

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 Cook, William House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number W side SR 2131 at jct. with SR 2132 not for publication N/A

city or town Mebane vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Alamance code 001 zip code 27302

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. P... SHPO 9-30-93
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
<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): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

William Cook House
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC
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
		sites
		structures
		objects
5	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Log Buildings in Alamance Co., NC c. 1780-c. 1930 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structures

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structures

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: log, single pen

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls log
weatherboard
roof metal
other brick
asphalt

Narrative Description

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

See 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.) N/A

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1840; c. 1903

Significant Dates

c. 1840

c. 1903

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cook, William, builder

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):

N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

William Cook House
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 1.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	6	54	5	8	0	39	88	7	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing							
2											

3											
Zone	Easting			Northing							
4											

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson

organization _____ date March 1, 1993

street & number 4606 Hunt Rd. telephone (919) 732-5439

city or town Hillsborough state NC zip code 27278

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 Mary Stanley

street & number P.O. Box 267 telephone (919) 578-3377

city or town Swepsonville state NC zip code 27359

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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Alamance Co., NCSection number 7 Page 1

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The William Cook House is composed of two free-standing houses, a c. 1840 one-story one-room log house (22'1" x 18'6") and a c. 1903 two-story frame I-house, set close to and at a ninety-degree angle to each other. Their joined hip roof porches, carried by plain square posts, bridge the short gap between them, creating an L-shaped compound with a spacious porch. This right-angle arrangement of the two buildings is a typical one in the county. (See, for instance, the Camilus McBane House.)

The centerpiece of a well-maintained 124-acre working farm, the Cook House is set back from State Road 2131 (Jones Drive) at the intersection with State Road 2132 (Cook Street) in east-central Alamance County. The house is set in a cleared yard and surrounded by four contributing (C) early outbuildings: a two-story, single-pen log barn with hewn square logs joined with precise half-dovetail notches and a carport-like extension used to shelter tractors and other mechanized farm equipment; a small, open-front v-notched log storage shed with a quarter-log top plate; a frame corncrib; and a substantial log wood shed with half-dovetail notches.

The log portion of the dwelling is a gable-roofed single-pen log house with one sizable room on the first floor and a habitable loft reached by an enclosed corner staircase which runs along the wall opposite the fireplace. (The stairs were enclosed at an undetermined date with a partition; the ends of the stair treads are exposed and project beyond the partition.) The adjacent two-story, three-bay wide, single-pile frame house is topped by a gable-roof with returns. The log house was remodeled when the two-story frame section was built c. 1903. Now both buildings are visually unified by the same narrow clapboard sheathing and corner boards. Both buildings now have continuous brick foundations, but a portion of the original rock foundation of the log section survives at the chimney base. Each building is covered by a standing seam metal roof and each has narrow board boxing, hip-roof porches, and four-over-four sash windows. They have handsome red brick exterior end chimneys with penciled mortar joints and simple corbeled caps. The chimney on the frame portion is particularly well executed, ornamented by a chevron pattern formed with contrasting bricks at the stepped shoulders. Both houses also retain the c. 1903 screen doors with chamfered rails and stiles.

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Significant alterations include the enclosure of a shed-roofed (originally) screened rear porch on the log section in order to house a laundry room and small half-bath, and a small, incongruous gambrel-roofed brick addition to the rear of the frame portion for use as a kitchen/family room. This small addition, barely visible from the road, does not unduly compromise the integrity of the building. It is not known if the log house was covered with any type of siding before it received clapboards during the 1903 renovation.

On the interior of the log portion, the pine logs are exposed and the daubing has been painted white. A tall, plain mantelpiece, formed from planks, surrounds the firebox which was enclosed at an undetermined date to accommodate a gas heater. The ceiling is covered with four-inch wide boards. Originally the log building had a front and rear door, each flanked by one window, standing opposite each other. The original doors do not survive. The front door, probably a 1903 replacement, features two vertical glass panes above molded wood panels. The original rear door was removed (date undetermined) to make interior access to the laundry room easier. The sash of the window on the original rear wall was also removed, but the window casing remains. A rear door and three small windows now mark the rear wall of the shed-roof addition.

In the unfinished loft of the log portion, the floor is made of tongue-and-groove yellow pine boards. Round log rafters, flattened on one side, half-lapped and pegged, carry the roof. A physical clue to this section's c. 1840 date is the absence of a ridge board at the roof's apex. In Alamance, generally after c. 1850 roof rafters abut and meet at a ridge board. The roof purlins appear to be original, as does the mud daubing between the logs. It is difficult to assess the exterior physical integrity of the log building because it was sheathed with clapboards during the 1903 remodeling. However, it has been little changed since then and, considering how carefully all of the farm's buildings are maintained, it is assumed that it is physically sound. Its location and overall form is unaltered and the interior is little changed. It retains its historic integrity and the essential aspects of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

According to family tradition, the adjacent two-story frame house was constructed for use as a dormitory for the twelve children of the Cook family who owned the farm at the turn of this century. The parents reportedly slept in the log house and used it for all cooking and dining since there were no

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facilities for food preparation in the frame house. On the interior of the frame portion, there are two bedrooms on each floor separated by a narrow center stairwell. One original mantel survives; it features a late-Victorian style scalloped frieze and beaded piers. The c. 1980 gambrel-roof brick addition at the rear of the I-house has a modern sliding glass door and a picture window on its rear wall and one-over-one windows on the side elevations.

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8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Summary:

The William Cook House is significant in Alamance County's local history under Criterion C. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of log construction in the county as an example of a single-pen, one-room plan log house with habitable loft as described in the multiple property listing, "Log Buildings in Alamance County, North Carolina 1780-1930." The present appearance of the William Cook House dates from 1903 when an adjacent two-story, three-bay frame I-house was constructed close to, and at a ninety degree angle to, the log house. This created an L-shaped compound, with the two buildings' respective hip roof porches joining to bridge the short gap between them. While this right angle arrangement is found on a few other log buildings in Alamance County, coupling a log building with a frame I-house is an unusual and notable pattern of log building expansion. This working farm has been owned by the Cook family for most of the twentieth century.

Historical Background:

The earliest history of the William Cook House and farm is unknown. William Cook first appears in the Alamance County Census Population Schedules in 1860 as the eight month old son of Thomas Cook, age 28, and Pena Cook, age 24, and the younger brother of two sisters, ages one and three, identified only by the initials, "C.J." and "M.M." respectively.¹ The property has been associated with the William Cook family since 1889 when J.R. Patton of Durham County sold W.E. Cook 106 acres on the west bank of Haw Creek, "adjoining the land of W.A. Woods et al." Patton made the sale with a condition that Cook "comfortably support and maintain his mother, Peanna L. Cook during her lifetime."²

In 1904 W.A. Woods sold W.E. Cook 113 acres of land on the "north bank of Little Back Creek."³ This land apparently adjoined Cook's 1889 land purchase.³ Mary Stanley, William Cook's granddaughter and present owner of the property, recalled that the farm "originally had about 200 acres."⁴ Today the farm contains 123.87 acres.⁵ William Cook was a farmer and a carpenter. He built the two-story I-house in 1903 or 1904

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to serve as sleeping quarters for his twelve children. He and his wife slept in the old log house which he also remodeled then with a new brick chimney, which rests on the original stone base, and with the application of clapboards and corner boards which match those on the I-house.

William Cook's son, Grover (b. 1896), inherited the property upon his father's death. Grover Cook was also a farmer. The principal crops he raised were various small grains, corn and hay. Sometime during the 1940s the screened back porch of the log building was enclosed, and a bathroom added there.

At present, Jimmy Cook, Grover Cook's grand-nephew and Mary Stanley's cousin, farms the land and lives with his family in the houses. The log house is presently used as the family's kitchen and dining room, with the sitting room and bedrooms located in the I-house. Jimmy Cook built the small brick, gambrel-roof rear addition to the I-house in the early 1980s. It contains the sitting room and a circular iron staircase to the second story.

Footnotes

¹ United States Census. Alamance County, North Carolina Population Schedule 1860.

² Alamance County Deed Book 32, pp. 440-441.

³ Alamance County Deed Book 29, 236.

⁴ Telephone interview with Mary Stanley, February 23, 1992; personal interview with Jimmy Cook, January 17, 1990.

⁵ Alamance County Tax Map 9-38, Block 36.

⁶ Stanley interview.

⁷ Stanley interview.

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Major Bibliographical References.

Alamance County Deed Books 29 and 52. Alamance County Courthouse,
Graham, NC.

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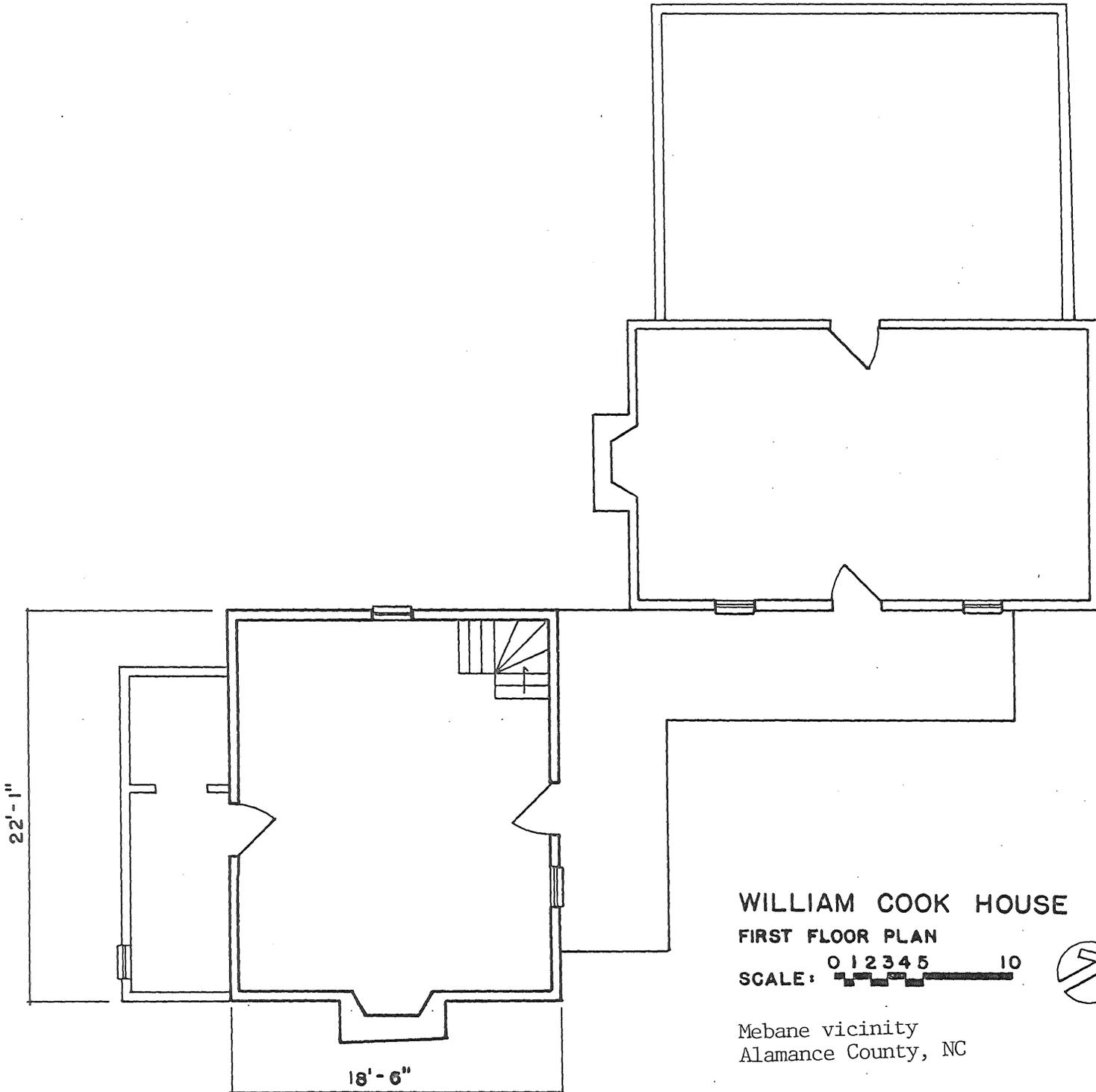
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10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is drawn to include the farm house, corn crib, barn, wood shed and log storage shed historically associated with the William Cook farm. The buildings are clustered and set back from SR 2131 approximately 850 feet down a dirt driveway. The buildings are located on approximately 1.5 acres in a shape of a rectangle approximately 330 feet long and 200 feet wide, as shown on the accompanying enlarged section of Alamance County Tax Map 9-38. Also see accompanying site sketch map which indicates the buildings' relationship to each other.

The buildings have historically been a part of the William Cook farm and maintain the historic integrity. The boundaries encompass an appropriate historic setting for the architecturally significant resources.

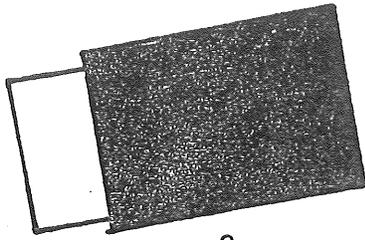


WILLIAM COOK HOUSE
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

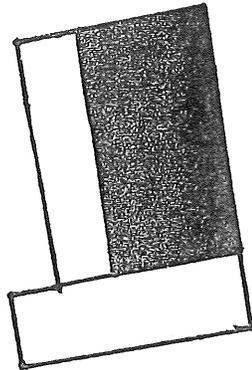
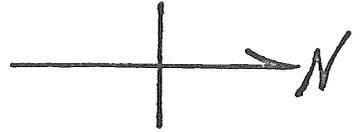
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Mebane vicinity
Alamance County, NC



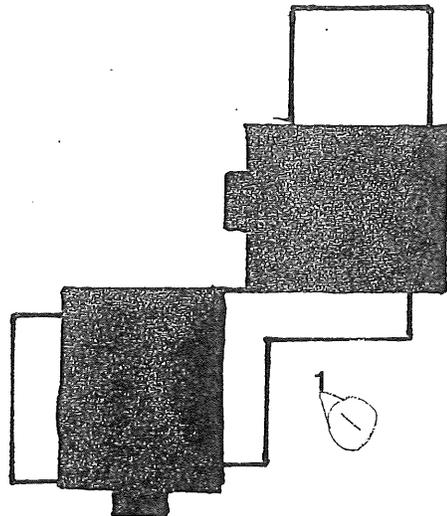
3



4



2

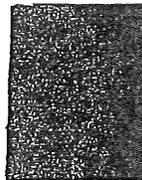


SITE PLAN: William Cook House

- 1. Cook House
- 2. corn crib
- 3. barn
- 4. wood shed
- 5. log storage shed

Not to scale

Mebane vicinity
Alamance County, NC



5

