

\* Correct SR # is 1762 \*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

PROCESSED BY THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DATE 12/15/93

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name McCauley-Watson House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number SW side of SR 1762 (Blanchard Rd.) 1.5 mi NW of NC 62  not for publication  
city, town Union Ridge  vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Alamance code 001 zip code 27215

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Fair SHPO 12-15-93  
Signature of certifying official Date

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

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: **single dwelling**

DOMESTIC: **secondary structure(s)**

AGRICULTURE: **outbuildings**

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY: **Greek Revival**

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation **BRICK**

walls **BRICK**

**WOOD**

roof **TIN**

other **N/A**

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**Please see Continuation Sheet.**

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1850

Significant Dates

Ca. 1850

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Please see Continuation Sheet.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Continuation Sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately five acres

UTM References

A 17 648060 4008280  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Alamance County Tax Parcel # 11-4-4(3)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Please see Continuation Sheet.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary L. Reeb, Ph. D.  
 organization Historic Preservation Services date 8/2/93  
 street & number 608 Laurel Hill Road telephone (919) 967-2303  
 city or town Chapel Hill state NC zip code 27514

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

---

### McCauley-Watson House Alamance County, NC

#### Description

The McCauley-Watson House (ca. 1850) is an antebellum vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse in northern Alamance County, North Carolina, and dates from approximately the founding date of the nearest large town, Burlington, fourteen miles to the south. The house is a two-story brick structure with a single-story rear kitchen ell. The main block features a low-pitched, gabled tin roof and a single-story porch overall central entry. It is set at right angles to the roadway (SR 1762, Blanchard Road) in a rural area of the country, facing southeast on a knoll overlooking the bottom lands of Owens Creek. Now standing on a parcel of approximately five acres and vacant, the house is surrounded by an overgrown grassy lot. The associated property slopes eastward toward Owens Creek and is surrounded by thin, second growth woods and a mixture of late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century farmhouses and farm outbuilding remnants, and up-scale suburban houses in a region being developed one-property at a time into residential, Burlington-oriented out-lots. The nominated property includes a cluster of five outbuildings, all of which are represented by the owner to have been built in the twentieth century (though these appear to be from approximately the first decade of the twentieth century). These have tin roofs and are in substantial disrepair. Most of these are set south and southwest of the house. There are two other associated gable-roofed outbuildings located beyond the west and south boundaries of the property. The house features nearby planting remnants from its past: two small trees and a setting of boxwoods lining what was once a front entry path, and a row of small trees between the house and the largest barn, running parallel to the drive. The original driveway is now muddy track, the walkway a mere shadow, and the farmlot is overgrown and weedy, indicating a long history of disuse.

The house is a two-story, double-pile, five-to-one American-bond brick building with a low-pitched gable tin roof, and two corbel-capped brick interior chimneys in the main block. The rear gable-roofed kitchen ell is brick, one-story with an exterior corbel-capped brick chimney. All of the roofs are covered in replacement raised-seam tin. There is no roof cornice and a simple gutter and down spout system finish the roof line. All of the windows on the main block and ell of the building are wooden-sash, six-over-six, double hung and original. The window openings are segmental-arched throughout as are the four gable-end attic ventilators. The owner has covered these with metal infill to protect the vacant house from intruders. The house is of brick masonry bearing wall construction. The foundation is open with brick piers.

The front (east) facade is three bays wide and contains a single-story hip-roof porch. The entry, whose four-panel door is double-leaved and transomed with four lights, is inset with a paneled reveal whose paneling matches that of the four paneled uprights of the front porch, which are square-in-section wood members with two surviving jigsawn

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

### McCauley-Watson House Alamance County, NC

spandrels against the house. This porch contains no railing and appears never to have had one.

The north and south facades are identical to one another and feature a symmetrical, two-bay arrangement with two segmental arched attic ventilators and two segmental-arched windows per floor. The brick rear ell, apparently built at the same time as the main block, contains two screened, shed-roofed side porches, both with railings, the southernmost infilled with weatherboard that appears to have been added later.

The largest of the outbuildings is a two-story wood-frame, gable-roof barn set east of the house, with a shed-roof-covered one-story wagon bay on the west facade. Other buildings include a one-and-a-half-story, double-entry storage barn, a half-dovetail log and frame garage/shed, and two other small frame and gabled outbuildings which are typical of a working farm.

The interior of the house is intact and original in plan and decor. None of the walls have been papered nor have any recent partitions been added. The paint finish appears to be whitewash throughout, and, although it may have been refreshed in its history, is not recent. Arranged in a center-hall plan, the building has plaster walls throughout and a wood-sheathed ceiling. With one exception, the original eight fireplace mantels in the main block have simple detailing with plain-board posts and lintels and shallow shelves. The single exception is the front south bedroom which features a mantel with two-panel architrave and single-panel pilasters. This room has wood-paneled, partitioned closet spaces on either side of the fireplace in the manner of other Piedmont North Carolina houses, notably the 1838 Caleb Richmond House near Milton, NC (NR 1986). The wall treatment of this partition matches the reveals throughout and the exterior porch uprights. All of the rooms and halls feature wooden picture molding, and the central staircase is fore-facing and straight-run with turned baluster, rails, and newel, and carved risers on the outer face. The wood of this, the mantels, and window and door surrounds appears to be walnut, though the surrounds, and some mantels and picture moldings have been painted white like the plaster. The door surrounds are paneled and deep, forming reveals like the entry. The doors are four-panel throughout. The floor boards are pine; the unpainted, wide, eight-inch baseboards are plain-board with top one-inch cove moldings and one-inch quarter-round toe-molding.

The house appears today virtually as constructed, its integrity intact, and has been less vandalized than might be expected in its long vacancy.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

---

McCauley-Watson House  
Alamance County, NC

Outbuildings (All Non-Contributing)

1. Ca. 1900-1910. Largest barn: two-story frame post and beam building with a rusted tin roof, south-facing gable-end entry bay, unpainted weatherboard sheathing, and attached, single-story, tin-roof-covered, full-length wagon shed with four unfinished timber pole uprights.
2. Ca. 1900-1910. Storage barn: one-and-a-half story with two batten entries, gabled and rusted tin roof, post and beam frame building with weatherboard sheathing and open, full-length shed-roofed wagon shed, east facade.
3. Ca. 1900-1910. Shed/Garage: two-pen, gabled post and beam and log building with half-dove-tailed notching, rusted tin roof, and open-side shed-roofed bay, west facade.
4. Ca. 1900-1910. Small barn or shed: unpainted weatherboard with rusted tin roof, post and beam framing, single, gable-end batten entry, and a collapsed wagon-shed tin roof on its east facade.
5. Ca. 1900-1910. Small shed: unpainted weatherboard with rusted tin roof, post and beam framing, and single gable-end batten entry in woods south of the rest of the complex.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

---

McCauley-Watson House  
Alamance County, NC

## Summary

The McCauley-Watson House is architecturally significant as a remarkably intact rural nineteenth-century form; a brick-constructed antebellum vernacular Greek Revival farm dwelling. It is one of twelve such Alamance County houses whose common characteristic was substantial brick construction with varying degrees of stylistic influences built by prominent citizens in the fifteen years before the Civil War. As a two-story, double-pile, center-hall plan under a shallow hip roof, with simple interior and exterior detailing, the McCauley-Watson House represents the solid Greek Revival style of the era. However, the segmental-arched windows and the remaining fragments of swanwork on the one-story, hip-roofed porch indicate the beginnings of interest in more up-to-date mid-nineteenth century styles that appeared in Alamance County with the coming of the railroads and the resulting industrial boom. The house is associated with two individuals, Dr. John W. McCauley, a leading citizen of Alamance County who practiced medicine there for fifty years, and his son-in-law, Dr. George S. Watson, whose family participation in educational efforts led to the establishment of several institutions of higher education in the county and the continuation of the fortunes of Elon College in nearby Burlington.

## Historical Background

The McCauley-Watson House is the centerpiece of what was originally a farm and an additional collection of real property which may have consisted at one time, according to the present owner, of approximately 1,200 acres. Property contiguous to this parcel is known to have been something over 400 acres in the late nineteenth century, when it came into the Watson ownership and would thus classify as "substantial" in a county whose average farm acreage was 75 acres in the nineteenth century and had a record of 31.6% tenancy in 1925.<sup>1</sup> As was the habit of rural land holdings, the number of acres rose and fell from the beginning as the original owner, Andrew McCauley, transferred property to his children over the years from approximately 1815.<sup>2</sup>

The Alamance County branch of the McCauley family is descended from this Andrew McCauley, who began to accumulate the farmstead in the Owens Creek site of the McCauley-Watson House in the first decade of the nineteenth century. A farmer himself, he was prosperous enough to have subsidized the educations of all three of his sons; William, a captain in the War of 1812; Robert, who studied law in Litchfield, Connecticut; and John W. (b. 1825) who studied medicine in Philadelphia and built the McCauley-Watson House ca. 1850.<sup>3</sup> While two of these three sons did

---

<sup>1</sup> John W. Harden, *Alamance County; Economic and Social* (Chapel Hill, Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina, UNC Press, 1928) p.50.

<sup>2</sup> McCauley Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

<sup>3</sup> Although there is no documentation dating the McCauley-Watson House, John W. McCauley enjoyed a prosperous career as a physician and married in 1845. It is probable that he built his house shortly after his marriage and the establishment of his family. The 1845 marriage date as a building era of the house would place it in a group of stylistically similar antebellum houses discussed in *Alamance County Architectural History*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

---

McCauley-Watson House  
Alamance County, NC

not survive past their thirties, Dr. John W. McCauley lived to 1898, practiced medicine in rural Alamance County for fifty years, and had several children himself, all but one of whom, a daughter, he outlived. His son, John Andrew McCauley (b. 1846), was himself a doctor and appears to have inherited much of the original farm, since he left the property with his estate to his children, including a son Claude (age fifteen at the time his father died in 1883).<sup>4</sup> A community leader, Dr. John W. McCauley was one of the group of "leading citizens" who held a meeting in 1887 at the Freeman and Zachary Drug Store in downtown "Company Shops" (the original name of Burlington, a town formed in 1854 around the North Carolina Railroad repair shops) to select a new name for the town.<sup>5</sup>

After the death of Dr. John W. McCauley, the house was sold in 1899 by Claude McCauley to his aunt, Nancy Virginia (called Virginia), who was Dr. John W.'s only surviving child. Virginia McCauley was married to Dr. George S. Watson who, in addition to being a medical doctor, was a philanthropist deeply involved in the founding of Elon College near Burlington. The marriage of Nancy Virginia McCauley and Dr. George S. Watson united two of the leading families of Alamance County, and their descendents have owned the McCauley-Watson House ever since.

Dr. George Watson was the son of Dr. Eli S. Watson, a State Legislator in 1862-62, a member of the Christian Church Council of Alamance County, and one of the founders of the Watsonville Female Seminary. He was also one of the first trustees of the Graham Institute, an academy formed under the aegis of the Christian Church to develop ministers in "any Protestant denomination of the day." Graham Institute was closed in the 1860s, but was reorganized by the Christian Church in 1881 as Graham Normal College. Dr. George Watson was one of the fifteen founding trustees of Graham Normal College which, in 1889, became Elon College.<sup>6</sup> His descendents remained involved with the affairs of Elon College, and presently his great-granddaughter, a current owner of the house, is serving on the Board of Trustees.

The house passed in the 1930s to the children of Virginia and George Watson, J.M Watson, Ann Watson, and Mary Watson Chandler. In 1942, it was sold to two Chandler children, who sold it to their daughter and a Chandler granddaughter in 1964. The house is presently owned by a family partnership that is descended from its builder.<sup>7</sup> Like numerous other cases in North Carolina, the record of continuous family ownership may account for the integrity of the resource.

---

<sup>4</sup> Will Records, Alamance County, ExR2-360 and ExR2-409, John W. McCauley, Executor.

<sup>5</sup> Walter Whitaker, *Centennial History of Alamance County, 1849-1949*. (Burlington: Burlington Chamber of Commerce and the Dowd Press, Charlotte, NC, 1949?), p. 135. Depending on the source, "Burlington was either selected from a U.S. Postal Guide, or named after a Jersey cow that wandered the streets of Company Shops.

<sup>6</sup> Durward T. Stokes, *Elon College, Its History and Traditions* (Burlington: Elon College Alumni Association, 1982), p.33. Elon College was the only four-year college operated by the Christian Church in the South. Prior to the founding of the College, the Church organized neighborhood schools in meeting houses.

<sup>7</sup> Alamance County Deed Records, Deeds 253-55, 1942, 334-439, 1964, and 456-187, 1980.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

---

McCauley-Watson House  
Alamance County, NC

Architectural Context

The brick of the McCauley-Watson House is an uncommon building material for its period in a state whose nineteenth-century vernacular architecture, especially in the countryside, is predominantly of wood. Brick houses in this region of the North Carolina Piedmont did not appear before the 1830s, and only in houses built by well-to-do citizens. In his late-1970s architectural survey of Alamance County, Lounsbury identified twelve residential antebellum brick buildings (out of 100 antebellum dwellings), and speculates that the brick used in these houses was produced on the sites in temporary kilns or manufactured in the only nearby brick kiln, founded in 1849, in the county seat of Graham.<sup>8</sup> In addition, the McCauley-Watson House is one of only three instances in Alamance County of antebellum residential segmental-arched window treatment.<sup>9</sup>

Only two names survive of local brick masons and builders in mid-nineteenth-century Alamance County. One is Henry Bason, who built a brick house for himself in Haw River township ca. 1835 in Flemish Bond. The Henry Bason House is a one-story double-pile house with four rooms and a central passage. The distinguishing feature of this house is the primitive "H.B." in glazed headers on one of the end chimneys. The other surviving brick mason's name is John Trollinger, who built the county jail in Graham in 1849 and, with Bason, the brick commercial building known as Nick's Store on Courthouse Square in Graham. Their partnership lasted several years.

Antebellum brick houses in Alamance County are similar to one another in construction and flavor. All except the Henry Bason House are built of American or common bond (from one-to-three to one-to-five ratios; the McCauley-Watson House is one-to-five) and all except the Bason House are two stories high. The majority of these houses were built at the same time as the commercial and industrial towns were growing in response to first, the construction in the early 1850s of plank roads connecting the county with Yancyville in Caswell County and the Moravian settlements in Forsyth County to the west, and, second, the arrival of the North Carolina Railroad, which was built between 1850 and 1855 through the textile arc of North Carolina from Goldsboro to Charlotte.

The construction techniques that produced these houses came from the second of two building traditions, "practices developed in tidewater Virginia and Maryland in the last third of the seventeenth century [which] spread with settlement to . . . North Carolina." According to Lounsbury, in Alamance County "a major change in traditional house types occurred. . . in the last two decades before the Civil War with the appearance of the central passageway" which was rare before 1840 and contained a staircase by the 1850s.<sup>11</sup> Plaster, however, was an earlier feature (ca. 1830), often applied directly to the brick surfaces and accompanied by high

---

<sup>8</sup> Carl Lounsbury, *Alamance County Architectural History* (Burlington: Alamance County Historic Properties Commission, 1980) pp. 18-21.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* the other two are the Graham Albright and Allen-Blanshard houses.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

---

**McCauley-Watson House**  
**Alamance County, NC**

baseboards. Moldings were Greek Revival for the most part in the 1840s and 1850s, and, while early mantels had been more exuberant, they became simple post and lintel forms in response to the "purity" of the Greek Revival influence fifteen years before the war. The most sophisticated houses of this period featured double pile plans.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 40.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   8  

---

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Alamance County Records, Graham, NC

Boal, Mary Lou, McCauley/Watson descendent and owner, personal communication, 19 March 1993.

Lounsberry, Carl. *Alamance County Architectural History*. Burlington: Alamance County Historic Properties Commission, 1980.

McCauley Family Papers. Southern Historical Collection, Louis Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

Stokes, Durward T. *Elon College, Its History and Traditions*. Burlington: Elon College Alumni Association, 1982.

Whitaker, Walter. *Centennial History of Alamance County, 1849-1949*. Burlington: Burlington Chamber of Commerce, 1949.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

---

McCauley-Watson House  
Alamance County, NC

### 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description

Alamance County Tax parcel #11-4-4 (3)

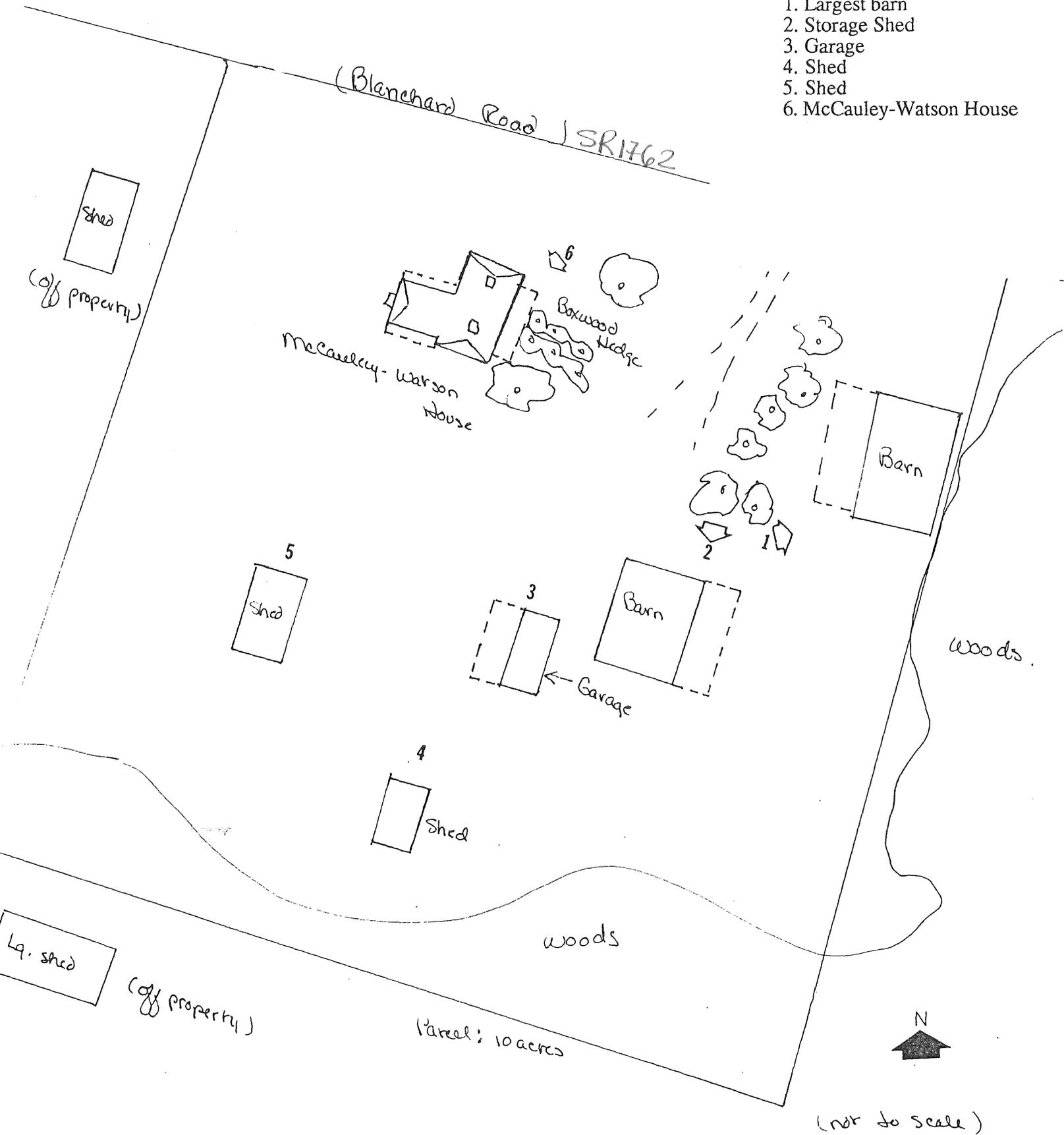
#### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the present legal parcel of approximately five acres south of SR 1762. Because the original farm-related fields have changed hands over time, and have been subsequently landscaped or otherwise disturbed to form suburban outlots, these are not included in the boundaries.

# Photo Key and Sight Angle

Site Map, McCauley-Watson House  
Alamance County, NC

- 1. Largest barn
- 2. Storage Shed
- 3. Garage
- 4. Shed
- 5. Shed
- 6. McCauley-Watson House



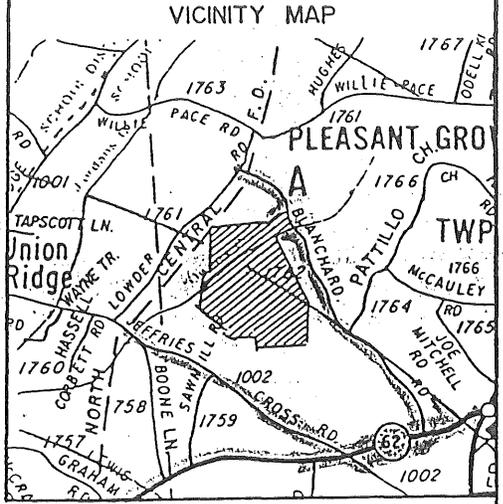
(5)

GLENDIA C. WALKER  
D.B. 526 PG. 669

IRON STAKE FOUND IN STAMP  
180.05' N89°51'3"E  
329°36'02"E  
99.99'

S89°09'48"E 126L92'

31.85 AC. REMAINING AS PER TAX MAP II-4-4



OWENS CREEK

CREEK TANGENTS

1	S66°40'30"W	28.71'
2	N77°45'00"W	123.44'
3	S56°45'01"W	186.81'
4	S70°19'27"W	125.97'
5	S70°17'42"W	11.74'
6	S75°58'19"W	132.55'
7	S48°1'28"W	50.17'
8	S75°2'21"W	314.72'
9	S66°46'35"W	97.21'

ALBERT L. MADREN, ETAL  
D.B. 391 PG. 373

COPY

CREAS ±  
ROAD R/W  
CLAP AREA

PRELIMINARY PLAT

RECORDATION, CONVEYANCE OR SALES

McCauley - Watson  
Plan  
Watauga County, NC

P.B. 41 PG. 126

ALBERT L. MADREN, ETAL  
D.B. 461 PG. 276  
D.B. 692 PG. 327

0°42'W 772.58'  
N71°03'23"W 654.00'

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

McCauley-Watson House (Additional Documentation)  
Alamance County, NC

Section number 1-10 Page 1

The McCauley-Watson House was inadvertently listed in the National Register of Historic Places with the state route number incorrectly cited. The correct state route number is 1762 (Blanchard Road), this number should be substituted wherever SR 1754 appears in sections 7, 8 and 10 of the nomination. Enclosed is a USGS topographic map with the McCauley-Watson House correctly plotted and a new sketch map with the correct state route number. New geographical information is listed below.

**1. Name of Property**

McCauley-Watson House

**2. Location**

SW side of SR 1762 (Blanchard Road) 1.5 mi NW of NC 62

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

Jeffrey J. Crow  
Signature of certifying official

9/28/95  
Date

**10. Geographical Data**

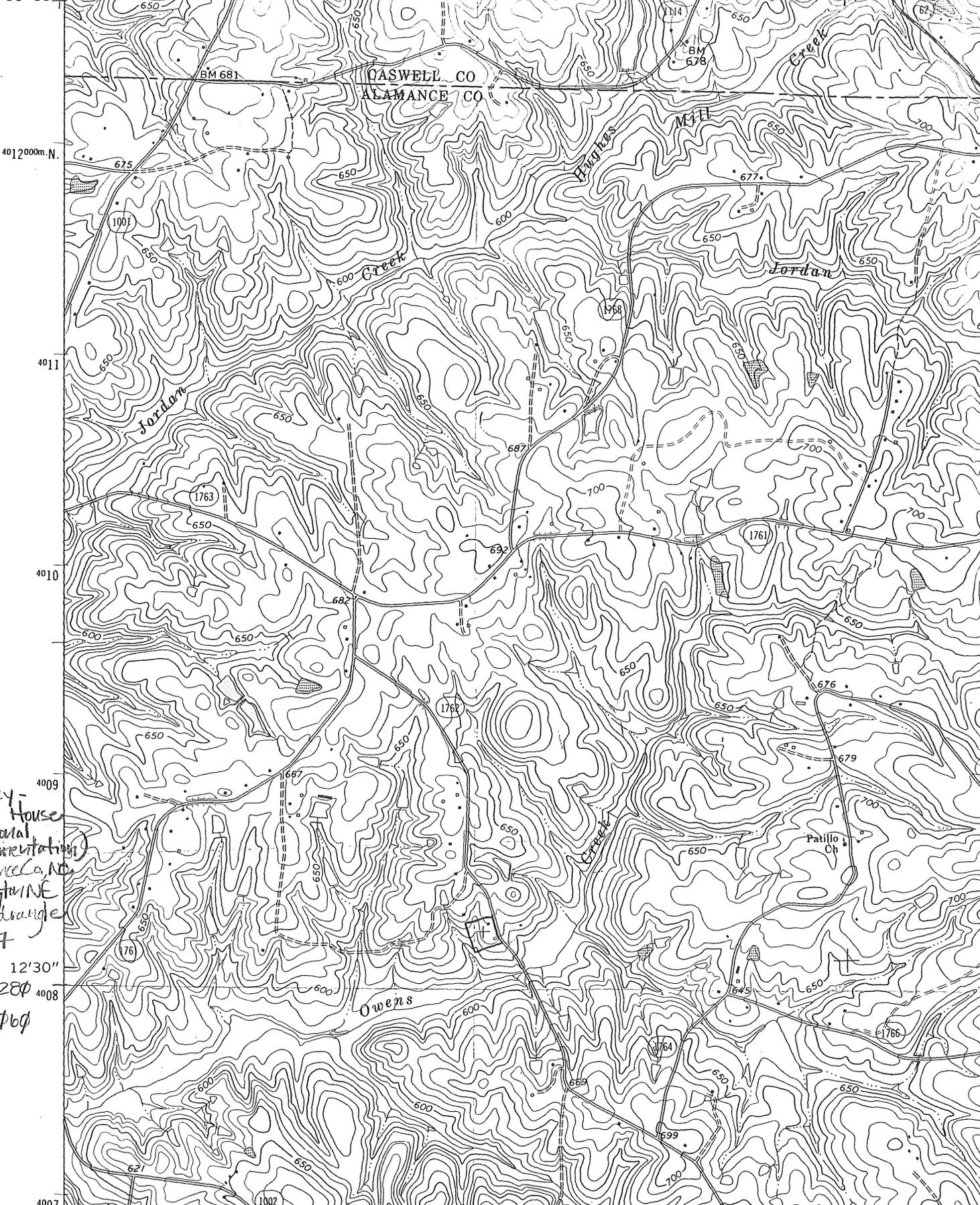
UTM References:	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	17	648060	4008280

5186 N SW  
(CHERRY GROVE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

D

79° 22' 30" 647000m. E. 648 649 20' 15 MI. TO U.S.



McCaulley -  
Watson House  
(Additional  
Documentation)  
Alamance Co., NC  
Burlington NE  
Quadrangle  
Zone 17

12' 30"  
1/168280  
3/64866

