

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 Chambers-Morgan Farm

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

2. Location

street & number W side SR 1228, .1 mi. N of SR 1225 N/A not for publication

city or town White Store  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Anson code 007 zip code 28103

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.)

Jessie J. Cross SHPD 10/16/96  
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:

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Chambers-Morgan Farm  
Name of Property

Anson 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	
4	1	buildings
3	1	sites
6	0	structures
		objects
13	2	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Other: traditional front gable

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation other: cinderblock

walls wood

weatherboard

roof asphalt

other brick (chimneys)

metal

Narrative Description

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1829-1946

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1829

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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):**

**Primary location of additional data:**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Chambers-Morgan Farm  
Name of Property

Anson Co., NC  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 273

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

X 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 Mary Beth Gatza  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date June 7, 1996  
street & number 428 N. Laurel Ave., #7 telephone (704) 331 9660  
city or town Charlotte state NC zip code 28204

**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 Lawrence R. & Robin Miller Griffin  
street & number Rt 1 Box 63 telephone (704) 272 7093  
city or town Marshville state NC zip code 28103

**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

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Chambers Morgan Farm  
Anson County, N. C.

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### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Chambers-Morgan Farm is located in the southwest corner of Anson County, North Carolina, in White Store township. The property is one and one-half miles from the eastern edge of Union County, North Carolina, and approximately six miles north of the South Carolina State line. It is on the west side of SR 1228 between Meltonville Church and cemetery on the north and Mount Olive Baptist Church and cemetery on the south. A six and one-half acre parcel on the east side of SR 1228 (which is included in the nomination) holds a frame barn built c. 1910 by F. H. Morgan. Its neighbor, also on the east side of SR 1228 is a brick ranch house dating from 1976. Both the immediate setting and the larger community are rural in character.

The current 273-acre tract is a portion of the land once owned by Wilson Chambers (1788-1866). Chambers moved to Anson County and purchased 848 3/4 acres from Andrew Paul in 1829. As the years passed, Chambers bought and sold parcels, and is known to have had at least 1700 acres during the middle years of the nineteenth century. The property was divided among his children after his death, and the house and surrounding acreage ultimately was transferred to his youngest son, Walter W. Chambers. Later owners, F. H. Morgan and C. B. Morgan, also sold off parcels, leaving the present tract of 273 acres.

The Chambers-Morgan Farm includes woodland, cultivated fields, roadways, ponds, creek frontage, a spring, an old well, fence lines, a nineteenth-century cemetery, a Greek Revival-style house, and various outbuildings associated with the agricultural history of the property. The topography of the area consists mainly of gently rolling terrain covered either in cultivated fields or in woodlands. Today, forty-eight acres are planted in corn. The fields are located on either side of SR 1225, which bisects the property. The majority of the remaining acreage is timberland. Timberland surrounds both the upper and lower ponds, a spring and pump house, all of which are located in house and yard. Remnants of fence lines are throughout the property. Three paved roads touch the property. SR 1230 (Meltonville Church Road) demarcates a part of the northern boundary, and SR 1228 (White Store-Pageland Road) defines the eastern boundary of the main parcel. SR 1228 abuts the smaller six and one-half-acre parcel on its south side. SR 1225 (Tice Road) runs through the southern portion of the property, dividing the main parcel in two. Two dirt roads enter the land, one off of SR 1230 leading back to the lower pond, and the other off of the north side of SR 1225 leading into the woods. The extreme northwestern tip of the property fronts Brown Creek for approximately one-half mile.

The house and yard are in a clearing on the eastern edge of the property, on the west side of SR 1228 just north of the junction with SR 1225. The house faces the road (SR 1228)

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and is reached by a dirt drive. Several traditional front gable outbuildings are situated behind the house, including a chicken coop, blacksmith shop, "light house," car shed and shop. Two corn cribs stand, surrounded by trees, north of the house on the west side of SR 1228. Across from them, on the east side of SR 1228, the barn sits on six and one-half acres of timberland. The old well is located in a cornfield to the north of SR 1225. The cemetery lies beneath a massive oak tree, surrounded by a cornfield, on the south side of SR 1225, roughly across from the old well.

There were at least four tenant farmer's houses on the property during the early years of the twentieth century. One, called "the Lucy House" by Morgan family members, was located in what is now woodland to the north of the house. Foundation stones for "the Lucy House," as well as the site of a barn, can be seen in the woods. Another tenant house was thought to have stood close to the road, along the south side of SR 1225. A third house site was situated just east of the old well. All three sites are now wooded. The location of the fourth tenant house is unknown.

It is known that Wilson Chambers was a slave owner, and there were undoubtedly slave cabins on the property during the nineteenth century. No remnants of them have been found, however, and their location is unknown.

A comparison of the present landscape with a crop map from c. 1940 reveals a strong continuity of land usage. All of the areas in timberland in 1940 are still used for that purpose today. All areas that are cultivated fields today were used for that purpose in 1940. Since 1940, there has been a reduction in the farming activity, and in total acreage cultivated, which follows local and national trends. Areas that are no longer being cultivated have been allowed to grow up in timber.

Arrowheads and other artifacts found on the property suggest a Native American Indian habitation. The site may have potential to yield information important to history and pre-history, although this area of significance is not discussed in this nomination.

### INVENTORY LIST

1. Chambers-Morgan House early-to-mid nineteenth century Contributing Building

The Chambers-Morgan House is an unusually intact example of a Greek Revival-style plantation house. There is a strong oral history which places the date of construction at 1829, although the architectural details exhibited are more in keeping with those popular in the 1840s and 1850s. Historical records show that 1829 was the year that Wilson Chambers bought the

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land and moved his family to Anson County. It is entirely possible that Chambers did indeed build the house upon his arrival, and as his plantation prospered, updated it with stylish architectural details.

Once the center of a large plantation, the house is located in a clearing facing east, toward the White Store-Pageland Road (SR 1228). During the nineteenth century, the roadway was sited further to the east, and therefore the house had a much greater setback than it does today. A grassy yard surrounds the house on all four sides, interrupted in the front by a dirt drive.

The Chambers-Morgan House is a two-story double-pile dwelling with a center hall plan. It has a side-gabled roof and a two-tier front porch. Attached to the main block are a one-story partially-enclosed rear porch and a one-story perpendicular kitchen ell on the north end. A one-story, one-bay wing is attached to the south gable end of the main block of the house. There are two exterior end chimneys one the main body of the house and square brick flue stack on the kitchen (rear) ell. The chimneys are not original--they were replaced around 1912. The house is covered with weatherboards. The material for the entire building, exclusive of the brick chimneys, hardware and glass window panes, is pine, which probably came from the site.

The most striking component of the house is the two-story, two-level front porch. It is original to the house and features boxed columns and a plain wood balustrade. The double-pitched gable roof over the house extends out to shelter the porch. The porch roof, therefore, shields the entire front of the house, but the porch itself is not quite full width. It stops just short of the corners of the building.

The east (main) facade is symmetrical, and is five bays wide on both the first and second stories. The fenestration on the second story is uneven, so that the openings do not line up directly over those of the first story. On the first story, the end bays hold windows, and there are three identical entry doors in the three center bays. The doors are of a typical two-panel Greek Revival design. The door surrounds are elegant in their simplicity. They feature moldings with plain recessed panels that echo the design of the porch columns. The moldings extend above the doors to surround three-pane overlights. Hand-planed cornerblocks are found wherever the horizontal and vertical pieces meet. The second floor facade has a wide center door, which leads out onto the second level of the porch, and four windows. Nine-over-nine sash windows are found throughout the house. Virtually all of the windows retain the original, hand-blown glass panes.

Both the south side wing and the kitchen ell are thought to have been added by the original owner shortly after the initial date of construction. They are very similar in scale,

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materials and ornament to the main block of the house. The full-length rear shed porch may also have been added at that time.

The center entry opens into a wide center hall on the interior. An enclosed stair rises up from the front corner behind the door. A bathroom was added to the opposite (rear) corner of the hall by the Morgan family in the early years of the twentieth century, and is the only change to the interior. There is a set of original storage cabinets in the hall which are now accessed from the bathroom. The cabinets (see photo D) have paneled doors on the lower level and glazed doors above. In the hall, and around the whole house, interior walls are clad with flush sheathing.

Elsewhere throughout the first and second floors are found two-panel doors and original door and window moldings in the Greek Revival style. All of the doors are finished with wood graining. The mantels all have decorative marbled paint finishes. Simple wood panels are found under every window. All of these features combine to present a statement of Wilson Chambers' status in the antebellum plantation society of Anson County.

### 2. Chicken Coop (c. 1940) Contributing Structure

This is a traditional front gable outbuilding with board and batten siding. It was thought to have been erected by C. B. Morgan during the late 1930s or early 1940s. It stands behind the house on the south side and is the outbuilding that stands closest to the house.

### 3. Blacksmith Shop (early twentieth century) Contributing Building

The blacksmith shop is a large, frame, traditional front gable building with vertical siding. It was built by F. H. Morgan, who enjoyed blacksmithing as a hobby. It stands beyond the edge of the woods behind the house. Although it is presently in some disrepair, it is scheduled for restoration.

### 4. "Light House" (early twentieth century) Contributing Structure

The "light house" is a small, traditional front gable structure with weatherboard siding. It was erected by F. H. Morgan during the early years of the twentieth century to house the equipment for a gas lighting system. It has recently been moved from its original site about twenty-five yards to the east to its current position behind the house on the north side, but remains a contributing element in the domestic complex.

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Anson County, N. C.5. Shop (1996) Non-contributing Building

This is a modern, one-story frame outbuilding with gable roof and vertical siding. It stands to the north side of the backyard behind the car shed.

6. Car Shed (mid 1930s) Contributing Building

The car barn is a long, one story frame outbuilding with gable roof and shed overhang. It was built by C. B. Morgan during the 1930s to shelter his automobile.

7. Corn Crib (c. 1910) Contributing Structure

One of a pair of cribs, this is a small, traditional front gable outbuilding with vertical siding. It was built by F. H. Morgan around 1910. It stands beyond the edge of the woods to the north of the house, adjacent to its twin.

8. Corn Crib (c. 1910) Contributing Structure

This is a small, traditional front gable outbuilding with vertical siding. It matches entry number 7.

9. Barn (c. 1910) Contributing Building

The barn is a large, frame outbuilding which has a front-facing gable roof with shed overhang across the front and sides. It was built by F. H. Morgan around 1910. It is located on the east side of SR 1228 and to the north of the house. It stands on its original site, however, a realignment of White Store-Pageland Road (SR 1228) during the 1910s has separated it from the rest of the complex. The road was formerly located to the north of the barn.

10. Cemetery (1830-1866) Contributing Site

The Chambers laid their family members to rest in this small cemetery. It lies beneath a massive oak tree near the edge of a cultivated field. There are ten modest stone grave markers, neatly aligned in two rows, dating between 1830 and 1866. Wilson Chambers and his first two wives are buried here.

11. Well (mid-nineteenth century/early twentieth century) Contributing Structure

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This is a hand-dug well dating from Wilson Chambers's tenure on the land. Oral history states that it was used by Chambers' slaves. A square concrete housing was erected around the opening that appears to date from the early years of the twentieth century, and was therefore probably erected by F. H. Morgan. It stands, overgrown, surrounded by a cornfield, on the west side of SR 1225.

12. Pump House (early 1940s) Contributing Structure

The pump house is a small, rectangular, cinder block building with a standing-seam metal roof and a wooden entry door. It was erected during the early 1940s, when electricity was brought to the farm.

13. Upper Pond (mid-1930s) Contributing Site

C. B. Morgan had this pond dug during the middle years of the 1930s, and stocked it with fish. It was made in a low area by digging a depression and using the earth to form a dam across a natural spring on Brown Creek. The area is about one and one-half acres.

14. Lower Pond (mid-1950s) Non-contributing Site

C. B. Morgan had this pond dug during the middle years of the 1950s, and stocked it with fish, as was the Upper Pond. Both ponds were constructed on Brown Creek. The Lower Pond covers about three acres.

15. Landscape Contributing Site

The 273-acre Chambers-Morgan Farm landscape includes woodland, cultivated fields, roadways, ponds, creek frontage, a spring, an old well, fence lines remnants, and three known locations of tenant farmers' houses. The nominated tract is the residual acreage of a large plantation assembled and farmed by Wilson Chambers in the early nineteenth century and later farmed by the Morgan family in the first half of the twentieth century. The landscape remains agriculturally intact and is evocative of historically significant agricultural practices documented by a 1940s-era crop map that demonstrates the continuity of field and timberland patterns for at least five decades.

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Chambers Morgan Farm  
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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary

The 273-acre Chambers-Morgan Farm is the residual acreage of a plantation established in 1829 by Wilson Chambers near the White Store community crossroads in southwest Anson County, about six miles north of the South Carolina state line. The initial 1829 purchase by Chambers of some 849 acres in what was known as The Waxhaws region formed the core of his plantation that encompassed at least 1,700 acres before his death in 1866. After his death, the large holdings assembled by Chambers were divided among his many children, and the tract containing the handsome Greek Revival-style plantation seat was ultimately transferred to his youngest son, Walter W. Chambers (1853-1892). In 1910, the house and the surrounding 452 acres were transferred from the Chambers family heirs to Fulton Huntley Morgan (1856-1937). Morgan, a farmer, community leader, and craftsman, lived in the house and farmed the land until his death, and his son, C.B Morgan, together with his wife, Addie, held it until her death in 1979. The house remained vacant until 1996, when the present owners, Robin and Lawrence Griffin, purchased it and the surrounding 273 acres.

The gently-rolling terrain of the nominated property provides a pastoral setting for the stylish, two-story, weatherboarded, Greek Revival-style house built by the Chambers family, and for the collection of early twentieth-century traditional frame outbuildings built by the Morgans. The domestic complex faces east across State Route 1228 onto its barn lot. The farm acreage extends west behind the domestic complex to Brown Creek, and is composed of fields and timber standing in patterns that resemble those of a ca.1940 crop map. There is a strong oral tradition that dates the house from Chambers's 1829 arrival in the county; however the present Greek Revival character of the house suggests a somewhat later date. It is possible the original house was updated before the Civil War as the style made its debut in The Waxhaws region and Chambers prospered off the proceeds from cotton and food crops raised with slave labor. Dominated by a two-story, full-facade front porch, the center-hall plan house contains nearly all of its early stylistic hallmarks, including post and lintel mantels and two-panel doors with painted wood graining. The house is an outstanding, remarkably intact, example of the Greek Revival style in Anson County that fulfills Criterion C for significance in the history of architecture. The collection of early twentieth-century agricultural outbuildings, together with the 273-acre tract of fields and timber, documents the county's rich agricultural tradition and fulfills Criterion A for significance in the broad patterns of the county history.

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Chambers Morgan Farm  
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### Historical Background

The first reference to Wilson Chambers in the Anson County Deed Indexes dates from 1829. It is thought he migrated to the area that was known as The Waxhaws, a fertile agricultural area embraced by pine barrens, from Montgomery County to the northeast. He purchased 848.314 acres from Andrew Paul and set about carving out a plantation there.<sup>1</sup>

Wilson Chambers (1788-1866) was married to Jemima Powell (1789-1843) and had seven living children when he came to Anson County in 1829. It is unlikely that his oldest son, Charles Chambers, joined the family, but one son and four daughters are listed with him in the 1830 census. Tragically, his son Martin Chambers died in 1830 (before the census was taken) and thus became the first to lie in the family cemetery on the property. The family was expanded in 1832 with the birth of another son, Robert Edward Chambers (1832-1842). Robert also died at a young age and was buried in the family plot. Altogether, Wilson and Jemima had nine children before she died in 1843. They were: Charles (b. 1807), William (b. 1810), Edmund (1812-1812), Martin (1815-1830), Elizabeth (1818-1838), Ellender James (b. 1820), Martha Ann (b. 1825), Adaline Wilson (1828-1854) and Robert Edward (1832-1842).<sup>2</sup>

Jemima Powell Chambers died in May of 1843 and was buried alongside three of her children in the family cemetery. Just three months later, Wilson Chambers married a neighbor, Mary Baker (1813-1862). With Mary, he raised another family which included six children. They were: Catherine (1845-1896), Eliza (1846-1847), Mary Emaline (b. 1848), Edward (1850-1892), Nancy Jane (b. 1851) and Wilson Walter (1853-1892). After Mary's death in 1862, Wilson married a third time to Elizabeth Huntley (b. 1810), who was a cousin of Mary Baker Chambers.<sup>3</sup>

While some of the family members undoubtedly scattered, several of Wilson Chambers' children stayed nearby. Ellender, Martha Ann, Adeline, Catherine, Mary Emaline, Nancy Jane and Wilson Walter have all been traced through the records and are known to have remained in the community. In his will, written just five days before his death, Wilson Chambers granted a life estate to his third wife, and bequeathed land to all of the surviving children by his second wife. He mentioned in the will the children of his first wife, stating that "I have other children who have heretofore been provided for."<sup>4</sup>

After the death of Wilson Chambers in 1866, his wife of four years, Elizabeth, stayed in the house with the youngest son, Wilson Walter Chambers. Chambers' will specifically directs Elizabeth to "be guardian for Walter during his minority provided she can control him." In 1872.

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she enacted a quitclaim deed transferring her interest in the property over to Walter. It appears that she remained in the house for some time, as she is listed there in the 1880 census. Oral history, however, suggests that she returned to her relatives and is buried with them in Gullede township.<sup>5</sup>

Wilson Walter Chambers married Sue Barrett in 1873 and together they had six children: Mary Georganna (b. 1874), Bertha (b. 1877), Lillie (b. 1879), Ethel (b. 1886), Wattie (b. 1888) and Wilson (b. 1890). Wilson Walter and Sue both died in 1892.<sup>6</sup>

In 1910, a commissioner's deed was filed transferring 452 acres to Fulton Huntley Morgan (1856-1937). F. H., as he was known, married Albertine Redfearn (1857-1923) and together they had twelve children. They were: Clayton T. (1880-1915), Charles Graham (1881-1946), Glennie O. (1883-1947), Margie L. (b. 1885), Hooper Martin (1887-1942), Henry E. (1888-1890), Hampton H. (b. 1889), Caswell Berry (1892-1969), Milton Townley (1894-1918), A. J. (b. 1897), Joseph C. (1900-1901) and Fulton Floyd (b. 1902). Two boys had died in infancy, so it was with ten surviving children that they moved to before 1910. Like the Chambers family, some remained in the area. Margie, A. J., Floyd, and C.B. are all known to have stayed in the White Store community.<sup>7</sup>

F. H. Morgan was both active in the church and in community affairs. He acquired some knowledge of the law and served as magistrate of White Store township for many years. His vocation was farming, and he was an accomplished carpenter and blacksmith as well. Although he was not formally schooled himself, he valued education and sent all of his children to institutes of higher learning.<sup>8</sup>

At least one son, Caswell Berry, known as C. B., chose to return to the homeplace. C. B. had attended Piedmont Academy in Lawndale, NC, and attained a state teacher's certificate at Appalachian State Teacher's college (now Appalachian State University) in Boone, NC. He taught school in Cleveland County, but it was at Piedmont Academy that he met his future wife, Mary Addie Elam (1894-1979), who was from Cleveland County. She was a teacher also and was employed in Rutherford County for a few years, up until the time of her marriage to C. B. in 1918.<sup>9</sup>

Soon after their marriage, C. B. and Addie moved back to the homeplace and erected a house of their own. It was located across SR 1228 from the old Wilson Chambers house on a six and one-half acre parcel transferred to them by F. H. and Albertine Morgan in 1922. It is no longer standing. C. B.'s mother, Albertine ("Abbie") died in 1923 and is buried in the cemetery at Mt. Olive Baptist church next door to the Chambers house. F. H. Morgan remarried, taking

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Nora Brasington (1872-1948) as his bride. Together they retired to Marshville during the 1920s, and in 1928 deeded the house and farm to C. B. and Addie Morgan.<sup>10</sup>

C. B. and Addie Morgan raised five children in the old Chambers House: Carme Bailey (1919-1983), Mary Catherine (b. 1920), Margaret Albertine ("Peggy") (b. 1922), Amelia Wray (b. 1924) and Joe Frank (1927-1979). C. B. died in 1969, and, like his mother and father, is buried in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church cemetery. His widow, Addie, remained in the house for another nine years until her death in 1978. The house stood vacant until 1996 when the current owners moved in.<sup>11</sup>

During his tenure, C. B. continued to run the farm, though he earned a living as a teacher. He kept abreast of current events, had a good, clear memory and was an avid reader. He worked with the Red Cross and served as deacon and Superintendent of Sunday School at nearby Mt. Olive Baptist Church. His wife, Addie, was also active in the church; she was Secretary/Treasurer and taught Sunday School for many years. She was a member of the Agricultural Women's Club, and was once elected "Woman of the Year." An accomplished homemaker, she was a good cook, canning her home-grown fruits and vegetables, and also sewed and tailored the children's clothes.<sup>12</sup>

In 1996, Robin and Lawrence Griffin bought the Chambers-Morgan farm with its house that had been vacant for seventeen years. They have set about a careful restoration of the house and the outbuildings, and are caring for the residual acreage of the once-vast plantation by leasing the cultivated fields to a local farmer.

### Agricultural Context

The Waxhaw region along the North and South Carolina border is a rolling, well-watered, fertile area that was largely settled by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians in the late eighteenth century. The settlers claimed lands recently vacated by the Waxhaw Indian tribe and established small subsistence farms on which they grew corn for home consumption, swine feed, and distillation into liquor. The farmers relied heavily upon family labor and held few slaves.<sup>13</sup> This region, that was later divided into parts of Anson, Union, and Mecklenburg counties, was well-established when Wilson Chambers arrived from Montgomery County, immediately to the north, and set about establishing an extensive plantation that, in its size and in the number of slaves he held to farm it, was in contrast to the smaller holdings of the original settlers.

Wilson Chambers bought and sold various parcels over the years, but the original 848 3/4 acres that he purchased from Andrew Paul contained the heart of the plantation. Census

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records show the size of the place to have been 1700 acres in 1850 and 1860. Of that, 400 acres, or just under one fourth, were cultivated. He produced wheat, cotton, wool, Indian corn, oats and vegetables including sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, peas and beans. He also maintained horses and mules; milch and beef cattle; working oxen; swine; and a flock of sheep. Since his tenure predated livestock fence laws, his stock was undoubtedly allowed free range.

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Chambers is known to have been a slave owner. Census records show that he had twenty-one slaves in 1840, twenty-three slaves in 1850, and thirty-eight slaves in 1860. These numbers suggest a steadily increasing prosperity that was based on the cultivation of cotton. In his production of this labor-intensive crop, Chambers followed an antebellum trend in the state that found intensive slave-labor cotton cultivation in the Piedmont counties bordering South Carolina, and similar cultivation of tobacco in the Piedmont counties along the Virginia border.<sup>15</sup> In 1850, Wilson Chambers and his twenty-three slaves are recorded as producing eight 400-pound bales of cotton, a cash crop that placed Chambers in "The highest social class, the gentry, or planter aristocracy, [that] comprised the owners of large plantations and more than twenty, slaves. . . .It numbered about 6 per cent of the total white population."<sup>16</sup>

The Chambers plantation was extensive enough to support Chambers's growing family, and provide for his children as they reached adulthood. Each of the five surviving children from his second marriage were bequeathed tracts from his holdings. They, therefore, were able to establish farms of their own. Chambers died in 1866, a year after the Federal government passed the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery. Thus, his children faced a new set of challenges in establishing successful farming operations that reflected the rise of small tenant farming in the county. The sites of three tenant houses have been located on the plantation house acreage, and a fourth site is thought to exist.

Wilson Walter Chambers, the youngest son of Wilson Chambers, inherited the homeplace from his father with a reduced acreage. Like his father, he grew wheat, cotton, Irish potatoes, Indian corn, and oats with the help of tenants. He also maintained apple and peach orchards, and kept bees that produced honey and beeswax. Of the eighty-five acres attributed to him in the 1880 census, forty acres were tilled and forty-five acres were in woodlands. The balance of his property was let to tenants.<sup>17</sup>

The rise of farm tenancy in post-bellum North Carolina was the result of the converging needs of the landed proprietors, who lacked capital and labor, and the emancipated slaves, who, while they possessed farm labor experience, lacked land and goods. Farm tenancy was especially common in the southern Piedmont where cotton cultivation was prevalent, and along the Virginia border tobacco country.<sup>18</sup> W.W. Chambers, probably with the help of his tenants,

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produced six 400-pound bales of cotton on fifteen acres of land in 1879.<sup>19</sup> He, like many other landowners of The Waxhaws region, took advantage of a post-war rise in cotton prices to earn the cash needed to restock their holdings and continue farming. In doing so, they established a tenant farming system that endured for almost a century.<sup>20</sup>

F.H. Morgan, who purchased the land from the estate of W. W. Chambers in 1910, continued farming the land. He was also an accomplished carpenter, and was responsible for constructing several outbuildings which are still standing today. He built a large barn on the east side of SR 1228, and two corn cribs across from it on the west side of the road. Also, he is thought to have erected the small "light house," which held the equipment for the gas lighting system that was installed in the house during the early years of the twentieth century. In addition, he enjoyed blacksmithing as an avocation and constructed a blacksmith shop behind the house.

The outbuildings constructed by F.H. Morgan reflected the traditional nineteenth-century crops of corn and tobacco that continued to be produced in Anson County well into the twentieth century. Between 1910 and 1928, almost forty-nine percent of the county's agricultural production was composed of cotton, and about thirty-one percent was corn. Mules, the primary means of cotton cultivation, and hogs, the chief type of meat consumed by cotton farmers, were fed off the corn crop.<sup>21</sup> A farmer who was a skilled blacksmith enjoyed an advantage in caring for his mules and maintaining his farm equipment.

The next owner was C. B. Morgan, who inherited the farm when his father, F. H., retired to Marshville in 1928. Although he had a career as a schoolteacher for a time, C. B. maintained a functioning farm. He is remembered as having kept abreast of the latest farming techniques and methods. C.B. grew cotton, corn, oats and other grains, and in 1935 he started a business raising turkeys and selling the eggs to other breeders.<sup>22</sup> A 1946 publication by the Anson County Agricultural Extension Office refers to "poultry and turkey production and marketing" as a "valuable phase of Anson County Agriculture." No standing structures remain from the turkey business, but there is a chicken coop behind the house that he built during the late 1930s or early 1940s.

C. B. Morgan is remembered as a wildlife preservationist. During the 1940s, he was a charter member and chaplain of the White Store Wildlife Club. He encouraged the protection of wildlife, both on his property and elsewhere. On his own property, Morgan allowed only limited hunting by himself and a few close friends. They hunted birds, quail, rabbits, squirrels, possum, fox and deer. C. B. had two ponds dug; one during the mid-1930s and the other in the mid-1950s. Fishing was a pastime for him, and he kept both ponds well stocked. Around 1940, he

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enrolled the farm in the Brown Creek Soil Conservation District, which was the first such district in the nation.<sup>23</sup>

C. B. Morgan continued to let land to tenant farmers, as was the local custom during the middle years of the twentieth century. The present owners, Robin and Lawrence Griffin, lease the fields of the 273-acre Chambers-Morgan Farm to a local farmer, thus continuing the agrarian land use that started with Wilson Chambers 167 years ago.

### Architectural Context

Antebellum house types in The Waxhaws:

The antebellum Greek Revival-style house built by successful planter Wilson Chambers is an extremely rare, remarkably intact example of the style in the southern Piedmont region know as The Waxhaws. Two sources of local history assign different dates to the construction of the house. A strong county oral tradition suggests that Chambers erected the substantial house upon his 1829 acquisition of some 849 acres from Andrew Paul. However, a 1955 article by Don Gray published in The Messenger and Intelligencer names an 1847 construction date. Based on stylistic evidence found in the house, the later date appears to be more accurate. It is possible that Chambers did indeed erect a substantial house upon his arrival in the Waxhaws, and as his plantation prospered off cotton raised by his slaves, undertook to embellish it with stylish, mid-century Greek Revival elements to reflect his status as a successful planter.

Presently there is no comprehensive architectural survey of Anson County, but the architecture of the Chambers-Morgan House can be analyzed against the very few antebellum building survivors identified during the survey of neighboring Union County. Both counties are a part of the Waxhaw region and were developed roughly simultaneously. Early nineteenth century houses erected in the region were often of log construction and tended to follow one-story, one- or two-room plans. As the settlers became more established during the first decades of the nineteenth century, the original log houses were either enlarged or abandoned in favor of two-story, center hall I-houses that often displayed local interpretations of transitional Federal/Greek Revival elements. The main elevations of the side-gabled houses were usually sheltered under full-facade, engaged-roof front porches with freestanding supports that are thought to have been a practical building technique imported from South Carolina designed to protect the porch floor from water damage. This I-house prototype is illustrated by the virtually unaltered antebellum Long House in the Brief vicinity of Union County, which features a central

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entry with multi-paned sidelights and symmetrical six-over-six wooden sash set in typical vernacular Greek Revival molded window surrounds. The interior is finished in flush board sheathing, an open-string stairway with molded stair panels rises from the central hall, and simple post and lintel mantels surround brick fireboxes.<sup>24</sup>

A more academic interpretation of the Greek Revival style appeared in Union County with the 1847 construction of the county jail in Monroe. The three-story pedimented brick building departs from the I-house form with a double-pile plan that features a symmetrical composition arranged around a central entrance filled with a double-leaf paneled door with a molded surround and an overlight. The fenestration features six-over-nine and six-over-six sash with molded surrounds and corner blocks. The interior is finished with flush board sheathing and features a post and lintel mantel. The Greek Revival vocabulary is echoed in the Ashcraft Family House in the Sturdivants vicinity of the county. Thought to have been built around 1854, the Ashcraft House is a one-and-a-half-story mortise and tenon-constructed, double-pile, weatherboarded house set on a raised basement. The side-gabled, center-hall block is dominated by massive, pedimented front porch. Like the previous examples, the interior is finished with flush board sheathing, but the building's most notable mantel is more sophisticated with its squat piers that contain a molded, recessed panel and support a wide, plain frieze board and molded mantel shelf. The nearby ca. 1847 William Bevins House was a two-story, side-gabled Greek Revival plantation seat erected by Bevins on a 1763 ancestral land grant. Although the house was substantially altered in 1917, a documentary photograph show a symmetrical three-bay main elevation with a two-story pedimented center-bay porch supported by square, paneled columns.<sup>25</sup>

The relative degree of sophistication displayed by the Greek Revival style double-pile house built by the Chambers family suggests it was a statement of the success Wilson Chambers enjoyed as an antebellum planter. While the flush board sheathing, enclosed stair, and simple post and lintel mantels are rooted in the traditional residential building vocabulary of the region, the nine-over-nine sash in molded surrounds, as found in the 1847 Union County jail, as well as the elegant, possibly pattern book-inspired painted wood graining on the two-panel doors and the marbilized wooden mantels, set the house apart from many of its more traditional contemporaries. These up-to-date details, combined with the broad, two-story porch similar to that of the ca. 1847 Bevins House, give the Chambers-Morgan House a stylish Greek Revival appearance that guarantees its place in a select group of antebellum buildings in The Waxhaws region of North Carolina.

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## Agricultural Outbuildings:

The traditional, front-gable form of the early-twentieth-century outbuildings built by the Morgans echo that of the agricultural buildings erected by the early settlers of The Waxhaws. Although early outbuildings tended to be of log construction while the Morgans used weatherboarded timber frame construction, the plans under the deeply overhung gable roofs of the c.1910 corncrib (entry 7) and its contemporary barn (entry 9), strongly resemble those of the antebellum log outbuildings of the Edwards family farm in the Olive Branch vicinity of Union County. These enduring outbuilding forms, arranged in practical domestic complexes, are a hallmark of the rooted agricultural traditions established by the early settlers and continued by subsequent generations of farmers in the region.<sup>26</sup>

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11. Morgan interview.
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13. Pickens, Suzanne E., editor. *Sweet Union: An Architectural and Historical Survey of Union County, North Carolina*. Union County Board of Commissioners, 1990, page 9.
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21. Hobbs, Samuel Huntington, Jr. *North Carolina Economic and Social*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 1930, page 102.
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25. *Ibid.*
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Schedule, Slave Schedule, Agriculture Schedule); Tenth Census of the

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Point	Zone	Easting	Northing	Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
A.	17	564170	3859510	J.	17	564260	3858680
B.	17	564790	3859120	K.	17	563860	3858360
C.	17	564790	3858940	L.	17	563600	3858500
D.	17	564920	3858940	M.	17	563620	3858500
E.	17	564910	3858760	N.	17	563620	3859520
F.	17	564760	3858780	O.	17	563470	3859520
G.	17	564670	3858490	P.	17	563520	3859620
H.	17	564630	3858510	Q.	17	563800	3859620
I.	17	564610	3858460	R.	17	563800	3859410

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated parcel correspond with the legal description found in Anson County Deed Book 372, page 1. It is tax parcel No. 80-000-244-00, and is shown on Anson County tax maps Nos. 6400, 6401, 6410 and 6411.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated parcel include all of the current owners acreage. It is the residual acreage of a larger tract assembled and owned by Wilson Chambers during the mid-nineteenth century and continues to convey the setting, feeling and association of its historical agricultural significance. This significant agricultural

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acreage also provides an appropriate setting for the nineteenth-century house built by Wilson Chambers, and the collection of early twentieth-century outbuildings built by F.H. Morgan.

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Wilson Chambers House and Farm

Location: White Store vicinity, NC

County: Anson

Name of Photographer: Mary Beth Gatza

Location of Original Negatives:

Survey and Planning Branch

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources 109 E. Jones Street

Raleigh, NC 27601-2807

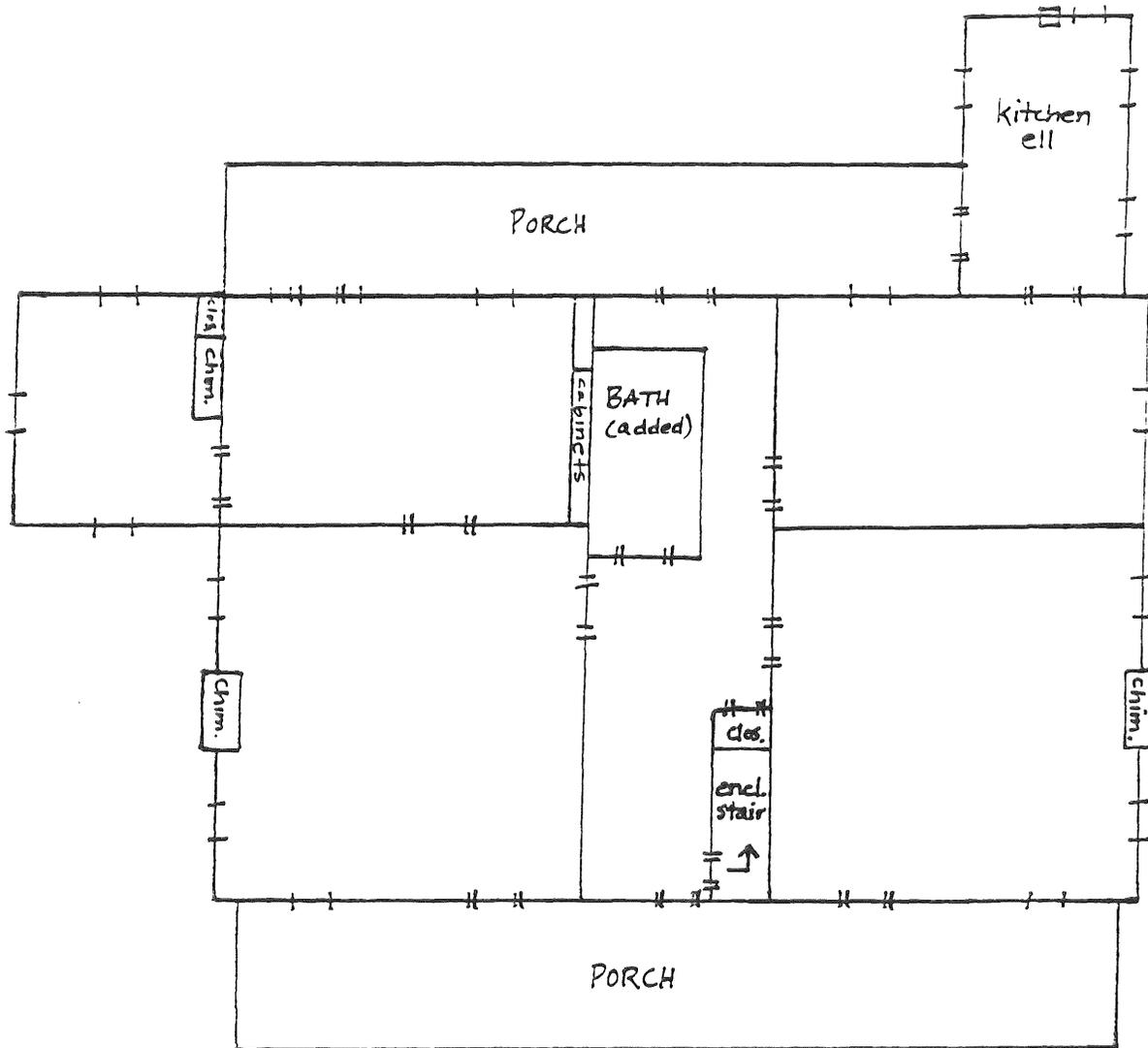
Date of Photographs: March, April and June 1996

Photographs:

- A. Front (East) Elevation
- B. Rear (West) Elevation
- C. Second Floor Mantel
- D. Cabinets
- E. First Floor Door
- F. Barn (contributing outbuilding)
- G. Shop (non-contributing outbuilding)
- H. Landscape

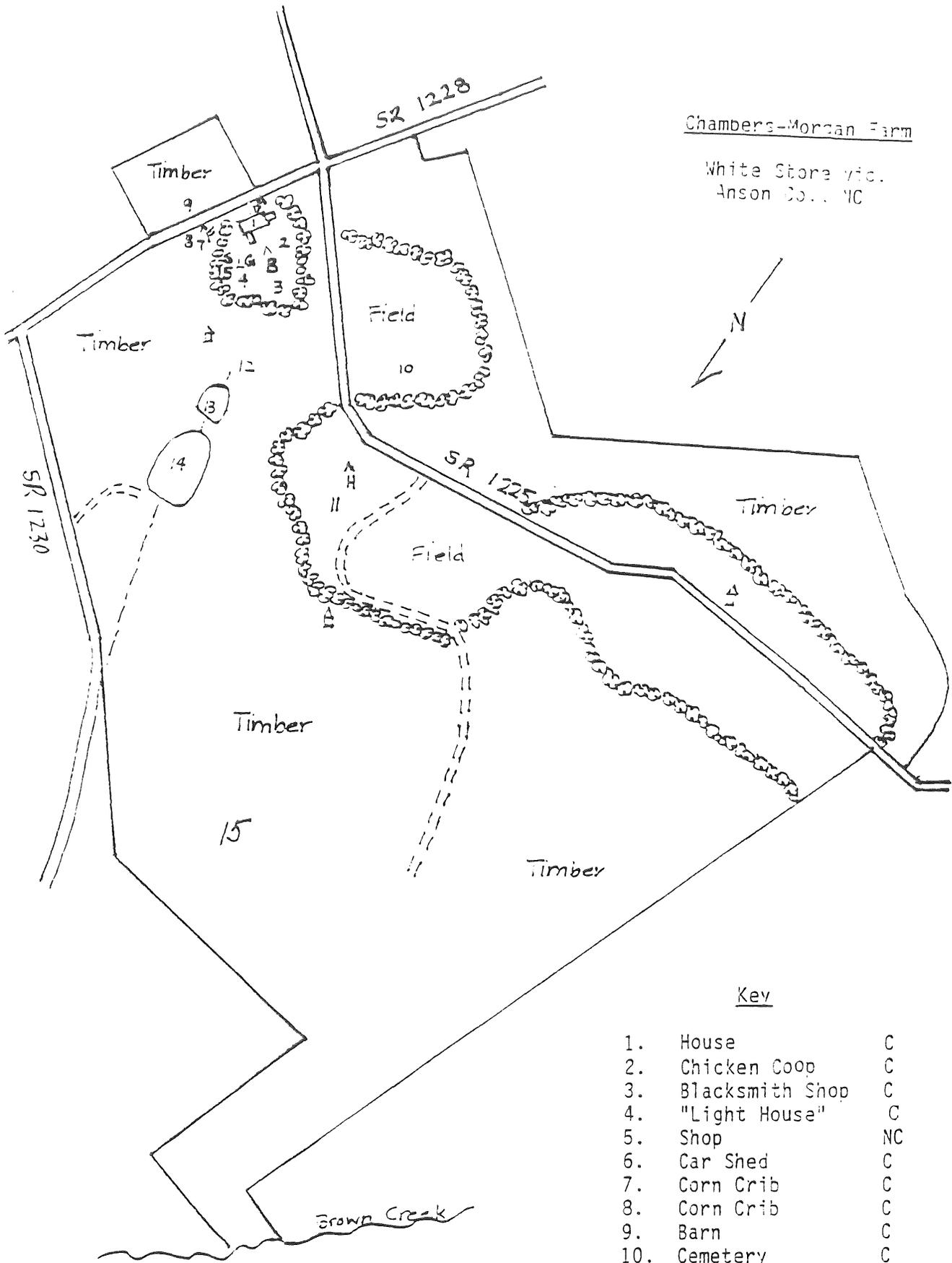
Chambers-Morgan House  
White Store vic.  
Anson Co., NC

Not to Scale



Chambers-Morgan Farm

White Stone vic.  
Anson Co., NC



Key

- 1. House C
- 2. Chicken Coop C
- 3. Blacksmith Shop C
- 4. "Light House" C
- 5. Shop NC
- 6. Car Shed C
- 7. Corn Crib C
- 8. Corn Crib C
- 9. Barn C
- 10. Cemetery C
- 11. Well C
- 12. Pump House C
- 13. Upper Pond C
- 14. Lower Pond NC
- 15. Landscape C

- · — Spring
- — — Dirt Road
- ~~~~~ Timberline
- △ Site of Tenant Farmer's House (approximate location)
- < A Photo # & camera angle

C=Contributing  
NC=Non-contributing

