

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Robert Cleveland Log House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On SR 1300, 0.2 mile Northwest of Junction with SR 1317

CITY OR TOWN:
Purlear vicinity (Ninth Congressional District, Honorable Charles Jonas)

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Wilkes CODE: 193

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Parks Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harris Street

CITY OR TOWN: Ypsilanti STATE: Michigan CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Wilkes County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 Main Street

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Wilkes

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Robert Cleveland Log House is a large "two pen" log dwelling with exterior end stone chimneys and an uncoursed stone basement. The logs are hewn, nearly square in section, and joined in a dovetail in which the splays are sloped two ways. The roof, now covered with standing seam tin, extends far beyond the walls on all sides giving protection to the dovetail joints. (This protection is essential in log structures where the joints are susceptible to decay caused by rain water caught between the logs. The splayed dovetail construction only partially alleviates the problem.) The house has two equal rooms divided by a log partition, with a loft above. The floor joists for the loft floor are set into the outer walls and are visible on the exterior. The walls, however, continue about four feet above the joists before the roof begins, creating extra space in the loft.

The front (southeast) facade, partially covered with weatherboards, features two main entrances (one in each pen) containing board-and-batten doors. Above each entrance is a small rectangular opening lighting the loft. Each gable is dominated by an immense fieldstone chimney which tapers toward the cap. The only window lighting the first floor is located to the front of the southwest chimney. The rear (northwest) facade is similar to the front but lacks loft windows. Because of the slope of the land the stone foundation is quite high below this facade and contains two rectangular wooden grates with diagonally set bars which ventilate the full basement.

Both rooms are unfinished and have exposed-beam ceilings. The southwest room, probably the kitchen, features an unusually large fireplace with a wide rectangular opening. A trap door located in the north corner leads to a ladder descending to the basement. The only finished work in the room consists of beaded edges on the ceiling beams and a beaded architrave around the door leading to the northeast room.

The northeast room seems to have been the main "parlor." It has a smaller fireplace with an arched opening and an enclosed winding stair rising from the left side of the chimney to the loft. Although the interior faces of the chimneys are exposed at the loft level, there are no openings. This configuration appears to have been intentional, giving needed support for the logs used in the gables.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

About 1775 Robert Cleveland moved from Virginia to what is now Wilkes County, North Carolina, and settled on a tract he had been granted near the Yadkin River. During the Revolution Robert Cleveland and his brother, Benjamin, who lived nearby, took an active part in reprisals against local Tories who were often accused of various crimes. Benjamin in particular was known for pursuing and hanging without delay a number of Tories. In the Battle of Kings Mountain, Benjamin served as a colonel in the militia and led one of the four columns which successfully assaulted the British position. Robert Cleveland was captain of a company in his brother's regiment. This victory of the colonial militia over the British was a significant one in that it forced General Cornwallis to withdraw into South Carolina and gave much-needed encouragement to revolutionary forces throughout the colonies.

Some sources put the date of the Clevelands' entry into what is now Wilkes County as far back as 1769. Ashe's Biographical History of North Carolina states that Benjamin Cleveland and his brothers, including Robert, were there in that year and that Benjamin was chiefly responsible for the formation of Wilkes County in 1777. The earliest available deed verifying the presence of Robert Cleveland, however, records a transfer of land to him from Benjamin in 1784. Additionally his grant of land from the state of North Carolina in 1787 makes reference to its location contiguous to a grant to him of an earlier date not given in available records. It was probably around 1780 that Captain Robert Cleveland, as he was called, built the present log house located on the "north fork of Lewis's Fork of the Yadkin River." The census of 1790 shows the Cleveland household consisted of twenty-four persons, including ten slaves. At least part of the activity of the farm was devoted to the making of whiskey as is evident from Cleveland's will. Proved in 1812, it conveys to his son, Presley, "all the Plantation after the Death or Widowhood of my Wife and my new waggon, also my Still. . . ."

Presley Cleveland sold his inheritance to John Yates in 1823. At that time the estate amounted to 604 acres and brought \$650 at sale. The Cleveland Log House with varying acreage was held by the Yates family for over one hundred years until finally it was acquired from a descendent of John Yates by Winfield S. Fletcher. Fletcher bought the house in 1930 because of his interest in its historicity. From him ownership passed to his stepdaughter, Mrs. Parks Church.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Wilkes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.

The Robert Cleveland Log House, in addition to having been the home of a well-known revolutionary soldier, stands as probably the oldest dwelling in Wilkes County. Architecturally, it serves as an extremely important example of the early two-pen log structures built by the pioneers in the western mountains in the eighteenth century.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashe, Samuel A., ed. Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present. Greensboro, North Carolina: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1907.

Hayes, Johnson J. The Land of Wilkes. Wilkesboro, North Carolina: Wilkes County Historical Society, 1962.

Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1953.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	36°	11'	45"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	81°	14'	01"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Two Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 16 July 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 16 July 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

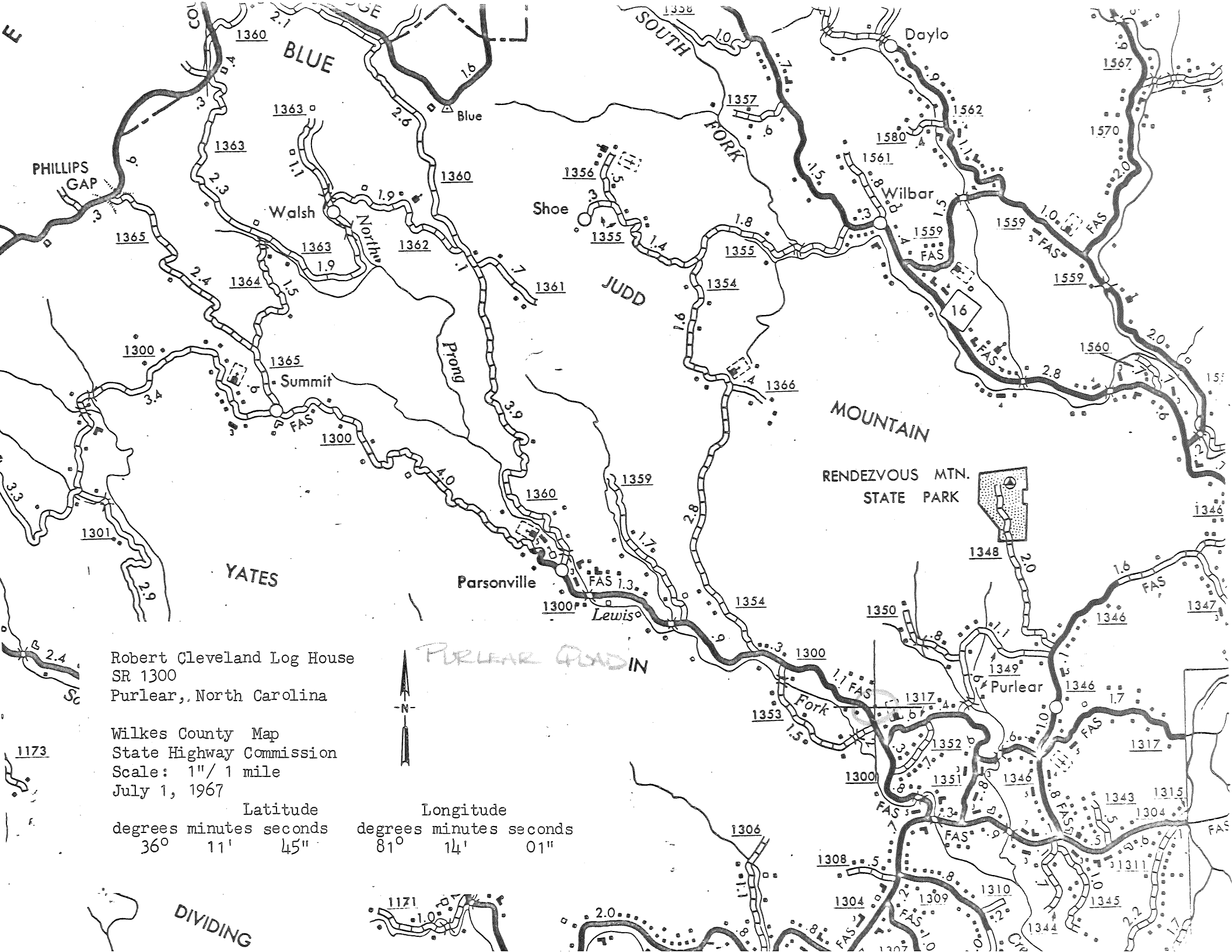
STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Wilkes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9.

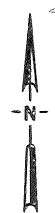
Wilkes County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

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



Robert Cleveland Log House
 SR 1300
 Purlear, North Carolina

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



Latitude	Longitude
degrees minutes seconds	degrees minutes seconds
36° 11' 45"	81° 14' 01"

DIVIDING

PURLEAR QUAD IN

