

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 any 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 Murray, Thomas J. House

other names/site number Rice Place

2. Location

street & number White Oak Rd. Route 2 (SW corner SR1572 & SR1561) not for publication
city or town Mars Hill vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Madison code 115 zip code 28754

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Jessie A. Crow SHPO 4/11/05
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or 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 or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of

(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	
3	0	buildings
0	1	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic-single dwelling
- Agriculture/Subsistence - processing
 - agricultural field
 - animal facility
- Funerary - cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic - single dwelling
- Agriculture/Subsistence - processing
 - agricultural field
 - animal facility
- Funerary - cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Other: I-house
- Other: burley tobacco barn

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation stone
- roof metal
- walls weatherboard
- other

Narrative Description

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

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 a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1894, early 20th century

Significant Dates

1894

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

North Carolina State Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18 +/-

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>356470</u>	<u>3962660</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>356660</u>	<u>3962480</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>356630</u>	<u>3962630</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>356600</u>	<u>3962360</u>
					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 Michelle A. Michael, Consultant

organization N/A date October 20, 2004

street & number 1801 Queen Street telephone 910-257-3047

city or town Fayetteville state NC zip code 28303

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name John & Inez Redman

street & number 180 Lakeshore Drive telephone 828-252-0922

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28804

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Mars Hill Vic., Madison Co., NC

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary:

The circa 1894 Murray House is an excellent example of an I-house associated with a late nineteenth century farm in Madison County, North Carolina. Located at the intersection of Upper and Lower White Oak Roads, the house is perfectly preserved in its setting, nestled at the base of two cleared hillsides. White Oak Creek runs directly in front of the house and provides a constant source of water to the farm. The property includes the I-house, a gable-roofed livestock barn and a large gambrel roofed tobacco barn in a picturesque setting that is representative of the western mountains of North Carolina. The tract is currently approximately sixty acres large, but the nominated acreage consists of approximately eighteen acres that compose the immediate setting of the buildings.

Setting:

The Murray House is located in rural Madison County at the intersection of Upper White Oak Road and Lower White Oak Road approximately three miles southwest of the town of Mars Hill. The farm stands in the valley of two hillsides with White Oak Creek running in front of the house to the east. The frame Murray House faces the east with its back to a hillside. The stone pier foundation is laid at the junction of the floodplain and the mountain base. Workable fields provide the immediate view from the front porch, followed by a stream, then a slightly elevated roadbed, and finally ending with a second hillside. It is located in the rich valley bottomland with access to good soil, water, and roads. The hillsides provide protection from the wind but the eastern sun provides warmth in the winters. A large, cleared hillside provides the backdrop for the Murray Farm. White Oak Creek separates the house from the road to the east. A large frame tobacco barn with gambrel roof sits alongside Lower White Oak Road (SR 1572) east of White Oak Creek. A second frame barn is located north of the house and is used for livestock.

Murray House, circa 1894, contributing:

The Murray House is an example of the standard I-house, a popular vernacular house type in North Carolina throughout the nineteenth century and early 20th century. It is a two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame house with a side-gabled roof set on a rubble stone-pier foundation. Two interior, corbelled brick chimneys flank the center hall and pierce the metal roof. Chamfered posts support the full-width, single-story, front shed-roof porch. The only ornament on the porch is the plain balustrade and scalloped wood pickets covering the sides of the shed-roof porch. The exterior of the main block is sheathed with plain weatherboard. Remaining original windows indicate that four-over-four, double-hung sash made up the fenestration of this home. A narrow, plain shelf caps each window. A central entrance door is adorned with five panels and a plain surround.

The north elevation contains the single-pile portion of the main block with one window evident on each floor. The roof hangs slightly over the plane of the wall. Simply executed wood lattice panels provide

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infill between the foundation piers on this elevation. The one-story rear ell has a full-width shed porch with chamfered posts and scalloped pickets on the sides. The north wall contains three windows, one for each room, and a door to the westernmost room. The ell and porch roofs are both covered with standing seam metal.

The rear (west) elevation of the main block has no fenestration. A single vertical board is evident near the north end of the rear elevation, its purpose unknown. Shed-roof porches flank both sides of the rear, three-room ell. The south porch has collapsed. A single window opening marks the western end of the rear ell. The south elevation is similar to the north. The single-pile portion of the main block displays a window on each floor.

The south elevation of the rear ell has two windows on the eastern section of the ell and the west bay consists of a single five-panel door. Windows appear to be the most conspicuously missing items but two original intact four-over-four sashes remain. Although deteriorated, the Murray House maintains a majority of its original fabric on the exterior and interior therefore retaining a high degree of integrity.

The interior of the Murray House also follows the standard I-house plan. The first floor of the main block is finished with original bead board walls and ceilings, and the floors retain their original tongue-and-groove pine. The main entry opens into a center hall sheathed with horizontal bead board walls. A simple stair rises along the north wall of the center hall. The wall that encloses the stair is sheathed with flush boards containing a small closet under the stair. The parlor to the north has a fireplace and closet. The walls are sheathed with horizontal bead board above vertical bead board wainscot. The painted fireplace mantel has a plain frieze and a bracketed shelf. South of the hall is a second parlor that also has a fireplace and closet on the north wall. A door on the west wall leads to the rear ell.

The wood stair is intact but the newel posts and handrail are in storage for safekeeping. The balusters had been removed when the current owners purchased the property. The second floor of the main block follows the same plan as the first floor, exhibiting a center hall with flanking bedrooms. The north bedroom has a mantel similar to the first floor mantels but the quarter-sawn oak is unpainted. The shelf wraps around one side of the chimney. A closet finishes the south wall next to the fireplace. The walls of this room are flush, horizontally-sheathed boards lined with newspaper and finished with wallpaper. The wallpaper is very deteriorated but a wide border (approximately eighteen inches) is found at the top of the wall complimenting the coordinating floral wallpaper. A newspaper under the wallpaper is dated 1907 indicating the date of decoration. A second bedroom is across the hall to the south, with a fireplace, closet, and beadboard walls and ceilings. A small door opening is evident on the west wall leading to the attic space over the ell.

The rear one-story ell is composed of three rooms stacked behind each other to the west. The first room has a door to the porch on the north wall and a door on the west wall to the other ell rooms. It is possible that this room was added later as a connector between the house and the kitchen; the absence of a fireplace supports this possibility. Wallpaper covers many of the planked walls and is deteriorated but

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recognizable and currently being researched. The two rooms at the western end of the ell share a chimney. Each has a fireplace and mantel of similar form to those in the main block. A door leads from the central ell room to the north porch. The end room has a door to the south porch. All of the ell rooms are adorned with wallpaper. It has a gray background decorated with flowers resembling dogwood blossoms. The paper is in good condition considering its environment. Indoor plumbing has not been introduced to the house, the electrical has not been updated in at least fifty years, and the house has not been inhabited for at least fifty years.

The Murray House maintains a high degree of integrity due to the presence of original materials that have not been compromised by modern improvements or later alterations. Although the rear ell is deteriorated and in need of structural stabilization the main block is intact and though vacant for many years is still structurally sound. The Murray House is a remarkable example of I-house architecture in western North Carolina and is one of few unaltered examples.

Tobacco Barn, early 20th Century, contributing:

A large well-preserved tobacco barn is directly in front of the Murray House to the east across White Oak Creek. Probably built shortly after the turn-of-the-century, this large gambrel-front barn faces east to the road. It is sheathed with unpainted horizontal and diagonal sheathing. The barn is built on a stone foundation and capped by a standing seam metal gambrel roof. It is best described as a bank barn with main level at road grade and a lower level below the road. The only fenestration on the façade (east elevation) is a large double-leaf entrance door centered on the wall and level with Lower White Oak Road. The wall fields flanking the door are composed of wood sheathing installed on the diagonal. The boards under the roof eaves and in the center of the wall field are widely spaced to provide ventilation and interior light. Three window openings are evident on the rear elevation. The sheathing matches that on the front of the barn. The side elevations are almost identical with two openings with clipped corners that pass through the barn to the opposite side. The openings provide access for animals or for wagon or truck to enter the barn, deliver or receive goods and continue through the other side. The side elevations have smaller window-type openings; two on the south side and one on the north side. Alternating horizontal, diagonal, and widely-spaced sheathing covers the sides.

The double-leaf door opens into a large room of vertical and horizontal members that are used for hanging tobacco for curing. The middle section of this level is floored allowing access to the majority of the barn and its contents. Bins and other storage area divide the remainder of the first level of the tobacco barn and were probably also used for livestock. The barn is still in use today to support the current cattle farm and to dry tobacco.

Livestock Barn, early 20th Century, contributing:

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The livestock barn also appears to be early 20th century and is sited at a bend in the Upper White Oak Road (SR1561) north of the Murray House. It is a two-story, gabled, bank barn with diagonal sheathing painted red. A gable roof of standing seam metal protects this barn. The interior of the livestock barn is composed of a principle ground level with stalls and troughs while hay is stored in the second level or loft. The barn is built into the sloping grade so that the west side elevation appears to be much shorter in height than the east elevation. The east side elevation, facing the road, is the gable end of the barn and is adorned only with diagonal sheathing that forms a decorative herringbone pattern at either end. A central section is delineated by horizontal boards, with wider spacing between those near the top of the barn for ventilation and light. The front (south) elevation has two large openings with clipped corners. These openings allow access of the livestock in and out of the barn. A herringbone pattern with horizontal members adorns the south elevation. The front (south) and rear (north) elevations are identical except more of the rear elevation is built into the bank. Near the top of the side walls are large openings for ventilation just under the roof junction. The livestock barn is still in use to house and feed cattle.

Cemetery, nineteenth century, noncontributing:

In addition to the barns a small noncontributing cemetery with three marked graves is located on top of the hill west of the Murray House. Rough, uncut stones with no inscriptions mark the graves. It is possible that other graves exist but are either grown over or unmarked. This cemetery is identified here in the event that it may yield information in the future.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary:

The Thomas J. Murray House meets Criterion C for architecture by embodying the distinctive characteristics of a vernacular I-house with two bank barns set in the rural western mountains of North Carolina. The form and placement of the Murray House and its barns are representative of the mountain farm complex in North Carolina. All of the buildings maintain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Thomas J. Murray and his wife, Harriett, built the house circa 1894, and raised eight children. Harriet died in 1924 and Thomas remarried and sold the farm. Thomas J. Murray was a prominent farmer, local politician, state senator, and active in other community organizations until his death in 1930. The house and barns meet Criterion C for their significance as well-preserved examples of farm buildings in Madison County in the years of construction—circa 1894 and the early twentieth century.

Historical Background:

Madison County is located in the western mountain region of North Carolina bordering Tennessee. The county was formed from Buncombe and Yancey Counties in 1851. The French Broad River cuts through the county from Asheville in Buncombe County into Tennessee. As elsewhere in the mountains, development historically followed the course of the river. Hot Springs, historically a resort area, and Marshall, the county seat, were founded on the banks of the river. A third town, Mars Hill, is east of the river and home to Mars Hill College, which is responsible for the majority of the town's growth and development. The Buncombe Turnpike was built parallel to the French Broad River in the 1820s and spawned further development in those areas. Transportation afforded by the turnpike precipitated an increase in commerce in livestock and crops that brought economic growth to the county. The railroad came to Madison County after the Civil War and superseded the turnpike. Trains brought tourists to the North Carolina Mountains and created a new form of revenue in resort areas like Hot Springs. The railroad also contributed to an increase in agricultural trade and the advent of the logging industry in Madison County.

The people of Madison County relied on the land for sustenance throughout their history. Early settlers made use of the forests for construction of cabins and their furnishings. They also depended on the rich mountain soils for crops to provide food for their families.

“That was how a settler did his settling. He found a place more or less level enough for a floor, and built his cabin from the trees he cut down for clearing. He made other clearings for planting crops, sometimes simply by girdling the trees and letting them die to set the rich earth free for corn and potatoes and beans. When such a field was cropped out, he cleared another and let the trees take back the first” (Wellman, p. 111).

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In the early to mid-eighteenth century mountain families depended on the land for survival instead of profit. The turnpike and the railroad in the nineteenth century allowed the mountain farmer to trade and sell crops and livestock for income. Madison County farms produced dairy products, fruit, wheat, corn, potatoes, tobacco and timber.

Tobacco farming gained popularity in western North Carolina in the mid-nineteenth century in the form of flue-cured tobacco. In 1880 there was one tobacco warehouse in Madison County and four in nearby Asheville in Buncombe County. By 1884 Madison County had 1,626 acres of tobacco planted which yielded 503 pounds per acre amounting to \$200.00 per acre value (Van Noppen, p. 276). The value of bright leaf tobacco jumped from \$50,000 in 1878 to approximately \$250,000 in 1882 (Wellman, p. 110). It was replaced by burley air-cured tobacco at the turn-of-the-century. In 1890 the population of Madison County was 17,805 (Wellman, p. 117).

Thomas Jefferson Murray was born in Madison County, North Carolina on June 23, 1858. He was the son of William Brown Murray and Mary E. "Polly" Jarvis. He and his brother William attended the Peabody School in Buncombe County and went on to Mars Hill College in Madison County. The brothers married sisters; Thomas wed Harriet Holcombe, and William wed Eula Holcombe. Thomas and Harriet were wed in Madison County on January 9, 1878, when Thomas was nineteen years old and Harriet was eighteen. In the first years of the marriage, census records indicate that Thomas continued to farm with his father in Township Number 5 near Fork of Ivy (1880 Census Records). William Murray reported 40 improved acres while Thomas reported 25 improved acres (1880 Agricultural Census). Cows, swine, horses, poultry, lambs, and mules were all present on the combined farm. Crops included corn, oats, wheat, sugar, potatoes, and tobacco. Orchards and forest products were also evident. These are the only agricultural census records available for Thomas J. Murray, since the 1880 – 1910 records were destroyed, the 1921 records are missing, and in 1925 Thomas J. Murray was interviewed as owning 150 acres but no report was given.

In a deed dated November 15, 1894, Thomas J. Murray and his wife, H.L. Murray purchased fifty acres from J.R. and Sallie Keith on the west side of White Oak Creek. It appears that the house was built shortly after the land was purchased. The 1900 census lists Thomas Murray, his wife, five daughters and one son on a farm in Bull Creek Township (the location of this property). Murray is listed as owning his own farm and farming for a living. Together with Harriet, the couple eventually had seven daughters and one adopted son, Kenneth.

Mr. Murray was a farmer and active in his church, his town, his county, and his state. Murray was elected to the Madison County Board of Commissioners and served from 1890 to 1894. He was chairman of the commissioners from 1893 to 1894. In 1894 he was elected as the county tax collector and served the county in that capacity for two years. The citizens of Madison County selected Murray to serve the North Carolina State Senate in 1898 and represented the thirty-third district from 1898 to 1899 until he resigned to fill the post of Clerk of Criminal Court of Madison County (*The News-Record*, p. 4). In addition, Murray served on the Board of Education, Mars Hill City Council as its treasurer, and later

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resigned to fill the post of Clerk of Criminal Court of Madison County (*The News-Record*, p. 4). In addition, Murray served on the Board of Education, Mars Hill City Council as its treasurer, and later mayor. He also helped to organize the Citizens Bank of Marshall and served on the board of directors. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and participated in fraternal orders, including the Masons, Odd Fellows and the Knights of Phythias. In nearby Mars Hill he served on the board of trustees for Mars Hill College from 1898 through 1904.

Thomas's wife Harriet died on January 9, 1924 and was buried in Mars Hill Cemetery. Murray remarried in nearby Asheville on February 15, 1926 to Maude Rogers, born in Ohio (*The News-Record*, p. 4). In June of 1926 Murray sold his property on White Oak Creek and moved into Mars Hill. On June 10, 1926 Thomas and Maude Murray sold the Thomas J. Murray Lands to Roy J. Wall and his wife Clara C. Wall. The deed refers to a 1925 survey of the Thomas J. Murray lands containing one hundred and sixty-five acres. Unfortunately, the survey could not be found. On July 25, 1930, four years after selling his farm, Thomas J. Murray died at his home on Main Street in Mars Hill from cancer and was buried next to Harriet. He was referred to as "Uncle Tom...the grand old man of the town" in one of his obituaries (*The Hilltop*).

The farm remained in operation under the Wall family until August 18, 1941 when they conveyed the property to R.S. Rice. Many locals refer to the farm as the "Rice Place." The house was used as a rental into the 1960s, when it became vacant. Approximately fifty-nine acres of the Murray Farm including the house and barns were sold to John and Inez Redman in 1984. The Redmans are currently managing the land to raise cattle. Their son, Dale and his wife, Kristin, are currently working on the restoration of the Murray House for their vacation home and eventually their retirement home. Dale and Kristin have also recently purchased a parcel of land across Lower White Oak Road (SR1572) in an attempt to reclaim additional Murray lands.

Architecture Context:

I-houses are a popular house type in North Carolina that spans two centuries of North Carolina building. It was adapted to various styles by the addition or removal of ornament. The type is as common in Madison County as it is throughout the state of North Carolina. "It has been identified as the dominant folk house type throughout the Upland South from the late eighteenth century to the early twentieth century, and as the symbol of economic achievement and social respectability in a democratic agrarian society." (Southern, p. 71). The popularity of the form is attributed to the appeal of its substantial façade, although it is only a four-room house (Ibid).

In Madison County the I-house is the most popular house form and served as home to many second and third generations (Barnhill, p. 3). The majority of the I-houses that survive today were built between 1880 and 1920. There are very few examples of the type within Madison County that were built prior to the Civil War (Barnhill Interview). Like the Murray House, most North Carolina I-Houses built after the

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standard I-house is generally three or five bays wide with a one-story, hipped or shed-roof porch. Most I-houses also have rear additions, generally a one-or-two-story rear ell.

In Madison County and throughout the North Carolina mountains, farm layout is determined by the site, whether on a hillside or in a valley. In *Carolina Dwelling*, an essay by Robert Keber, "Site Selection of Pre-1940 Mountain Houses," describes the ideal setting, which includes the house sited at the base of a hillside, facing the crops ahead in the valley, and bordered at the front by a creek and a road. The Murray House site conforms to this ideal. Mountaintop sites that take advantage of view-sheds are a modern method of site selection. Many of Madison County's farms retain the original house with outbuildings; some have replaced the original homeplace with a new home or mobile home. Many outbuildings are intact while others have been neglected or even demolished. Madison County has a remarkable rural character that combined with its vistas and views makes for one of the most picturesque counties in the state.

Outbuildings in Madison County may include corncribs, smokehouses, barns, and tobacco barns. Air curing required large barns that are open or well vented near the top. The interiors have large and widely spaced racks that extend from the floor to the ceiling, on which the burley tobacco leaves were hung to air dry. "A farmer who grew burley tobacco along with other crops could hang his tobacco high in the well-vented rafters, hoist his hay into the loft, pile his ears of corn into a lower crib, and lead his cows into their stalls beside the runway." (Bishir, 300-301). The Murray tobacco barn is an example of a specialized tobacco barn rather than a multi-use barn. Livestock barns have a hayloft and troughs for feeding as well as stalls for keeping livestock. The need for ventilation to cure the tobacco led to a distinctive tradition of decorative siding and vents. "In many western North Carolina barns, vents took the form of decorative diagonal slats or lattices. This, along with diagonal or chevron-patterned siding, gives the otherwise plain barns of the region a distinctive character." (Bishir 300-301).

Madison County remains predominately rural today as it has throughout its history. Two farmsteads have I-houses and barns similar to the Murray House. The circa 1910 Lawton Barrett House, located in Little Sandy Mush, is a three-bay I-house with an exterior end chimney, sheathed with replacement composition siding. It has a one-story, shed-roof porch supported by turned posts, two-over-two wood sash windows, and a one-story, one-room rear ell. There are several outbuildings with the house and across the road including barns, stables, a springhouse, and a 1940s dairy barn. Unlike the Barrett House, the Murray House retains its original siding and original porch with chamfered posts. The rear ell of the Murray House is also more impressive than the Barrett House displaying a three-room, one-story ell rather than a one-room shed.

Located in the Spring Creek Community is the Nan Cogdill House and farm. The large complex, separated from the road by Spring Creek, includes a dairy barn, tobacco barn, corncrib, springhouse, two woodsheds, and two additional barns across the creek. The house is a small version of an I-house, with one-and-one-half stories, four bays wide, and a hall-and-parlor plan. It is set on a high stone foundation,

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sheathed with weatherboard, and has a two-story rear ell with one-story shed. The porch and exterior end chimney are replacements. Like the Murray House, the Cogdill House is separated from the road by a creek, and has significant outbuildings. However, the Cogdill House is a different version of the I-house, with a hall-and-parlor plan and two-story ell.

The Murray Farmstead is representative of a center-hall I-house associated with a farm in a pristine setting. In contrast to many I-houses in the county, the Murray House is intact with little, if any alteration. The retention of historic materials and elements contribute to the integrity of the building, although in a deteriorated state. It is these original materials and elements that will allow for an accurate rehabilitation of the house and preservation of the outbuildings and site. Perhaps the most striking element of the Murray Farmstead is its setting. Unobscured by modern intrusion and development, the Murray House could be the model described by Keber in his essay

The Redmans are dedicated to the preservation of this house and its setting. The house's remaining original fabric will allow for an accurate interpretation and rehabilitation. The Redmans have retained an architect and received a structural report from a structural engineer. In addition, they are in contact with the Western Office of the State Historic Preservation Office for consultation regarding the Secretary of Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation. Madison County, North Carolina has only seven buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places including the Madison County Courthouse, two churches, an inn and three houses. None of these are I-houses. The I-house is representative of the small agricultural complex that was prevalent on the mountain landscape at the turn of the century and is slowly disappearing. The addition of the Murray House and barns to the National Register will make a substantial contribution to the historic record of Madison County and western North Carolina.

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Murray, Thomas J. House
Mars Hill Vic., Madison Co., NC

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Books:

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Bishir, Catherine W., Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999.

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Underwood, Jinsie. *This is Madison County*. Mars Hill, NC: Jinsie Underwood, 1974.

Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach, Editors, *Common Places, Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986.

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Unpublished Documents:

Barnhill, Taylor, "Preliminary Assessment: Architectural Survey of Madison County, North Carolina," October 23, 1984, Copy Available In Madison County Files at the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville, North Carolina.

Interviews:

Phone Interview with Taylor Barnhill by Michelle Michael on September 3, 2002.

Phone Interview with Ms. Alda Jean Young, great granddaughter of Thomas Murray, June 26, 2004.

Phone Interview with Ms. Helen Castelloe, granddaughter of Thomas Murray, May 22, 2004.

Phone Interview with Mr. Bruce Murray, great grandson of Thomas Murray, May 22, 2004.

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Murray, Thomas J. House
Mars Hill Vic., Madison Co., NC

Archival Records:

Madison County Deed Books, Madison County Register of Deeds, Marshall, North Carolina.

County Commission Minute Books, Madison County Register of Deeds, Marshall, North Carolina

Death Registers, Madison County Register of Deeds, Marshall, North Carolina

Marriage Registers, Madison County Register of Deed, Marshall, North Carolina

U.S. Census Records

U.S. Agricultural Census Records (1880, 1925)

Western North Carolina Architectural Survey Files, Western Office, North Carolina Archives and History, Asheville, North Carolina

Newspapers:

“T.J. Murray, Prominent Citizen of Mars Hill Dies, Buried Saturday.” *The Madison County Times*, Marshall, North Carolina, July 30, 1930.

“Thos. J. Murray Passes Away.” *The News-Record*. Marshall, North Carolina, July 29, 1930.

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Section number 10 Page 12

Murray, Thomas J. House
Mars Hill Vic., Madison Co., NC

UTM References (continued)

5 17 356180E 3962400N

Boundary Description:

The boundary that encompasses the nominated Thomas J. Murray House property includes approximately 18 acres more or less containing the Murray House, barns, and cemetery as part of the parcel identified in the Madison County Register of Deeds office as Deed Book 152 Page 640 and by the Madison County Tax Office as Property Pin # 9736-55-8065. The boundaries are indicated by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary described above represents a portion of the land associated with the Thomas J. Murray House and encompasses the house and all contributing buildings associated with the Thomas J. Murray House on the southwest corner of the intersection of SR1572 and SR1561.

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Murray, Thomas J. House
Mars Hill Vic., Madison Co., NC

Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs

Photographer: Michelle A. Michael

Date: 2002

Location of Negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC

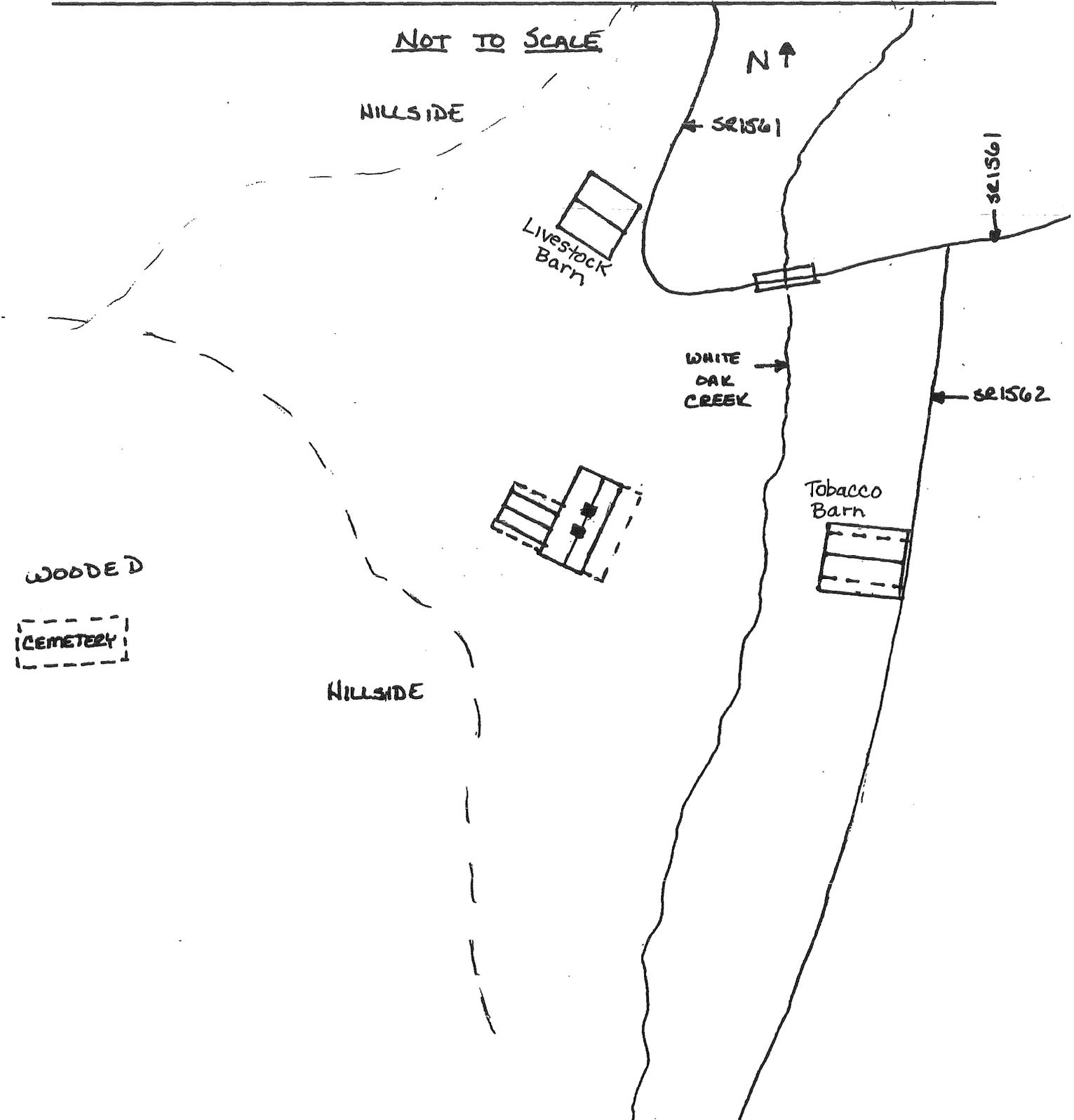
- A. View of Murray House and tobacco barn looking southwest.
- B. View of Murray Farm looking north.
- C. View of the Murray House façade (east elevation).
- D. View of the Murray House north elevation.
- E. View of the Murray House west elevation.
- F. View of the Murray House south elevation.
- G. Interior view of north parlor mantel.
- H. Interior view of north bedroom mantel.
- I. View of Murray House looking east from hilltop behind house.
- J. View of south elevation of Tobacco Barn.
- K. View of livestock barn, looking northwest.

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Mars Hill Vic., Madison Co., NC

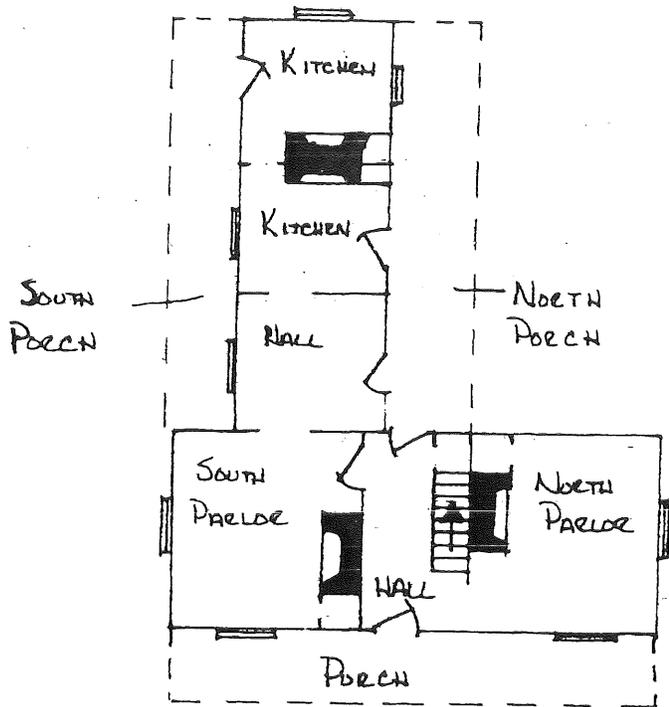


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Section number Floor Plan Page 15

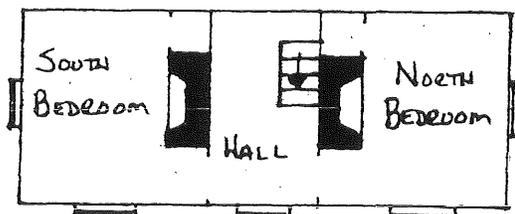
Murray, Thomas J. House
Mars Hill Vic., Madison Co., NC



NOT TO SCALE



FIRST FLOOR

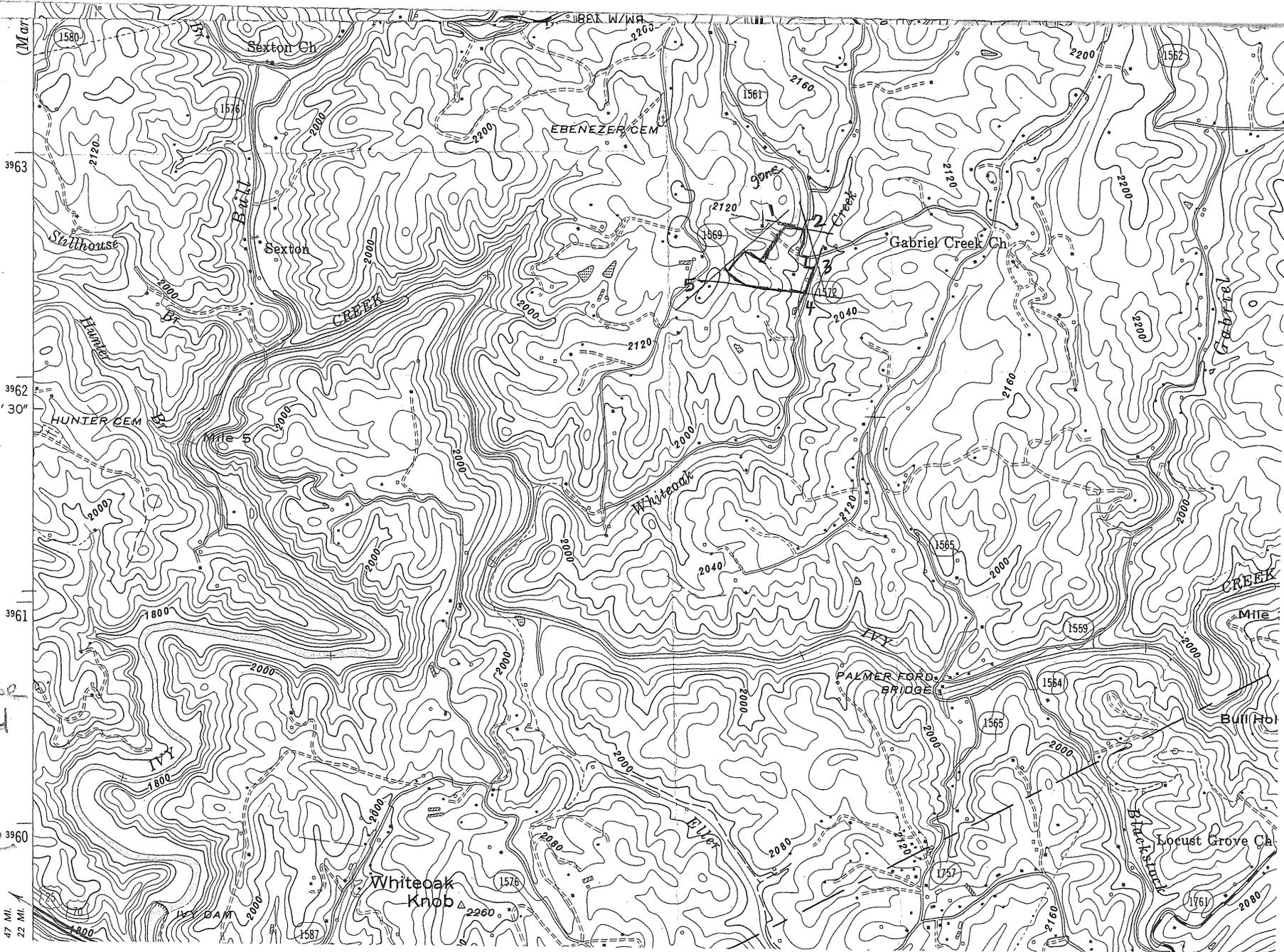


SECOND FLOOR

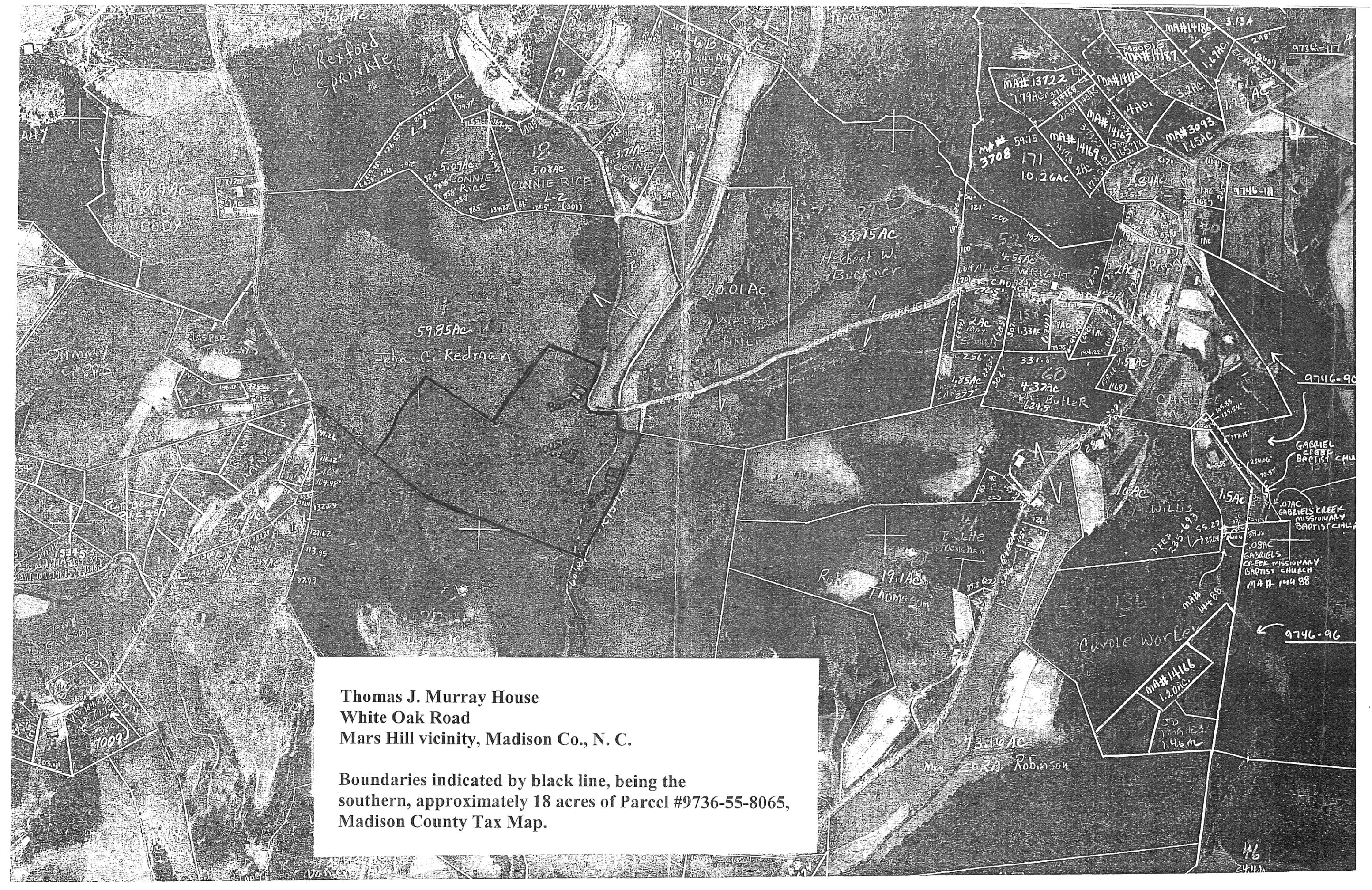
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- 2) 17 356630E 3962630N
- 3) 17 356660E 3962480N
- 4) 17 356600E 3962360N
- 5) 17 356180E 3962400N

Thomas A.
Monroy House
Mars Hill quad

MARS HILL VIC.
MADISON Co,
NC



47 MI.
22 MI.



Thomas J. Murray House
White Oak Road
Mars Hill vicinity, Madison Co., N. C.

Boundaries indicated by black line, being the southern, approximately 18 acres of Parcel #9736-55-8065, Madison County Tax Map.

