

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 Isenhour, Daniel House and Farm

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

## 2. Location

street & number 11970 Mt. Olive Road N/A  not for publication

city or town Gold Hill  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Cabarrus code 025 zip code 28071

## 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.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 3/10/00  
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 commenting 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 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
1		sites
	2	structures
		objects
4	4	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
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
- LANDSCAPE/forest

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- WORK IN PROGRESS
- VACANT/NOT IN USE
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
- LANDSCAPE/forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Italianate
- Other: log barn

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Stone
- walls Weatherboard
- Log
- roof Metal
- other Brick

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

ca. 1843-1895

Significant Dates

ca. 1843

1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Isenhour, Daniel

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

North Carolina Division of Archives and History

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 73.00 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 556130 31928320  
Zone Easting Northing

3 17 556165 31927700  
Zone Easting Northing

2 17 556320 3192818100

4 17 556100 31927725

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Davyd Foard Hood

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 15 October 1999

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

city or town Vale state N.C. zip code 28168

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. David Lee Miller/Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hammill

street & number 735 N. Main St./5051 St. Stephens Church Road telephone 704/436-8548/704-279-3855

city or town Mt. Pleasant/Gold Hill state N.C. zip code 28124/28071

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0013), Washington, DC 20503.

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Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, Cabarrus County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 1Narrative Description

The Daniel Isenhour House and Farm is located in northeast Cabarrus County in an unspoiled agricultural landscape comprising the community which developed around Grace Lower Stone Church (NR, 1972) in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The nominated property is a seventy-three-acre tract which is historically associated with the house built for Daniel Isenhour. It is the largest known residual Isenhour holding of the 200-acre farm which entered the family in 1773 when Mary Myers married John Nicholas Eisenhauer. The acreage is mostly wooded and drops away from the hilltop on which the house, the double-pen log barn, and the frame outbuildings are located. The property has an irregular, somewhat L-shaped boundary that includes both natural features and artificially straight lines. On the west it has a narrow frontage on SR 2446 (Mt. Olive Road) where the farm drive exits off its east side and continues eastward to the house and outbuildings at the near-center of the parcel. The longest north boundary of the parcel carries along the north side of the farm drive in a straight line and then enters the woodland pasture where the boundary turns due north and carries up to SR 2449 (Shade Valley Road). Here the north boundary carries in a straight line on the south side of Shade Valley Road for some 500 feet and then turns south to follow a south/southwesterly path back into the woodlands before turning southeasterly and then southwesterly to Isenhour Branch. Isenhour Branch forms the lower southeast boundary of the nominated parcel; the branch empties into Kluttz Creek at the extreme southern edge of the farm. Kluttz Creek is the southwestern boundary of the farm and the nominated parcel.

1. Farm Landscape  
Ca. 1843 to ca. 1950  
Contributing site

The landscape of the Daniel Isenhour House and Farm reflects the process of place-making by a single family through three generations at this site from ca. 1843 to the death of Clarence Franklin Isenhour in 1963. When the house and barn were built, and for many years thereafter, they stood on the north and south sides, respectively, of a public road which carried on a generally east-west axis from Albemarle to Salisbury; vestiges of that old road can be seen along the fence line which encloses the large barnyard work area. When that road ceased to be used and fell into disrepair, a long clay drive (0.35 mile) off the east side of what is now Mt. Olive Road (SR 2446) became the principal approach to the house. The house can be seen sitting prominently and rising tall on its knoll, from the Mt. Olive Road, and it commands its residual acreage which easily drops away into the gently rolling piedmont terrain. Although the Mt. Pleasant USGS quadrangle map inaccurately indicates the setting of the house and its outbuildings as heavily shaded, it actually sits in a somewhat open grass-covered lawn which

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visually merges with the surrounding fenced pastures that continue into the edges of the woodlands.

The house grounds are simply landscaped in a traditional fashion with indigenous trees, fruit trees and shrubs, and some few ornamentals. An arc of four old maple trees enframe the east side of the house, between it and the house drive which makes a ninety-degree turn south and then continues almost due south to the barnyard; a secondary path separates from the drive and carries between the maples to the house and then reconnects with its southern run. A pair of aged pear trees stand on axis to the south of the house and would have framed its front door when viewed from the old Albemarle-Salisbury road. Fruit trees, including cherry, plum, and peach trees, plus the stump of an old apple tree stand on the west side of the house, south of and in the area of the well house and smoke house which stand off the house's northwest corner. Old fig bushes are growing on the east side of the smoke house. Except for the deliberate placement of these trees, there is little surviving ornamental planting on the house grounds except for a spirea, clumps of iris, and nandina.

Other than wire fencing, there is no physical separation between the house grounds, the surrounding pasture, and the barnyard. The house drive crosses through gated openings in fencing enclosing the pasture between the house and the barn. The second (south) gate opens into the fenced barnyard anchored on the south by the log barn and on the west by the equipment shed. The barnyard is grass-covered. A cast cement and stone watering trough for horses and cattle survives here. About thirty of the property's seventy-three acres is in pasture; the remainder is in natural woodland. The farm's woodlands are comprised of native deciduous trees, including many poplars and other species which form the base plants of the southern hardwood forest. Walnut trees, growing in the pastures near the house and barn, along the edges of the woodlands, and along the creek beds are also an important part of the farm's woodland landscape. A small pasture carries along the south side of the drive off Mt. Olive Road and there is a nine-acre pasture at the extreme north end of the farm along Shade Valley Road; the third, largest area of pasture is actually a series of fenced enclosures off the northwest, west, and southwest sides of the house and barn.

2. Daniel Isenhour House  
Ca. 1843; last quarter of the nineteenth century  
Contributing building

The Daniel Isenhour House is a weatherboarded frame two-story-on-cellar antebellum house with a one-story hip roof porch on its south (front) elevation and a one-story, two-room ell and L-shaped porch on its north rear elevation. The house and its finish date from two periods of construction, and has had little change in its appearance during the last one-hundred years. The

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two-story block erected for Daniel Isenhour ca. 1843 has a traditional Federal-Greek Revival character and finish; it remained the home of Mr. Isenhour until his death a half-century later in 1895. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century either Mr. Isenhour or his son Daniel Franklin Mathias Isenhour added the one-story, two-room ell on the rear of the house and updated its exterior appearance with Italianate brackets with drop pendants which carry along the eaves of the house, the ell, and both porches. The original house stands on granite block piers; the original dry-laid stone infill, mortared for security and safety during the current restoration, forms a continuous foundation around the house and encloses the cellar. To make the old dirt-floored cellar usable for modern occupation, a cement floor has been poured and the dirt sides of the space reinforced with cement block walls up to near shoulder height; these walls are inset from the house's foundation. The elevations are sheathed with painted weatherboards; during the current restoration/renovation the deteriorated weatherboards, which had not been painted during the second half of the twentieth century, were replaced in-kind. This involved most of the weatherboards on the façade and about half or less of those on the other, less-weathered elevations. The house is covered with 5-V galvanized roofing which will be repaired with in-kind roofing and the entire surface painted.

The wide south, front elevation has a generally symmetrical appearance which is actually asymmetrical by measure, reflecting the asymmetrical center hall interior plan. A one-story hipped roof porch shelters the original center entrance and the symmetrically placed windows to either side; the wall under the porch is flush-sheathed and finished with a baseboard at its base. A second door, positioned immediately and somewhat awkwardly beside the east window, opens into the east parlor and is probably original since it is on axis with a like door from the parlor onto the rear porch. Both doorways hold original six-panel doors with molded panels. The window openings hold nine-over-six sash and have two-part Federal-style molded surrounds. The porch, dating to the Italianate remodeling, stands on stacked stone piers and has chamfered bracketed posts rising to the molded and bracketed eaves. During the restoration a simple railing has been installed on the porch and wood steps added on axis with the center door. The house's second story has a four-bay division with window openings holding nine-over-six sash in like surrounds. The molded cornice at the top of the façade is enriched with applied Italianate brackets with drop pendants.

The east and west gable ends of the two-story block are virtually identical in appearance. Original brick chimneys rise from granite bases in the center of each elevation and terminate with corbelled caps above the ridge line of the house's side-gable roof. The chimneys have a two-course stepped brick base, stepped shoulders, and are laid in a one-to-nine bond; some brick have random glazing on their ends or sides. At each level the chimneys are flanked by symmetrically-placed window openings holding nine-over-six sash. The gable ends are finished with flat rake boards and projecting eaves fitted with Italianate brackets.

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The appearance and finish of the one-story ell is consistent with that of the main block except that its shorter, wider window openings contain six-over-six sash in plain-board surrounds. During the restoration the original sawn wood stump supports and later cement-block stacks were replaced with stone corner piers with mortared stone infill; this stone mostly came from a deteriorated dry-laid stone knee-wall in the cellar. The west side has an asymmetrical three-bay division with an off-center door opening into the north room. Inset into the ground below the south window is a covered, stepped access to the cellar under the main house; portions of its sides are stone or brick lined and it is unclear what part of it is original and exactly what configuration the original access had prior to the construction of the ell. On the blind north gable end of the ell a brick chimney rises in the center of the elevation from a stepped stone base. The north end of the L-shaped service porch was enclosed by the Isenhours to provide a pantry for the kitchen. The porch retains its original chamfered bracketed posts, wood floor, and flush-board ceiling. Two doorways in the east side of the ell open from the porch into the two rooms used as the dining room and kitchen; they are fitted with two-panel Greek Revival-style doors in plain board surrounds. The doorway opening into the main block's center hall retains its original molded six-panel door and two-part molded surround. A second like six-panel door opens from the porch into the east parlor and a window to its east illuminates the room.

The original, matching, molded six-panel Federal-style doors on the front and back porches open into the house's slightly off-center stair hall; the parlor on the east is twelve feet, six inches in width while the hall on the west side is sixteen feet in width. The interior survives virtually as built except for the loss of door locks and knobs which may have occurred between Clarence Isenhour's death in 1963 and the occupation of the house by Mr. Eudy in the mid 1960s. The original pine flooring, flush sheathed walls and ceilings, and the original, simple decorative woodwork remain in place as does the house's complement of doors. The mantels all appear to date from the ca. 1875-1900 Italianate reworking of the house.

The walls of the hall have flush vertical sheathing which rises from a low molded baseboard to a simple cornice molding where it meets the ceiling. The partition walls between the hall and the flanking first-story rooms are a single board in thickness. The stair rises to the north along the hall's east wall in a single flight to the second story; it has deep treads and turned newels carrying a shaped handrail supported by rectangular members. A closet under the stair is fitted with a two-panel door. A doorway in the center of the hall's west wall opens into the west room. It is fitted with an unusually paneled door with molded panels diminishing in height from bottom to top; however, the area of the third panel from the bottom, in the center of the door, is actually divided into two square panels creating a seven-panel door. The panels retain their original grey decorative combed painting, and the door retains its original metal box lock and brass knob.

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The sheathed walls of the west room rise from a shaped top baseboard. The paired window openings on the west wall and those on the north and south walls are framed with plain boards. In a further departure from the usual practice, the window opening, covered when the ell was added, retains its sash rather than having been converted to a door linking the two rooms; during the restoration the wall below the window is being removed, and the original-width opening refitted as a doorway. The fireplace retains its original granite hearth and brick firebox with a granite lintel across the opening. The post-and-lintel mantel, dating from the Italianate remodeling, is made up of grooved boards and has a projecting shelf supported by brackets above the paneled frieze.

A doorway in the stair hall's east wall opens into the east parlor; it is fitted with a door of six panels diminishing in width from the bottom to the top. The parlor's molded six-panel doors onto the front and rear porches are on axis with each other; the rear door retains its original metal box lock and brass knob. The original floor has been overlaid with wood flooring in this century. The north, east, and south walls of the parlor have horizontal flush sheathing while the partition wall with the hall is vertically sheathed; a molded baseboard encircles the room. The door surrounds are of plain boards while the window surrounds were apparently refitted in the Italianate remodeling with plain boards enlivened with a center band of reeding. The fireplace has a granite hearth and brick firebox with a granite lintel across the opening. The post-and-lintel mantel is nearly identical to the one in the west room.

The stair rises to a shallow enclosed landing where large two-panel Greek Revival-style doors open into the two bed chambers; the landing and bedrooms retain their original floors. The doors retain their original two-tone grey painted finish with decorative painting in the tall, molded vertical panels. These doors are enframed with plain boards with corner blocks on both the hall and room sides. The east bedroom is unusually airy and light with paired symmetrical windows on its south wall, paired windows flanking the fireplace on the east wall, and a single window on the north wall. The north, south, and east walls are vertically sheathed while the partition wall with the hall and stairwell is horizontally sheathed; they are finished with a simple shaped-top baseboard and a board cornice where the walls meet the ceiling. The fireplace has a granite hearth and brick firebox. The post-and-lintel mantel dates to the later nineteenth century Italianate refitting and has a two-panel frieze in chamfered frames. The large west bedroom has remained unpainted to the present and its flush sheathed pine walls, as well as this side of the hall door, have mellowed to a very rich nut-brown appearance. The north wall is vertically sheathed while the east, south, and west walls are horizontally sheathed. The fireplace has a granite hearth and brick firebox. The post-and-lintel mantel has applied pilasters which rise from tapering blocks to a plain board frieze under a projecting shelf. During the restoration a narrow-width stair, rising south to the attic, has been unobtrusively enclosed with old, sympathetic sheathing along the room's east wall to provide access to the large attic. A door in the south end

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of this new east wall opens into a small bathroom in the floor area under the new stair and above the house's original stair. A doorway has also been cut into the room's north wall to provide access to a large storage closet in the attic of the ell.

The finish of the house's two-room ell is simple and unaltered. The walls and ceilings are flush sheathed and finished with shaped-top baseboards. The dining room, next to the original house, has no fireplace and was unheated; the kitchen has a conventionally-sized fireplace in the center of its north wall. The dining room retains its original wide pine flooring while the kitchen has narrow oak flooring overlaid on the original flooring. The dining room has wide two-panel Greek Revival-style doors opening onto the porch and into the kitchen. They and the window in the center of the room's west wall have plain board surrounds. During the restoration the door opening onto the porch was closed up on the interior--the door remains in place on the porch--and sheathed to allow space for a tier of counter- and wall-cabinets on this wall. The doorway linking the old kitchen and dining room has been widened and made a flat-arch opening. The original kitchen has a door in its west wall giving onto simple wood steps and its original two-panel Greek Revival-style door opening onto the porch. The mantel in this room has reeded-face pilasters rising from tall bases to a wide frieze of multiple reeded boards below a projecting shelf. A flue opening positioned in the wall above the mantel was removed during the restoration. When the north end of the porch was enclosed as a pantry the window beside and north of the porch door was converted to a doorway; this opening is fitted with a conventional screened door. The pantry walls are not sheathed.

3. Well Shed  
Ca. 1925-1940  
Noncontributing structure

The well shed is a simple unpainted frame structure supported by sawn square and rectangular corner posts rising to the frame of its shed roof; the well shed is covered with 5-V roofing. Part or all of its four sides are enclosed with wood lattice. The well is enclosed in a brick head fitted with a wood lid on which the windlass is mounted. The old metal pulley for drawing water remains in place on a member above the opening.

4. Smoke House  
Ca. 1850-1875  
Contributing building

The smoke house is an unpainted rectangular hewn-frame building of mortise-and-tenon construction covered with vertical flush-board sheathing. The front-gable roof projects on the south to protect the board-and-batten door and a shallow work area in front of the building. The

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pegged and skinned pole rafters support a roof of recently replaced 5-V tin. Inside, affixed to the joists are four poles from which salt- and sugar-cured meat was hung. Four turn-of-the-century screened doors with decorative spindles and sawn quarter-rounds, taken from the house, are stored here; they will be repaired and rehung in their original openings.

5. Outbuilding  
Ca. 1924; repaired and rebuilt 1999  
Noncontributing building

Probably built as a granary, feed house, or tool shed, this deteriorated and now rebuilt weatherboarded frame building stands inside a fenced pasture. A board-and-batten door survives on the south front elevation and opens into the enclosed east bay. The building's center and west bays are enclosed on the north and west sides and open on the south. The building is covered with a shed roof of 5-V galvanized metal.

6. Animal Shed  
Ca. 1950-1960  
Noncontributing structure

Standing to the east of the above building, the shed is a simple shelter for animals. Cedar uprights support a shed roof of 5-V tin. The south side of the shed is open; it is partially sheathed with sheet metal on its west, north, and east sides.

7. Equipment Shed  
Ca. 1920-1940  
Noncontributing building

The equipment shed is a somewhat deteriorated frame building which appears to date from three periods of construction. The weatherboarded gable-front center section was built first; its northeast front is open and the building is covered with a front-gable roof of sheet metal. The frame shed on the northwest side of the building was probably added next; it is open on its northeast end and has flush horizontal boards on its northwest and southwest sides. The shed on the southeast side of the building is probably the latest in date and is built of simple frame construction partially covered with corrugated sheet metal.

8. Log Barn  
Ca. 1843-1850  
Contributing building

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The antebellum double-pen log barn is the largest building on the Isenhour farm and a building of commanding presence in the landscape. The original log barn, a rectangular building with a center passage on a north-south axis, is covered with a side-gable roof whose ridge line is positioned off center of the log pens; it is centered above the combined depth of the pens and a deepish projection across the north front of the barn which shelters north entrances into stables and a work area. This projection is supported by long log beams which extend the entire depth of the original log building. The upper east and west gable ends of the barn are sheathed with flush vertical boards except for large rectangular openings reserved for access to the upper lofts.

A complete, precise description of the original barn is rendered difficult because much of it is filled with hay; however, the log pens flanking the passage appear to have been partitioned into three stables of apparently varying size, each with lofts above. The north part of the pens also appear to be higher than the rear south block, providing stepped loft levels for the storage of hay, straw, and other field crops. During the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries the barn was more than doubled in size through the construction of frame sheds which encircle it on the east, south, and west sides. These sheds are covered with expansive roofs of 5-V tin; on the south side the shed is covered by a splayed extension of the original barn roof. Most of the east and west elevations of these sheds are sheathed with vented vertical boards. The long south side is fitted with both manufactured metal gates and board fencing which prevent cattle from getting into the hay and other materials stored in the barn.

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### Summary

The Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, comprising an antebellum frame house with a later ell and Italianate-style detailing, an antebellum double-pen log barn, and frame nineteenth- and twentieth-century outbuildings, is located in an unspoiled rural setting in northeastern Cabarrus County, a short distance south of the Rowan/Cabarrus County line. The seventy-three acres included in the nomination represent the residual tract of a 200-acre farm once part of a prosperous agricultural community which developed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the area surrounding Grace Reformed Church, one of the pioneer German-speaking congregations in piedmont North Carolina. The holding, enlarged and divided through the years, came into the family through inheritance by Mary Myers Eisenhauer in 1771 and was occupied by her great-great-grandson Clarence Franklin Isenhour until his death in 1963. The Daniel Isenhour House and Farm satisfies National Register Criteria A, B, and C, and holds local significance in the areas of architecture and social history. Daniel Isenhour (1814-1895), for whom this ca. 1843 house was built, was both a farmer and a skilled cabinetmaker who used the walnut trees growing on his farm in the production of bureaus, beds, sideboards, tables, and chairs. This house and farm are important in the social history of Cabarrus County for their association with the lifeway represented by Mr. Isenhour and others in rural North Carolina who practiced a skilled craft by choice and farmed by necessity. Mr. Isenhour was one of only three cabinetmakers in Cabarrus County listed in the Schedule of Industry in the 1850 Census and he is the only one of the trio for whom associated buildings are known to survive. His house and barn both hold local significance in the area of architecture as important, intact examples of their type. The transitional Federal-Greek Revival-style house was expanded and enriched with Italianate-style bracketed eaves in the post-Civil War period and, thereby, it represents the three most important architectural styles employed by Cabarrus County builders in the nineteenth century. Mr. Isenhour's double-pen log barn, used by his son and grandson until 1963, has been well-maintained and survives as an intact example of a once-prolific building type whose number has been greatly reduced through changing agricultural practices, disuse, and abandonment.

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Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, Cabarrus County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 10Historical Background and Social History Context

Daniel Isenhour (1814-1895), for whom this house is said to have been built in 1843, was a member of the Eisenhauer/Eisenhower/Isenhour family whose progenitor, Hans Nicholas Eisenhauer (1691-post-1760), came to America from Germany with three sons in 1741. He settled near Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, in what was then Lancaster County and is now Lebanon County; his date of death and place of burial are not known. His son Peter Eisenhauer (ca. 1716-1802), perhaps the middle of the three immigrant siblings, was married three times, sired sixteen known children, and was living in Lower Paton Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, when he died in 1802. By his first wife Elizabeth Graff he fathered eight children including John Nicholas Eisenhauer (1749-ca. 1805), who came with other members of the family to North Carolina in the late 1760s and early 1770s, and would become the grandfather of Daniel Isenhour. His last born child, a son by his third wife Ann Dissinger, was Frederick Eisenhauer (1794-1884), the great-grandfather of President Dwight David Eisenhower.<sup>1</sup>

John Nicholas Eisenhauer was in North Carolina by 1773 when he was married to Mary Myers, the daughter of Michael Myers, in Rowan County; he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and fathered six known children. Exactly where the couple lived remains uncertain; however, it appears likely to have been on property held by Mrs. Eisenhauer's family. On 12 November 1805 Mary Eisenhauer petitioned the North Carolina Legislature for a divorce from her husband on the grounds of cruelty, abandonment, and adultery; the bill was approved 18-19 December 1805. At this time Peter Isenhour (1776-1850) emerges as the head of the family. In quit claim deeds dated in 1800, 1803, and 1807, his three brothers, Michael, Nicholas, and John Isenhour, respectively, conveyed to him their interest in a 200-acre tract on little Dutch Buffalo Creek in Cabarrus County which their mother had inherited from her father (Cabarrus County Deeds: 3/355-56; 5/9-10; 9/393). John Isenhour's deed on 10 January 1807 coincides with their mother's conveyance of the entire 200-acre tract to Peter Isenhour that same day (Cabarrus County Deeds, 7/89), and on 22 January George Overcarsh quit claims any interest in the land that would come to him as the husband of Peter's sister Mary Isenhour (Cabarrus County Deeds, 9/343). For reason(s) now unclear, Mary Myers Isenhour reconveyed the same 200-acre tract to Peter Isenhour on 21 March 1827 (Cabarrus County Deeds, 10/423). This land lay just south of the Rowan-Cabarrus County line (drawn in 1792) and in the community surrounding Grace Lower Stone Reformed Church (NR, 1972). Described as "joining the county line," that parcel was the core Isenhour family holding here and is believed to comprise the site on which this house was built and most of the nominated acreage. Mary Isenhour lived on this land until her death on 9 August 1832 when she was buried in the family cemetery on a knoll to the east of the nominated acreage.

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Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, Cabarrus County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 11

The consolidation of the family lands in Peter Isenhour's ownership also coincides with his marriage to Mary Kenup (Canupp) (1781-1843) in 1803 and the birth of the first of the couple's eleven children, all of whom lived to adulthood and are mentioned in his 1847 will. Peter Isenhour was a farmer and miller, and built a dam on Little Buffalo Creek to power his saw and grist mills. In addition to the 200-acre tract, he received a State Grant of 127 acres adjoining the tract in 1802 (Cabarrus County Deeds, 4/298) and two smaller grants for seven and one-half acres and four and three-fourths acres entered in 1830 (Cabarrus County Deeds, 11/357, 440).

Daniel Isenhour (1814-1895), the seventh child and second son, was born on 19 June 1814 and probably lived his entire life on ancestral lands. On 8 December 1842 Peter Isenhour conveyed to his son Daniel a tract of 75 acres for \$75 (Cabarrus County Deeds, 15/321-22), and two years later, on 15 November 1844 he conveyed an additional 79-acre tract for \$400 to his son (Cabarrus County Deeds, 15/326-27). Although the descriptions do not share identical references, the two tracts were probably contiguous and it was on one or the other that family tradition holds this house to have been built in 1843. The transitional Federal-Greek Revival-style appearance and form of the two-story main block is consistent with this date. These deeds and the construction of the house coincide with Daniel Isenhour's marriage on 1 June 1843 to Leah Boger (1816-1896), the second daughter of the Reverend George Boger (1782-1865), the long-time minister of the Grace Church congregation and during whose pastorate the stone church was completed and dedicated in 1811 and in whose cemetery he was buried. The house believed to have been built in 1843 and occupied by Daniel and Leah Isenhour is the two-story block of the present house to which an ell, Italianate brackets, and some other embellishments were added in the later nineteenth century.

By the taking of the 1850 Federal Census Daniel Isenhour had established both his family and his profession. Identifying himself as a "cabinetmaker," he was the head of an eight-member household which included his wife, his older sister Mary (1806-1866), and three children: Margaret (ca. 1845- ?); John Ephraim Wiley (1847-1923); and Leah Amanda (1850-1935). The two other members of his household were John Coleman and James N. Morgan, twenty-two and twenty years of age respectively, who were also identified as cabinetmakers.

Daniel Isenhour is one of only three men in Cabarrus County who appear as cabinetmakers in the industrial schedule in the 1850 Census; Isenhour and George H. Green had an annual production of \$500 and \$600, respectively, while Henry Stiller reported a yearly production valued at \$1,500. Each of the three had an invested capital of \$200 which probably reflected the value of hand tools, saws, planes, and other implements necessary to practice the trade irrespective of the actual output. Mr. Isenhour also reported walnut plank, scantling, varnish, and paints on hand with a value of \$200. The walnut was probably cut and sawn on the farm as there are still an impressive number of walnut trees growing in the vicinity of the barnyard, in the pastures, and

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Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, Cabarrus County, North Carolina

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along the creeks. According to family tradition, Mr. Isenhour's shop stood to the northeast of the house and in the area where an outbuilding (#5) and animal shed (#6) now stand. His shop had four male employees and produced bureaus, bedsteads, tables, side boards, and chairs; family tradition also ascribes to him the function of undertaker; however, that probably derives from that fact that a cabinetmaker would naturally make coffins as needed. George Green's shop had three male employees and he simply reported the production of furniture of various kinds. Henry Stiller who also reported the making of cupboards and wash stands had poplar and pine plank and maple scantling on hand. He, too, reported four male employees in his shop. There are no known surviving buildings in Cabarrus County associated with either the life or career of George H. Green or Henry Stiller.

As the home of a cabinetmaker, the Daniel Isenhour House and Farm are associated with the profession of cabinet making in antebellum Cabarrus County, and they are important in the social history of the county for exemplifying the traditional lifeway of the rural craftsman who practiced his skilled trade while also farming. It was here that Daniel Isenhour took his son, John Ephriam Wiley, as an apprentice and trained him to carry on the trade of cabinetmaking; the son followed the example of his father and combined farming with cabinetmaking, nearby in lower Rowan County, into the 1920s. Although Daniel Isenhour's \$500 production appears to be relatively modest, it was apparently sufficient to support the Isenhour household. His farm operations were modest and typical of the small farmer in piedmont North Carolina; he held sixty-five acres of improved land and 114 acres of unimproved land, two horses, three milk cows, five other cattle, seventeen swine, and annually raised forty bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, and 250 bushels of Indian corn.

To what extent Daniel Isenhour continued as a cabinetmaker between 1850 and 1880 remains unclear, but by 1860 he was operating a saw mill with one employee and producing 60,000 feet of lumber with a value of \$600 according to the industrial schedule for that year; neither Mr. Green nor Mr. Stiller is listed as a cabinetmaker in the schedule and, in fact, there is no cabinetmaker/cabinet shop listed in the 1860 industrial schedule for Cabarrus County. A second son, Daniel Franklin Mathias Isenhour (1852-1914), had been born on 11 September 1852. Daniel and Leah Isenhour and their four children remained together as a family through the Civil War and to 1870 when they are again listed in a single household headed by Mr. Isenhour. In that year Daniel Isenhour is simply identified as a farmer and his two sons as farm hands; the farm, valued at \$720, comprised sixty acres of improved land, forty of wooded land, and thirty unimproved acres. His livestock and crops apparently made the family self-sufficient.

The 1870 Census listing gives no indication, however, of the financial strain under which Daniel Isenhour and his family were living in the later 1860s and early 1870s. On 13 March 1873 Daniel Isenhour filed a petition for bankruptcy under the United States Bankruptcy Act of 1867

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listing twenty-one creditors who had either made loans to him or advanced goods on account. The list includes the names of prominent farmers and merchants in the larger Grace Church-Gold Hill community: brothers Reuben J. and Moses L. Holmes; brothers Ephraim and Valentine Mauney; and George M. Bernhardt (see George Matthias Bernhardt House, NR, 1982). The amounts involved appear disproportionate to what is known of the life lived by the Isenhour family and the documents surviving in the case file offer no ready clue as to how and why Mr. Isenhour accumulated such debts between 1857 and 1868. One explanation is that he might have borrowed money to buy the saw milling equipment, slaves, or other items, and then been caught short during the Civil War or afterward when severe inflation and little or no cash income left citizens throughout the South in distress. His lists of assets, including the farm, and the usual household furniture and furnishings, livestock, crops, etc., do not provide insight into the matter. His "Working tools, fixtures of shop and lumber" were valued at \$100. All of this personal property was awarded to him as part of the homestead exemption. On 6 January 1874 his 204-acre tract of land was reconveyed to him by his assignee John Steele Henderson (Cabarrus County Deeds, 27/538). The next year he conveyed 100 of those acres to his youngest son Daniel Franklin Mathias Isenhour (Cabarrus County Deeds, 42/279-80).

Daniel Isenhour's continued work as a cabinetmaker is supported by the appearance of "Farmer & Cabinetmaker" as his occupations in the 1880 Census when his household included his wife and two unmarried daughters. Margaret, the eldest daughter, would eventually marry; however, Leah Amanda remained unmarried and resided here until late in life when she went to live with her niece Margaret Ada Isenhour (1878-1954), the daughter of John E. W. Isenhour, and her husband Joseph DeBerry Misenheimer (1874-1937) who lived near Gold Hill; she died in 1935. Daniel Isenhour died on 10 November 1895 and was buried in the family cemetery. Nine months later, on 13 August 1896, Leah Boger Isenhour died and was buried beside her husband.

This house was next to the residence of the Isenhours' son, Daniel Franklin Mathias Isenhour, his wife, and family. He had married Roseann Commelia Powlas (1853-1941) in 1874 and in 1880 they occupied a separate house, perhaps the house built on the farm by his grandfather Peter Isenhour which is said to have survived in use as a barn for some years. The addition of the ell and the Italianate remodeling of the house may have coincided with Daniel F. M. Isenhour's moving into the house in the last years of his father's life or after his death. Frank Isenhour and his wife raised a family of seven children in his childhood home. Jeremiah Boyden Isenhour (1875-19\_\_ ) was the first born, and he was succeeded by Roseann Lilly (1877-1946), Lucy Roxie (1881-1957), Clarence Franklin (1889-1963), Effie, Josie, and Alice Isenhour (not necessarily in this order).

David F. M. Isenhour operated a self-sufficient farm, utilizing the great log barn built by his father and other agricultural outbuildings, until his death on 20 August 1914; in a break with the

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Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, Cabarrus County, North Carolina

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tradition of burials in the family cemetery on the farm he was buried in the cemetery at Lower Stone Church. After Mr. Isenhour's death in the summer of 1914, this house and farm remained the home of his widow, his first-born, maiden daughter Roseann, and his son Clarence. During these years Clarence Isenhour farmed the residual acreage as a self-sufficient farm with mules and horses; he never owned a tractor. In 1941 Commelia Powlas Isenhour died and was buried beside her husband in the family plot at Lower Stone Church. Five years later, in 1946, her eldest daughter died and she, too, was buried in the family plot at Lower Stone Church. Meanwhile, the second-born daughter Lucy, who had married and later divorced George Barringer, returned to the family house and resided here with her bachelor brother Clarence until her death on 26 September 1957; she was also buried in the Lower Stone Church family plot. Cognizant of his own mortality, and requiring financial and physical assistance, Clarence Franklin Isenhour sold the family house and its residual farm of seventy-three acres on 6 April 1962 to family friends, Jerry Hammill and his brother Edwin Hammill (Cabarrus County Deeds, 318/59). Having reserved a life estate, he occupied the house until his death on 5 January 1963; he was buried with his parents and two sisters in the family plot at Lower Stone Church.

The Hammill family, who are large landowners in this county-line community south of Lower Stone Church, have continued to own the property. On 12 March 1975 Edwin Hammill and his wife conveyed their undivided interest in the Isenhour farm to his brother Jerry Hammill (Cabarrus County Deeds, 451/378). After Clarence Isenhour's death the house became the residence of Berry C. Eudy, a farm employee of the Hammill family, who occupied it until August 1996. The preservation of the house was assured when the Hammills' daughter Donna Ruth Hammill Miller (b. 1963) and her husband David Lee Miller (b. 1962) decided to restore and enlarge the house for use as their residence. On 9 December 1998 Jerry and Ruth Hammill conveyed an undivided thirty percent interest in the property to Mr. and Mrs. Miller (Cabarrus County Deeds, 2405/262). On 13 July 1999 the Hammills conveyed an additional undivided twenty-five percent interest in the property to their daughter and son-in-law (Cabarrus County Deeds, 2601/179). In a separate deed of the same date the Hammills conveyed outright ownership of a twenty-acre tract including all of the buildings to their daughter and son-in-law (Cabarrus County Deeds, 2601/177). Meanwhile, the Millers retained Joseph Oppermann, a restoration architect in the firm of Phillips and Oppermann with offices in Winston-Salem, to prepare drawings for the restoration and renovation of the antebellum Isenhour House. Construction on this project was begun on 14 September 1999 by Hi-Co Construction Company of North Carolina which had previously served as contractor for the restoration of the Salisbury Passenger Station.

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Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, Cabarrus County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 15Architecture Context

In 1979-1980 Peter Kaplan conducted a survey of historic properties in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, through a grant project supported by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. This author, who had recently completed a like survey of historic buildings in adjoining Rowan County and was then on the staff of the Division of Archives and History, supervised Mr. Kaplan's work on the Cabarrus County survey. The publication of *The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina* in 1981 was one product of that survey. Another was the identification of properties potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. At meetings of the State Professional Review Committee on 13 March 1980 and 8 January 1981 some fifty-five individual properties and proposed historic districts in Cabarrus County, identified by Mr. Kaplan, were added to the North Carolina Study List. The Daniel Isenhour House was added to the Study List in the initial group in 1980. Sixteen of those properties and districts have been listed in the National Register between 1982 and 1998.

The Daniel Isenhour House, said to have been built in 1843--the year he was married to Leah Boger--is one of a relatively small group of substantial antebellum frame houses erected in rural Cabarrus County that have survived to the present. The tall vertical proportions of the house, enhanced by its nine-over-six sash windows, are more typically Federal in character than Greek Revival, and the house represents a transitional stage in local domestic architecture when the Federal style was being succeeded by the Greek Revival. The Reverend J. D. Scheck House in nearby Mount Pleasant (see Mount Pleasant Historic District (NR, 1986), also dating from the 1840s, is somewhat similar in appearance; however, it has the lower "boxier" proportions of the more typical antebellum Greek Revival house that could also be seen at Favoni (NR, 1986; burned 1990) and the Mathias Barrier House in Mount Pleasant (see Mount Pleasant Historic District).

The transitional Federal-Greek Revival character of the original two-story house is one mark of the Isenhour House's importance; the other is the intact Italianate character of its expansion and remodeling. It was probably in the last quarter of the nineteenth century that either Mr. Isenhour, or his son Daniel Franklin Mathias Isenhour, added the one-story, two-room frame ell and embellished the eaves of the ell, the house's front porch, its new L-shaped rear porch, and the old block with Italianate brackets with turned pendants. So doing, father or son updated the antebellum house in the latest fashion and enlarged the family's living quarters. The uncertainty as to when the work was done precludes its specific association with Daniel Isenhour's skills as a craftsman. The refashioned Isenhour house then joined at least two other known, newly-built Italianate houses that served as the seats of substantial Cabarrus County farms with log and frame outbuildings. The house built by John Bunyon Green (NR, 1988) also boasts an elegant

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Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, Cabarrus County, North Carolina

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two-tier center bay porch with elaborate cut-work railings while the Martin Boger, Jr., House (NC Study List, 1980) has handsome chimneys with paneled and corbeled stacks.

Through the nineteenth-century--and afterward--the size and finish of a farmer's barn was a mark of both his agricultural abilities and the family's station in their community. Up to the Civil War, and for a decade or so thereafter, the double-pen log barn was built as a companion to the family seat on virtually all middle-size and larger farms. The Isenhour House and its double-pen log barn are positioned at the north and south edges of a hilltop, sharing a pride of place. Travelers between Albemarle and Salisbury on the long-ago abandoned road which ran between the two buildings could look to the north and admire the family's fashionable house or to the south to the large barn which bespoke a self-sufficiency that survived here into the mid-twentieth century.

The architectural significance of the Daniel Isenhour House and Farm is reflected in both his house and barn which are important, intact examples of their type in rural Cabarrus County. Double-pen log barns stand among the surviving outbuildings on two properties in the county now listed in the National Register: the John Bunyan Green Farm (NR, 1988), and the Boger-Hartsell Farm (NR, 1998). Those two barns and Mr. Isenhour's represent the architectural and agricultural importance attached to these buildings in nineteenth-century Cabarrus County and the care which was expended on their construction. Through the course of the twentieth-century changes in agricultural technology, improvements in machinery, and the evolution of farming practices have made most of these buildings and their companion log cribs and granaries obsolete. Little-used or abandoned, most have fallen into disrepair. The Isenhour barn has survived in large part because the property remained in the Isenhour family and the barn was used by Clarence Isenhour for his small-scale farming operations. In the years since it has been in Hammill ownership, the barn has been used for storage and kept under a good roof. The stewardship reflected in the restoration of the Isenhour House will also address the continued survival of its companion barn. The Green, Boger, and Isenhour barns, each slightly different in their appearance and size, stand today as important examples of a threatened property type which could once be counted in the hundreds on Cabarrus County farms but are now relatively few in number.

### Endnote

1. The principal genealogical source on the Eisenhauer/Eisenhower/Isenhour family is Fannie Belle Richardson's EISENHOWER LINEAGE AND REFERENCE, 1791-September 3, 1957, which was compiled, copied, and distributed by Mrs. Richardson, a resident of Greenwood, Indiana. A principal impetus for this work was the election of

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Dwight David Eisenhower as president of the United States in 1952. The other sources used in the preparation of this nomination are listed in the bibliography.

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Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, Cabarrus County, North Carolina

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination, 73.00 acres, is Cabarrus County Parcel Number 5693.00-08-4708. It is outlined in pencil on the enclosed Cabarrus County Property Map.

#### Boundary Justification

The property included in this nomination is the residual tract, comprising the site and setting of the Daniel Isenhour House and related domestic and agricultural outbuildings, fields, and woodlands, that is historically associated with the life of Daniel Isenhour and his descendants who lived here until 1963. It is the same parcel which was sold by his grandson Clarence Franklin Isenhour to Jerry and Edwin Hammill on 6 April 1962.

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Daniel Isenhour House and Farm, Cabarrus County, North Carolina

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## Photographic Schedule

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

1. Name of property: Daniel Isenhour House and Farm
2. Location: Cabarrus County, North Carolina
3. Name of photographer: Davyd Foad Hood
4. Date of Photographs: 3 May 1999 and 6 January 2000
5. Location of original negative: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 6-7. List of photographs:
  - A. South façade, looking north (6 January 2000).
  - B. Italianate brackets on rear porch, looking east/southeast.
  - C. First-story interior view, looking northeast from west room through stair hall into east room.
  - D. Mantel in west room, looking south/southeast.
  - E. Second-story interior, looking west from stair hall into west bedroom.
  - F. Yard view, looking north on west side of house to well shed (#3) and smokehouse (#4).
  - G. Landscape view from driveway east/southeast to house and smokehouse.
  - H. Log Barn (#8), looking southeast in pasture.
  - I. Log barn (#8), looking southwest onto north elevation of west log pen.
  - J. Outbuilding (#5) and animal shed (#6), looking northeast (6 January 2000).

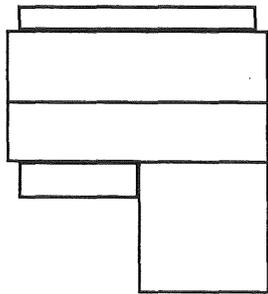
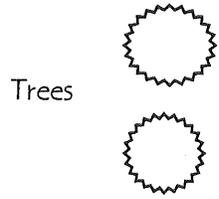
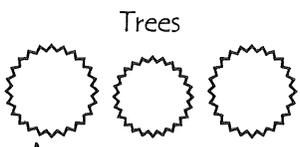
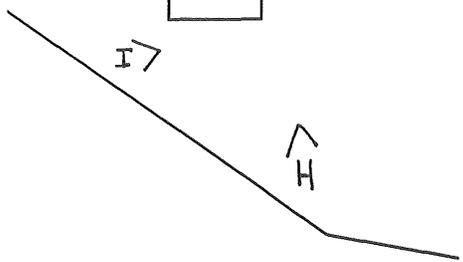
Map Has No Scale

Daniel Isenhour House and Farm  
Cabarrus County, North Carolina

Pasture

Log barn (#8)

Equipment Shed (#7)



Well House (#3)

Smokehouse (#4)



Key \_\_\_\_\_

Noncontributing Resources

Photographs are keyed to map

Animal Shed (#6)



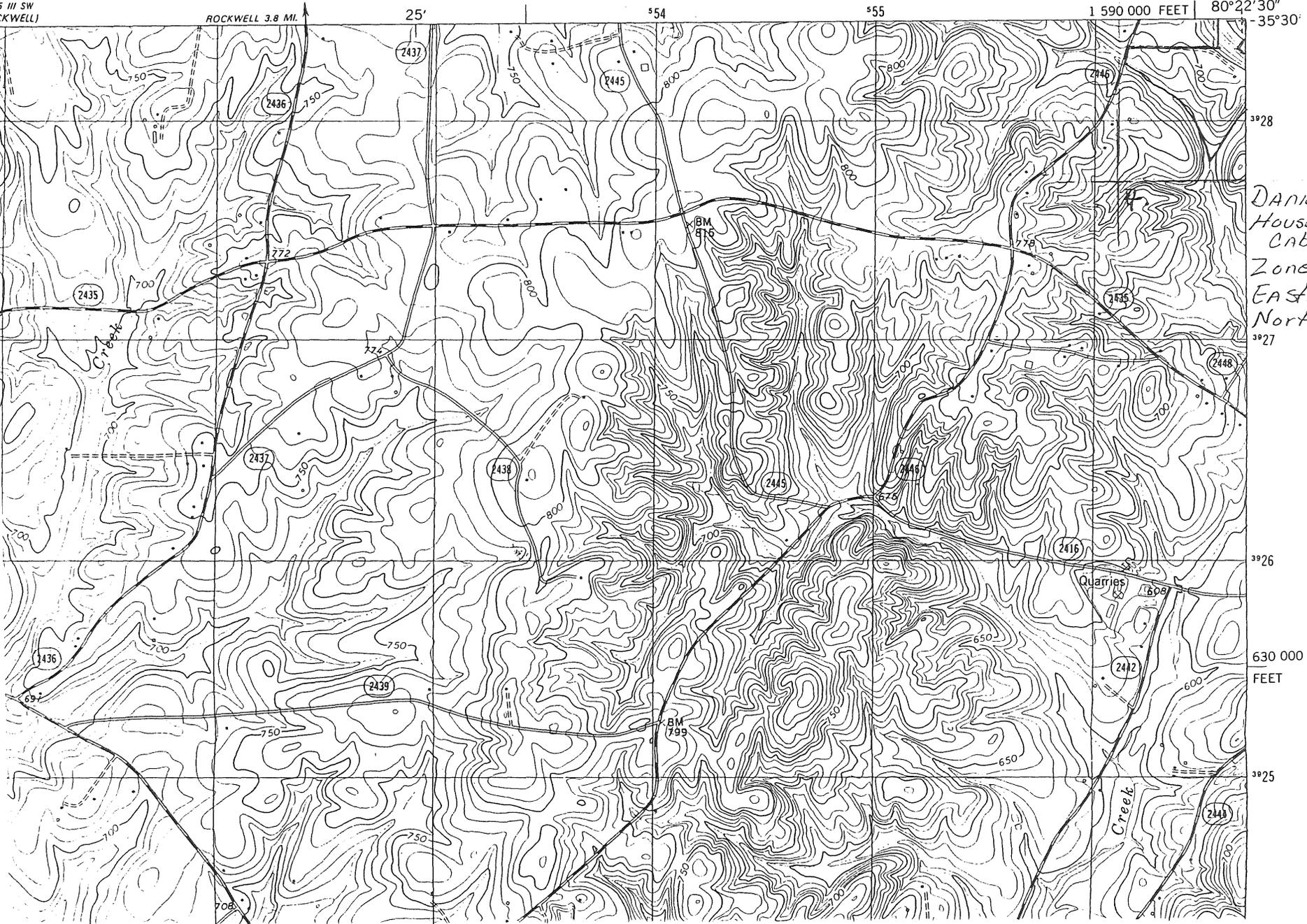
Outbuilding (#5)



NORTH CAROLINA  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT  
NORTH CAROLINA

MOUNT PLEASANT QUADRANGLE  
NORTH CAROLINA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 MOUNT PLEASANT 15' QUADRANGLE

4955 III SF.  
(GOLD HILL)



Daniel Isenhour  
House and Farm  
Cabarrus Co., NC  
Zone 17, 4.  
Easting 556100  
Northing 392725

