

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 The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House and the Marks House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 112 North Third Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Albemarle N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Stanly code 167 zip code 28001

### 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.)

William S. Rainey SHPO 1-24-95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Federal-Greek Revival  
transitional

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Wood

other Stone  
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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Politics/Government
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

- ca. 1847-1850
- ca. 1874-1904
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

- ca. 1847
- ca. 1874
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Snuggs, Isaiah Wilson

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House and Marks House  
Name of Property

Stanly County, North Carolina  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

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3	9	1	2	0	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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 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 Davyd Foard Hood

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 5 August 1994

street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-4331

city or town Vale state N.C. zip code 28168

### 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 Stanly County, Mr. John Lowder, Chairman, Board of Commissioners

street & number 201 South Second Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Albemarle state N.C. zip code 28001

**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.

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Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House and Marks House  
Stanly County, North Carolina

Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House and Marks House  
Narrative Description

The Setting of the Snuggs and Marks Houses

The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House, erected ca. 1874, and the Marks House, erected ca. 1847, stand on a town lot at 112 North Third Street in Albemarle. For a century, from ca. 1874 until 1975, the lot was the site of the two-story Snuggs House which was built here ca. 1874 at the front of the lot and facing west onto North Third Street. For a part of the twentieth century, a brick garage stood at the rear of the lot: it became deteriorated and it was taken down in the early 1970s. In 1975, the one-story frame Marks House was moved from a similar town lot one block west onto the rear (east) of the Snuggs House lot and oriented to face south onto East Main Street. The two houses have been restored by the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission and are operated as historic house museums by the commission.

The two houses occupy Lot #56 of the original town plan of Albemarle. It measures ninety-five feet in width and 186.25 feet in depth and has a complete grass cover which forms a common lawn for the two dwellings. The street front of the lawn is retained by a low brick wall, carrying along the edge of the poured cement public sidewalk.

The wall was erected in 1974 using bricks from the derelict brick garage standing at the rear of the lot which was demolished. A flight of brick steps, on axis with the front door of the Snuggs House, is inset in the wall and rises to the brick paved walk leading to the house. At the north end of this wall there is an opening for a driveway, on the site of an earlier driveway, which enters the northwest corner of the lot to provide handicapped access to the museum facility. A wooden picket fence carries along the top inside edge of the brick wall and across the front of the house. Like picket fences carry along the north and south property lines of the lot. There are narrow cultivated border beds of annuals and old-fashioned perennials and flowering shrubs planted along these north and south side fences. The brick foundations of the Snuggs House's side and rear elevations are partially concealed by a variety of evergreen and deciduous shrubs. These include boxwood and forsythia, as well as a traditional fig bush which is planted at the base of the chimney at the south gable end of the house.

A brick walk, leading north from the main walk between the street and the Snuggs House, wraps the northwest corner of the Snuggs House and continues to the east to the rear of the Marks House. Because of the gently descending grade there are two breaks in its path, with inset steps, between the two houses. A single row of five crape myrtles, planted on a north/south axis, simply mark the transition from the lawn of the Snuggs House to the lawn of the Marks House which comprises the rear third of the lot. As appropriate, there are no foundation plantings

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around the Marks House except a couple of boxwoods at the rear. The rear (east) lot line, to the east of the Marks House, is planted with mixed shrubs, plants, and bamboo which forms something of a narrow thicket and naturally enclose the setting of the house. In the lawn surrounding the Marks House, there are specimen shade and ornamental trees.

The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House

The Snuggs House presents a traditional two-story, three-bay facade to North Third Street. The weatherboarded elevation is enframed by cornerboards which rise at the corners of the house. The eaves of the house are flush-sheathed and simply molded. The first story is protected by a shallow one-story shed roof porch, built in 1975, with sheathed shed ends and a wood shingle roof. The porch stands on a brick foundation and has a wood floor. The supports are square-in-plan chamfered wood posts which are connected by a simple railing. On axis with the front door there is a short pair of wood steps leading down to the brick walk. At the north end of the porch is an unpainted wood wheelchair ramp for handicapped access. On the first story, the door is inset in the center bay and features molded paneled reveals. The flanking window openings and the trio of windows on the second story contain six-over-six double-hung sash. The original Italianate-style front door has glazed arch-headed upper panels and is set in a molded surround: the window surrounds here, and throughout the house, are made up of plain boards.

The north and south gable ends of the house are dominated by mixed (but mostly common) bond brick chimneys with single stepped shoulders. They are flanked by windows at both levels. In the upper reaches of the gable ends there are small louvered ventilators, installed in 1975, to the north of the chimney stacks. There is also a like vent in the south end of the shed room and a fourth one in the east gable end of the ell. The north elevation of the one-story ell, flush with the north gable end of the two-story block, has a symmetrical three-bay elevation: a five-panel wood door in the center bay opens into the original kitchen. A wood stoop and wood steps, rebuilt in 1975, precede this entrance. The windows here, as elsewhere throughout the house, contain six-over-six sash.

The rear (east) elevation of the Snuggs House has an asymmetrical arrangement. The one-story ell, with one window in its east gable end, occupies the north part of the wall. The ell has a shed porch, now enclosed, on its south elevation which connects with the one-story shed room on the south part of the rear wall. In plan the porch is due east of the house's center hall. The enclosed porch has windows on its east and south elevations while the shed room has two windows on its east elevation and a single window on its south shed end. On the second story there is a single, short window in the center of the elevation which illuminates the second-story stair hall.

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The interior of the Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House follows a center, stair hall plan with large rooms to either side of the hall on both first and second stories. Opening behind the north first-story room is a two-room kitchen/dining room ell. A doorway at the back (east) end of the first-story stair hall opens into a rear hall with doors opening into a bathroom (partially partitioned off the shed room) and a small room (bedroom?) which was formed by the enclosure of the rear porch. The rear shed room opens off the south parlor on the first story.

The interior of the Snuggs House is largely unaltered from the period of the Snuggs family occupancy which ended ca. 1910. The floors are mostly pine; however, in certain rooms the original floors have been covered with later oak flooring, carpet, or vinyl flooring covering. There are molded top baseboards. The walls and ceilings of most of the rooms are sheathed with tongue-and-groove ceiling of varying widths, room to room: the north first-story room is sheathed with wide horizontal boards. The door and window surrounds consist mostly of plain boards with a center band of convex fluting which enlivens their appearance. The doors are original and include four- and five-panel later-nineteenth century doors, five horizontal panel doors from the early twentieth century, and a single two, vertical panel door which is probably contemporary with the original log dwelling/building which stood here. The house retains three of its four original Italianate-style mantels. At two places in the house, the interior sheathing has been cut away to expose, for educational purposes, the single-pen log construction of the first-story hall and north parlor: these cutaways occur in the northwest corner of the north parlor--where the flush board sheathing is also exposed--and on the south side of the hall, at the foot of the stair.

The principal feature of the center stair hall is the Victorian period stair which rises eastward along the hall's south wall to a landing and then climbs to the second story. The stair features a robust turned newel and a railing of shaped vertical, horizontal, and diagonal members which represent a geometric/lattice-like appearance. The underside of the stair is enclosed to form a closet: the stair ends are molded. The walls of the stair hall are sheathed with wide tongue-and-groove sheathing and the floor is carpeted.

The parlor on the south, added in ca. 1874, has narrow oak flooring overlaid on the original floors and wallpaper on the walls and ceiling. The mantel, in the center of the south wall, is Italianate in style and features molded pilasters which rise to a molded, scalloped edge frieze: a trio of molded brackets, set onto the frieze, rise to support the mantel shelf with breaks forward over the two outer brackets. The firebox is fitted with a metal coal grate which has been bricked-in. The hearth is painted poured cement. A two-vertical-panel door in the room's east wall opens into the shed room which has a carpeted floor and flush sheathed walls and ceiling: it has a small closet on the north.

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The north parlor and the dining room, immediately behind (east) of it, function as a two-chamber exhibition space for the commission. Both rooms have carpet on the floors. The parlor has sheetrock over the flush-sheathing (to accommodate wall-hung exhibitions), while the dining room retains its original tongue-and-groove sheathing on the walls and ceiling. The mantel has been removed from this room, apparently prior to 1974. A five-horizontal-panel door (with a brown agate knob) in the east wall of the dining room opens into the original kitchen which now serves as a service area for the commission offices. The walls and ceiling are sheathed with tongue-and-groove sheathing; the door and window surrounds are plain boards. A five-pane turn-of-the-century door opens in the north wall onto a stoop. There are ghost marks in the ceiling of the room, in the northeast corner, for a ceiling-mounted cookstove flue and a second such indication of a flue on the east wall.

The first-story rear hall, bathroom, and small (bedroom?) have a slight range of finishes which indicate their different periods. The rear hall and the bathroom are sheathed with narrow tongue-and-groove ceiling on the walls and ceilings. The floor of the hall is carpeted; the floor of the bathroom is covered with vinyl flooring. The door between the hall and bathroom has a five-horizontal-panel arrangement as does the door on a closet opening off the bathroom. The small room at the east end of the hall, probably originally a small bedroom and now used as an office, has a carpeted floor and sheetrock walls and ceiling.

The finish of the second-story rooms of the Snuggs House are virtually unaltered and are furnished and represented as museum rooms which reflect a late-nineteenth century parlor (the north room) and a bedroom (south room) of the same era. The floors of five-inch wide pine boards are all visible. The walls and ceilings are sheathed with wide tongue-and-groove ceiling. The window surrounds are plain boards while the door surrounds and the window surround on the stair landing are boards embellished with a convex molded center band. The joints of the wall and floor and the corners of the room are finished with a quarter-round molding. The mantels in the two rooms are identical and consist of molded pilasters on bases which rise to a wide, scalloped frieze band. A molding at the top of the frieze band supports the shallow shelf which is finished with rounded corners. The north room is furnished and interpreted as a parlor and is fitted up with nineteenth- and very early-twentieth century furniture and furnishings which were used in Albemarle homes of the era. There are black-and-white photographs in period frames of Isaiah Wilson Snuggs, Irenus Polycarp Efird (1834-1902), Mary Treece Efird (1838-1921), and other Albemarle citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Efird were the parents of John Solomon Efird who was married to Snuggs's eldest daughter Bertha Estelle Snuggs. The floor is partially covered with a woven strip center carpet with an overall floral patterning. The south room is furnished as a bedroom of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It is furnished with locally-used bedroom furnishings of the period including the handsome five-drawer walnut chest with mirror that was used here by the Snuggs family and appears to date to the mid-nineteenth century.

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Stanly County, North CarolinaThe Marks House

The Marks House, bearing the name of the family which owned it from 1884 until 1975, is a one-story hall-and-parlor plan weatherboarded frame house which is believed to have been built ca. 1847-1850. The house, erected on the front (west) part of lot #5 in Albemarle, was moved back (eastward) on its lot in 1906 to allow for the construction of a two-story brick boarding house. On 6 December 1975, it was moved some 300 feet to the east and onto the rear of lot #56, to the rear of the Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House, where it stands to the present. During the period from 1979 until 1981, the exterior of the house was restored by Phillip Ellen and Associates, contractors from Southern Pines. During 1984 to 1986 the interior of the house was restored and the house was fitted up with new electrical and mechanical systems: this work was completed by the firm of D. A. Holbrook and Sons of Albemarle.

The restored Marks House is small in size and modest in its appearance. It stands, as originally, on low piers of stacked stone. The two-room hall-and-parlor plan house is enlarged through the pair of rear shed rooms, flanking a center porch/passage, which are engaged under the side-gable roof. The house is flanked by replacement exterior-end brick chimneys, rising from low stone bases, which stand in each gable end and rise above the wood shingle roof.

The three-bay south front elevation of the Marks House is symmetrically arranged and dominated by the entrance-bay porch which occupies the center of the facade. The elevation, like the house's other sides, is enframed by cornerboards which rise to the simply-molded box cornices which carry across the front and rear (north) elevations. The replacement porch rests on stone piers and has a wood floor and a quartet of wood steps which descend southward to ground level. The porch is supported by square-in-plan wood posts which are connected to the front of the house by a traditional railing: separate sections of the railing carry at the ends of the steps. The posts rise to a deep simply-molded soffit which forms the base of the pedimented gable at the front of the porch. Like the house, the porch is covered with wood shingles. The porch shelters the doorway, opening into the hall, which contains its original six-panel door. The flanking bays to either side contain window openings in simple two-part molded surrounds: the openings contain their original nine-over-six double-hung sash windows.

The east and west gable ends of the house are generally similar in their appearance except for the size of the chimneys and the positioning of a side-door on the east elevation. The chimneys stand in the center of the front hall-and-parlor block of the house. The chimney standing on the west elevation is laid up in one (header) to five (stretcher) bond: it has simple stepped shoulders and a simply-corbelled top. Immediately flanking it are large window openings fitted with nine-over-six sash windows. In the north end of the elevation there is a smaller window opening containing six-over-six sash which

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illuminates the shed room in the northwest corner of the house. This arrangement recurs on the east elevation of the house with two differences. The brick chimney here, which provides the firebox for the parlor fireplace, is smaller in width than the west chimney; it, too, is laid up in one (header) to five (stretcher) bond and has stepped shoulders and a simply-corbelled top. The more visible difference in the two elevations, however, is the existence of a doorway immediately north of the chimney: it contains its original six-panel door with molded flat panels. It opens onto a replacement wood stoop with guard railings which descend with the quartet of steps to ground level.

The rear of the Marks House consists of single shed rooms flanking a center porch/passage. Each of the end rooms has a window opening in the center of their north elevations which contain six-over-six sash. The window surround, sash, and glass in the west room was original: the surround, sash, and glass in the east room was installed during the exterior restoration. The inset porch/passage has a painted wood floor, flush sheathed walls and ceiling, a molded top baseboard, and a simple molding at the cornice. The three-part molded surround of the doorway into the hall has a richer profile than the three-part surrounds at the individual doors into each of the shed rooms. Each of these doorways contains a six-panel door, with molded flat panels, which are stained and grained. These doors all appear to be original. Three wood steps, extending the width of the porch, descend to the lawn. A conventional handicap ramp of unpainted wood members is set above the east end of the steps.

The interior of the Marks House follows a hall-and-parlor plan and survives remarkably intact considering its history of ownership and occupation. The pine floors, flush-sheathed walls and ceilings, and virtually all of the interior woodwork survives in place and in good condition. The hall is the most elaborately finished room in the house and it is also the largest. The front and rear doors, on direct axis, open into the room against the partition wall with the parlor. A third original door, in the center of the partition (east) wall, opens into the parlor. These three doors have symmetrically fluted surrounds with recessed fieldstone cornerblocks. The three windows have like surrounds; however, the cornerblocks have a flat, flush face which might have been designed to receive hardware mounts for draperies. The window surrounds, like the door surrounds, rise from bases projecting beyond the baseboards. Thus, there are apron-like panels below each of the windows which further enrich the wall surfaces of the room. The same treatment recurs in the parlor and shed rooms. The walls rise from a molded baseboard to a simple molded chair rail and upward to cove molding at the cornice. All these features of the room's interior decoration are essentially Greek Revival in style; however, the mantel is Federal in both its form and detailing. It features narrow reeded half-columns rising from a two-part base to a full three-part entablature. The architrave includes a reeded band which carries above a broad board lintel across the top of the firebox. A second reeded band carries across the top of the mantel frieze. The

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reeding in both bands inclines inward at a slight angle. The architrave and entablature break forward over the columns and in the center, and the heavily molded cornice and shelf do likewise. The rebuilt firebox is brick and so is the hearth.

The parlor likewise retains its original floors, flush-sheathed walls and ceiling, and other woodwork. The walls rise from a simply molded baseboard to a modest cornice molding: there is no chair rail. The door and window surrounds here are three-part and Federal in style. They rise from the baseboard and are original. The mantel here is less ambitious, and almost carpenter-like in appearance. Narrow pilasters rise from bases on either side of the firebox: they flank the double-field paneled frieze and rise to support the molded cornice and rectangular shelf. The firebox and hearth are brick and replacements dating from the exterior restoration. The original six-panel door in the center of the parlor's north wall opens into the east shed room. Here portions of both the floor and the flush sheathing on the walls and ceiling--as well as the baseboard--were replaced during the restoration because of changes the room had experienced through the twentieth century. The window surrounds are plain boards with inner beading: they are replacements and rise from the baseboard to form apron-like panels under the windows. The west shed room, unlike the east shed room, appears to retain most of its original flooring and flush-board sheathing; however, the baseboards and door and window surrounds appear to be replacements. Their profile is the same as those features in the east shed room.

Integrity Assessment

In 1975 when the Marks House was moved from its second (1906) site and relocated on the rear third of the Snuggs House lot, it appears that the matter of replicating the original setting of the house was probably not a primary consideration of the commission. What does seem to have been uppermost in the deliberations of the commission was the future of the house and its relationship to the Snuggs House in the operation of its education programs. The commission rightly understood the historical and architectural significance of the houses and they designated both as historical properties within months of each other in 1975. They also understood the educational possibilities which the two houses represented. The Marks House, the oldest surviving house in Albemarle and a landmark in both the town and county, survived remarkably intact and represented the opportunity for the commission to interpret the early to mid-nineteenth century history of the area and the period of the county's formation in 1841. The Snuggs House, erected about a quarter of a century later and partially of log construction, provided the commission with the opportunity to represent that important aspect of the architectural history of the area as well as interpret rooms in the house to the later years of the nineteenth century. It also provided the commission with rooms for changing and temporary exhibits as well as office space for the operation of the commission and the Stanly County-Albemarle

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Historical Museum. Thus, the idea of having the two houses on one site (lot) was very attractive to the commission. Because of the conditions attached to the gift of the Marks House to the commission, it was clear the only feasible means of saving the house was to move it to a new setting.

The other clear consideration for the commission was the fact that the house had been moved from its original site in 1906 and had stood in an obscure position to the rear of the Marks boarding house: there in the rear quarter of the lot on which it was built it had survived in use as a rental property for some six decades. Its removal to the Snuggs House property, ironically, reinstalled the house in something of the same secondary position it had played for most of the twentieth century when it stood to the rear of the family's brick boarding house and residence. There was no known photographic documentation of the house on its original site except for one photograph which showed it on what appeared to be a swept lawn. That view had to have dated to around 1900, fifty years after its construction and period of significance. Sanborn Insurance Maps documented the position of the house in the early twentieth century. The critical question before the commission and its members, however, was the matter of saving the house and its important educational and cultural value to the community.

To that end, the house was restored in 1979-1986 under the supervision of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office: staff members Timothy Burdett and Camille Bowman oversaw the commission's work with the architect Hamilton Morton and the two restoration contractors. In support of the project, the North Carolina General Assembly awarded matching grants totaling \$35,000 for the restoration of the Marks House.

Today the Marks House stands with the Snuggs House as the two principal holdings of the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission. Together they represent the history of the town and county in its formative nineteenth century years. Recently, the commission has acquired adjoining nonhistoric property which they plan to renovate for offices and visitors's services. This property, located at the corner of Fourth and East Main Streets, partially lies in front of the Marks House. Now facing south onto East Main Street as it did from ca. 1847-1880 to 1906, the Marks House enjoys the prospect of having its visual and physical connection with the street renewed through a lawn or greensward.

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Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House and the Marks House  
Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House and the Marks House, occupying the single town lot #56) on which the Snuggs House was built ca. 1874, are a unique pair of weatherboarded frame houses in the city of Albemarle. The Marks House and the Snuggs House, respectively, are the oldest and second oldest intact and well-preserved houses which survive in the county seat of Stanly County. In addition to their importance in the history of Albemarle, both houses are important in the architectural history of Albemarle and Stanly County and satisfy Criterion C for listing in the National Register.

The Marks House, named for the family which owned it from 1884 until 1975, was built ca. 1847-1850 for either Daniel Freeman or his son Archibald Freeman: the senior Mr. Freeman owned the house and its original lot from 1847 until 1860 while his son occupied the house and operated a store on the property which faced on the town square. Plain on the outside, as were many houses of its period in the backcountry, the Marks House has an impressive program of transitional Federal/Greek-Revival style interior architecture. It is important for the quality and survival of this craftsmanship, which embodies the distinctive characteristics of its period and style, in both Albemarle and Stanly County. Having undergone numerous changes in ownership between 1860 and 1884--reflecting the quickly evolving character of the county seat--the house was acquired in 1884 by Whitson A. Marks who occupied it with his family until 1906. In that year, he rolled the house back (east) on the lot and erected a two-story brick boarding house on its site. The Marks Boarding House was operated by the family for many years and remained a family residence until the 1960s. The Marks House was fitted up with a kitchen wing and served as a family-owned rental property until the 1960s.

On 19 August 1974, the W. A. Marks cottage was designated as a historic property by the City of Albemarle. On 18 June 1975, Miss Patty J. Marks and her niece donated the house to the Stanly County Historic Properties Commission with the stipulation that it be moved to another site. On 6 December 1975, the house was moved onto the lot of the Snuggs House where it was situated to face east toward Main Street as it did from ca. 1847 until 1906. With grants totaling \$35,000 from the North Carolina General Assembly and lesser grants from the municipal and county governments and ALCOA, the house was restored under the supervision of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and opened to the public as a historic house museum in 1986. Because of its high degree of structural integrity and importance in the architectural history of Albemarle and Stanly County, the relocated and restored house satisfies Criterion Consideration B.

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The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House, designated as a historic property on 16 April 1974, is also important in the architectural history of Albemarle as the oldest known intact surviving dwelling in the county seat which still stands on and holds associations with its original site. It is an important and well-preserved example of the traditional two-story three-bay house form in Albemarle and Stanly County. Its interior is likewise well-preserved and it provides an intact representation of the finish of a traditional North Carolina house of the later nineteenth century.

The Snuggs House also satisfies Criterion B for listing in the National Register in the area of Politics and Government and it has been a landmark in the town of Albemarle since its construction. Isaiah Wilson Snuggs (1846-1904), known throughout his later life and to the present as "Buck" Snuggs, was a native of Stanly County and a veteran of the Civil War who lost his right leg in the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. He returned to Stanly County, and in 1872 he embarked upon a career of public service in the county seat of Albemarle. In that year he was elected as the (third) register of deeds for Stanly County and held that office until 1888. He was then appointed sheriff of Stanly County, to fill an unexpired term, and he was elected twice again to that office. In 1894 he was appointed treasurer of Stanly County and he was holding that position at his death on 8 May 1904. During his lifetime and the half-century afterward, he is the only public official to have held all three offices in the Stanly County government. At his death he was described in an obituary published in the Charlotte OBSERVER as "invincible before the public. He was a wise and safe and conscientious public servant. His kindness, his sincerity and his integrity combined to make him the most popular man the county ever had."

The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House was held by his descendants from 1904 until 1974 when it was designated as a historic property and it was acquired by the Stanly County Historic Properties Commission. The commission effected certain restoration efforts and opened the house in 1976 as the Stanly County-Albemarle Historical Museum. It continues to house permanent and temporary exhibitions, together with two historic house museum rooms, and the offices of the commission.

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Historical Background and Politics/Government Context  
of the Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House

The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House, occupied by Snuggs from ca. 1874 until his death in 1904, the property of his descendants until 1974, and the headquarters and museum of the Stanly County-Albemarle Historic Preservation Commission since 1975, has been a landmark in the city of Albemarle for well over a century. The exact date for the construction of the house--or rather the earliest part of the house--remains unclear. There is a local tradition that a small one-story log house--comprising the first-story hall and north parlor of the present dwelling--was built as early as the mid-nineteenth century and was standing on the property when it was acquired by Snuggs in 1873. Except for the fact that the log walls of a single-pen building enclose the hall and north parlor of the Snuggs House, little is known of its actual history and appearance. According to family tradition, Snuggs added a pendant parlor to the south end of the existing log house and raised the house to two stories through frame additions about 1874, the year in which he was married. The newly-expanded house and its one-story ell were then sheathed in weatherboards. Except for the rebuildings of the porch, in the early-twentieth century and again in 1975, the house stands largely as it did when Snuggs died in 1904.

Isaiah Wilson Snuggs, who suffered the loss of his right leg after capture at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, 12 May 1864, became a well-known and long-time political figure and office holder in Stanly County. Elected to the position of register of deeds in 1872, he held a succession of public offices including sheriff and treasurer of Stanly County until his death--a period of thirty-two years. An assessment of the public confidence in Snuggs appeared in the obituary published in the Charlotte Observer.

Mr. Snuggs served this county as register of deeds, as sheriff, and as treasurer for thirty years and was invincible before the public. He was a wise and safe and conscientious public servant. His kindness, his sincerity, and his integrity combined to make him the most popular man the county ever had.<sup>1</sup>

Stanly County, formed in 1841 out of Montgomery County, was a political entity in existence for only five years on 8 March 1846 when Isaiah Wilson Snuggs was born to Robert D. Snuggs (1813-1865) and his wife Priscilla Shankle (1820-1899). He lived into his teenage years on the family farm near Norwood. On or about 4 March 1864, approaching his eighteenth birthday, he enlisted as a private in Company H in the 14th Regiment, North Carolina Troops. He had been a soldier for just over two months when he was wounded and captured at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. His right leg was amputated and he remained in hospitals or in prison until he was exchanged in February 1865.

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Presumably after his return to North Carolina, he lived at the family farm for several years and until the early 1870s when he moved into Albemarle, the Stanly County seat, where he would live until his death.

The early 1870s was a period of great importance in Snuggs's life. In 1872 he was elected to his first public office, register of deeds for Stanly County, and he would remain a public servant until his death thirty-two years later. In 1873, he purchased two town lots, #56 and #66, on which (lot #56) he would build this house ca. 1874. In 1874 he was married to Ellen Douglas Milton (1849-1886), the daughter of James R. Milton. The history of ownership of lots #56 and #66 between the laying out of Albemarle and 1865 is unknown. On 1 November 1865 they were the property of John O. Ross who sold them for \$400 to Lafayette Green. The lots were described in the deed as "being the lots whereon the said John O. Ross lately lived." Since the lots are not back-to-back or side-to-side but touch only at outside corners, it cannot be determined on which of the two lots Ross's dwelling house might have stood.

Little is known of the life of John O. Ross (1824-1905), however, Lafayette Green was a man of considerable property and prominence in mid-nineteenth century Stanly County. He was elected to the House of Commons (Representatives) for four terms: 1860-1861; 1862-1864; 1868-1869; and 1869-1870. According to a Green family memoir, Lafayette Green built a house and operated a store on Second Street in what is now downtown Albemarle. After serving his final term in the North Carolina legislature, he is said to have sold up his property in Albemarle and to have relocated to a farm near Morrow Mountain. On 20 December 1873 Lafayette Green sold lots #56 and #66 to Isaiah Wilson Snuggs for \$375: the price differential between the earlier selling price of \$400 can be explained in part by the inflation of the post-Civil War period. The deed described the property as "being the lots where the said Lafayette Green formerly lived." Given Green's prominence and land holdings in Albemarle, it seems unlikely that, in fact, he ever lived on the property and that the terminology of the deed was a convention. Whatever the case, it seems even less likely that he might have lived in a modest one-story log house in that he was the nephew of the well-known North Carolina legislator and many term (1829-1851) United States Congressman Edmond DeBerry (1787-1859). It is possible that there was a small rental dwelling on the property and that it was that house or building which Isaiah Wilson Snuggs so substantially enlarged ca. 1874.

It was not the building which might have stood on lot #56 which attracted Snuggs to the property, but its location. Lot #56 facing west onto North Third Street was but one vacant lot removed from lot #58 on which stood the house of James R. Milton (1820-1908) and his wife Mary, and their daughter Ellen Douglas Milton. Isaiah Wilson Snuggs purchased these lots on 20 December 1873 and in the winter or early spring of 1874 he and Ellen Douglas Milton were married.

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This house was apparently completed before their first child, Bertha Estelle Snuggs, was born on New Year's Day 1875. The couple's first son Edgar Eugene Snuggs (1877-1949) was born 2 December 1877. A second son, William Henry Snuggs (1880-1951) was born on 19 May 1880. The couple's second daughter Mary Cleveland Snuggs (1883-1974) was born on 30 November 1883. Ellen Snuggs, the last born of the five children, died as an infant in 1886. Ellen Douglas Milton Snuggs (1850-1886) apparently died from complications with childbirth and predeceased her daughter and namesake, leaving her husband a widower with four children. In the rearing of his children, Snuggs was assisted by James and Mary Milton and Miss Sallie Boysworth who became a foster mother to the four Snuggs siblings and who appears to have lived in the Snuggs House for some years after the death of Mr. Snuggs on 8 May 1904.

In 1872, Isaiah Wilson Snuggs stood for election as register of deeds for Stanly County. According to an obituary, the 1872 election was the first county election held since the end of the Civil War. Snuggs, the third register of deeds for Stanly County, was reelected to the office for terms totaling sixteen consecutive years. He was defeated in his bid for reelection in 1888 by William T. Huckabee. In 1888 or 1889, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Stanly County Sheriff B. Crowell Blalock. He thus became the tenth sheriff of Stanly County and was twice reelected to that office. In 1893, as the county's highest elected official, he oversaw the removal of county government from the county's original frame court house to the newly-constructed brick court house. In 1894, he was appointed treasurer of Stanly County: he held that office continuously until his death on 8 May 1904 from complications of surgery at the Whitehead-Stokes Sanatorium in Salisbury.

The death notice dated 9 May which appeared in the Charlotte Observer and which lauded Isaiah Wilson Snuggs as "the most popular man the county ever had" described the tenor of feeling in Albemarle.

Yesterday and today have been very sad days in Albemarle. The sorrow that fills all hearts on account of the death of Mr. I. W. Snuggs, our county treasurer, shows in the faces of the people. The gloom is deep and general.

A like appreciation of Snuggs, published in another newspaper, confirms the public respect for its long time public servant.

He was 58 years of age, and it is thus seen that over half his life was spent in offices of public trust.

He had not an enemy; he enjoyed the highest esteem and confidence of all who knew him. He was a man who was even natured, who got access to the people, won their confidence and held it. He was always the same toward

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all, and the fact that he was often a candidate for office did not cause him to be then more familiar toward his constituents than he was between elections. Everybody knew him and loved him. Those who were familiar with him spoke of him as "Buck" Snuggs, and under this name he is best remembered.

Even with allowances for hyperbole, it is clear that Isaiah Wilson "Buck" Snuggs was a highly esteemed public servant and office holder. For thirty-two of his fifty-eight years he held appointive or elective offices in the government of Stanly County. From this vantage point, ninety years after his death, it may be difficult to evaluate in comparative terms, his accomplishments in office with those of his contemporaries. The lack of a comprehensive county history would also complicate such an examination. Nevertheless, it can be said with authority that Snuggs was the only public official in Stanly County who held all three offices of register of deeds, sheriff, and treasurer during the period from the county's formation in 1841 until Snuggs's death in 1904. In fact, he was the only man to hold all three of those offices of public trust for the period up to 1962. Perhaps the most important assessment of his life and his career as a public servant remains that of his peers in his day and conveyed in his obituary.

He was a wise and safe and conscientious public servant. His kindness, his sincerity and his integrity combined to make him the most popular man the county ever had.

In the century-and-a-half of its existence as a political entity Stanly County has had no other local public official who is remembered to this day with such respect. Likewise, it is no accident of history that his house for three decades has been preserved and now houses a local history museum.

When Snuggs died on 8 May 1904, his eldest son Edgar Eugene Snuggs (1877-1949) became head of the family consisting of four siblings. Each of these four children enjoyed social and civic prominence in early twentieth century Albemarle. Bertha Estelle Snuggs (1875-1949) was married to John Solomon Efrid (1857-1927), general manager of Efrid Manufacturing Company: that company was consolidated in 1952 with American Yarn company to form American and Efrid Mills, a major textile mill in the South. The couple built a large and handsome Colonial Revival-style brick mansion, now lost, which was perhaps the most impressive house of its era. On 30 November 1904, six months after her father's death, Mary Cleveland Snuggs (1883-1974) was married to Frank Neville Patterson (1880-1948). Patterson, the superintendent of Newton Hoisery Mills, was the son of I. Frank Patterson, the founder of the Patterson Manufacturing Company in China Grove, North Carolina, which was absorbed into the Cannon textile operation. They erected and occupied a handsome Spanish-Revival style house on East North Street. Edgar Eugene Snuggs would marry Sue McCain

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(1886-1983), the daughter of George Robert McCain. According to local tradition he occupied his childhood home for some years, until about 1910, and later, in the 1920s or 1930s, erected the handsome brick bungalow which stands next door at 120 North Third Street. In addition to his investments in real estate and lumbering, he is remembered as a donor of Morrow Mountain State Park. William Henry Snuggs (1880-1951) was married to Buena F. Cotton: the couple built a house on the west side of North Third Street, across from the Snuggs house, which no longer stands. It is their male descendants who carry the Snuggs name to the present.

The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House remained the joint property of his four surviving children until 27 October 1909 when William Henry Snuggs, Edgar Eugene Snuggs, and Mary Cleveland Snuggs Patterson, and their spouses deeded the homeplace (lot #56) and parts of lots #65 and #66 for \$2,600 to their sister Bertha Estelle Snuggs Efrid. On 26 March 1946, Bertha Snuggs Efrid deeded the Snuggs homeplace (lot #56) to her niece and namesake Bertie Snuggs Patterson. Ms. Patterson held the property until 1974. During this period from 1909 until 1974 the house was well-maintained and held as rental property. The only visible change in the house, except for the addition of a bathroom and some minor additions at the rear of the house, was the removal of the ca. 1874 porch and the erecting of a bungalow style porch featuring tapering wood columns on brick piers.

In 1974 a series of actions brought the house renewed recognition in Albemarle. In February or March of that year, steps were implemented toward the designation of the Snuggs House as a local historic property. On 16 April 1974 the Albemarle City Council officially designated the house a historical property. It was the first such designation in Albemarle and Stanly County. On 9 April, during the course of city consideration of the matter, Bertie Snuggs Patterson deeded the house to Reade and Catherine A. Pickler. One month later, on 9 May 1974, the Picklers deeded the property to the Stanly County-Albemarle Historic Properties Commission.

In 1975, the commission began a series of stabilization efforts on the Snuggs house which included the removal of successive asphalt shingle roofs and the original wood shingles and the installation of a replacement wood shingle roof. The most visible change, however, was the replacement of the bungalow style front porch. It featured a hip-roof supported by tapering wood columns on brick piers. It was pulled down in February-March 1975 and the present porch, suggested to be a replica of a ca. 1874 porch, was installed. It consists of simple chamfered square posts supporting a shed roof. On the well-preserved interior, certain rooms were set up as house museum interpretations with Snuggs family furniture and other gifts of nineteenth century furniture. Much of this work was carried out through the leadership of Elmira Hearne Surratt. The building also contains offices and

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related spaces, museum rooms, and changing exhibition spaces of the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission. (In 1986 the historic properties commission was reorganized as the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission.) It is open to the public for tours on a regularly-scheduled basis.

Architectural Context of the Snuggs House

The local architectural significance of the Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House derives from the fact that it is the oldest, intact house, representing local craftsmanship of its era, standing in the town of Albemarle on its original site. That a dwelling erected ca. 1874 should hold that distinction owes to a number of factors which shaped the architectural history of the county seat. When Stanly County was formed in 1841 from the western half of Montgomery County, there was no town of any real size which lay in that territory on the west side of the Yadkin River. In 1841 the heirs of Nehemiah Hearne (1780-1826) donated a fifty-acre tract as the site of the county seat. A town comprising seventy-two lots was laid out in 1842. First, Second, Third, and Fourth Streets were the four designated north/south streets: North, Main, and South Streets were the three streets which carried on an east/west axis. A public square, 100 yards square, was set aside at the intersection of Main and Second Streets as the site of the Stanly County court house. A frame building was erected here which stood in use until a brick court house was completed nearby in 1893 during Snuggs' tenure as sheriff.

Albemarle grew slowly in the first half-century of its existence and until a railroad line was built into Albemarle in 1891. Its principal purpose and function was to serve as the center of the county government. Those who lived in the small county seat were principally town officials, the proprietors of a few stores including Lafayette Green, and others who operated small local manufactories or served those who came to Albemarle on public or personal business. When Isaiah Wilson Snuggs moved to Albemarle in the early 1870s, he was only the third person to hold the position of register of deeds in the county and there were, even then, only a small number of families residing in the village. His future father-in-law James R. Milton owned at least two town lots and lived on one (#58). Snuggs, himself, would likewise in 1873 acquire two town lots and erect his house on one (lot #56) of them.

At present it is unclear how many dwellings stood in Albemarle in 1873-1874 when Snuggs acquired his two lots and overbuilt an existing log house on lot #56. The earliest, only surviving house which stood in the original part of town, laid out in 1842, is the Marks House, a transitional Federal/Greek Revival-style house probably dating from the 1840s. It stood on lot #5 in the northeast corner of the town square and faced south to Main Street. In 1884 it was acquired by Whitson A. Marks (1849-1935) who occupied the house with his family until 1906. In that year he moved the house to the rear of the lot, and with Thomas Crump Hearne he built a pair of two-story brick commercial

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buildings in which his wife and daughter long operated the Marks Boarding House. In 1975, the Marks House was moved onto the back portion of the Snuggs House lot by the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Properties Commission and restored as a house museum.

Clearly there were other frame houses in Albemarle, erected between 1842 and ca. 1874; however, all of them--except the Snuggs House--have been lost as the commercial and political operations of the county seat spread through the center of town comprising lots #1 through #48. This area was bounded on the north by North Street, on the west by First Street, on the south by South Street, and on the east by Third Street. The tier of twenty-four lots between Third and Fourth Streets and North and South Streets appear to have been mostly residential. The dwelling of James Milton stood here on lot #58, facing west onto Third Street, midway between North and Main Streets. Snuggs erected his house on lot #56, south of the Milton dwelling which was subsequently owned by the Snuggs siblings and pulled down in this century.

The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House is a traditional two-story, three-bay weatherboarded house with gable end brick chimneys and a one-story rear ell. According to local tradition the original dwelling on this property was a single-pen log house which Snuggs expanded, ca. 1874, with a room to the south and a full second story. There is a one-story rear ell which is either original (ca. 1874) or probably dating from the nineteenth century; the shed room behind the south parlor probably also dates to the nineteenth century. In the early decades of the twentieth century, the nineteenth-century Victorian supports on the front porch were replaced by bungalow-style supports. In 1975, that porch with its hip roof was replaced by a near-full facade shed roof porch supported on chamfered posts. Except for this 1975 replacement porch, which had replaced an earlier replacement porch, the exterior of the house is virtually unchanged and represents an intact image of traditional dwelling houses of the later decades of the nineteenth century. The interior of the house, likewise conveys an important image of nineteenth-century life in the Stanly County seat. Remarkably intact, given its long use as a rental property, it retains an impressive complement of original fittings and woodwork including tongue-and-groove sheathing, four- and five-panel doors with china knobs, door and window surrounds, three Italianate-style mantels, and a well-crafted stair featuring a turned newel and a geometric railing. This program of original interior architecture represents an important and intact example of local craftsmanship, design, and materials of ca. 1874 which has remained well-preserved to the present.

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Stanly County, North CarolinaThe Marks House: Narrative Statement of SignificanceIntroduction to the Marks House

Like the Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House, the Marks House has also been a building central to the history of the county seat of Stanly County. The house, believed to have been built ca. 1847, is the oldest surviving residence in Albemarle and one which predates the Snuggs House--the second oldest house--by some twenty-seven years. It is also a house which has experienced a complicated history of ownership. The house, probably built as a residence for Daniel Freeman or his son Archibald, had nine other owners between ca. 1847 and 1884, including J. M. Redwine who sold it on 25 November 1884 to Whitson

A. Marks. Marks and his family occupied the house from 1884 until 1906 when it was rolled back on its lot and a new brick boarding house was erected on its original site. The Marks family moved into the boarding house, operated it as a family enterprise for many years, and occupied it as a residence until the 1960s. The ca. 1847 house was given a new wing and became a rental property in 1906. It was used as a rental dwelling into the 1960s when it was no longer habitable. Despite its derelict condition, there was high regard for the house in Albemarle and in the early 1970s a movement emerged to preserve the house as the earliest surviving building in town. On 19 August 1974, the city of Albemarle designated the W. A. Marks cottage as a "historic property" under the provisions of the state enabling legislation. Less than a year later, in June 1975, Miss Patty Marks and her niece donated the house to the Stanly County Historic Properties Commission with the stipulation that it be moved. Six months later, on 6 December 1975, the house was moved some 200 feet to the east and onto the rear third of the Snuggs House lot. Soon thereafter a series of fund-raising and restoration efforts were undertaken and the house was restored to its original appearance and, completed, it was opened as a historic house museum in 1986.<sup>2</sup>

Early in this period, the Stanly County Historic Properties Commission, proceeding in consultation with North Carolina Division of Archives and History staff members, realized that a thorough documentation of the history and construction of the Marks House should be undertaken before any restoration activity could appropriately begin. Although the house had long been associated with the Marks family, essentially since their acquisition of the property in 1884, the early history of the dwelling was largely unknown. Clearly, the house was the oldest surviving residence in the town of Albemarle; however, the identities of persons who had built, owned, and occupied it were unknown. Acting upon staff advice, the commission entered into a contract with historian Bruce Smith Cheeseman early in 1978 to prepare a historical research report on the Marks House. Cheeseman completed his work, "Historical Research Report: The Marks House of Albemarle, Stanly County," on 30 June 1978. It became the basis for the restoration work undertaken by the commission and guided both the physical renewal of the house's architectural fabric and the

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interpretative program for its furnishing and use as a museum house. Copies of that exhaustive report are maintained by the Division of Archives and History and the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission. The report is the basis of the "Historical Background" component of this nomination.

Historical Background: A Chronology of the  
Marks House from ca. 1847 to the 1970s

In 1841, the North Carolina Legislature created Stanly County as a political entity: it comprised that portion of Montgomery County which lay on the west side of the Yadkin/Pee Dee Rivers and was named for John Stanly, a New Bern lawyer who is best remembered for his duel with Governor Richard Dobbs Spaight. On 2 March 1841, the heirs of Nehemiah Hearne conveyed to William Swaringen, the chairman of the county court, fifty acres of the Hearne plantation as the site of the new county seat. That tract lay near a store operated by Daniel Freeman. In 1842 the town of Albemarle was laid out on the fifty-acre tract and seventy-two town lots were surveyed on a true north/south axis. The boundaries of the original town were North Street on the north, South Street on the south, First Street on the west, and Fourth Street on the east: the public square was located at the junction of Main and Second Streets. The lots were sold at public auction in May 1842. As Cheeseman notes, the first recorded transaction involving lot 5, on which the Marks House would be built, did not occur until five years later. On 12 May 1847, Samuel Christian (1815-1864) sold lot #5 to Daniel Freeman for \$120. The Christian family was one of the long and well-established families of Montgomery County and it is likely that Samuel Christian had bought the lot, one of only eight which surrounded the town square, as an investment.

Daniel Freeman (1795-1877), for whom the Marks House was probably built, was a major real estate speculator in Albemarle, as well as being a land-owner, farmer, and storekeeper. Cheeseman notes that in 1830 Freeman was living in that part of Montgomery County which became Stanly: in 1842 Freeman purchased fifteen of the town's seventy-two lots. About 1847, the year in which he bought lot #5, he erected a large hotel on Second Street, south of the square. Daniel Freeman owned lot #5 from 1847 until 1860 when he sold it to Parham Smith. It appears likely that the house was built in 1847 or soon thereafter. At the end of 1847 the tax assessment on the lot had increased to \$500 (from the purchase price of \$120) and it seems likely that the increase reflects the known construction of a store house on the lot. The store was operated by Freeman's son, Archibald C. Freeman (1821-1894), who was also living on the lot by the taking of the Federal Census in 1850. Thus the hall-and-parlor plan one-story house was built between 1847 and 1850. (There is one tradition that the house predates 1847 and that it was moved onto lot #5; however, there is no documentary evidence to support this suggestion.) The transitional Federal-Greek Revival finish of the house is consistent with that time frame.

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In the early 1850s, Archibald C. Freeman became associated with John O. Ross and the partnership traded as "Freeman and Ross." (In 1865 John O. Ross was the owner of lot #5, the present site of the Marks House.) In 1854 and 1856, Freeman was elected to the North Carolina Senate.

On 28 September 1860, Daniel Freeman sold the Marks House and the portion of lot #5 on which it stood (together with lots 39, 40, and 41 fronting on Third Street) to Parham Smith. This was the first of five transactions in the 1860s during which the house changed ownership. Parham Smith (1808-1877) owned the house less than two years as investment property before selling it on 9 September 1862 to his nephew, Robert S. Nash (1835-1903). Nash, in turn, sold the house on 29 June 1863 to Dr. Richard Anderson (1835-1900). Anderson graduated from the University of the City of New York in 1856 and soon thereafter came to Albemarle and established his medical practice. In 1864, Dr. Anderson was appointed county coroner. Anderson maintained his medical office in the house and occupied it with his wife and daughter until 7 July 1866 when he sold it to John Armstead Lilly (1809-1888). On 16 December 1867, Lilly, a member of the prominent Lilly family of the Pee Dee River valley, conveyed the house and acreage to his son William H. Lilly (1834-1906). Lilly was a graduate of Emory and Henry College in Virginia and the University Medical College of New York: as Cheeseman notes, he had a distinguished career as a doctor and surgeon for the Confederate army in the Civil War. After the war, he returned to Stanly County and took up residence in the Marks House, probably in July 1866, where he also maintained his medical office. He was the second of two men who occupied the house with their families and operated their practice in the Marks House.

In 1869 Dr. William H. Lilly and his family moved to Concord and the house was leased to James Thomas Ramsey (1834-19?) who eventually acquired the house and lot. Ramsey suffered financial reverses and in April 1871, the Marks House was sold to Samuel J. Pemberton. Pemberton (1849-1898), a native of Montgomery County, was an attorney. Considering all the people who occupied the Marks House, Cheeseman concluded that "Pemberton was in career terms the most prominent and significant person to occupy the house." He was twice elected to the state senate, was elected state solicitor for the Fifth Judicial District, was a candidate for Attorney General, and an avid campaigner for Grover Cleveland's campaign in 1892, and he was rewarded for his services with a federal office. As Cheeseman noted, Pemberton spent his formative years as an attorney in the Marks House, occupying it from 1871 until 1881 when he sold it to his lay partner John Travis Redwine (1853-1884). The house remained the office of the partnership until Redwine's death in 1884. The young bachelor attorney bequeathed the house to his father John Milas Redwine (1825-1899). On 25 November 1884, John Milas Redwine sold the house and lot to Whitson A. Marks for \$1,000.

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The frequent changes in the ownership of the Marks House reflected something of the unsettled character of Albemarle itself in the first decades of its existence. Although it exercised an important political role as the county seat and was something of a regional trading center for Stanly County, the town did not grow appreciably until the arrival of the railroads in the early 1890s and the accompanying construction of mills and factories. Nevertheless, Albemarle continued to attract enterprising men from the county who believed they could prosper in commerce in the county seat. Whitson A. Marks (1849-1935) was one of these men and he moved his family into town in 1884 and into the house which carries their name to this day. Having made a substantial living on rural mail delivery contracts, Marks bought a mill in 1889: that purchase and the expansion of operations was the basis of his continued prosperity and financial success. Interestingly, the mill was located about a block southeast of the present site of the Marks House. Whitson Marks and his wife Arranna Hall (d. 1929) moved into the house in 1884 with their two daughters: in 1887 a third daughter, Patty, was born to the couple in the house and a fourth daughter, Sallie, was born there in 1891. The family occupied the house until 1906.

The prosperity that came to Albemarle with the railroad and investment in industry encouraged new construction throughout the town, including the downtown area. In 1906 Whitson A. Marks and Thomas Crump Hearne decided to erect a pair of adjoining brick buildings on lot #5. In 1889 Hearne had acquired that portion of lot #5 on which had stood Daniel Freeman's 1847 store house. In 1860 when Freeman sold the Marks House to Parham Smith, he had retained ownership of the store house parcel of lot #5 and he retained ownership until his death in 1877. It appears clear that Whitson Marks's intention, from the beginning, was to erect a brick building which would serve as both a boarding house and a family residence. In 1906 the one-story frame cottage was moved to the back section of lot #5, turned to face west, and fitted up with a new kitchen ell. According to the Sanborn Maps of Albemarle, one chimney was built, to serve the hall fireplace, when the move was made. The fireplace in the original parlor became disfunctional. As soon as these improvements were completed, the house became a rental dwelling and it remained a rental property into the 1960s.

During this period, the Marks family occupied rooms in their prosperous and successful boarding house. In fact, the boarding house would remain the family residence until the death of Miss Patty Marks in 1987. Whitson Marks and his wife lived in the brick Marks building until their deaths in 1935 and 1929, respectively. Ida Marks Dunn (1876-1966), the eldest daughter and long a widow, assisted in the operation of the boarding house and also occupied it until her own death. The two younger daughters of the family, both of whom were born in the Marks House, became prominent educators in North Carolina. Patty J. Marks (1887-1987) graduated from Meredith College in 1908 and attended

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Columbia University; she had a five-year stint as an educator in Oklahoma but her greater career was as an educator in the public schools of North Carolina where she was both teacher and principal. The youngest of the four sisters, Sallie B. Marks (1891-1967), attended and graduated from Southwest Teachers College and Teachers College of Columbia University; she also undertook doctoral work at George Washington University. Miss Sallie Marks held professorships at Meredith College, Salem College, the University of Arkansas, the University of Chicago, and the University of North Carolina where she was the first woman to be a full professor. In 1944 she ended her career as a college educator and began work with the United States government from which she retired to Albemarle and ended her days with her sisters in the family boarding house.

Historical Background: The Relocation and Restoration  
of the Marks House, 1975 to the Present

In his historical research report, Cheeseman briefly describes the history of the Marks House as a rental property and its gradual decline; because of the deterioration it ceased to be rented in the 1960s, the decade in which two of the three sisters died. During the 1960s and early 1970s, the Marks House survived in an era of urban renewal in many towns and cities across North Carolina. During this period many places saw the destruction of entire blocks of historic buildings in downtown centers of both small and large towns. The first steps toward the preservation of the Marks House occurred in this climate which was generally unfavorable toward historic preservation. As its history will prove, the Marks House was saved through its relocation to the rear of the Snuggs House and its interpretation by the commission. The Marks Boarding House was demolished by the city of Albemarle in 1990. The site is now vacant.

In 1973 the Stanly County Historic Properties Commission was created and one of the first buildings considered for historic preservation was the Marks House. In consultation with staff members of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, the commission quickly came to recognize the special merits of the Marks House as both the oldest surviving building in Albemarle and one of the most important antebellum buildings in Stanly County. The commission also determined that the house would serve as an excellent house museum to portray life in mid-nineteenth century piedmont North Carolina. On 19 August 1974, the city of Albemarle designated the W. A Marks cottage as a historic property under the provisions of the state's enabling legislation (G.S. 160A-339.5). A year later, on 18 June 1975, Miss Patty Marks and her niece Jo Dunn Tucker, donated the Marks House to the Stanly County Historic Properties Commission. The gift was conditional upon the relocation of the dwelling within the space of twelve months. Thus the preservation of the Marks House became tied to its relocation.

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Simultaneously, the commission's efforts were advancing to designate the nearby Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House as a "historic property" and to acquire it for use as offices and museum quarters. In actuality, the Snuggs House was the first house to be designated as a historic property by the commission: this occurred on 16 April 1974. (Four months later, on 19 August 1974, the commission designated the Marks House as a "historic property.") In two transactions in April-May 1974, the Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House passed from Bertie Snuggs Patterson to the Stanly County-Albemarle Historic Properties Commission. Stabilization and restoration measures were undertaken on the Snuggs House in 1975 while talks were moving forward to acquire the Marks House. For reasons that seemed logical in 1975, the commission decided to relocate the Marks House a block to the east and onto the rear part of the Snuggs House lot. With both houses on the same lot, it was reasoned, the two house museums would be easier to administer from the commission offices in the Snuggs House; likewise, the interpretation of the houses as important dwellings of their respective periods could be easily made on a comparative basis if they were standing near each other. The move was effected on 6 December 1975.

During this action, it became clear that the restoration of the Marks House would require much larger expenditures than would be required to renovate and upgrade the Snuggs House. On 9 February 1977, Representative Janet W. Pickler introduced a bill in the North Carolina House of Representatives to appropriate funds for the restoration of the Marks House. On 1 July 1977 the General Assembly ratified a bill which provided a \$25,000 grant for the restoration which was to be matched by locally-raised funds. The sum of \$12,500 was to be made available in fiscal year 1977-1978 and the same amount would be available in fiscal year 1978-1979. Local fund raising began in earnest in Albemarle and Stanly County and substantial appropriations were made by both the Albemarle city government and the Stanly County government in addition to a series of yearly gifts by ALCOA. Concurrent with these early fund-raising efforts, Bruce Smith Cheeseman undertook the historical research report on the Marks House and completed it on 30 June 1978.

The restoration of the Marks House was undertaken and completed in two phases between 1979 and 1986. The first phase was the restoration of the exterior which was largely completed early in 1981. The restoration of the interior and the furnishing program was completed in the spring of 1986. M. Hamilton Morton, Jr., a native of Stanly County and a practicing architect in Washington, D.C., served as architect of the project. Phillip Ellen and Associates of Southern Pines was the contractor for the restoration of the exterior of the Marks House: the contract for the exterior restoration was signed on 11 October 1979. The firm of Phillip Ellen and Associates had been contractors for a long series of restoration projects during the 1970s. The Restoration Branch of the State Historic Preservation Office guided the restoration of both the exterior and interior phases of the work. The contract

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for the interior restoration was awarded to the local firm of D. A. Holbrook & Sons and the contract was signed on 3 January 1984. An additional state grant of \$10,000 was appropriated for fiscal year 1983-1984. The construction and mechanical systems work was completed in 1985; interior painting and the furnishing of the house to the period of the 1840s was completed in 1986. The finished project was opened proudly to the public on Wednesday, 14 May 1986. Miss Patty Marks, then 99 and a resident of the Lutheran retirement home, was in attendance.

Architectural Context of the Marks House

In 1977 when the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated the sum of \$25,000 for the restoration of the Marks House, the language of the ratified bill included a series of statements concerning the significance of the house. The second and third paragraphs of the bill are pertinent here. The second paragraph stated, "The Marks House is considered to be the oldest dwelling still standing in the City of Albemarle and one of the most important pre-Civil War dwellings still standing in Stanly County: . . ." The third paragraph raised the level of the assessment by noting that "the North Carolina Department of Archives and History recognizes the Marks House as one of the best examples of the Piedmont Federal style of architecture still in existence."

There is no doubt that the relocation and restoration of the Marks House at its present site proved to be influential in raising interest in the historic buildings of Albemarle. The very survival of the house and the impressive process of restoration by which a derelict, nearly abandoned house was renewed to its antebellum handsomeness, gave the community and its citizens a new insight into their past. The project also aroused a high level of interest in the many historic buildings in Stanly County, some known and many others little-known, for which there was virtually no real documentary or photographic record. Bruce Cheeseman's historical research report on the Marks House had also proven instructive in describing the fascinating and complex history of the building. Prior to the compilation of this report, very little was known of the history of the house before its use as medical and law offices by Dr. Richard Anderson, Dr. William H. Lilly, Samuel J. Pemberton, and John Travis Redwine.

In 1988-1989, the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission applied for and received a grant to conduct a countywide inventory of historic buildings. That survey was conducted in 1989-1990 by Donna Dodenhoff: some 700 buildings and districts of historic and architectural importance were recorded and photographed. The findings of Dodenhoff's survey were published in 1992 as STANLY COUNTY: THE ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY OF A RURAL NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY. The issuance of a third printing in 1993 indicates both the merits of the book and

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the broad interest in historic buildings which has been fostered by the commission and their interpretative and educational programs offered at the Snuggs and Marks Houses.

Not unexpectedly, Dodenhoff's STANLY COUNTY confirmed the statements of the second paragraph in the ratified bill of 1977. Long recognized in the community, the Marks House was confirmed as the oldest surviving dwelling in the town of Albemarle. The book, however, moved beyond this claim: it placed the house in the small community of nineteenth century buildings in the county seat and in the larger context of Stanly County in that period. Within the confines of the original town plan of 1842, the next oldest surviving house in Albemarle is the ca. 1874 Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House. When considering the buildings of the town which expanded in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries beyond those narrow confines, the Marks House remains the oldest house in Albemarle. However, within this later enlarged area, the next oldest dwelling is said to have been built ca. 1850 by Daniel Freeman (1795-1877) who owned the Marks House and its lot from 1847 until 1860. That Greek Revival-style two-story house was built as the seat of Freeman's near-town farm to the east of Albemarle. The street that is now Pee Dee Avenue follows a part of the nineteenth century road which ran through Freeman's farm and the house fronted on that road. (Ironically, that antebellum house was also moved, probably in the 1940s, to its present site on Montgomery Avenue.)

Although the architectural significance of the Marks House can be defined in part through its status as the oldest surviving dwelling in Albemarle, its larger significance owes to the remarkable survival of the house's program of transitional Federal-Greek Revival interior woodwork and to the position of the house in the architectural history of Stanly County. At the same time Dodenhoff's book raised interest in the county's historic buildings, it also demonstrated the sad fact that relatively few buildings from the first half of the nineteenth century survived either intact or occupied. Many of the surviving houses from this period, of log construction and mostly covered with weatherboards, had long since been replaced by late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century houses which became and remain the primary farm, family residence. The number of well-built and handsomely finished houses which survive largely intact in Stanly County from the first half of the nineteenth century is very small. Within this group of contemporary dwellings, the Marks House is indeed one of the most important and intact dwellings and a critical building in the architectural history of Stanly County. It must also be said that it is the only house in the county which has been the subject of an exhaustive historical research report. Cheeseman's report dates the Marks House to ca. 1847-1850 and the Freeman farm seat on Pee Dee Avenue to ca. 1850. The dates given by Dodenhoff and others for Stanly County buildings which are clearly from the early to mid nineteenth century and are stylistically related to the finish of the Marks House are based largely on

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family traditions and some preliminary examination of public records. More intensive research on these "contemporary" buildings and the use of dendrochronology on the Marks House would provide the basis for a truly authoritative evaluation of this small band of buildings.

Nevertheless, some observations can be made with safety and these reflect the Marks House's importance in the architectural history of both Stanly County and the Piedmont. The text and illustrations of Dodenhoff's architectural history of Stanly County demonstrate a persistent tradition which characterizes building in the piedmont and backcountry of North Carolina in the nineteenth century. Namely, the buildings she recorded, like those recorded and published in similar projects in neighboring Rowan and Cabarrus Counties, were often retarditaire in plan, form, and finish. These buildings also reflected the persistence of local, conservative--and even ethnic--practices in the manner of raising and finishing houses and other buildings in a mostly rural society. The hall-and-parlor plan of the Marks House, together with the one-room dwelling, is one of the earliest house plans used in North Carolina and the Piedmont. It also appears in Stanly County in the "John Robert Snuggs House" which is said to date to ca. 1815, and in the now lost "David Melton House" of ca. 1830. The fact that the Marks House was built on that plan as late as ca. 1847-1850 confirms both the longevity of the plan and the conservative character of the Piedmont. The one-story form of the house, with shed rooms flanking an open porch/passage on the rear, is likewise indicative of the persistence of tradition in the Piedmont. Except for the handsome one-story Greek Revival cottages of eastern North Carolina, most well-finished antebellum houses stood two stories in height. The continued construction of one-story houses into the antebellum period in Stanly County reflects both the long survival of that house form as well as the relatively young character of society there. From surviving examples, it seems likely that there were relatively few two-story houses built in early nineteenth century Stanly (then Montgomery) County. The Lilly-Hathcock House, probably the earliest of those which survive, and said to date to ca. 1810, was built on a hall-and-parlor plan.

The transitional Federal/Greek Revival style interior finish of the Marks House also reflects the long survival of the Federal style and its benchmark details in Stanly County and the Piedmont. Just as the ca. 1810 Lilly-Hathcock House boasted a retarditaire Georgian-style raised-panel wainscot, the Marks House mantels were finished in a Federal style that had long since passed out of fashion in the more sophisticated centers of plantation society. The majority of the door and window surrounds in the Marks House are also Federal; however, the fluted surrounds with cornerblocks in the hall clearly demonstrate the arrival of Asher Benjamin's PRACTICAL HOUSE CARPENTER in Albemarle. That book, first published in 1830, became the most popular architectural patternbook in antebellum North Carolina. The finish of the "William Wall House" of the 1840s

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reflects the earliest consistent use of the book's plates for the interior and exterior woodwork in Stanly County. The mantels of the "Wall house" are said to be Federal in form and detail as are the Marks House mantels. The finish of both houses--the Marks House and the "William Wall House"--demonstrate the combination of Federal and Greek Revival style detailing. As both the Federal and Greek Revival styles were based on classical precepts and traditions, the combination of motives produced, in the Piedmont (and elsewhere), a particularly felicitous program of interior architecture which distinguishes a small but significant group of buildings in the Piedmont. The Marks House is an important member of this handsome band.

## Footnotes

1. The principal source of information on the life and career of Isaiah Wilson Snuggs, the house he built, and its acquisition by the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission, is the collection of newspaper clippings in the files of the commission which are maintained in the office at the Snuggs House. Unfortunately, the death notices and obituaries for Mr. Snuggs mostly lack any identification of their publisher and date: most are probably from the local Albemarle newspaper and the Charlotte Observer. The articles on the acquisition and restoration of the house for use as a museum appeared largely in the Stanly News and Press during 1974 and 1975. Bruce S. Cheeseman's "The Marks House of Albemarle, Stanly County" is indispensable to any study of Albemarle history of the nineteenth century, as is Donna Dodenhoff's STANLY COUNTY: THE ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY OF A RURAL NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY. These and other sources are included in section #9. Lu Koontz of the Stanly County Library's Heritage Room was of particular assistance in research on the Snuggs family.

2. The principal source for the history of the Marks House is Bruce Cheeseman's "The Marks House of Albemarle, Stanly county." Virtually all of the information on the ownership and occupation of the house used in this nomination was gleaned from that report. The Marks House restoration files maintained by the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission were useful in understanding the sequence of exterior and interior restoration projects. These files also include newspaper articles covering the work. Photocopies of these materials were made available to the author by the commission. Donna Dodenhoff's STANLY COUNTY: THE ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY OF A RURAL NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY was useful in understanding the local architectural context of the Marks House.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination is lot #3636 on Stanly County Property Map 6548.14. It comprises all of the original town lot #56 which was acquired by Isaiah Wilson Snuggs in 1873. The boundaries of the lot are delineated on the enclosed map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Isaiah Wilson Snuggs and the Marks House nomination are drawn to include all of original town lot #56, now #3636 on Stanly County Property Map 6548, on which the Snuggs House was built ca. 1874 and onto which the Marks House was relocated in 1975.

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Additional Documentation

Schedule of Photographs

The following numbered list of photographs is a schedule of those photographs included in this nomination. The following information applies to all of the photographs.

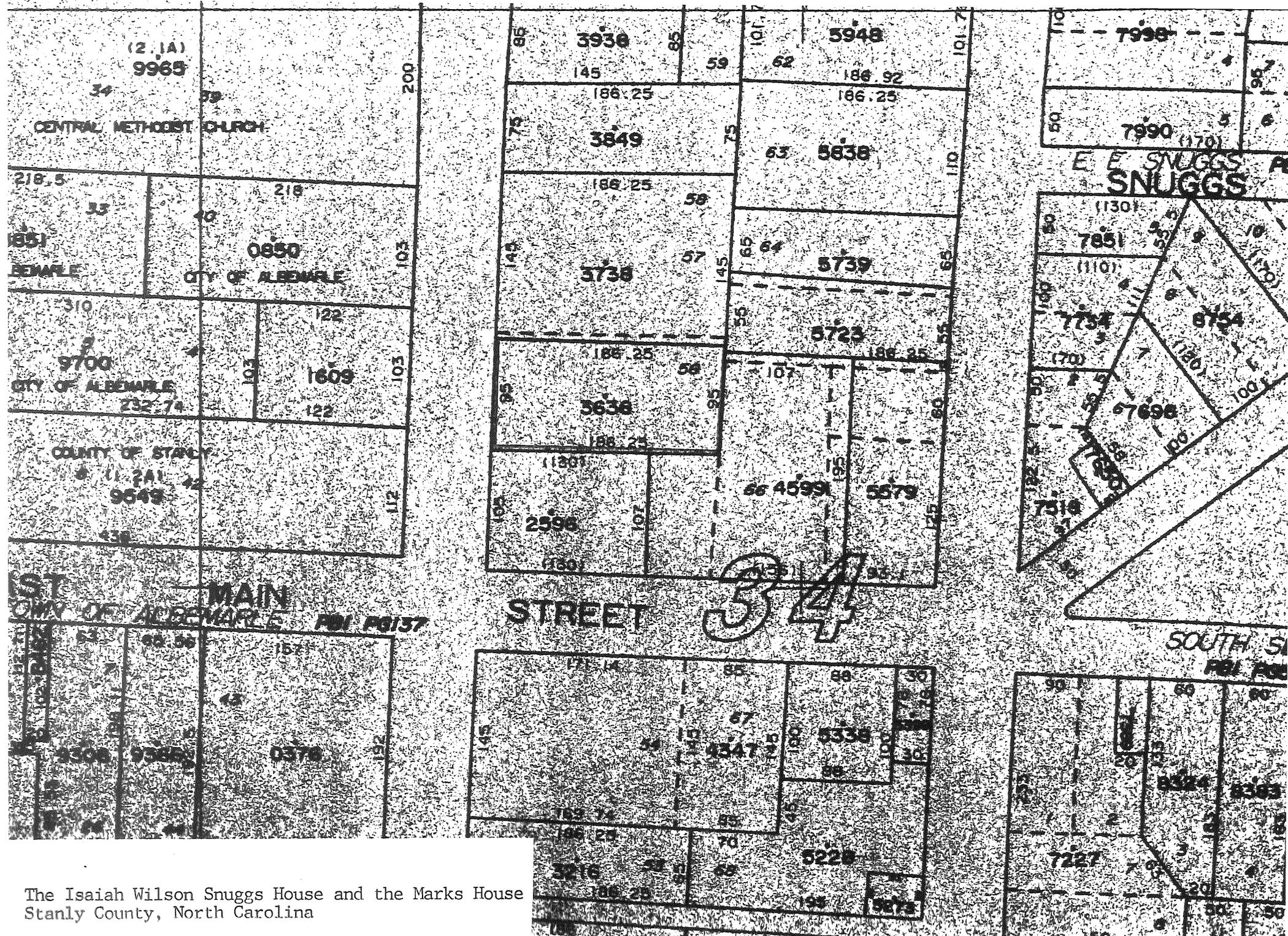
Name(s) of Properties: Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House/Marks House  
112 North Third Street  
Albemarle  
Stanly County  
North Carolina

Photographer: Davyd Foard Hood

Date of Photographs: 13 June 1994

Location of original negatives: Division of Archives and History  
109 East Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2807

1. Overall view of the Snuggs House with the Marks House in the left background, looking southeast.
2. Construction/finish detail, first-story hall, Snuggs House, looking south.
3. Construction/finish detail, north parlor, Snuggs House, looking northwest.
4. Stair railing, second-story hall, Snuggs House, looking south.
5. Mantel, second-story, north bedroom, Snuggs House, looking north.
6. Mantel, second-story, south bedroom, Snuggs House, looking south.
7. Overall view of the Marks House with the Snuggs House in left background, looking northwest.
8. Landscape view of the rear lawns of the Snuggs and Marks Houses, looking west/southwest.
9. Hall mantel, Marks House, looking west.
10. View from hall into parlor, Marks House, looking east.
11. View in parlor, Marks House, looking northeast.
12. View in hall, onto rear porch with door into east shed room, looking northeast.



The Isaiah Wilson Snuggs House and the Marks House  
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Snuggs, ISAIAH Wilson, HOUSE & MARKS HOUSE

Stanly County Albemarle Quad

zone 17 / Easting 573040  
Northing 3912060

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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