

Department of the Interior
Service

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 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 descriptions and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

Name of Property

Historic name Buck, David M., House

Other names/site number _____

Location

Address & number West side of SR 1395 (Schronce Creek Rd.), 1.1 miles southwest of junction with SR 1401 (Sampson Mtn. Rd.) N/A not for publication

City or town Bald Mountain vicinity

State North Carolina code NC county Yancey code 199 zip code 28714

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey A. Crow 3/6/01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

David M. Buck House
Name of Property

Yancey County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

~~DOMESTIC/single dwelling~~

~~DOMESTIC/secondary structure~~

~~COMMERCE/department store~~

~~FUNERARY/cemetery~~

~~LANDSCAPE~~

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood

walls Wood

Stone

roof Asphalt

other Metal

Brick

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet

David M. Buck House
Name of Property

Yancey County, North Carolina
County and State

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

Industry

Period of Significance

ca. 1904-1939

Significant Dates

ca. 1904

1938

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Buck, David M.

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:

North Carolina Division of Archives and Histor.

David M. Buck House
Name of Property

Yancey County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11.40 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [17] [366950] [3981000]
Zone Easting Northing
2 [17] [367290] [3981000]

3 [17] [367295] [3980370]
Zone Easting Northing
4 [17] [366940] [3980360]

[] 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 2 October 2000

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

city or town Vale state NC 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 Bald Mountain Development Corporation/Buck Family, c/o Fred Buck

street & number 63 Village Lane/Route Four, Box 555 telephone 828-689-9212/828-682-9315

city or town Mars Hill/Burnsville state NC zip code 28754/28714

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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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

David M. Buck House, Yancey County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

The David M. Buck House comprises the Buck house (#2), stone walls (#1), three domestic outbuildings (#3-5), a store (#6), and the family cemetery (#7) located on an irregularly-shaped parcel of land forming the residual tract of the Bald Mountain Boundary that retains its association with the Buck family. The nominated acreage lies in rural, mountainous Yancey County, on the west side of Schronce Creek Road (SR 1395), at the front of a small cove. Here Bald Mountain Creek flows down from the mountain, continues through the homeplace grounds, and then carries on the north side of the house drive to its junction with Schronce Creek Road. These resources and their setting constitute an important rural mountain home place that survives largely intact and little changed from the image recorded in a ca. 1907 documentary photograph published in Images of Yancey County (1993). Although the clearing in which the house and its outbuildings then stood has been reduced to a tighter enclosure, the wood picket fencing has been lost, and there is an air of gentle neglect arising from the fact the house has not been occupied for thirty-six years, the property retains integrity and the ability to convey a powerful, evocative image of domestic life in Yancey County from the opening decades of the twentieth century.

The nominated acreage, comprising the site and setting of the Buck family house, its outbuildings, and cemetery, forms a small triangular-shaped clearing at Bald Mountain. It constitutes the core grounds associated with the domestic life of the David M. Buck family. The house, its outbuildings, and the store are located in a cluster off a narrow unpaved lane which links them with the public road and then continues up the mountain side to former fields and pastures once associated with the family. Located a few hundred feet away, the cemetery occupies a narrow terrace off Schronce Creek Road. When established in the summer of 1938 it was probably visible from the house; however, volunteer trees have grown up in recent decades and screen it from the house. Both the house and the cemetery face east and have splendid views to the northeast through the narrow Bald Creek Valley.

The character of the home place landscape is shaped by natural resources. Of these, the mountains rising above and around its sheltered cove position are the most powerful. Ever present as well, is the sound of water flowing and falling in rocky branch and creek beds through and along the north side of the property. Rock from these stream beds, from outcroppings, and off the face of the land has been gathered and mortared to form walls (#1) that enclose the grass-covered front and side yards of the house. The native evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs covering the mountain sides form a dense enclosure around the domestic grounds. Plantings made by the Buck family to shape and enhance their grounds include a row of now aged maple trees across the east front of the house, just inside the stone retaining wall, a row of hemlocks

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down the south side of the front yard, a trio of American hollies off the southwest corner of the house, and on the north side of the house and spring house, a row of hemlocks grows between the buildings and the branch, in an area now covered by naturalized periwinkle.

1. Stone walls
ca. 1904
Contributing structure

Stone walls were used here, at the Buck House, as at other substantial country houses in western North Carolina, to enclose the domestic grounds and lawn and to enhance the setting of the house within the larger clearing. Mr. Buck's mason(s) employed surface stone, outcroppings, and stone from the creek beds on the property to fashion these informal improvements. The front (east) lawn of the house is defined by a mortared stone wall, three to four feet in height and about two feet thick, that appears in the ca. 1907 photograph; in later years a stone arch was erected atop the wall to frame the entrance. Sections of mortared wall then carry along the north side of the house, and along the lane leading to the store. Dry-laid stone walls are used to enclose an area to the rear, west of the house, between it and a wee branch to the north and the woodshed standing to the west.

2. The Buck House
ca. 1904
Contributing building

The Buck House is a large two-story weatherboarded frame house with a spare, symmetrical Colonial Revival-style appearance; it stands on sawn wood piers, partially screened by wood-lattice, and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt-shingle roof. The three-bay east front elevation is dominated by an expansive one-story porch, supported by turned columns, which wraps its northeast and southeast corners and continues down the sides of the house; some of the columns are lost. A mortared stone staircase links the wood-floored porch with the cement front walk. The house's center entrance and the flanking window openings under the porch are enframed in simple moldings which are consistent throughout the exterior of the house. The window openings are fitted with two-over-two sash. The second story has a trio of windows in corresponding positions. A broad pedimented gable dormer, positioned in the front center of the roof, contains paired windows of the same size. The brick chimney serving the tier of rooms on the north side of the house rises above the ridge of the roof while the stack of the south chimney was taken down to a point inside the attic and roofed over.

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The side elevations of the house have corresponding, projecting shallow ells with different appearances. On the north side, the wrap-around porch carries down to the ell where an original, partially glazed and paneled door opens into the dining room. The north face of the gable-roof ell has paired windows at each level. The two-story main block of the house extends for a single bay west of the ell and engages the one-story with loft kitchen ell. An original glazed and paneled door, flanked by windows, provides easy access from the kitchen to the spring house which stands parallel to the ell. At the west end of this elevation a window illuminates a servant's room. The south elevation of the two-story block is essentially the same except for the fact that the porch carries across the entire width of the elevation and wraps its southwest corner. Single windows are located on both levels of the east and south sides of the ell.

The west (rear) elevation of the house has a two-part appearance. The wrap-around porch continues north to join the kitchen ell and shelters a back door into the house's center hall. The south wall of the ell splays inward under the porch to allow for a service door into the kitchen that has long been weatherboarded over. The north half of the house's rear elevation is occupied by the gable-end ell which has two windows on its first story and a smaller window in the loft level.

The interior of the Buck House follows a center-hall, double-pile plan and features consistent, repetitive finish, room to room, on both stories. Over three decades of standing empty, the house has suffered some losses and deterioration. The front door and several of the interior pine doors have been stolen as have four of its mantels, particularly those which had retained their original finish and remained unpainted. Two of the mantels have been removed for safe-keeping. Two mantels remain. Since virtually all of the doors and mantels are of the same pattern, the lost elements can be replicated. During the 1990s a hole in the rear plane of the roof caused water damage to the rear hall and southwest corner of the house; however, the hard dense chestnut wood used for both the structure and finish of the house mitigated the worst effects and kept the essential fabric of the house sound. Water did dissolve the sandy mortar of the chimney serving the south tier of rooms, and it will have to be completely rebuilt in the restoration of the house. Most of the interior of the house appears to be sheathed and finished with pre-blight chestnut; some of the finish, according to Mr. Buck's daughter, is curly maple.

The center hall is flanked by tiers of rooms on its north and south sides; the stair is positioned in a shallow recess on the south side of the hall and rises west with a shaped handrail and turned railing from a paneled newel to the second story. The hall has a vertically sheathed wainscot between a simple quarter-round toe molding and a chair rail; the wall above the chair rail is horizontally sheathed. The door and window surrounds here and throughout the house are plain boards. The original surviving doors have six horizontal panels. The tier of rooms on the south

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side of the house include a sitting room at the front, a bedroom, and a small bathroom in the southwest corner which is accessible from both the bedroom and the hall. The post and lintel mantel in the bedroom survives and has stepped moldings supporting the shelf. Ghost outlines of like mantels can be seen in the other rooms. The north tier of rooms includes a front parlor, a large dining room, a large kitchen, which in plan occupies part of both the two-story block and the one-story with loft ell, and terminates with a servant/cook's room and a pantry at its west end.

The house's second story plan mirrors the first story and includes four large bedrooms, a small bedroom in the southwest corner, and a bathroom in the area above the east end of the kitchen. It retains its wall-hung sink; a door opens from the bathroom into the loft area of the ell.

3. Spring house
ca. 1904
Contributing building

The spring house is a rectangular stone masonry building covered with a deteriorated front-gable asphalt shingle roof which projects approximately two feet on the east front to protect the board-and-rail door. The east and west gable ends are flush sheathed with vertical boards. Two four-pane windows are symmetrically positioned in the north side. The well-preserved, intact interior has a poured cement floor, cement-finished walls, and an unpainted flush board ceiling. A narrow eight-inch shelf encircles the chamber marking the point where the thickness of the walls diminishes at near half height. The pipe-fed L-shaped cooling trough for milk crocks, etc., carries across the west end and down the north side.

4. Apple house
ca. 1910-1925
Contributing building

The apple house, used for the storage of apples, pears, root crops, and canned goods is a two-level frame building standing on a mortared stone foundation, sheathed with flush horizontal boards, and covered with a sheet metal gable-front roof. The walls of the building are double sheathed and filled with sawdust for insulation. The entrance on the northeast front, into the lower level, is fitted with two doors: the heavier board-and-rail outer door opens onto a vented board-and-rail door for summer use. The interior of this lower level has a dirt floor and three tiers of wood bins on its side and rear walls. On the rear (west) gable end, a now collapsed exterior staircase led up to a door opening into a like finished area for the principal apple storage.

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5. Wood shed
ca. 1920-1930
Contributing building

Also rectangular in shape, the wood shed is a frame building with horizontal flush-sheathed elevations and a sheet metal shed roof. An off-center opening on its front south side leads into the dirt-floor interior.

6. Store
ca. 1910-1920
Contributing building

Rectangular in shape and covered with a sheet metal gable-front roof, the store is a frame building standing on stone piers with board-and-batten sheathing. The center entrance on its east front is fitted with paired two-panel doors and flanked by four-over-four sash windows, all in plain board surrounds. The side walls are blind; a third window, with four-over-four sash, is set in the rear wall. The elemental, unpainted, intact interior of the building was never sheathed. Wall-mounted shelves line its long north and south walls, while four counters are freestanding. The boards used for the flooring, counters, and shelves range in width from twelve to eighteen inches. A wood stair rises to the storage loft from the northwest corner. A glass countertop display case survives here.

7. Buck Cemetery
1938
Contributing site

This small quarter-acre grass-covered burying ground was established in the summer of 1938 following the accidental death of Dr. David M. Buck, Jr., on 19 June. It is enclosed by a woven-wire fence and well maintained. The single prominent stone is the granite, tablet-form family marker inscribed "Buck." Dr. Buck's grave is marked by a small upright footstone with his name and date; the other seven interments of family members, Mr. and Mrs. Buck, four other children, and a daughter-in-law, are marked by small rectangular footstones with like information.

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David M. Buck House, Yancey County, North Carolina

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Summary Paragraph

The David M. Buck House, comprising a ca. 1904 two-story weatherboarded frame house, three domestic outbuildings, stone walls, and a store, all dating from the early twentieth century, together with the family cemetery, satisfies National Register Criteria B and C and holds local significance in the areas of architecture and industry. These historic resources are located on a small residual tract that forms the principal house and domestic grounds of the 4,500-plus-acre Bald Mountain Boundary held by David M. Buck (1878-1939) and his wife from 1906 until 1963. The period of significance begins ca. 1904 with the construction of the house and ends with Mr. Buck's death in 1939. Built for Mr. and Mrs. Buck, the house is one of the largest, most imposing rural residences of its period in Yancey County; much of its interior is sheathed with unpainted pre-blight chestnut. The intact stone spring house and frame apple house, both critical features of an early-twentieth century rural home place, also contribute to the architectural significance of the property. The local significance in the area of industry derives from the association with David M. Buck, a man of industrial, political, and civic prominence in Yancey County and western North Carolina. As a lumberman, individually and as an employee of the family's J. M. Buck Lumber Company, he figured in the intensive harvesting of thousands of acres of virgin hardwood timber in Yancey and adjoining counties. This house is the chief surviving architectural reflection of his career and an industry whose extractive functions were housed in temporary buildings that have perished. Having served four terms in the General Assembly between 1909 and 1939, and some eight years on the North Carolina Park Commission, he was hailed by the Asheville Times at his death as "one of the leaders in having the Great Smoky Mountains National Park established in this section."¹

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David M. Buck House, Yancey County, North Carolina

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Historical Background, Architecture and Industry Significance

David M. Buck was born on 8 October 1878 at Lee's Mills, Virginia, in Washington County, to Ephraim C. and Gilla A. (Lee) Buck. He was educated in the public schools of Abingdon, Virginia, and Johnson City, Tennessee, and attended Milligan College, near Johnson City, in the early 1890s. On 6 November 1901 he married Pearl Annie Ramsey (1879-1979), the daughter of Obadiah Ramsey and the granddaughter of the Rev. William Keith, one of the founders of Mars Hill College. They were the parents of eight children born between 1902 and 1922, who would spend their formative years here in the house at the foot of Bald Mountain.²

The association of the Buck family with this property dates to 1902. On 7 May, William Johnston, Jr., administrator of the estate of R. B. Johnston, offered for sale at auction at the Yancey County Court House in Burnsville two tracts of land totaling 4,573 acres, less inholdings of 100 acres. The larger of the two tracts, comprising 4,508 acres, was known as the Bald Mountain Boundary and lay in Yancey and Madison counties, North Carolina, and Unicoi County, Tennessee. The smaller parcel of sixty-five acres was known as the Raven Cliff tract. James M. Buck of Washington County, Tennessee, an uncle of David M. Buck, was the highest bidder at \$24,000. The deed for the property was executed on 30 May 1902 (Yancey County Deeds, 26: 350-358). The conveyance was further confirmed by a second deed of the same date by which Mr. Johnston, acting with power of attorney for R. P. and Alexandra Johnston, of San Francisco, California, deeded their interest in the family lands to Mr. Buck (Yancey County Deeds, 26: 358-361). James M. Buck and his wife, M. K., executed a deed of trust with W. R. Whitson of Buncombe County that same day, to secure a balance of \$19,200 due Mr. Johnston. Four equal payments of \$4,800 were due in six months, one year, two years, and three years from the date of the deed (Yancey County Deeds, 26: 362-372).

These deeds are the first of a series of legal documents (mostly recorded in the Yancey County Register of Deeds) specific to this property and its history, but also representative of the system by which large timber-rich tracts in western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and other parts of the Appalachian region, were acquired, cut-over, first selectively and then through clear-cutting, and the profits therefrom largely channeled to the outside investors. An overview of this process is provided by historian Ronald D. Eller in "The Last Great Trees," a chapter in his Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers: Industrialization of the Appalachian South, 1880-1930. The effects of this regional phenomenon are also addressed in the final two chapters of Donald Edward Davis's Where There are Mountains: An Environmental History of the Southern Appalachians. David M. Buck's role in these historic acts, particularly as it pertains to the Bald

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Mountain Boundary and related lands, and the significance of this property in the area of industry, survives through association with his home place.

In the case of the Bald Mountain Boundary this process occurred within the space of a few years, and largely by the time the property was deeded to David M. Buck in 1906; however, harvesting of the rich stands of timber here probably continued for some few years thereafter, but it was virtually complete by 1912. Within a short time, James M. Buck and his wife transferred ownership of the Bald Mountain Boundary to the Bald Mountain Lumber Company in exchange for \$25,000 in stock in the company (Yancey County Deeds, 26: 391-400). A year and a half later, on 23 February 1904, the Bald Mountain Lumber Company executed a deed of trust to the J. M. Buck Lumber Company, with David M. Buck named as trustee, and listing the Bald Mountain Boundary, other timber lands, a band saw mill and related equipment, and livestock (Yancey County Deeds, 29: 365-369). Haskett Wood was cited as president of the Bald Mountain Lumber Company; James M. Buck was the secretary-treasurer.

Another year and a half later, three legal documents, all dated on 4 September 1905, confirm the intensive cutting of timber on the Bald Mountain Boundary by David M. Buck. The first of these documents was a lease between the Bald Mountain and J. M. Buck lumber companies and David M. Buck whereby he leased equipment from the companies for a period of two years, beginning on 11 September 1905, for \$1,200 per annum. The equipment consisted of a band saw mill at Bald Mountain, a blacksmith shop and tools, an engine house and tools, and a circular saw mill on the waters of Roaring Fork in Yancey County (Yancey County Deeds, 31: 459-464). The second recorded document was also a lease for two years beginning on 11 September 1905 and at \$1,200 per annum for the narrow-gauge tram road of the Caney River Railway Company from Bald Mountain, North Carolina, to Hunt Dale, in Mitchell County; included in the lease were three Climax engines, twenty-two cars, equipment, and tools (Yancey County Deeds, 31: 464-470). Concurrent with these leases, the Bald Mountain and J. M. Buck Lumber companies entered into a contract with David M. Buck to cut all poplar, cucumber, basswood, cherry, buckeye, chestnut, butternut, oak, and ash timber "not less than 48" around the tree four feet above the ground and (which) has one or more twelve foot cuts free from visible defects when standing in the tree" (Yancey County Deeds, 31: 470-479).

While these documents involve three companies and David M. Buck, the facts of the transactions are simple and essentially involved three men: David M. Buck; Haskett Wood, president of the Bald Mountain and J. M. Buck lumber companies and secretary-treasurer of the Caney River Railway Company; and James M. Buck, secretary-treasurer of the two lumber companies and president of the Caney River Railway Company. During the period leading up to these agreements on 4 September 1905, at least two saw mills had been erected, the railway tram line

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David M. Buck House, Yancey County, North Carolina

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had been constructed to carry the timber from the main mill at Bald Mountain to Hunt Dale, a terminal of the Clinchfield Railroad.

Concurrently, in 1904 according to family tradition, David M. Buck built the large two-story, center-hall, double-pile weatherboarded frame house at Bald Mountain that became the center of his family while the nearby saw mill was the focus of his industrial logging operations. The appearance of the house today is virtually unchanged from a ca. 1907 documentary photograph of the dwelling and its immediate landscape published in Images of Yancey in 1993. Then the house, its spring house (#3) and yard were enclosed by a stone wall that supported wood picket fencing; the house, spring house, and stone wall survive; however, the picket fencing is lost from a landscape which is comprised of a large clearing enframed by a deciduous woodland. In recent years volunteer trees have encroached on the clearing, reducing its openness. At the time of its construction, the David M. Buck House was one of the largest private residences in Yancey County, and it is among the most imposing of some dozen historic houses illustrated in Images of Yancey. Nevertheless, it is a simple house of traditional appearance and not unlike the earlier antebellum two-story house built by Brigadier-General John W. McElroy in Burnsville; the McElroy house is the only residential building in Yancey County now listed in the National Register (1990). The Buck house's spare Colonial Revival-style appearance predates the more elaborately-finished, later rural houses of the first decades of the twentieth century and those erected in Burnsville for which fancy millwork was brought to homebuilders by rail. All of the wood used in the house, including the interior which is curly maple and pre-blight clear grain chestnut, was cut on the property, and the house was surely built by a crew under Mr. Buck's supervision. The simply-detailed woodwork used to enframe doors and windows and comprising the mantels and staircase was likely milled on site.

The architectural significance of the David M. Buck House has two parts: the importance of the house itself as a large imposing rural residence; and the survival of two very important domestic outbuildings(#3-4) which were critical to life in nineteenth and early twentieth century Yancey County. A review of the nineteenth and early-twentieth century houses now standing in Yancey County and those published in 1993 in the county pictorial history, Images of Yancey, confirm the Buck house's status as one of the largest private country houses known to have been built in Yancey County from its formation in 1833 until after World War II. Its impressive, yet spare appearance is related to two large contemporary Colonial Revival-style buildings, Wray Villa of ca. 1903 and the McPeter's House of ca. 1905, which were built as rural public accommodations. All three have tall roofs to shed snow. The survival of the Buck spring house and apple house contribute to the significance of the property in a fashion parallel to their importance in the life of the family. Before electricity arrived here, the spring house (#3) not only provided water for household use, but the cooling troughs kept milk, cheese, butter, and other perishables from

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David M. Buck House, Yancey County, North Carolina

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spoiling. Eggs, juices, and prepared foodstuffs were also safely kept here. The apple house (#4) served an equally vital function. Apples, pears, Irish and sweet potatoes, pumpkins, winter squash, and onions could be safely stored here in bins, crates, and tubs, through the winter, while open shelves were used for canned goods the year around. The size and finish of these buildings, comparable in scale to the house, indicate their role in maintaining self-sufficiency at this remote, substantial family place.

The house was built two years before David M. Buck became owner of the property and the Bald Mountain Boundary on 8 August 1906. After the series of agreements were reached in the late summer of 1905, David M. Buck began timbering the Bald Mountain Boundary in earnest; however, within less than a year he was the owner of the property. The extent to which the vast tract had been timbered, by himself or others, remains unclear, but on 10 January 1906, the Bald Mountain Lumber Company sold the Bald Mountain Boundary and the small tract to the Wood-Galloway Company (Yancey County Deeds, 32: 550-557); Haskett Wood was president of both companies. Then, eight months afterward, on 8 August 1906, the Wood-Galloway Company and W. H. Wood and wife of Cambridge, Massachusetts, conveyed the acreage to David M. Buck and his wife, reserving all the merchantable timber forty-eight inches around at four feet above ground and the band saw mill at Bald Mountain; the price was \$11,750 (Yancey County Deeds, 33: 102-113). By two further contracts of the same date in August 1906, the Bald Mountain Lumber Company and the Wood-Galloway Company continued their existing relationships with David M. Buck. In the first-recorded of the two, Mr. Buck's obligation to harvest timber in Egypt Township was redefined and the circular saw mill located on the waters of Roaring Fork Creek in Egypt Township was conveyed to him (Yancey County Deeds, 33: 117-120). The second contract guaranteed him use of the company's aforementioned, reserved band saw mill at Bald Mountain for four months (Yancey County Deeds, 33: 120-122).

The extent of David M. Buck's career as a lumberman, before and after the timbering of the Bald Mountain Boundary, remains to be thoroughly analyzed; however, his association with the Bald Mountain property is well-documented in the series of deeds cited in this nomination and others (left unexamined and outside the scope of the nomination). His lumbering activities are also recorded in a series of documentary photographs published on two pages of Images of Yancey in 1993. Similar photographs and others of the home place remain in the possession of his grandson Fredrick Charles Buck who lives nearby. Mr. Buck's Bald Mountain operation is one of four important county lumbering operations discussed and illustrated in "Railroads and Lumbering," a chapter in Images of Yancey (107-122). The other three lumbering operations--Brown Brothers Lumber Company, Carolina Spruce Lumber Company, and the Perley and Crockett Lumber Company -- were all started later, in the 1910s, and were owned by investors/businessmen in Pennsylvania.

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The local significance of the David M. Buck House in the area of industry is associated with his personal involvement in the timbering of the Bald Mountain Boundary and other lands while employed in the family lumbering business, his career as a representative of the process by which the vast stands of old-growth timber were harvested and shipped throughout the eastern United States, and the survival here of a house associated with a man involved in an industry that left relatively few surviving architectural evidences of its practices. The extensive citations of deeds herein, involving the Bald Mountain Boundary, the Buck family, and David M. Buck are, as stated, particular to this property; however, their larger value is as documentary evidence of each and every stage of a process by which not just the Bald Mountain Boundary was timbered but also countless other similar tracts in western North Carolina. Here the process can be distinctly tied to a man and the association with the house he occupied while engaged in lumbering. The work of historians Ronald D. Eller and Donald Edward Davis, cited earlier, examine the timbering of the southern Appalachians over a multi-state area and focus on the larger-scale timber and lumber companies who bought, controlled, and cut-over hundreds of thousands of acres. The Buck family's lumbering operations provide insight into the many contemporary smaller scale enterprises. When the large and smaller operations are considered together, the fact that lumbering in the southern Appalachians in the first decade of the twentieth century produced nearly forty percent of national production in the period is not quite so astounding. As an extractive industry, lumbering companies erected buildings that were temporary by nature, and few directly associated with their work survive. Not surprisingly, none of the buildings of the Brown Brothers, Carolina Spruce, Perley and Crockett, and Bald Mountain lumber companies, illustrated in Images of Yancey survive. The history of this industry in Yancey County is retained and represented here in the sole surviving residence of a figure central to its operations.

By the time David M. Buck was elected to the State Legislature for the session of 1909 he had apparently nearly ceased his lumbering activities; in the North Carolina Manual for the 1911 session, for which he was reelected, he is identified as a "Farmer," and at the time of his death in 1939, his career as a lumberman is nowhere mentioned. A merchant and the operator of a store (#6) standing near the house and included in this nomination, Mr. Buck was reelected as a representative from Yancey County to the 1923 session of the General Assembly. In 1924 an Extra Session of the 1923 General Assembly established an eight-member National Park Commission of North Carolina to present the claims of the state for the establishment of what would become the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Family accounts and his obituary indicate he was made a member of the commission at that time. This has not been confirmed; however, in 1927, when the General Assembly reconstituted the commission as the "North Carolina Park Commission," David M. Buck was named a commissioner (Public Laws, Chapter 28). The 1927 North Carolina Manual lists Mr. Buck as a member of the National Park

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Commission of North Carolina. The 1929 edition of the Manual lists him as a member of the North Carolina Park Commission. In the 1930s the Manual was reduced in size and content, and members of boards and commissions were not published. His obituary in the Yancey Record (16 March 1939) states that he served for "about 8 years."

In 1938, the year Mr. Buck was elected to his fourth and final term as a state legislator, the family circle was broken with the death of his eldest son and namesake, Dr. David M. Buck, Jr., an Asheville physician, in a private plane crash on 19 June 1938. A spot was selected on a ridge to the south of the house as his burial place. Seven months later, in January 1939, while in Raleigh attending the opening of the General Assembly, Mr. Buck became ill and was hospitalized at Rex Hospital. He was later transferred to Mission Hospital in Asheville and on Saturday, 11 March, he was brought home to Bald Mountain. He suffered a relapse the following morning and died Sunday evening, 12 March 1939. His funeral was held from his residence and he was interred near his son in the newly-established family burying ground.

Pearl Annie Ramsey Buck, Mr. Buck's widow and sole heir, continued to live in the family house, together with her youngest daughter, Alma L. Buck, until early in 1964 (Yancey County Wills, 3: 37-38). On 24 October 1963, through a sale arranged by Charles G. Buck, Mr. Buck's eldest surviving son and then an attorney in Asheville, Mrs. Buck sold the residual Buck lands of the Bald Mountain Boundary in Yancey and Madison counties, North Carolina, and Unicoi County, Tennessee, comprising about 4,500 acres for \$129,000 to Elmer Gooden of Bladen County (Yancey County Deeds, 132: 364-367). A quarter-acre lot comprising the family cemetery and a right-of-way to it was excepted from the conveyance. Four days later, on 28 October, Mr. Gooden and his wife conveyed the property to a group of nine investors, including himself and the Carolina Hardwood Company, Inc. (Yancey County Deeds, 132: 433-437). On 1 June 1964, these owners sold the property to the Bald Mountain Development Corporation of Kingsport, Tennessee (Yancey County Deeds, 133: 435-440). Concurrent with the sale, the eldest Buck daughter, Marion Hope Buck, erected a house on the east side of Schronce Creek Road, a short distance from the cemetery which became the home of her mother and sister. In 1970, when she retired from the American Red Cross, she returned to Yancey County and lived with her mother and sister who died in 1979 and 1990, respectively, and were buried in the family cemetery; she died in 1994 and was also buried there. The family house, built for David and Pearl Buck in 1904 and occupied by Mrs. Buck into the winter of 1964, has stood vacant to the present except for a brief period in 1968.

After acquiring the property in 1964 the Bald Mountain Development Corporation undertook the development of a portion of the property as Wolf Laurel, a seasonal resort. From the late 1960s to the present some 1,700 residential lots have been sold and developed, primarily as second

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homes for the owners. A golf course was erected for spring through autumn use, and a ski slope completed for winter recreation. Including roads, this development covers some 2,200 acres. In 1977 the development company sold two tracts of the property, adjoining the Appalachian Trail to the United States of America, for administration by the Forest Service. The smaller of the two tracts, 354.37 acres lay in Unicoi County, Tennessee (Unicoi County Deeds, 128: 623-633). The second tract, 496.95 acres, was located in Yancey County. In 1992 a third tract, 339.70 acres, was also sold to the Federal government (Yancey County Deeds, 234: 483+). These tracts, comprising some 1,191.02 acres, represent nearly one-quarter of the old Bald Mountain Boundary lands. The property sold and developed lay to the north of the David M. Buck House and, today, some 1,165 acres here remain undeveloped in woodlands. The David M. Buck House, its spring house, apple house, wood shed, the frame store, and the immediate grounds, comprising 4.80 acres, has been set apart and is being offered for sale through Preservation North Carolina.

Endnote

1. The materials used in the preparation of this National Register nomination are cited in the bibliography. The history of the National Park Commission of North Carolina/North Carolina Park Commission in the 1920s and 1930s, leading up to the formation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park remains to be written. Mr. Buck's daughter, Ruby Jones, remembers her father's attendance at meetings of the commission, its chairman Mark Squires of Lenoir, and that the commission held at least one meeting at the Buck home place at Bald Mountain.
2. Dr. David M. Buck, Jr. (1902-1938); Charles Garfield Buck (b. 1904); Marion Hope Buck (1907-1994); Ruby Delight (Buck) Adams Jones (b. 1910); Catherine Grace (Buck) Cherry (b. 1914); Paul Ernest Buck (1916-1975); Faye Ellen (Buck) Blake (1918-1978); and Alma Lee Buck (1922-1990).

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The property included in this nomination, comprising tracts B and C on the enclosed map of the Buck House property prepared on May 29, 1990 and updated on January 9, 2001, is outlined in pencil on the map. Tract B contains 6.6 acres and tract C contains 4.8 acres for a total of 11.4 acres.

Boundary Justification: The property included in this nomination is the residual tract of the Bald Mountain Boundary that includes the site and setting of the David M. Buck House, its domestic and related outbuildings, and cemetery that retain their association with the life and career of David M. Buck.

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Photograph Schedule

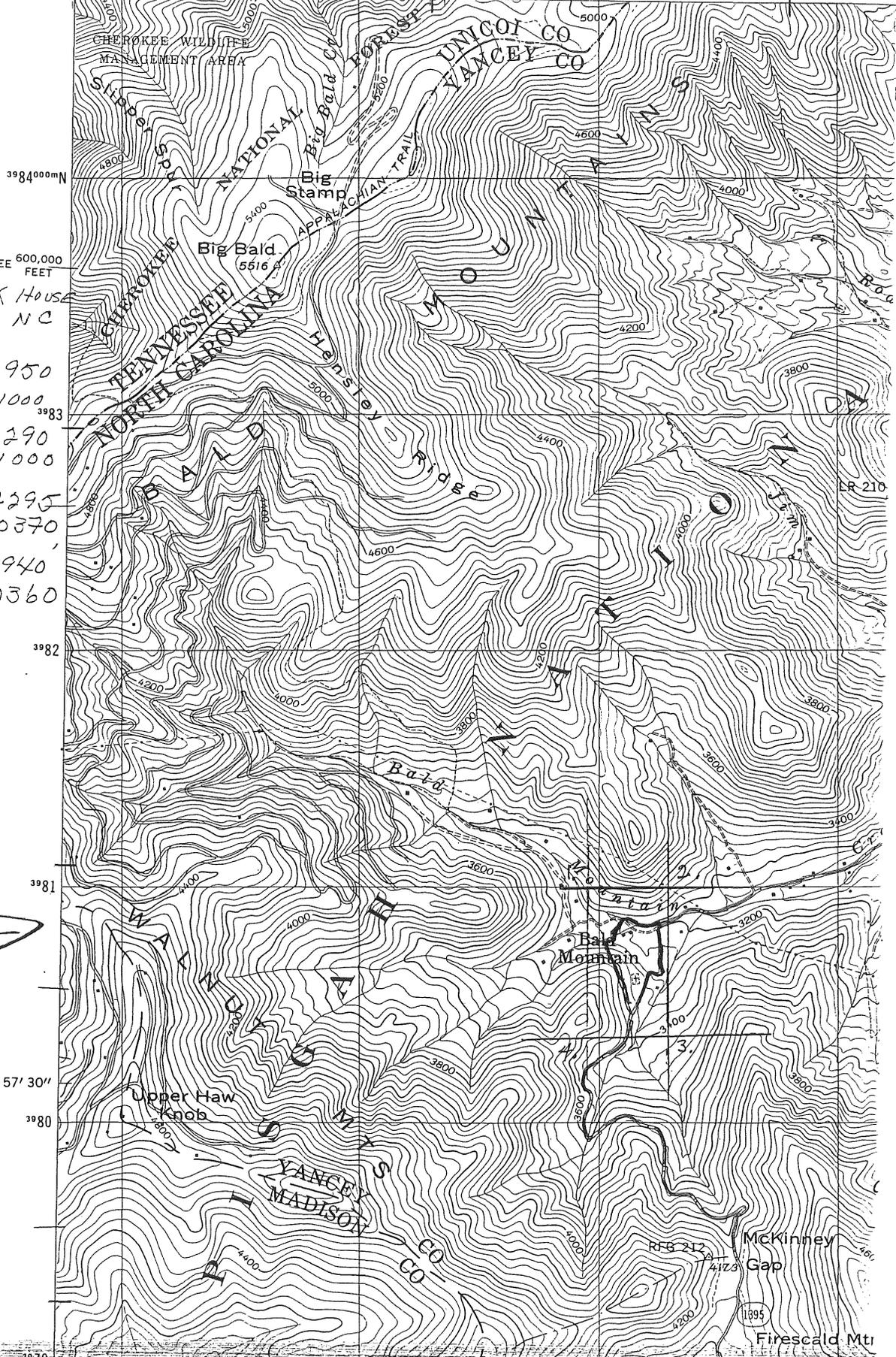
The following information applies to all of the photographs submitted with this nomination.

1. Name of property: David M. Buck House
2. Location: Yancey County, North Carolina
3. Name of photographer: Davyd Foard Hood
4. Dates of photographs: 6 August, 2 December 1999
5. Location of original negative: Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina
6. and 7.
 - A. Overall view, looking west to house (#2) with stone wall (#1) in foreground.
 - B. View of chestnut sheathing in front, northwest first-story room, looking southwest.
 - C. View of stair and chestnut sheathing in hall, looking southwest.
 - D. View of mantel, first-story (southwest) bedroom, leaning against the room's painted west wall.
 - E. Springhouse (#3), looking west/southwest.
 - F. Springhouse interior, looking west/northwest, showing cooling trough and perimeter shelf.
 - G. Apple house (#4), looking south.
 - H. Apple house, looking southwest, showing board-and-rail door (open) and slatted summer door, and wood latch.
 - I. Store (#6), looking west.
 - J. Buck family cemetery (#7), looking west, with family stone.

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(FLAG POND 130-SE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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DAVID M BUCK HOUSE
VANCEY CO., NC
ZONE 17
1. EASTING 366950
NORTHING 3981000
2. EASTING 367290
NORTHING 3981000
3. EASTING 367295
NORTHING 3980370
4. EASTING 366940
NORTHING 3980360



57' 30"

3980

3970

Firescaled Mtn

