

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 an 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 Leak-Chaffin-Browder House

other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number East side NC 8, 0.1 mile south of junction with SR 1941 N/A  not for publication

city or town Germanton  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Stokes code 169 Zip code 27019

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jeffrey Brown SHPO 7/1/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(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	
8	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/processing
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Greek Revival
- Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK
- walls BRICK
- WOOD
- roof METAL
- other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1853-1st quarter 20th century

Significant Dates

1853

1871

1905

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Name of Property

Stokes Co., NC  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 3.04

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 7 | | 5 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 4 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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 Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian

organization N/A date January 24, 2002

street & number 637 N. Spring Street telephone 336/727-1968

City or town Winston-Salem state NC Zip code 27101

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Susan and Bobby Fulk

street & number 7016 NC Highway 8 South telephone 336/591-5824

City or town Germanton state NC Zip code 27019

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

---

### DESCRIPTION

#### Setting

The mid-nineteenth-century Leak-Chaffin-Browder House is located in a rural setting on the east side of NC 8 just north of the small community of Germanton in Stokes County. Set back about seventy-five feet from the road on a tract of 3.04 acres, the two-story brick house is sheltered by numerous trees, a combination of oaks, pines, cedars, and maples. An old photograph shows that in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century a broad, boxwood-bordered walk led to the front entrance, but it does not survive. A dirt drive along the south edge of the property leads from the road to the rear of the house. Directly behind (east of) the house is a mid-nineteenth-century brick kitchen-slave/servants' house. Arranged in shallow crescent behind the kitchen, running from the north edge of the property to the south edge, are seven other outbuildings dating primarily from the first quarter of the twentieth century. These include a granary/tobacco pack house, a chicken house, a wood shed, a privy, a shed, a barn, and a corn crib/equipment shed/meat house. Behind the outbuildings the land slopes gently downward to the rear of the property.

#### Exterior

The Leak-Chaffin-Browder House is a large, two-story, brick house built between 1853 and ca. 1860. On the exterior, it reflects a combination of its original Greek Revival styling combined with a Colonial Revival porch that dates from the early twentieth century and replaced the original porch. Four-to-one common bond brick walls, with original penciling still visible under the porch, rise from a brick foundation and are capped by a low, standing-seam metal, hipped roof pierced by three interior brick chimneys. The roof has overhanging boxed eaves with a shallow-stepped soffit and a plain cornice. The original body of the house is L-shaped, with a three-bay facade. The south side is one-room deep, while the north side is two rooms deep. Windows are six-over-six sash with louvered wood shutters. The center-bay front entrance is composed of a double-leaf paneled door surrounded by a multi-pane transom and sidelights with paneled bases. An identical entrance was originally located on the north side of the house. Its west half remains intact, but in the 1930s the original door was replaced with a single-leaf glass-and-wood-paneled door and the east half of the entranceway was enclosed to make way for a frame bathroom.

Originally, the west (primary) and north entrances were each sheltered by a one-story, hip-roofed, Greek Revival style porch with paired posts and a simple balustrade. The ghost marks from the wall pilasters of these porches are still visible on the bricks of the west and north elevations. In the early years of the twentieth century, the original porches were replaced with the present one-story, Colonial Revival

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number    7        Page 2

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

---

porch, which wraps around the north, west, and south elevations of the house, re-using and otherwise replicating the original posts and cornice. Typical of its period, the "new" porch added a second level above the front (west) entrance bay, replacing the second-story window with a glass-and-wood-paneled door. According to family tradition, the balustrade was added to the wraparound porch at a later date. The east end bay of the north elevation porch was enclosed in the 1930s to create a frame bathroom. Concrete steps lead up to the porch at the front entrance and at both north and south ends of the facade.

At the east end of the rear ell, the ground slopes downward, leaving an exposed basement level. Fenestration here consists of a window with side-sliding sash on the north side, a batten door that replaced an original window on the east end and, on the south side, a three-over-three sash window and a two-panel door. (The window and door on the south side are now seen only within the basement of the 2001-2002 addition.)

At the rear, within the space formed by the front and north-side ell of the house, a sympathetically designed, hip-roofed, weatherboarded frame addition is being constructed by the present owners. It replaces a one-story porch, kitchen, and bathroom that dated from the early-to-mid twentieth century. The addition will house a large kitchen, bathroom, and porch on the first floor and bathrooms, closets, and a laundry on the second floor. Although the addition is large, it is being built within the overall width and depth dimensions of the house and is barely visible from the road.

### Interior

The interior of the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House follows a center-hall, single-pile plan in the front block of the house. A second, transverse stair hall separates the front of the house from the rear ell. Originally, the second-floor room of the rear ell could only be reached via the side stair hall, but after 1905 a door was added between the side hall and the northwest room, providing additional access to the ell room. When the 2001-2002 addition was constructed, three original windows at the rear of the house were converted to doors, and an additional door was inserted on the second floor at the head of the side-hall stair landing.

The floors of the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House are heart pine tongue-and-groove, but most have been covered with linoleum or carpet. The walls and ceilings are plastered over brick or wood lath, although in some of the rooms, the walls and/or the ceilings have been covered with wall board. The walls are trimmed with narrow crown molding and medium-height baseboards with a top bead.

Greek Revival detailing is consistently applied throughout the house, with only rare exceptions where changes have been made. Both the two-panel doors and six-over-six sash windows have cornerblock surrounds. The windows also exhibit splayed window jambs and a paneled apron between the window and the baseboard. While the seven fireplaces in the house all have basic Greek Revival post-and-lintel mantels, those on the first story are slightly more fancy than the rest because of their extra

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 3

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

molding and projecting cornerblocks at each end of the frieze. In every room except the parlor, there is a built-in cupboard on one side of the mantel. Most of these have two-panel, double-leaf doors. However, the cupboard in the first-floor south room features a pair of two-panel half doors on the bottom half and a pair of nine-light glass doors on the top half. The fireplace cupboard in the basement has a set of two-panel, double-leaf doors on both the top and bottom halves.

The stairs in the front and side halls constitute one of the most elegant features of the interior. Each has an open string, plain balusters, and a rounded handrail. However, they differ in that the stair in the front hall has a handrail that gracefully curves at the landing and a gently bulbous turned newel, while the side-hall stair has an elegant ramped handrail with more complexly turned newels. Other differences are that the front stair has a paneled spandrel, while the side stair continues on to the basement with the same detailing as on the upper two floors. (However, the turned newel at basement level that was still present in the mid 1980s has since rotted away). Originally, a window provided light at each end of the side stair hall in the basement, but these now open only to the cellars beneath the 1930s' north-side bathroom and the 2001-2002 addition. The continuance of the side stair, with its stylish detailing, to the basement to provide access to the former basement dining room—detailed in the same manner as the rest of the house—is a very unusual architectural feature in Stokes County and is one of the most interesting aspects of the house.

### Outbuildings

Eight outbuildings are arranged in a slight arc behind the house. Only one, the brick kitchen-slave/servants' house, appears to be contemporary with the main house. Six frame outbuildings appear to have been constructed during the first quarter of the twentieth century, after W. D. Browder purchased the property and expanded its agricultural use. The log chicken house was built later in the century. The outbuildings listed in the following inventory are keyed by number to the accompanying site map.

#### 1. Kitchen-Slave/Servants' House Contributing building

Mid-nineteenth century

The kitchen-slave/servants' house is the oldest and most significant of the outbuildings associated with the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House. The one-story-with-attic, three-bay, rectangular building has a brick foundation, walls laid—like the main house—in four-to-one common bond, and a broad side-gable roof sheathed in metal and pierced by a single, nearly-central chimney. The building has two-panel doors and six-over-six sash windows with row-lock header brick lintels. A broad, open shed on the west (front) facade is a twentieth-century addition. On the north elevation, a low, shed-roofed doorway provides access to the brick-walled, dirt-floored cellar, which contains frames for hanging and drying tobacco.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 4

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

The interior of the kitchen-slave/servants' house is arranged with a saddlebag plan, with a room on either side of the central chimney. The walls are plastered, while the floors and ceilings are wood. Two doors, on the front and rear of the building, enter the north-side kitchen. It has a large, plastered fireplace with iron pot hooks and andirons intact. On the east side of the fireplace is a raised cupboard with a pair of two-panel doors. On the west side of the fireplace, a two-panel door with a wooden box lock opens to the south room. The south room has only one door, on the front, to the outside. In the northeast corner of the room, a steep, open stair rises to the unfinished attic. The brickwork has deteriorated in places on the lower walls of the south room.

### 2. Granary/Tobacco Pack House Contributing building

First quarter twentieth century

At the north edge of the property stands a one-story, one-room, frame building with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof and an attached, open, front shed. Its weatherboard siding has been partially covered with sheet metal and tar paper. A batten door with wrought iron strap hinges opens to the interior, where the circular-sawn stud-framed structural system is exposed. Family tradition (via Wesley Watts) claims that this was originally the granary, but that later it was converted to a tobacco pack house.

### 3. Chicken House Non-contributing building

Mid-twentieth century

Southeast of the granary/tobacco pack house stands the re-built chicken house. A low, one-story, one-room building, it has a concrete-block foundation, saddle-notched log and vertical-board walls with a door on the southwest end, windows on the southeast side, and a metal-sheathed shed roof.

### 4. Wood Shed Contributing building

First quarter twentieth century

Just south of the chicken house stands the wood shed. It is a long rectangular building of stud-framed construction with horizontal board siding on three sides. The west side is open with a pole support in the center. The gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal.

### 5. Privy Contributing building

First quarter twentieth century

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 5

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

---

Southeast of the kitchen is the privy, a tiny stud-framed building with a combination of horizontal and vertical board siding and a nearly flat metal-sheathed shed roof. The door with its wooden handle is on the south side. Inside, a boxed-in bench supports a single hole with a wooden seat and lid.

### 6. Shed

First quarter twentieth century

Contributing building

Immediately east of the privy is a small stud-framed shed of undetermined use. It has horizontal board siding, a shallow metal-covered shed roof, and a door on the south side.

### 7. Barn

First quarter twentieth century

Contributing building

South of the privy and shed and just within the south property line is the barn, the largest of the outbuildings. The circular-sawn stud-framed building has weatherboard siding, a broad metal-sheathed gable roof, an east-west center passage flanked by animal stalls, and a loft with horizontal ventilation slats just below the roof eaves. On either side of the center passage, the front (west) wall of the barn has unusual doors constructed with a grid of narrow vertical and horizontal boards. At the base of the gable, the front of the barn is sheltered by a broad shed roof with diagonal supports. On the north side of the barn is an attached, enclosed shed. On the south side is an attached, mostly open shed. Projecting southward from the rear of the barn is a large frame addition with a broad gable roof. Its mixed use interior contains several wooden bins.

### 8. Corn Crib/Equipment Shed/Meat House

First quarter twentieth century

Contributing building

Paralleling the property line west of the barn is the combination corn crib, equipment shed, and—according to Browder family members—the meat house. The long stud-framed building has a shed roof with a braced overhang along the north side. At the east end of the building is the narrow, wood-slatted corn crib with door on the north side. It is balanced at the west end of the building by the meat house, an area of approximately the same width as the crib, enclosed with German siding and with a door on the north side. Between the corn crib and the meat house is the long equipment shed, open along the north side and supported by two poles with braces at the top.

Located along NC 8 north of the house are a partially collapsed brick blacksmith shop and a frame barn with side sheds. Although originally associated with the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House, these outbuildings are no longer a part of the property attached to the house. A small log tobacco factory from

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 6

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

---

the nineteenth century was located south of the house tract, but it does not survive.

### Integrity

The Leak-Chaffin-Browder House remains remarkably intact, with only minor alterations through the years. Even the addition currently under construction does not compromise the integrity of the house because it has been designed in a manner sympathetic to the character of the house and is located at the rear where it is barely visible from the road. The original Greek Revival styling of the house still provides its primary character, while the Colonial Revival porch—which was built in a manner respectful of the original porch details—remains as an acknowledgment of the beginning of the present family ownership in the early twentieth century. The mid-nineteenth-century kitchen-slave/servants' house survives intact, if somewhat deteriorated, and six of the seven other outbuildings represent the first quarter of the twentieth century when the agricultural use of the property was expanded. Thus, the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House retains a strong degree of historic integrity in terms of its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 7

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

---

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary

Located in a rural setting just north of Germanton, North Carolina, the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House is locally significant in Stokes County. It fulfills Criterion C for listing in the National Register in the area of architecture because it is one of the most fully developed and well preserved of the few Greek Revival plantation houses that survive in the county. On its tract of just over three acres, the house is complemented by a collection of vernacular outbuildings, most dating from the first quarter of the twentieth century, but one of which, the kitchen-slave/servants' house, is a rare survivor from the mid-nineteenth century. The house was built by tobacconist David R. Leak, at some point between 1853, when he executed an agreement for its purchase from his father-in-law, and ca. 1860, when he acquired clear title to the property. Leak sold the house in 1871 to another tobacconist, William A. Chaffin, who occupied it until his death in 1899. In 1905, the house was sold to William David Browder, a farmer, who expanded his land holdings until he owned more than 600 acres. Browder replaced the original front and north-side entrance porches with a Colonial Revival porch that wraps around the north, west, and south elevations, and he built most of the existing outbuildings. Since 1905, the house has remained in Browder's family and is currently being sensitively rehabilitated for continued occupancy by his great-granddaughter and her family. The period of significance for the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House spans the years from 1853 through the first quarter of the twentieth century, encompassing the years of construction of the house, the porch redesign, and the contributing outbuildings.

#### Historical Background

On January 29, 1853, Solomon Petree agreed to sell his 110-acre home tract on the road leading from Germanton to Danbury in Stokes County to his son-in-law, David R. Leak (1821-1885). At the time, both Petree and Leak were living on the land. Leak was to get clear title to the property after the deaths of Solomon and Elizabeth Petree when he made payment of \$2,000 to the executor of the Petrees' estates. The final settlement of this agreement took place on July 6, 1860 (Deed Book 18, p. 427; Deed Book 19, pp. 246 and 467). Although a precise date of construction for the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House is not known, it likely occurred sometime between Leak's agreement with Petree in 1853 and his acquisition of clear title to the property in 1860 or immediately thereafter. The overall style and detailing of the house support this dating of its construction.

In 1843 David Leak had married Sarah Petree, eleven years his senior (Marriage Bonds, Vol. 2, Groom Index, 181; Cemetery Records, 178). The Petrees were prominent farmers in the Germanton area, and had occupied their land just north of the community since the late eighteenth century. (The

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 8

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

Solomon Petree House, built during the late eighteenth or very early nineteenth century, was one of the oldest and most interesting houses in Stokes County in the mid-1980s when the county-wide architectural survey was conducted, but it was destroyed soon thereafter.) David Leak was listed in the 1850 census as a manufacturer, although he also oversaw a small-scale farm. His household consisted on fourteen individuals. In addition to himself were his wife Sarah, their three children, six other young people ranging in age from eleven to sixteen, two men listed as farmers, and William Chaffin (1825-1899), a tobacco roller. Leak also owned one slave (1850 Census, Population and Slave Schedules).

In 1858, Sarah Petree Leak died, leaving David Leak with four children. Not surprisingly, he remarried about a year after Sarah's death. Leak's new wife's name was Flora (maiden name not known) (Cemetery Records, 178; 1860 Census, Population Schedule).

In 1860, the year in which David Leak received clear title to Solomon Petree's 110 acres, the census provided a variety of facts concerning his life at that time. Leak was listed as both a farmer and a tobacconist. His real estate was valued at \$4,500, while his personal estate was said to be worth \$14,400. Leak's tobacco factory was powered by horse and employed twelve workers. It processed 40,000 pounds of leaf, producing 300 boxes of tobacco valued at \$7,500. Leak's household was made up of fourteen people, including himself, his wife Flora, his four children by his first wife Sarah, one child from his marriage with Flora, three workers in his tobacco factory, and four others. Leak also was listed with twelve slaves and four slave houses. This same year, there was no census listing for William Chaffin, either by himself or as part of the Leak household (1860 Census, Population, Industry, and Slave Schedules).

In 1868, both David Leak and William Chaffin were listed in Branson's *North Carolina Business Directory* as manufacturers of tobacco in Stokes County. This was the only year in which Leak was listed in Branson's directories, at least in Stokes County, but Chaffin continued to be listed through 1884 (Branson, 1867-68, 1872, 1877-78, 1884, 1890, 1896). This period was the heyday of small tobacco factories in Stokes County. During much of the nineteenth century, tobacco processing was the county's most significant industry, and during the second half of the century, Stokes was one of the largest tobacco manufacturing counties in North Carolina. Around the turn of the century, most, if not all, of these small factories, like those in other Piedmont counties, were put out of business by competition from the larger factories being built in such places as Winston, Reidsville, and Durham (Phillips, 23-24)

Although David Leak was listed in Branson's directory in 1868, a deed from 1869 indicates that, by that time, he and Flora had moved to Charlotte (Deed Book 24, p. 44). According to the 1870 census, Leak had become a tobacco manufacturer there, and the value of his real and personal property had increased substantially above their 1860 levels. Back in Stokes County, William A. Chaffin was listed as a farmer and tobacco manufacturer whose real and personal property were dramatically less than were those of David Leak. The eleven people listed in Chaffin's household in 1870 included Chaffin, his wife Martha, their seven children, a domestic servant, and a farm laborer (1870 Census, Population Schedule).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 9

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

---

In 1871, David and Flora Leak sold their 110-acre tract of land in Stokes County to William A. Chaffin, although, according to the deed, Chaffin was already living on the land (Deed Book 24, p. 46). Chaffin had a small log tobacco factory, which may originally have been Leak's, located south of the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House property (Heritage, end paper). By the mid 1980s, it had been destroyed. The Chaffins occupied their large brick house until their deaths in 1891 (Martha) and 1899 (William) (Cemetery Records, 178). Local tradition asserts that this was also the home of their son, George.

On February 9, 1905, the Chaffin heirs sold two tracts of land, including the Chaffin home tract, which by that time consisted of 186 acres, to William David "Billy" Browder (1860-1940) for \$6,000 (Deed Book 47, P. 547). Browder soon purchased additional farm land adjoining the former Chaffin property until, according family tradition, he had amassed more than 600 acres. Unlike former owners Leak and Chaffin, Billy Browder was primarily a farmer, growing tobacco and corn and raising cattle. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, he added several outbuildings to the property. Billy and Ann (Westmoreland) Browder reared a family of thirteen children in the large brick house that was the seat of their farm (Heritage, 207).

In 1930 Ann Browder died. The Browder's youngest daughter, Ida, stayed on at the farm to care for her father, continuing to do so after her marriage to Wesley M. Watts in 1936 (Heritage, 207 and 506). When Billy Browder died in 1940, Ida Browder Watts received the home tract, which at that time was defined as containing 12.85 acres, as part of her allotment from the division of Browder's estate (Deed Book 96, p. 601). Ida and Wesley Watts had two children. Like Billy Browder, they farmed, growing tobacco, corn, wheat, and other small crops. After Ida Watts's death in 1970, Wesley Watts continued to live in their home until his death on October 24, 1999 (Heritage, 506; Fulk Interview). On May 7, 2001, the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House and surrounding 3.04 acres were transferred from the estate of Wesley Watts to the ownership of his granddaughter, Susan, and her husband, Bobby Fulk, who are sensitively re-habilitating the house for continued family use (Deed Book 450, p. 581). Thus, the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House has been owned and occupied by William D. Browder and his descendants for nearly a century.

### Architecture Context

The mid-nineteenth century, prior to the Civil War, was a time of prosperity in Stokes County, as it was throughout North Carolina and the nation as a whole. This period witnessed the erection of some of the county's finest houses, which utilized the Greek Revival style to express in a tangible way the owners' success and prominence.

Popular across America during the mid-nineteenth century, the Greek Revival style was spread both by example and by the publication of carpenter's and builder's guides and pattern books. The height

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 10

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

of its fashionableness in piedmont North Carolina was from 1840 to 1870. The Greek Revival was a bold style that could be executed in its simplest form by rural builders with relative ease. Domestic examples of the Greek Revival are usually characterized by a low-pitched gabled or hipped roof, an accentuated cornice with overhanging boxed eaves, an entrance or full-width front porch supported by classical posts or columns, a front door surrounded by sidelights and transom and, on the interior, two-panel doors with cornerblock surrounds and classically inspired post-and-lintel mantels.

In rural Stokes County, where modest, but sturdy, log and frame houses of traditional construction, form, and detail were the norm, there also was erected a small number of substantial Greek Revival plantation houses as well as some smaller, yet stylistically distinctive, dwellings in the style. The Leak-Chaffin-Browder House, believed to have been built between 1853 and ca. 1860, is one of the most fully developed and well preserved of the few Greek Revival plantation houses that survive in the county. It is also a rare example of brick, rather than log or frame, construction used for domestic buildings in Stokes County during the mid-nineteenth century.

The two-story brick Leak-Chaffin-Browder House is characterized by a low hipped roof with overhanging boxed eaves, interior chimneys, a three-bay facade, a central front entrance with a double-leaf paneled door with sidelights and transom, and a north side entrance that appears to have been nearly identical, in its original form, to the front entrance. An early-twentieth-century one-story wraparound porch with classical posts and a second story above the center bay replaced the original porches, which an old photograph shows were one-story, hip-roofed, entrance-bay porches with paired classical posts and simple balustrades. The interior of the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House features chaste and consistently applied Greek Revival detailing, including two-panel doors, cornerblock door and window surrounds, post-and-lintel mantels, and a built-in cupboard next to the fireplace in every room but the parlor. The interior is distinguished by having both a center stair hall and a side stair hall, the former with a gracefully curved handrail and paneled spandrel, and the latter with an elegant ramped handrail. The side stair continues down to the basement dining room, which has plastered walls, a low plastered ceiling, a Greek Revival post-and-lintel wood mantel, a built-in wood cabinet next to the fireplace, two-panel doors, and plain door and window surrounds. The basement dining room, with the graceful stair that leads to it, is one of the most unusual features of the house and is a rare survivor in Stokes County's architectural history.

Two other mid-nineteenth-century houses in Stokes County are remarkably similar to the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House. An old photograph of the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House shows that originally its facade was virtually identical to that of Pine Hall (NR), a ca. 1859 two-story brick house in southeastern Stokes County. Interior details of the two houses are also quite similar, including two-panel doors with cornerblock surrounds, a front stair with paneled spandrel and graceful handrail, Greek Revival mantels, and cupboards adjacent to the fireplaces.

The 1860s Jefferson Tuttle House in the Brook Cove vicinity also closely resembles the Leak-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 11

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

Chaffin-Browder House in form, plan, and detail. Of particular note, the interior displays both front and side stair halls and consistently applied Greek Revival detailing that includes stairs with turned newels, ramped handrails, and paneled spandrels; two-panel doors with cornerblock surrounds; post-and-lintel mantels; and built-in cupboards next to two of the mantels. On the exterior it, too, originally had classical front and side entrance porches; these were replaced in the 1980s with a plain wraparound porch. However, whereas the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House and Pine Hall are both of brick construction, the Jefferson Tuttle House is a more vernacular adaptation of the type using weatherboarded log construction.

In Stokes County, another group of large Greek Revival houses—all two-story frame—is best exemplified by the Benjamin Bailey House and the Hampton Bynum House. Local tradition suggests that once there were at least five or six houses of this type in the Germanton-Walnut Cove area, but most have been lost. While these houses share Greek Revival detailing with the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House, Pine Hall, and the Jefferson Tuttle House, their form and plan are altogether different. Each has a broad, pedimented front-gable roof and a central, two-tier classical entrance porch with a pedimented gable echoing that of the main roof. The interiors of these houses follow a center-hall, double-pile plan. The best houses in this group have seen more alterations, especially on the interior, than have the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House, Pine Hall, and the Jefferson Tuttle House.

Several other distinctive Greek Revival dwellings were built in Stokes County during the mid-nineteenth century. Two of these, the Covington House and the David Nicholas Dalton House, are large, two-story frame houses that boast two-tier, full-facade porches. The Wall-Reynolds House is a smaller-scale house, but is one of the most sophisticated. A two-story, single-pile, frame dwelling, it has a low hipped roof, a one-story classical entrance porch, and a center hall plan with Greek Revival interior detailing and grained and marbled woodwork. Of yet smaller scale is the one-story frame Samuel Hill House, which features a low hipped roof, refined stylistic detailing, and an unusual modified Quaker plan. Like the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House, it has a rare basement-level dining room. The Hill House received a new porch and some other remodeling during the 1920s.

In the early twentieth century—probably by 1910—the front and north-side entrance porches of the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House were replaced with a one-story wraparound porch which continues around the south elevation and has a second story above the front entrance bay. Sympathetic to the original design of the house, the wraparound porch has square classical posts—the two center ones appearing to have been retained from the original front porch—and a simple balustrade with molded hand and base rails. While this porch recognizes the popularity of the Colonial Revival style around the turn of the twentieth century, it also represents the owner's attempt to have a larger, more livable porch for a family with thirteen children, while at the same time remaining true to the original Greek Revival design of the house. Billy and Ann Browder apparently appreciated the mid-nineteenth-century quality of their house, for although they enlarged the porch, they left other exterior and interior detailing intact.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 12

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

Hundreds of farmsteads from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries remain in Stokes County, and most retain at least some of their period outbuildings. Farms with the most complete surviving collections of outbuildings have from nine to sixteen; most have less. The Leak-Chaffin-Browder House's collection of eight outbuildings ranks among those with the better collections. Typical historic farm outbuildings included the kitchen (when kitchens were built apart from the house), the well house/shed, the privy, the smokehouse/curing house/meat house, the wood shed, the corn crib, the granary, the animal/feed barn, the tobacco barn, the tobacco pack house, and the equipment shed. Sometimes there was a chicken house, an animal pen, a wash house, a spring house, and a dairy. Some farmsteads had multiple outbuildings of a single type. Only a handful of farmsteads, such as Pine Hall, the Wall-Reynolds House, the Sterling Adams House, and the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House, retain former slave dwellings, which are extremely rare in the county. There was no set or formal way in which outbuildings were arranged on Stokes County's farms, other than that they were laid out in a manner to best suit the working needs of the farmer. Usually the outbuildings most closely associated with household needs—the kitchen, the well house, the wash house, the smokehouse, and the wood shed—were located near the house, while those outbuildings associated more directly with the actual farm operations, such as the cultivation and storage of crops and the raising of livestock, were positioned farther from the house. The eight outbuildings that form a shallow crescent behind the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House combine the needs of house and farm. Although log outbuildings were more common during the nineteenth century, they were still being built—along with frame outbuildings—well into the twentieth century. Outbuildings are often difficult to date with particular accuracy, because they represent traditional forms that continued to be built in the same way for many years.

Most of the eight outbuildings that accompany the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House—the barn, the corn crib/equipment shed/meat house, the small shed, the privy, the wood shed, and the granary/tobacco pack house—are consistent with the types of outbuildings erected during the first quarter of the twentieth century in Stokes County and piedmont North Carolina. The log chicken house is a rebuilt structure from the mid-twentieth century. The most significant outbuilding in the group, because it is a rare survivor from the mid-nineteenth century in the county, is the brick kitchen-slave/servant's house located directly behind the main house. The one-story-with-attic, two-room building is laid in four-to-one common bond like the house, and its six-over-six sash windows, plastered interior walls, and two-panel Greek Revival doors are also characteristic of the house. The form, use of materials, and detailing of the kitchen-slave/servants' house, along with its spatial relationship with the basement dining room of the house, suggest that the two buildings were constructed at approximately the same time. These outbuildings from the mid-nineteenth-century and first quarter of the twentieth century played an important roll in the day-to-day functioning of the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House and today provide a strong complement to the historic setting of the house.

With its outbuildings and well-preserved state, the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House survives as one

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 13

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

---

of the most significant houses in Stokes County, strongly representing its mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival origins while also reflecting the influence of the Colonial Revival style in the early twentieth century. Its collection of outbuildings complements the house and reflects both periods of its architectural development.

Note: The Architecture Context was derived primarily from the Stokes County Historic Inventory Report, prepared by the author in 1989.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 14

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

---

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Branson, Levi. *North Carolina Business Directory*. 1867-68, 1872, 1877-78, 1884, 1890, 1896.

*Cemetery Records of Rockingham and Stokes Counties, North Carolina*. Madison, N. C.: James Hunt Chapter, National Society Daughters of American Revolution, 1978.

*Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Stokes County, North Carolina, Slave Schedule and Industry Schedule*.

*The 1850 Federal Census and Supplementary Schedules of Stokes County, North Carolina*. Winston-Salem: The Forsyth County Genealogical Society, 1985.

*The 1860 Federal Census of Stokes County, North Carolina*. Madison, N. C.: James Hunter Chapter National Society Daughters of American Revolution, 1990.

Fulk, Susan (owner of Leak-Chaffin-Browder House and descendant of William David Browder). Interview with author, January 16, 2002.

*Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Mecklenburg County and Stokes County, North Carolina, Population Schedule*.

Phillips, Laura A. W. Stokes County Historic Inventory Final Report, 1989.

*Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Stokes County, North Carolina, Slave Schedule*.

Stokes County Records, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Marriage Bonds), Stokes County Courthouse, Danbury, North Carolina.

Woodard, John R., ed. *The Heritage of Stokes County North Carolina*. Germanton, N.C.: The Stokes County Historical Society, 1981.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 & Photos Page 15

Leak-Chaffin-Browder House  
Stokes County, North Carolina

---

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is defined as Parcel 3461 of Block 01 on Stokes County Map #6942-03.

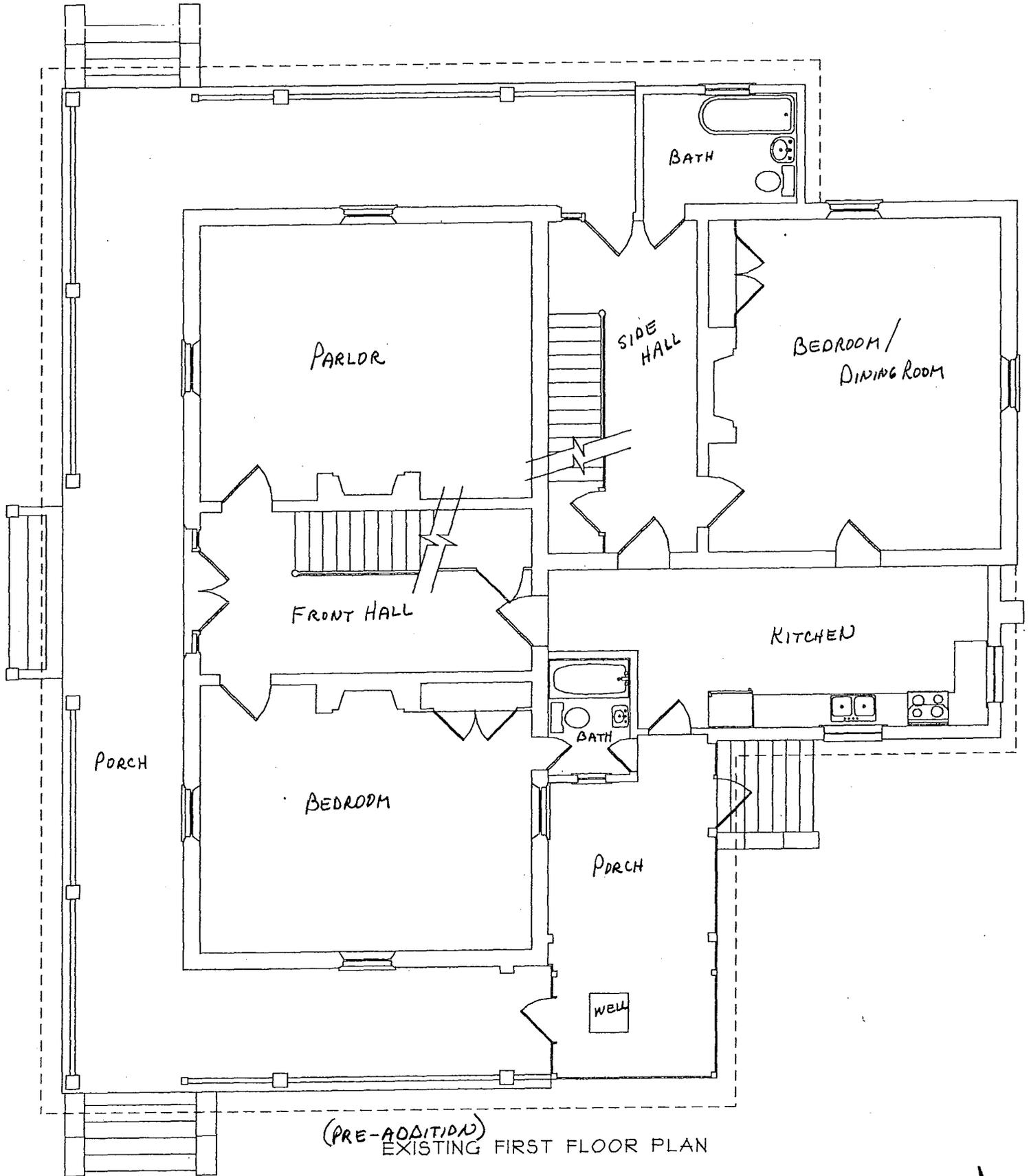
#### Boundary Justification

The nominated property, consisting of a tract of 3.04 acres, constitutes the surviving historic setting of the Leak-Chaffin-Browder House and outbuildings.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

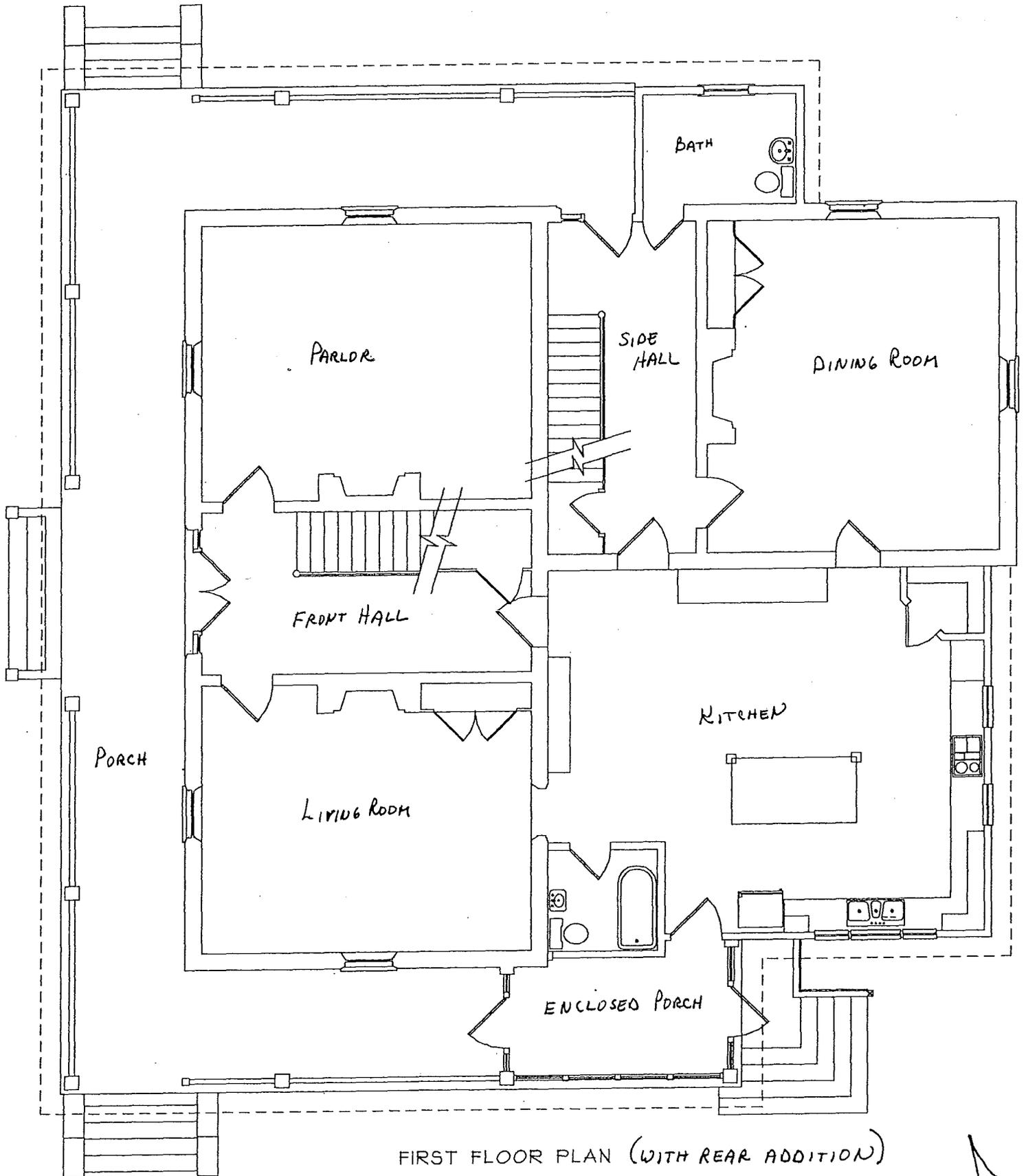
The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) Leak-Chaffin-Browder House
- 2) Stokes County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 4) November 2001
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7) A: Facade, view to SE  
B: Documentary (ca. 1900?), facade, view to SE  
C: North and east elevations, view to SW  
D: South and east elevations with addition, view to N  
E: Front hall stair, view to E  
F: Side hall stair detail, view to NE  
G: First floor, southwest room, view to NW  
H: Second floor, northwest room, view to SE  
I: Basement dining room, view to W  
J: Kitchen-slave/servants' house, view to N  
K: Kitchen-slave/servants' house, interior (north room) view to S  
L: Granary/tobacco pack house, chicken house, and wood shed, view to E  
M: Privy and shed, view to NE  
N: Kitchen-slave/servants' house, barn, and corn crib/equipment shed/meat house, view to SE  
O: Setting, view to NE



LEAK-CHAFFIN-BROWDER HOUSE  
 STOKES COUNTY, NC

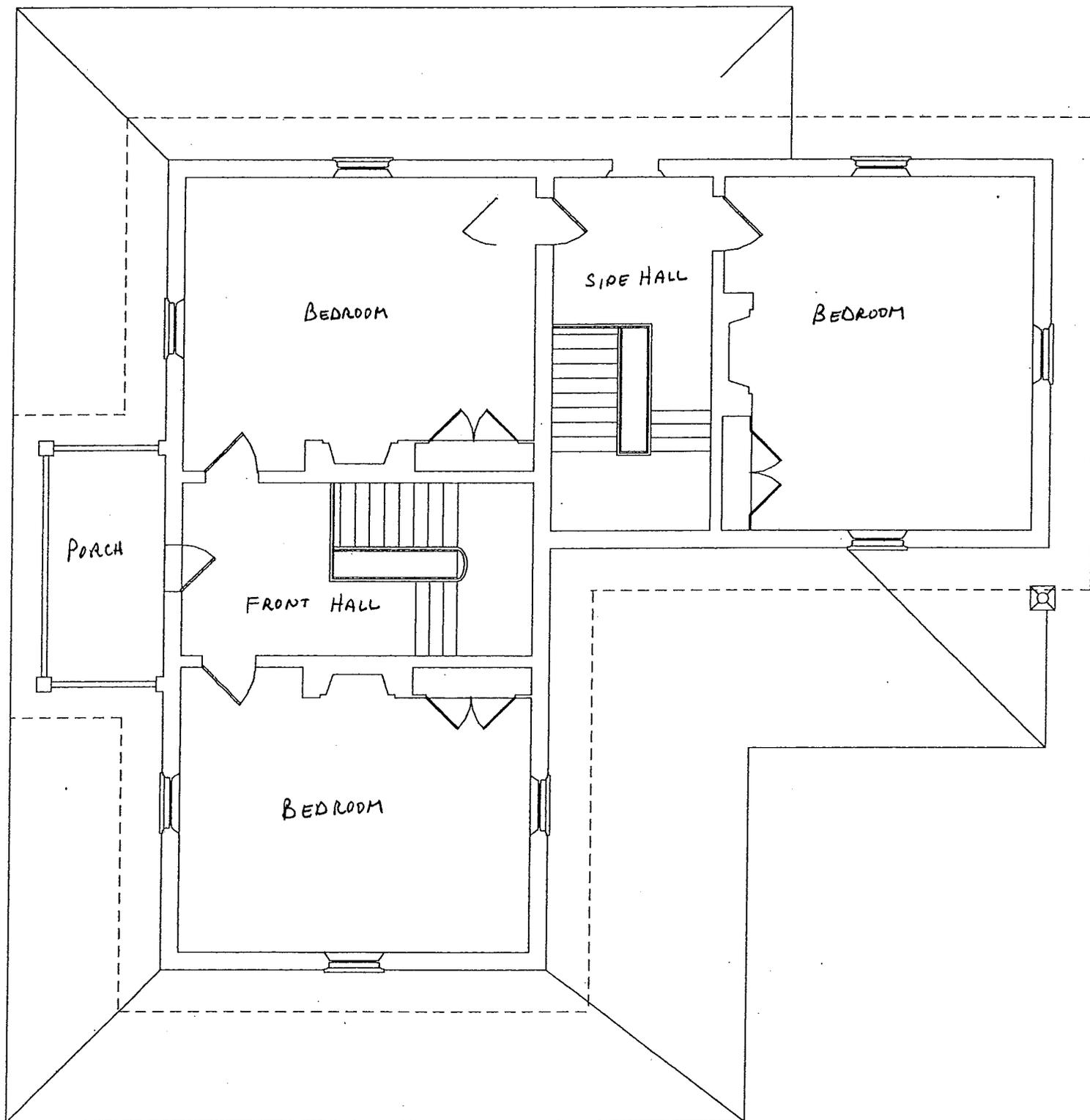




FIRST FLOOR PLAN (WITH REAR ADDITION)

LEAK-CHAFFIN-BROWDER HOUSE  
 STOKES COUNTY, NC

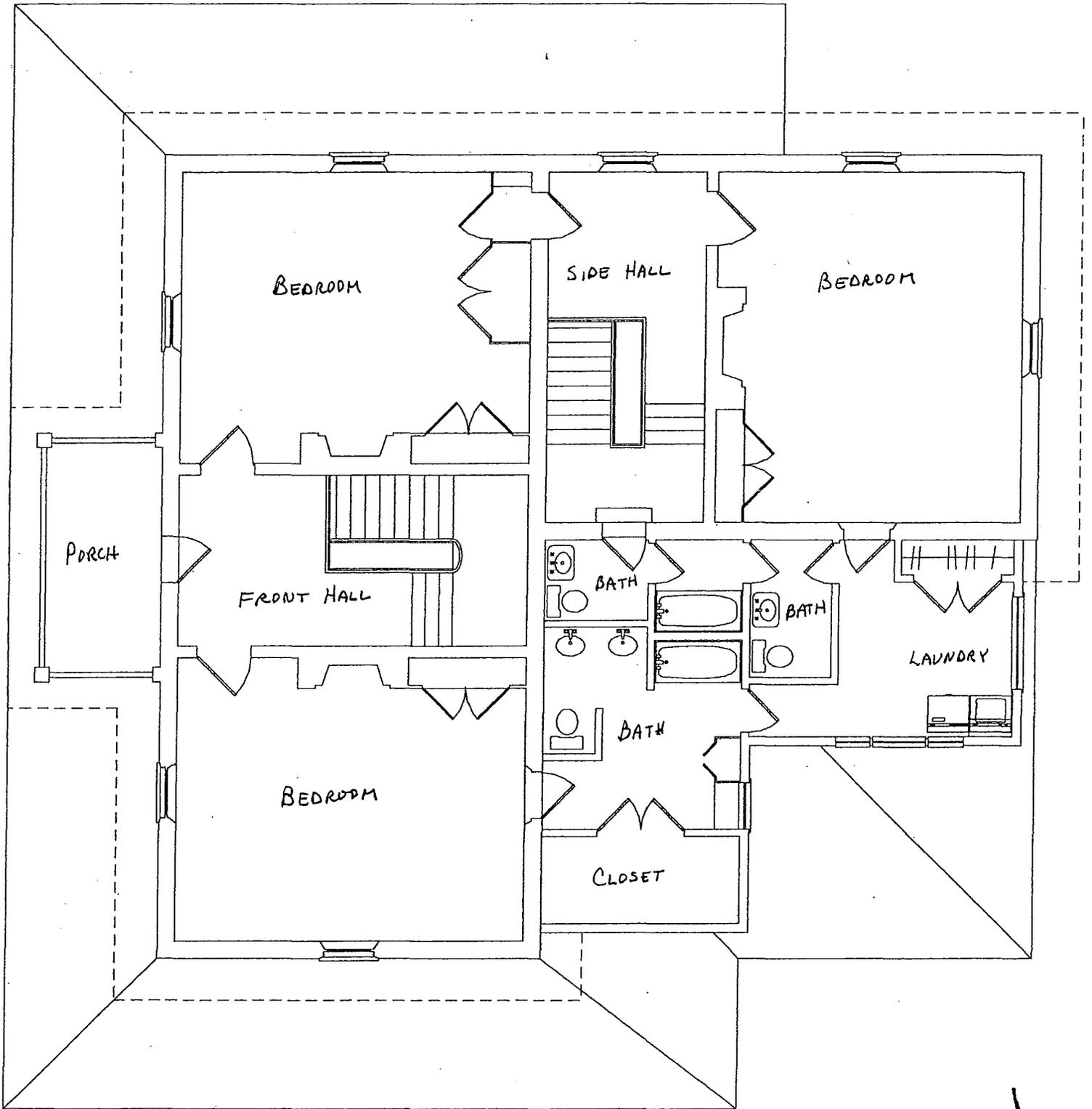




(PRE-ADDITION) EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN

LEAK-CHAFFIN-BROWDER HOUSE  
STOKES COUNTY, NC

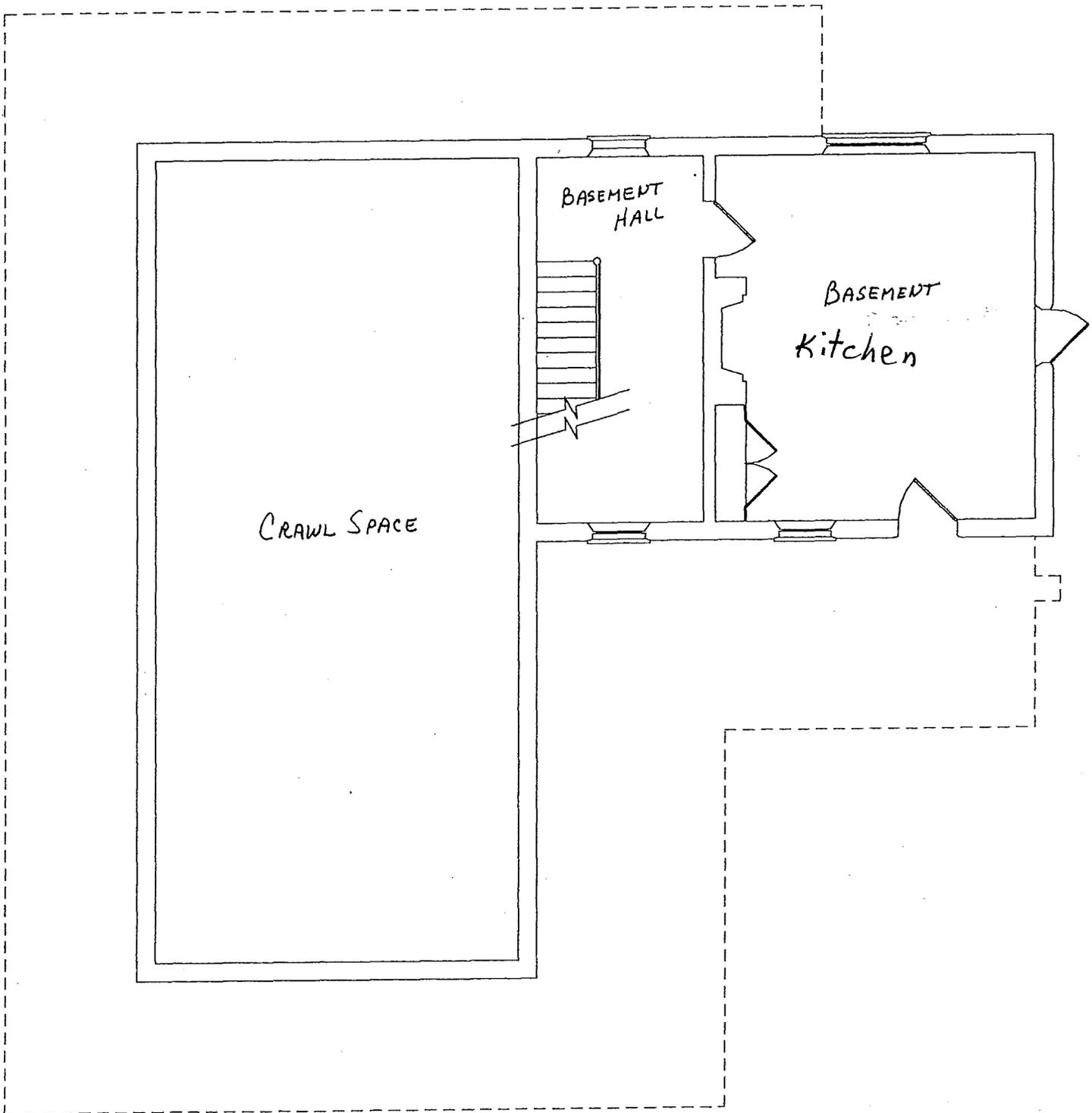




SECOND FLOOR PLAN (WITH REAR ADDITION)

LEAK-CHAFFIN-BROWDER HOUSE  
 STORES COUNTY, NC



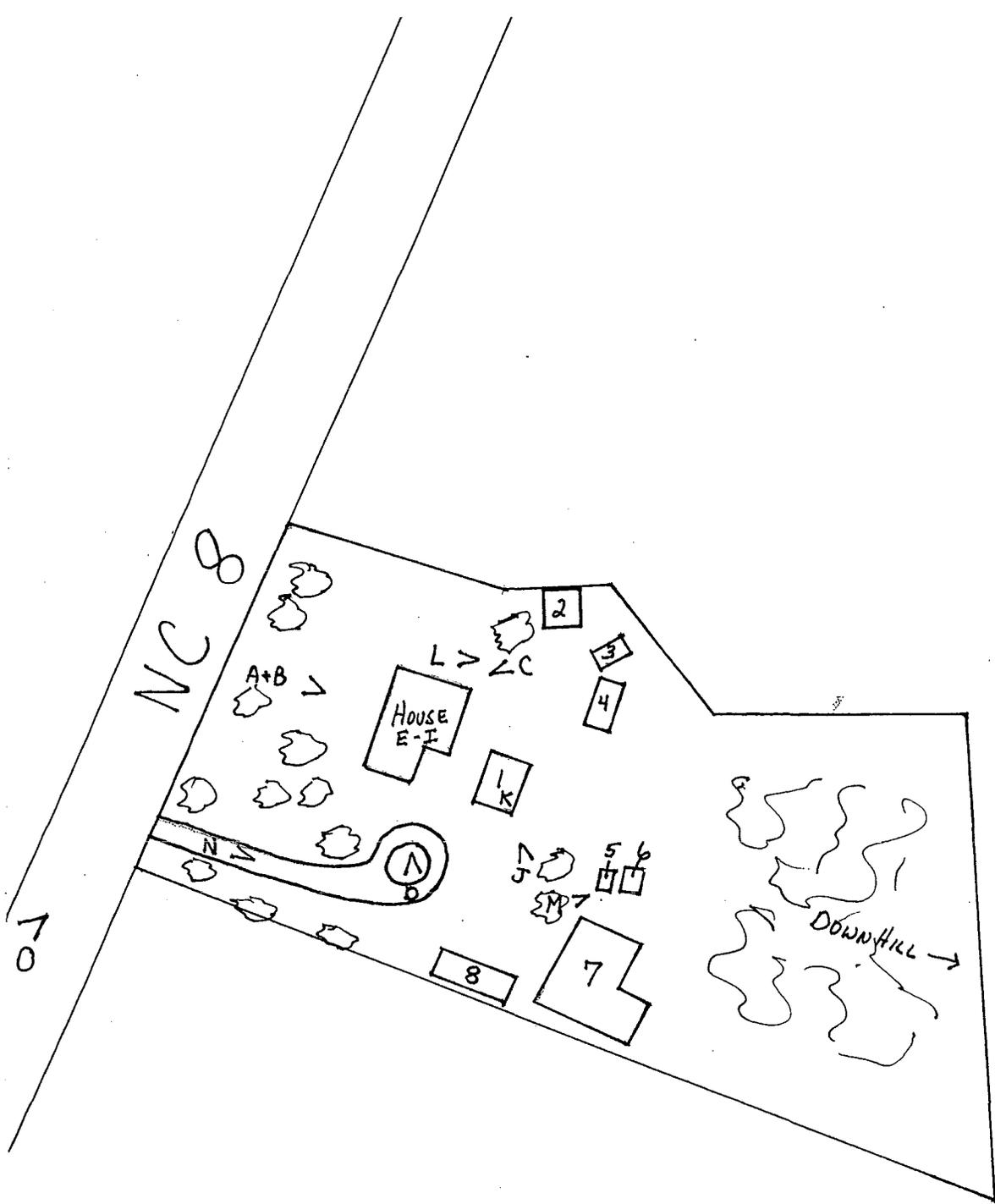


(PRE-ADDITION)

EXISTING BASEMENT PLAN

LEAK - CHAFFIN-BROWDER HOUSE  
STORES COUNTY, NC





# LEAK-CHAFFIN-BROWDER HOUSE

STOKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

SITE MAP - DRAWN FROM TAX MAP 6942-03,

BLOCK 01, PARCEL 3461

SCALE: 1" = 100'

I - INVENTORY NUMBER

A > PHOTO ID + DIRECTION

