

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Rowan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Alexander Long House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sowers Ferry Road (SR 1918)

CITY OR TOWN:
Spencer (8th Congressional District - Hon. Earl Ruth)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Rowan	CODE 159
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Messinger

STREET AND NUMBER:
321 West Bank Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Salisbury

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Deeds Office, Rowan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Salisbury

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Rowan
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alexander Long House is a large two-story frame dwelling with a gable roof and a stone foundation. The house is covered with plain lapped siding, which replaces the original beaded weatherboards of which a few survive in a small section next to the rear entrance. The front (east) facade is five bays wide with a central entrance on each level. The entrance on the first floor is surmounted by a heavy three-light transom and contains a wide raised-paneled door. The door at the second level appears to be a twentieth century alteration. The remaining openings are windows with nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and nine-over-six on the second. A relatively modern one-story hip roof porch extends across the front and carries around the north end and the rear of the building. Across the front it features paneled pillars and on the side and rear crude Tuscan columns. The foundation suggests that originally the central entrance was protected by a small single-bay porch.

Dominating the south gable end is an unusual chimney arrangement consisting of two large double-shoulder Flemish bond brick chimneys connected by a high brick pent. On each chimney glazed headers form a heart. The initials "AL" appear below the heart on the west chimney face and "EL" on the east, also formed with glazed headers. Both chimneys have offset weatherings just above the foundation. In the pent is a small six-pane casement window topped by a segmental arch. The right chimney rests on a foundation of brick laid in English bond above a stone base. The foundations of the pent and west chimney, also of English bond, rest on large stone arches. The west arch frames the entrance to the full basement, while the arch below the pent shelters a small basement window.

A large double-shoulder Flemish bond chimney is located to the rear of the apex of the north gable end. It is flanked by windows at each level and features glazed headers in a diamond pattern. The rear (west) facade was originally similar to the front but was altered by the addition of a large hip roof kitchen wing.

Originally the interior of the Alexander Long House had four rooms, two smaller ones across the front with larger parlors behind. The main entrance leads into the northeast room, which has walls plastered above a raised-paneled wainscot that carries up the stair. Below the stair is a small closet. A later basement stair with balusters square in section descends beside and parallel to the main stair.

The southeast room, finished with plaster walls and a raised-paneled wainscot, has a mantel with a molded architrave around the opening and two small horizontal raised panels below a molded shelf. The southwest parlor, thought to have been the dining area, contains a door on either side of the fireplace. The left door leads to the pent closet while the right one, which originally was an outside entrance, connects the dining room with the present kitchen wing. The northwest room, which has been partitioned into two rooms, was originally the main parlor. The woodwork is more elaborate than is that in the other rooms. The large mantel features paneled pilasters that support a molded shelf above a raised-paneled frieze.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description

The second floor is similar in plan to the first. All rooms are finished with flush-paneled wainscots and, with the exception of the stair hall, contain small fireplaces with simple molded surrounds. The northwest bedroom has been partitioned into three rooms but still has all its original interiors including hardware.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alexander Long is thought to have built this house about 1786 for his second wife, Elizabeth, on property his father, John Long, had acquired in 1759. This building date is suggested by the marriage in that year of Alexander and Elizabeth Long, whose initials "AL" and "EL", each accompanied by a heart, appear in the large brick double chimney of the house. Alexander Long kept a public ferry on the Yadkin River near the mouth of Grant's Creek as early as 1784. It is said that George Washington used Long's Ferry to cross the Yadkin River and took a brief rest at the Long House during his southern tour.

Alexander Long died in 1824, and his son, James I. Long, inherited the property. James, due to a series of debts, transferred the house and much of his land to various parties among whom was Michael Braun, grandson of Michael Braun, the builder of the old stone house near Salisbury. By 1833 Braun had acquired the Long house as well as the land surrounding it.

Michael Braun sold the house and land, which consisted of 1,050 acres, to P. B. and Joseph F. Chambers in 1858. This property eventually was acquired by Philip Sowers in a series of deeds executed during the years 1873 and 1875. The land and house passed to his grandson, Philip Sowers, whose widow sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Messinger in 1969, including 25.37 acres of land surrounding it.

Well-situated on the crest of a hill above the Yadkin River, the picturesque Alexander Long House is notable for its massive double chimney with brick pent. The hearts and initials on this chimney, described by Thomas Waterman as "rare in North Carolina", are among the finest examples of patterned brickwork in the South.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rowan County Records, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, County Records).

Rowan County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, County Records.)

Waterman, Thomas T. and Johnston, Frances B. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		35 42 10	80 25 13	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: June 4, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date June 4, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

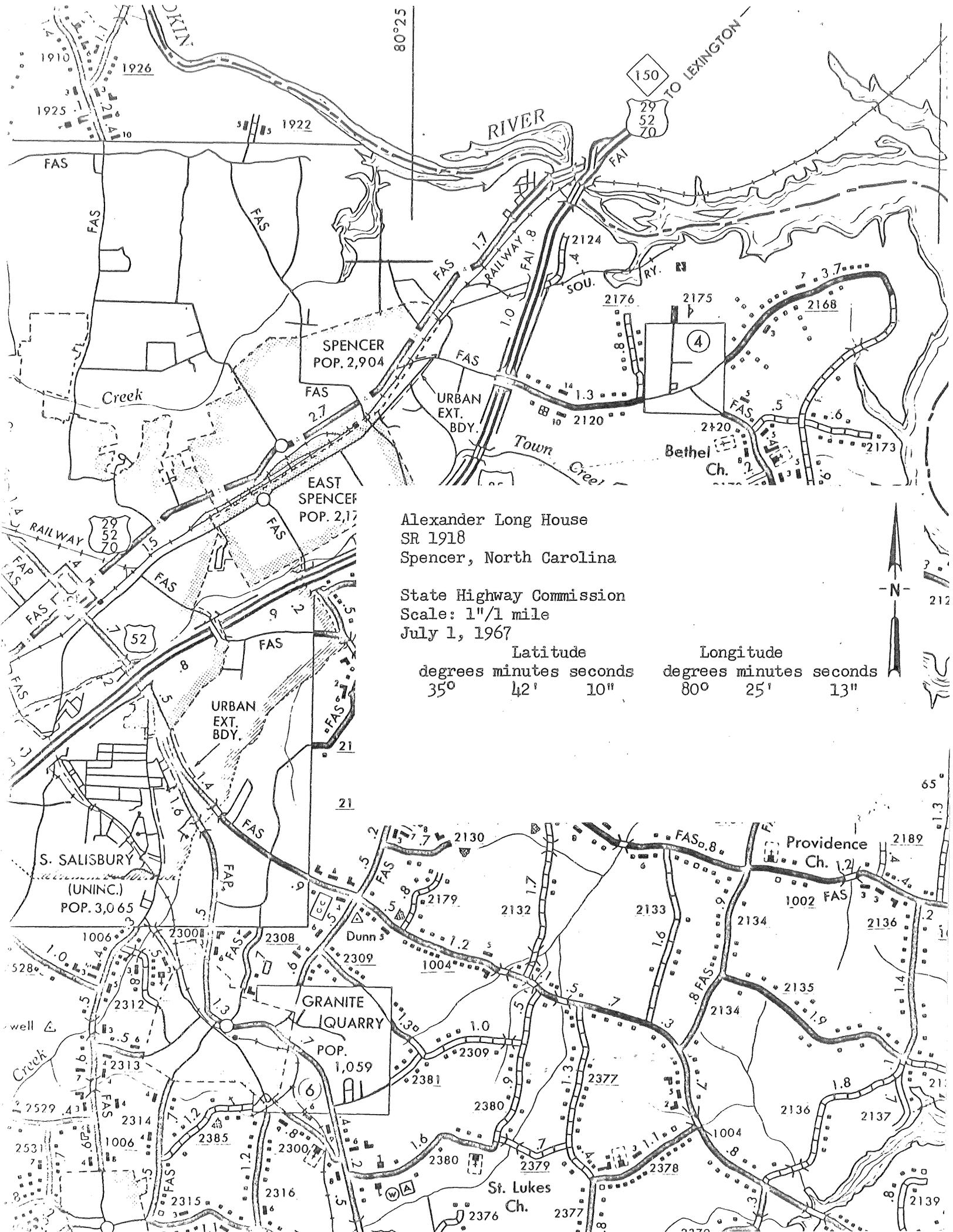
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Alexander Long House
 SR 1918
 Spencer, North Carolina

State Highway Commission
 Scale: 1"/1 mile
 July 1, 1967

Latitude
 degrees minutes seconds
 35° 42' 10"

Longitude
 degrees minutes seconds
 80° 25' 13"

