoting is modern. The second, the kitchen, has a later mantel and, at its rear wall, an original boxed stair. The fireplace is said to have once contained a bake oven. Both rooms have post and lintel surrounds identical to those of the one-story ell bedroom.

Surrounds similar to those of the rear downstairs rooms, in company with plain baseboards, mark the second-story rooms. There is evidence at the floor and baseboards of the east bedroom that stairs once led up to it from the room below. According to Wagoner family descendants, that room was originally designed with entry only from the room below, to protect the Wagoners' daughters from the whiskey-buyers that frequented the house. In the twentieth century, it is said, this second stairway was removed and an opening was cut to the hall. The room over the kitchen has been modernized and a bathroom has been added. Beaded board, dating from the 1920s renovations, marks the upstairs ceilings.

To the rear of the house is a square, hip-roofed, contemporary, contributing outbuilding. It is built of the same brick as the house, in a similar but irregular bond. Probably originally a dairy, it retains an interior trough in its dirt floor. It is barely accessible, for its south-facing entry and facade are almost concealed by dense, head-high boxwoods which were transplanted from the front yard. Two other rear outbuildings, a twentieth-century frame garage and brick shed, are non-contributing. A low brick wall off the east side of the house, which sets off a side yard and a tiny stone pool, is also modern. A brick tanning house and a brick smokehouse which once stood in the backyard do not survive. Thirty-three boxwoods said to have once formed a pathway from the road to the front entry of the house have been removed, some to the dairy, as has the front picket

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Simeon Wagoner House
Guilford Co., North Carolina

fence visible in turn of the century photographs. Brick walkways from the paved driveway now lead to the front and basement entries and a low, twentieth-century, stone retaining wall separates the front yard from the road.

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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1861

Significant Dates

1861

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.

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Simeon Wagoner House
Guilford Co., North Carolina

Summary

A brick dwelling with distinctive recessed panels and corbelling, the Simeon Wagoner House is a unique antebellum expression of the Italianate style in Guilford County. It was built in rural Guilford County in 1861 for Wagoner, a successful merchant and farmer, and his wife, Elizabeth. The structure's stylish exterior finish, coupled with its vernacular center-hall, single-pile plan and form, reflects the convergence of two contrasting forces in the county just prior to the Civil War: the sway of the traditional in an almost exclusively vernacular landscape¹ and the impact of the North Carolina Railroad, which pulled the county into a more urbane world of architectural ideas.² The house's unusual Italianate features were probably drawn from the railroad, either directly, via the enterprise's antebellum Italianate repair facilities in nearby Burlington, or indirectly, via other Italianate style structures the Wagoners could have viewed along the railroad's line.

Historical Background and Architectural Context

Simeon Wagoner (1827-1887) built his house, a mile northwest of the North Carolina Railroad's Gibsonville depot, in the German Lutheran community of Friedens. An enterprising man whose commercial activities must have brought him into contact with a world beyond his rural community, Wagoner was a farmer, tanner, whiskey distiller, brickmaker, and store owner. At his general store, he sold meat, fish, whiskey, brandy, clothes, and leather goods. He shipped his whiskey by train from Gibsonville and by wagon along the Fayetteville Road, now Route 61 or Friedens Church Road, at the edge of which he built his house.³

In 1853 Wagoner married Elizabeth Summers (1831-1914).⁴ Four years later he inherited 103 acres of land from his father's estate.⁵ Four years after that, in 1861, they built their house. Clay for the brick was dug locally and molded and fired into bricks across from the house.⁶

The presence of the railroad not a mile from his house not only provided Wagoner with a reliable means of marketing his goods. It also brought him into contact with architectural ideas he was unlikely to encounter in rural Guilford County, or even in the county seat, Greensboro, about ten miles to the west. The three-bay, gable-end,

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Guilford Co., North Carolina

center-hall plan, I-house form of the house is that of innumerable dwellings built in Guilford County, and indeed throughout the Piedmont, in the early and mid-nineteenth century. Even the relatively stylish Greek Revival finish of the interior was well-established locally by 1861. The Italianate style finish of the exterior, however, comes from a world outside of Friedens and Guilford County; no similar antebellum structures survive in the county.⁷ The only other antebellum Italianate style structure in the county is Blandwood, the home of Gov. John Motley Morehead. Designed by A.J. Davis, and built in Greensboro in 1844, it is a boxy Italian villa with dependencies and smooth stuccoed surfaces which in neither form nor finish influenced the Wagoner House.

The North Carolina Railroad, both by example and the broadening of contacts, provided the Wagoners with ample opportunities to view the Italianate outside of the county. The enterprise's main buildings in Burlington less than ten miles to the east, constructed in the 1850s, included Italianate style repair facilities and a hotel. The 1858 former foundry of the railroad, for example, has raised pilasters and bricks projecting at its foundation and roofline.⁸ This brickwork and the recesses created by it could easily have influenced the design of the Wagoners' house. With little difficulty the Wagoners could have visited other Piedmont communities along the railroad's route as well and viewed such structures as the 1858, Italianate style Purcell-Kluttz Drugstore in Salisbury, about sixty miles to the southwest. This structure utilized recessed panels, raised segmental-arches at openings, and intricate corbelling at its cornice.⁹ Whether directly or indirectly, the railroad likely influenced the design of the Wagoners' home.

Simeon Wagoner died in 1887, leaving his house and estate to Elizabeth.¹⁰ Following her death in 1914, the house, along with its 106 acres, was sold for \$5,500.00 to C. E. Hornaday, who immediately resold the property to the Wagoners' daughter, Mary.¹¹ She and her husband, James Sutton, sold it to John and Mamie Holt in 1923.¹² John and his half-brother, Virgil Holt, remodelled the house, which had been rented out by the Suttons and had deteriorated. They added running water and bathrooms and replaced the one-bay front porch with a new porch and porte cochere.¹³ The heirs of John Holt sold the house to John and Jacqueline Brewer in 1967, who removed the porch and porte cochere, replacing them with the present semicircular brick steps.¹⁴ The Brewers sold the house in 1979 to Robert and Ruth

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Garner, who in turn sold it with eleven lots of the former Mary I. Sutton Farm to current owner C. Allen Foster in 1987.¹⁵

Footnotes:

1. H. McKelden Smith in Carolina Dwelling, pp. 150-159.
2. Catherine W. Bishir, North Carolina Architecture, pp. 223, 261.
3. Simeon Wagoner's Accounts Receivable Ledger, 1872-1877, cited in Jerry Nix, "Simeon Wagoner House--Application for the Designation of a Historic Property, Guilford County Joint Historic Properties Commission;" 1860 U.S. Population Census, Guilford County, North Carolina, North Division.
4. Nix, "Simeon Wagoner House--Application."
5. Guilford County Deed Book 37, p. 488.
6. Interview with Mrs. J. I. Wagoner cited in Nix, "Simeon Wagoner House--Application." According to family history, the Wagoners' oldest son, John, born in 1854, was seven years old when the house was built, and helped to tote brick to the site.
7. H. McKelden Smith, ed., Architectural Resources, An Inventory of Historic Architecture: High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford County.
8. Claudia P. Roberts, "North Carolina Railroad Company Buildings: (A) Foundry, (B) Roundhouse--National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form;" Bishir, North Carolina Architecture, p. 261.
9. Pictured at Bishir, North Carolina Architecture, p. 261.
10. Guilford County Will Book M-1, p. 460; Guilford County Deed Book C, p. 96.
11. Guilford County Deed Book 291, p. 206; Guilford County Deed Book 291, p. 207.

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12. Guilford County Deed Book 405, p. 461.

13. Nix, "Simeon Wagoner House--Application."

14. Guilford County Deed Book 2312, p. 78; Nix, "Simeon Wagoner House--Application."

15. Guilford County Deed Book 3006, p. 718; Guilford County Deed Book 3568, p. 1697; Guilford County Plat Book 11, p. 83 (plat of 48.5 acre Mary I. Sutton Farm, divided into 57 lots in 1940).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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: Guilford County Joint Historical Properties Commission, Greensboro, NC

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.85

Ossipee, North Carolina Quadrangle

UTM References

A

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3	9	8	6	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The boundaries of the Simeon Wagoner House are the same as those of Lot 6 of the Mary I. Sutton Farm, pictured at Guilford County Plat Book 11, Page 83. The south side of this lot is 250 feet long; the west side is 365 feet long; the north side is 317.5 feet long; and the east side is 543.5 feet long.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The boundaries include the house, outbuildings, and 2.85 acres which have been historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown date May 24, 1991

organization _____ telephone 919-454-4079

street & number Post Office Box 532 city or town Jamestown state North Carolina zip code 27282

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Guilford Co., North Carolina

Claudia P. Roberts. "North Carolina Railroad Company Buildings: (A) Foundry, (B) Roundhouse--National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form," 1983. Located at North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh.

Bishir, Catherine W. North Carolina Architecture. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990.

Guilford Battle Chapter D.A.R. "Cemetery Records, 1669-1919." Greensboro, NC, 1958. Typewritten manuscript located at Caldwell-Jones Room, Greensboro Public Library, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Guilford County Deed Books. Located at Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Guilford County Plat Books. Located at Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina.

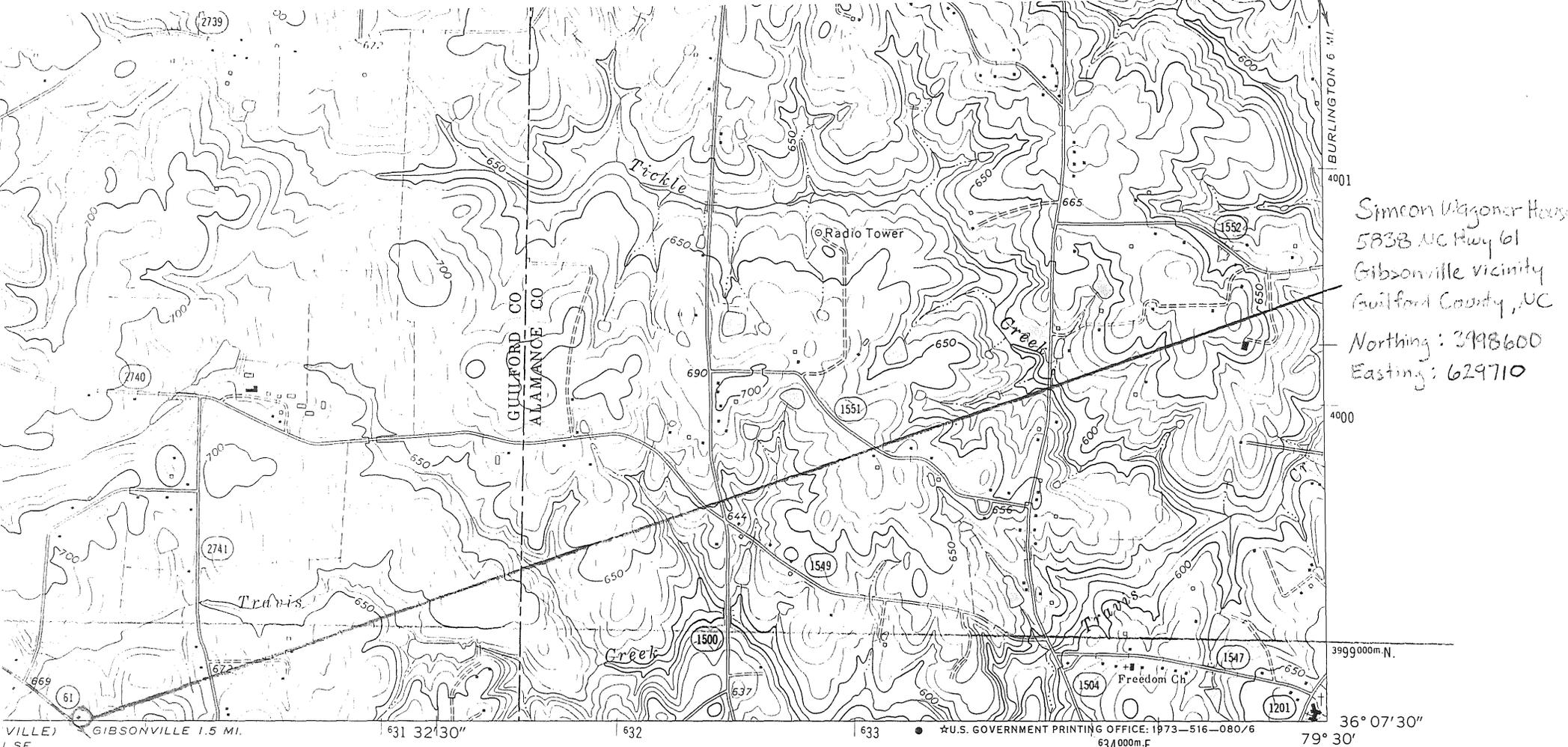
Guilford County Will Books. Located at Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina.

[Nix, Jerry]. "Simeon Wagoner House--Application for the Designation of a Historic Property, Guilford County Joint Historic Properties Commission." In files of Guilford County Joint Historic Property Commission, Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Smith, McKelden. "Guilford County: The Architectural Traditions in an Exclusively Vernacular Landscape." In Carolina Dwelling, edited by Douglas Swaim, 150-159. Raleigh: North Carolina State University School of Design Student Publication, 1978.

Smith, H. McKelden, III, ed. Architectural Resources, An Inventory of Historic Architecture: High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford County. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1979.

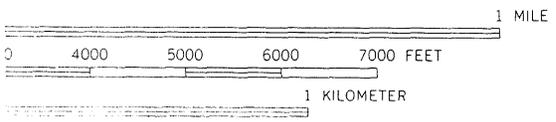
U.S. Population Census, Guilford County, North Carolina, North Division, 1860.



Simon Wagoner Home
 5838 NC Hwy 61
 Gibsonsville vicinity
 Guilford County, NC
 Northing: 3998600
 Easting: 629710

GIBSONVILLE 1.5 MI. SE
 24 000

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-516-080/6
 634000m E



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface:
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface:
- Secondary highway, hard surface:
- Unimproved road:
- Interstate Route:
- U. S. Route:
- State Route:



OSSIPEE, N. C.
 N3607.5—W7930/7.5

1970

AMS 5056 II NE—SERIES V842

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

(BURLINGTON)
 5156 III SW

