

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 WILDWOOD

other names/site number Long, Monroe, House; Long, Taylor, Homeplace; Long, James, Homeplace

### 2. Location

street & number 5680 Stephentown Road (State Road 1564)  not for publication

city or town Semora  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Caswell code 033 zip code 27343

### 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 A. Crow SHPO 7/31/01  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

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

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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:)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

WILDWOOD  
Name of Property

Caswell County, 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	3	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	3	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/ secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/ SUBSISTENCE/ processing

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/ Professional  
AGRICULTURE/ SUBSISTENCE/ storage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Queen Anne  
MID 19th CENTURY/ Greek Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls WOOD, weatherboard  
WOOD, log  
roof METAL, tin  
other BRICK  
WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

WILDWOOD  
Name of Property

Caswell County, NC  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1893

**Significant Dates**

1893

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Architect: McIver, J. K.

Builder: McCain & Buntin

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Caswell County, North Carolina

---

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### Summary

Wildwood is a two-story, T-shaped frame house of modified post-and-beam construction designed by architect J. K. McIver and located in a white oak grove atop a high knoll on a 4.12 acre lot at 5680 Stephentown Road (SR 1564) four miles south of Semora in Caswell County, North Carolina.

#### Setting

It is located on a seldom traveled rural paved road and is part of a 110-acre working farm which provides open pasture views to forest lands on all sides. The 4.12-acre lot contains a farm house curtilage of approximately 2.5 acres and a barnyard of approximately 1.5 acres to the rear of the curtilage. Outbuildings within the curtilage include an original frame smokehouse (circa 1895), a reconstructed well house, a reconstructed log office building and a reconstructed carriage house. The barnyard contains two original log tobacco barns (circa 1890).

The house is set back approximately 110 feet south of Stephentown Road. A driveway extends from the road into the yard on the west side of the house to the carriage house located beyond forks in the drive which lead to the back of the house and to the barnyard.

The topography of the lot has remained unchanged for more than 100 years, except for a six-foot reduction in elevation of Stephentown Road in the 1950's which created a gently sloped roadside bank. This destroyed a number of shrubs previously lining the roadway.

Current landscaping consists primarily of native oak and walnut trees, planted pecan, cherry, holly and magnolia trees; plus planted boxwoods along the north and west foundations of the house.

#### Exterior

The house is an I-house, with a two-story rear service wing, creating a T shape with an intersecting gable roof. It has front, side and back one-story porches with intricate sawn wood brackets. The foundation and three interior chimneys are built of brick. The exterior walls are covered with heart pine weatherboard siding up to bracketed and denticulated eaves topped by a standing seam metal roof with a pitch of forty-five degrees.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Gaswell County, North Carolina

The front, or west, side of the house faces the driveway and contains the front entry door at the center of an eighteen foot wide porch situated at the center of the first level of a symmetrical two story facade. Above the entry door is a clear glass transom bordered with small colored glass panes. The porch contains heavy turned posts, lacy sawn wood post brackets, beautifully turned railing balusters, a beaded board ceiling, together with bracketed and denticulated overhangs. One large two over two double hung window is located on either side of the porch on the first story level with corresponding windows located directly above them. A fifth window of the same size and configuration is located on the second story level above the center of the porch and front door. Directly above the porch and the upstairs center window is a sixteen-foot wide cross gable. The gable is covered with vertical beaded boards extending up to bracketed and denticulated eaves. A single round louvered vent is located in the center of the gable. A one-story kitchen wing, original to the house, extends to the right of the two-story facade without any setback. Its siding, roof and eave features are the same as those found on the adjacent two-story section. One small front window is located in the center of this one story kitchen extension. Three larger windows adjoin each other in the center of the south end of the kitchen wing, under a gable containing the same features as the cross gable over the front entry.

The north side of the house features a two-story gabled end of the I-house on the right with a setback two-story rear wing extending to the left. A one-story porch is nestled in the corner that joins the main house and the rear wing. The gabled end of the I-house on the right features a projecting first story bay window containing three one over one double hung windows, with beaded recessed panels underneath the windows and bracketed and denticulated eaves above. Directly above the bay window are paired, one over one double hung windows. The gable above contains the identical features as the cross gable over the front entry. The north side of the rear wing, extending to the left of the bay window, contains a double door porch entry flanked by sidelights and capped by a full width clear glass transom bordered with small colored glass panes. The porch contains heavy turned posts, lacy sawn wood post brackets, turned railing balusters, a beaded board ceiling, and bracketed and denticulated overhangs, all identical to similar components of the west porch. To the left of the porch is a two over two double hung window at the first story level with an identical window directly above. Another window of the same size and configuration is located directly above the double door entry on the porch below.

The east wall of the rear wing contains a single, two over two double hung window in the center of the first story wall and an identical window above. The gable above the two windows is covered and decorated the same as the cross gable over the west porch.

The south side of the house contains a long L-shaped porch that extends the entire length of the rear wing as well as the rear wall of the I-house and kitchen wing. The porch roof is laid upon exposed beaded boards nailed to beaded rafters, having an open eave. The roof structure is

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Caswell County, North Carolina

supported with four-inch square and chamfered porch posts that are braced by fancy sawn wood brackets at the top and joined by fancy sawn wood balustrades at the bottom. At the eastern end of this back porch is an enclosed bathroom with a one over one double hung window in the center of its east wall and a fixed stained glass window in its south wall. Four entry doors are located on the back porch. Two lead into the rear wing; one leads into the rear of the I-house; and one leads into the kitchen wing. Three of the doors are unadorned single doors, but the door located in the rear wing immediately opposite the double door north entry, is located under a clear glass transom bordered with small colored glass panes. There are two sets of wooden porch steps. One serves the southern end of the porch near the kitchen door and the other serves the eastern leg of the porch just to the left of the enclosed bathroom. There are four, two over two double hung windows above the porch roof. Two of those windows are in the south wall of the rear wing and two are in the eastern or back wall of the I-house. The eaves over the second story windows are denticulated, but do not contain the fancy eave brackets found elsewhere on the house.

Other exterior features of the house include: an eight-inch brick foundation with one row of headers per five rows of stretcher brick; wooden louvered foundation vents; wooden porch steps; wooden tongue and groove porch floors; beaded board porch ceilings and walls; operable window shutters containing movable louvers; swinging half-round gutters; three fancy brick chimney caps (two with arched brick recesses); and light mustard colored siding paint with slightly off-white trim paint and dark green shutter, door and roof paint.

The house is in extraordinarily good condition, having been restored to its historic appearance and design by a painstaking restoration during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999. It contains excellent historic integrity. Restoration work consisted primarily of removing substandard twentieth century additions to the house and replacing a small amount of missing original materials with exact duplications where such earlier additions caused the removal and loss of such materials.

Interior

The floor plan is oriented as a side-facing T-plan. The top of the T faces the driveway and the right side of the T faces Stephentown Road.

The first floor contains a living room at the base of the T with an adjoining back porch bathroom, a parlor in the right wing of the T and a dining room in the left wing. A one-story kitchen is attached to the dining room at the end of the left wing. A west entry hall between the parlor and the dining room leads from the front entry at the top of the T to a wider central hall which runs from the north porch entry to the south porch entry and separates the living room in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Gaswell County, North Carolina

the back of the house from the parlor and dining room in the front of the house. The central hall contains an open stairway leading to an upstairs hall located directly above. The upstairs hall provides entries to an east bedroom located over the living room, a north or master bedroom over the parlor and a south bedroom over the dining room. Two upstairs bathrooms are located over the west entry hall, one opening into the master bedroom and the other opening into the upstairs hall.

The most prominent interior features of the house are an elaborate parlor fireplace mantel, a beautiful central hall stairway and a distinctive double door entry from the north porch. The parlor mantel is of late nineteenth century design with intricate milled and plastered features and contains three shelves with three side-by-side beveled glass mirrors between the main shelf and the top shelf. The central hall stairway is an open stairway with heavy turned walnut newel posts, molded walnut hand rails, delicately turned balusters and fancy tread brackets. The double door entry from the north porch into the central hall is composed of recessed panel doors, pale yellow sidelight panels and a full width transom of clear glass, bordered with small, colored panes.

Other significant interior features include heart pine flooring, vertical beaded wainscoting in the halls and downstairs rooms; wide symmetrically molded door casings with milled plinths and carved corner blocks; matching window trim; recessed panel entry doors and raised panel interior doors, all fitted with surface locks and porcelain or solid brass knobs; five additional fireplaces with original milled and hand carved mantels and dry fitted brick hearths; beaded board ceilings of four distinct geometric designs; push button light switches and an original footed bathtub in the downstairs bathroom.

#### Alterations to the House

Four major exterior alterations to the house were made prior to the 1997-99 restoration. In 1940, a second dining room and a second kitchen were added to the living room end of the house to accommodate two Long families living in the house at the same time. In 1964, the back or south porch was extended outward and enclosed to create a den and a laundry area, again to accommodate two generations of the Long family living in the house. Also in 1964, the west entry porch was modified by substituting a broken tile floor for the existing wooden floor; replacing the beaded porch wall boards with weatherboard siding; covering the entry door transom with a triangular pediment; and replacing heavy turned porch posts, lacy sawn wood brackets and porch railings with free standing, round unfluted columns. Yet another alteration in 1964 was the covering of a parapeted shed kitchen roof with an unadorned side gabled roof. The 1940 and 1964 alterations were constructed of inferior materials and were architecturally incompatible with the original house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Gaswell County, North Carolina

---

Three of the four alterations were reversed in the 1997-99 restoration by the current owner, James M. Long, who lived in the house during the 1940 addition and who himself contracted for the 1964 alterations. The second dining room and second kitchen were removed from the living room end of the house and the east facade was restored to its original appearance as verified by "in-wall" construction evidence. The back porch extension and enclosure were removed and the porch was restored by reinstalling saved, original materials and procuring a small number of duplicated components of the same design. All 1964 west porch modifications were removed: the original transom was uncovered; a wooden porch floor was again installed; duplicated beaded board siding was re-installed on the joint porch/house wall; two saved, original turned porch posts and two saved half posts were reinstalled, together with two new duplicated posts which replaced lost original ones. Saved original post brackets and saved porch railings were reinstalled between the posts to complete the restoration of the west porch to its original appearance.

The 1997-99 restoration made no attempt to restore the parapeted shed roof over the kitchen, but did increase the pitch of the gabled roof and decorated the gable, providing conformity with other roof pitches and gables on the house.

Several interior alterations of the original house still remain. A second "back hall" stairway was removed from the west hall during the early 1940's to formalize the west entry hall that visitors had begun to use almost exclusively. At the same time, a parlor entry was created from the west hall to supplement the original single entry into the parlor from the central hall.

In 1964, a dining room closet was removed to create a passage to the original kitchen where none previously existed except by way of the back porch. Also in 1964, an upstairs bathroom was created by appropriating a portion of the space previously contained in a fourth bedroom located above the west entry hall.

The 1997-99 restoration project appropriated the remaining space from the fourth bedroom for a second upstairs bathroom and a small laundry. It also removed a second original dining room closet to create another direct passage from the dining room into the kitchen.

By virtue of the 1997-99 restoration, the house has excellent historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Gaswell County, North Carolina

---

Outbuildings

The property contains the following outbuildings.

1. **Smokehouse.** Circa 1893. Contributing.  
Located approximately 160 feet southeast of the house near the southeast corner of a fenced curtilage, the smokehouse is covered by weatherboard siding and contains no windows. Two front doors and their millstone steps are covered by a gabled roof which is cantilevered in front but has no overhangs at the side gables. In 1964, the building was moved on skids approximately seventy-five feet southeast from its original location. It remains in the same relative historic orientation to the house. The move only slightly affects the historic integrity of the property as a whole.
2. **Well house.** 1996. Non-contributing.  
Located twenty feet south of the kitchen wing of the house, the eight feet by eight feet square frame well house, with weatherboard siding, is situated over a 1892 rock-lined, hand dug well. It is a replica of the original 1890's well house except it does not contain a removable roof cap to allow for extraction of well pipes.
3. **Carriage house.** 2000. Non-contributing.  
A reconstructed carriage house is located approximately 120 feet southwest from the house and thirty feet east of the location of an original 1890's carriage house which was destroyed in 1963 when it fell into an ice pit below. The size, design and general appearance of the reconstructed building is similar to that of the original. Overhead garage doors of period design were installed instead of manual sliding doors used in the original building.
4. **Log Office.** 2000. Non-contributing.  
Located approximately seventy-five feet south of the rear wing of the house, the reconstructed farm office is built of pine logs resting on a foundation of fieldstones. The original building was disassembled in 2000 after careful documentation. The majority of components were severely damaged and irreparable because of moisture rot and wood boring insect damage. The original chimney fieldstones were used together with hand hewn replacement logs and reusable original components in the reconstruction of the building in its original location. Only the height of the doors were changed to comply with building codes.
5. **North tobacco barn.** Circa 1890. Contributing.  
Located in the barnyard approximately seventy-five feet south of the smokehouse, the north tobacco curing barn measures twenty-one feet by twenty-one feet and is constructed of white oak, hand hewn logs up to a height of fourteen feet. The logs are chinked with split pine chinking and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7,8 Page 7

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Caswell County, North Carolina

daubed with red clay mud. Above the logs is a metal covered gabled roof, supported by debarked round pine sapling rafters. East and west gables are covered with weatherboard siding. Shed additions constructed in 1964 are located on the east and west sides of the barn. A plank door is located in the center of the south wall and a vent window, without its original hinged wooden vent cover, is located to the right side of the door. Many foundation stones and all curing furnace stones have been dislodged by farm animals, but all tiers of interior, horizontal tobacco hanging poles still exist to the top of the barn. All hand hewn logs are in good condition except the north side sill log which is deteriorating from prolonged dripping of roof water.

6. **South tobacco barn.** Circa 1890. Contributing.

Located in the barnyard approximately eighty-five feet south of the north tobacco barn is a second tobacco curing barn. It is almost identical to the north tobacco barn except it is constructed of yellow pine, hand hewn logs. The logs are chinked with split pine chinking and daubed with gray mortar. Its metal covered gable roof is supported by debarked round pine sapling rafters. East and west gables are covered with weatherboard siding. Shed additions, constructed in 1964, are located on the east and west sides of the barn. A plank door is located in the center of the south wall and a vent window containing a hinged, wooden vent cover is located to the right side of the door. Many foundation stones and all curing furnace stones have been dislodged by farm animals, but all tiers of interior horizontal tobacco hanging poles still exist to the top of the barn. All hand hewn logs are in good condition.

## SECTION 8 - NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Summary

Wildwood, an elaborate frame I-house built by Monroe Long in 1893, is of local architectural significance and meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is an amalgamation of two nineteenth-century design patterns: the deliberate retention of the earlier traditional two-story rectangular massing of the I-house, combined with stylish Queen Anne decorative features, such as sawn wood ornament, a prominent bay window, elaborate mantels and ornamental, colored glass. This transition from the symmetry of the Greek Revival era to the irregularity and picturesque qualities of the Queen Anne style is found in a relatively small number of houses in rural Caswell County. Wildwood is particularly noteworthy as it exhibits the most overt Queen Anne features of all of these houses in the county. It was constructed by Monroe Long, a member of a prosperous tobacco plantation family, but reflects the post Civil War downsizing of larger, formal plantation homes to smaller, less formal farm houses. Both original and reconstructed outbuildings surround this home in a pristine rural setting which preserves the feeling of a late nineteenth century agrarian lifestyle.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Caswell County, North Carolina

Historical Context

James Monroe Long was born on September 6, 1843, the son of William Long, a wealthy slave owner who operated a large tobacco plantation and a grist mill on Long's Mill Road in Milton Township of Caswell County. Monroe Long grew up in a large Greek Revival plantation home known as Cherry Hill, where servants performed the routine chores and children of the family concentrated on education and a proper southern upbringing. His attendance at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was interrupted by the Civil War. In the early spring of 1862 he joined Company I, Forty-Fifth Regiment, North Carolina Volunteers which took part in battles from Mechanicsville to Gettysburg and thereafter was with Gen. Robert E. Lee's army in Virginia until Lee's surrender at Appomatox.

At the end of the war, Monroe Long returned to a very different Caswell County. Before the war, it had been one of the richest of North Carolina counties. Now industry, population and land values, were in decline. The whole structure of the agricultural economy was unstable. [Powell, p. 253]. But upon his return to Cherry Hill, Monroe Long joined his sixty-four-year-old father in fashioning sharecropper arrangements with former slaves and successfully expanded the production of tobacco and the operation of the family grist mill. The demand for Caswell County's quality flue cured tobacco provided the Long family with economic opportunities generally not available to other southerners. While overseeing the Cherry Hill plantation, Monroe Long decided to purchase some land of his own.

In 1869 he purchased a 110-acre farm adjoining his father's property for the sum of \$1,545.50, but continued to live at Cherry Hill and to successfully manage the family plantation beyond the death of his father in 1876, until his own marriage in 1892. According to Long family lore, Monroe Long built a log office and three tobacco barns on his 110-acre farm prior to 1892, in preparation for his marriage and the move of his farming operation to his own land.

After his marriage to Winnie Taylor on January 6, 1892, the newlyweds made immediate plans to build a home on the 110-acre farm. As the house was nearing completion on the night of their first wedding anniversary, January 6, 1893, it burned to the ground by a fire apparently begun by sparks from an outside ash pile left smoldering by workmen. [Scrapbook of Winnie Taylor Long]

The house was rebuilt during the following eight months upon the original foundation and was occupied on August 10, 1893, and became known as Wildwood. [Diary of Winnie Taylor Long] Reconstruction was completed by McCain & Buntin, Contractor, according to design drawings and written specifications drafted by J. K. McIver, Architect, with additional "details as are selected from the Snow Lumber Co. catalogue by name and number as revised in 1891".

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Caswell County, North Carolina

---

[McIver Specifications and Contract, 1893] The design drawings have been lost, but the written specifications have been preserved and are in the possession of James M. Long, the current owner. No reference to the architect or building contractor has been found in the Dictionary of American Biography, but each is believed to be local to north central North Carolina or south central Virginia, as both signed the building contract in the presence of the owner.

**Architectural Context**

Like Wildwood, many homes built in Caswell County during the period from 1880 to 1920 retained the traditional Greek Revival form, but acknowledged changing fashion through the use of applied decoration. Several such Caswell County houses used decorative Queen Anne features without adopting Queen Anne massing. Wildwood is the county's most notable example of the combination of mid-nineteenth century house form with late nineteenth century ornament. Other examples are the John S. Hightower House, circa 1900, in the Hightowers community and the Billy Florence Homeplace in the Anderson community, built circa 1895.

Monroe Long and his architect selected the traditional two-story, one room deep rectangular house, a transomed and side-lighted entrance, and a central hall with an open stairway leading to a landing. But they added the Queen Anne features of a one story bay window, entrance transoms with colored glass borders, interior chimney stacks decorated with fancy rooftop brickwork, heavy turned porch posts, lacy sawn wood porch brackets, bracketed and denticulated eaves, a center cross gable, two over two windows, a three-tiered parlor mantel, beaded wainscoting and beaded ceilings of four different designs. According to Ruth Little-Stokes, author of An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Caswell County, North Carolina, "yet even the Long House cannot be labelled Queen Anne, for behind all the Victorian trim is still the traditional rectangular box." [Little-Stokes, p. 44]

Wildwood was one of the first houses in its community to have electricity (provided by an engine-powered generator) and running water. The interior chimneys provided recessed areas for another 'modern convenience' -- enclosed closets in every room, which was unusual for local farmhouses of the period. It was also equipped with five-inch, galvanized iron, swinging gutters and lightning rods.

This house is a scaled-down version of larger plantation homes built in the county before the Civil War. Its move toward a less expensive structure is exemplified by smaller rooms, lower ceilings, beaded board wainscoting, brick hearths, machine milled decorations and a modified post-and-beam framing system which provided for mortising of sills, corner posts, corner braces,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8,9 Page 10

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Caswell County, North Carolina

---

Although less expensive forms of construction were used, there was no cost cutting on the quality of materials and workmanship specified. The McIver Specifications and Contract provided that "all materials to be strictly first class" and the "work to be executed in the best most substantial workman like manner according to the true intent and meaning of these particulars..." It further provided "(t)he whole of the timber throughout this building to be of the best of their several kinds, free from sap and shakes and such imperfections impairing its durability and strength, and in fact all timber throughout the building to be strictly first class of its kind." Extensive renovations 105 years after construction have revealed no imperfections in materials used or workmanship performed.

Thus, Wildwood is an outstanding example of transition architecture in the South during the late nineteenth century. Its downsizing reflects the economic reality of the post Civil War rural economy, but its elaborate features and quality materials reflect the continuing pride of the once powerful planter class.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Little-Stokes, Ruth. An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Caswell County, North Carolina. Durham, NC: Fisher-Harrison Corporation, Seeman Printery Division, 1979

Powell, William S. When the Past Refused to Die. A History of Caswell County North Carolina 1777-1977. Durham, NC: Moore Publishing Company, 1977

"Specifications and Contract for a Residence to be built for J. M. Long by J. K. McIver, Architect, 1893". From papers of James M. Long, Post Office Box 700, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

William Long Family Bible, published 1827. From papers of James M. Long, Post Office Box 700, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

Personal diary of Winnie Taylor Long, wife of original owner. From papers of James M. Long, Post Office Box 700, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

Scrapbook of Winnie Taylor Long, wife of original owner. From papers of Frances Long Josey, 11 Westbrook Drive, Newnan, GA 30263

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 11

WILDWOOD, Semora vicinity  
Caswell County, North Carolina

---

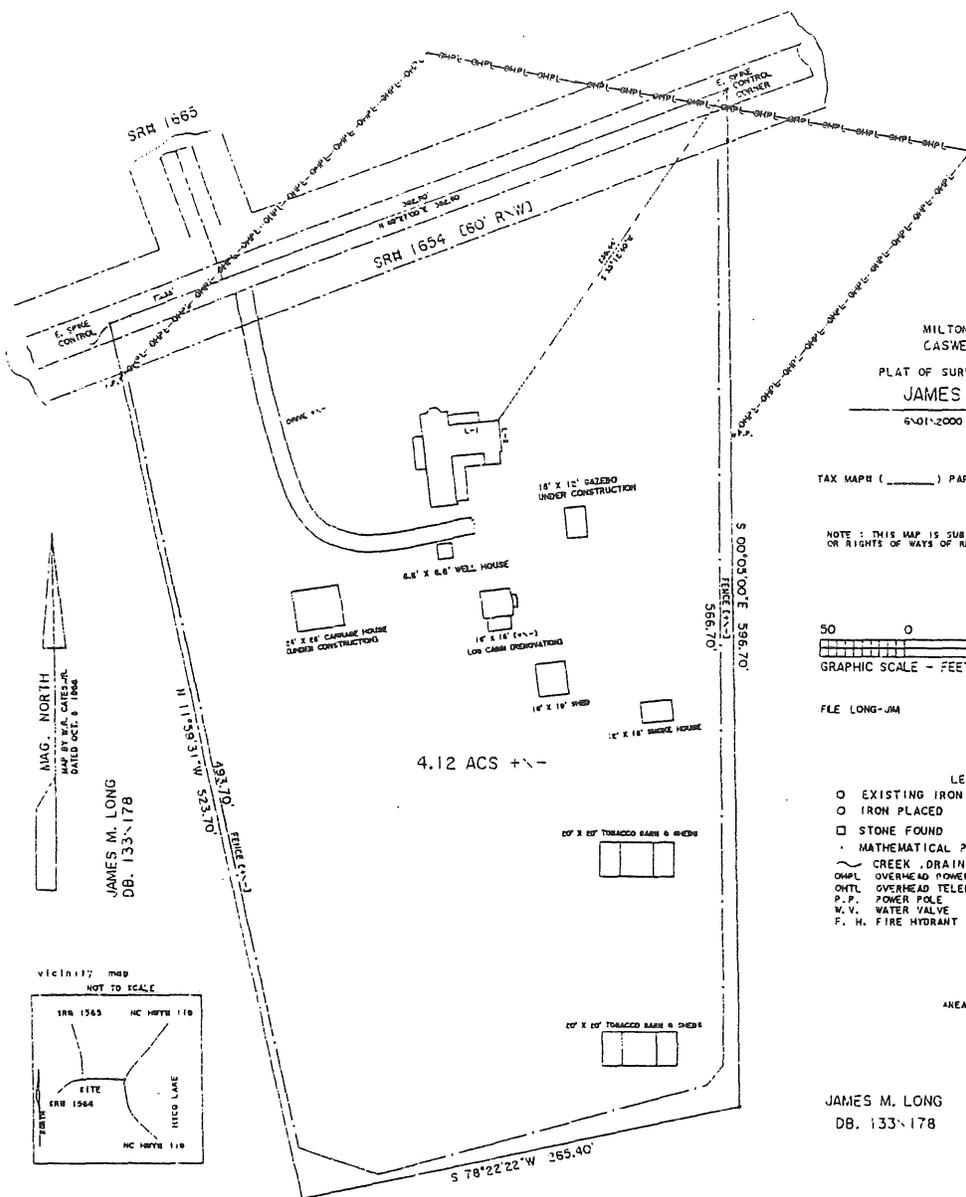
That 4.12 acre tract of land located in Milton Township of Caswell County, North Carolina on the south side of State Road 1564 (Stephentown Road) at its intersection with State Road 1565 (Long's Mill Road) which tract is more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at an existing iron spike in the center of State Road 1564, which spike is located South 69 degrees, 27 minutes, 00 seconds West 73.33 feet from the intersection of the center lines of State Roads 1564 and 1565; thence from said beginning point along the center of State Road 1564 North 69 degrees, 27 minutes, 00 seconds East 392.90 feet to an existing iron spike in the center of said road; thence leaving said road with the line of other lands of James M. Long South 00 degrees, 05 minutes, 00 seconds East 596.70 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence continuing with the line of other lands of James M. Long South 78 degrees, 22 minutes, 22 seconds, West 265.40 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence continuing with the line of other lands of James M. Long North 11 degrees, 59 minutes, 31 seconds West 523.70 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4.12 acres, more or less, and according to plat and survey of W. C. Moorefield, entitled "Plat of survey for James M. Long" dated June 1, 2000.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary includes the farmhouse, its curtilage and outbuildings together with the adjacent barnyard and its buildings. This property maintains its historic integrity. Other portions of the owner's farm have been excluded because of drastic changes in agricultural land use from historic cultivated crop land to a current forest plantation operation which has not maintained historic integrity. The house, its yard and its barnyard accurately reflect the surroundings of a moderately successful farm family of the late nineteenth century. The surrounding farmland reflects late twentieth century agricultural practices.

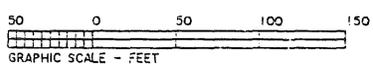
AROUND HOUSE	
L-1	30.20'
L-2	16.30'
L-3	1.40'
L-4	7.00'
L-5	5.20'
L-6	7.00'
L-7	15.80'
L-8	26.70'
L-9	3.04'
L-10	16.30'
L-11	55.20'
L-12	4.00'
L-13	0.33'
L-14	1.37'
L-15	1.11'
L-16	3.33'
L-17	0.58'
L-18	4.05'
L-19	8.20'



MILTON, TWP.  
CASWELL, COUNTY NC  
PLAT OF SURVEY FOR  
**JAMES M. LONG**  
6401-2000 SCALE 1" = 50'

TAX MAP# ( ) PARCEL# ( )

NOTE: THIS MAP IS SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, AGREEMENTS OR RIGHTS OF WAYS OF RECORD OR APPARENT ON PREMISES.

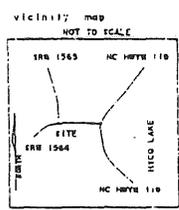
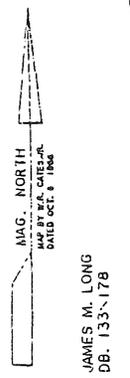


FILE LONG-JM

- LEGEND
- EXISTING IRON
  - IRON PLACED
  - STONE FOUND
  - MATHEMATICAL PT.
  - ~ CREEK, DRAIN OR RD.
  - OVERHEAD POWER LINE
  - OVERHEAD TELEPHONE LINE
  - P.P. POWER POLE
  - W.V. WATER VALVE
  - F. H. FIRE HYDRANT

AREA BY COORDINATES

JAMES M. LONG  
DB. 133-178



W.C. MOOREFIELD  
P.O. BOX 69  
YANCEYVILLE N.C. 27379

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A TITLE REPORT AND DOES NOT THEREFORE NECESSARILY INDICATE ALL ENCUMBRANCE ON SAID PROPERTY.

NOTE: THIS PROPERTY IS NOT IN FLOOD ZONE A OR B AS PROJECTED BY THE FEDERAL INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR.

Wildwood, Semora vicinity  
Caswell County, North Carolina

NORTH CAROLINA, CASWELL, COUNTY

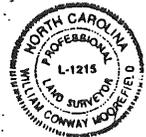
Filed for registration in the office of Register of Deeds of \_\_\_\_\_ M. on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ and recorded in book \_\_\_\_\_ page \_\_\_\_\_

Register of Deeds

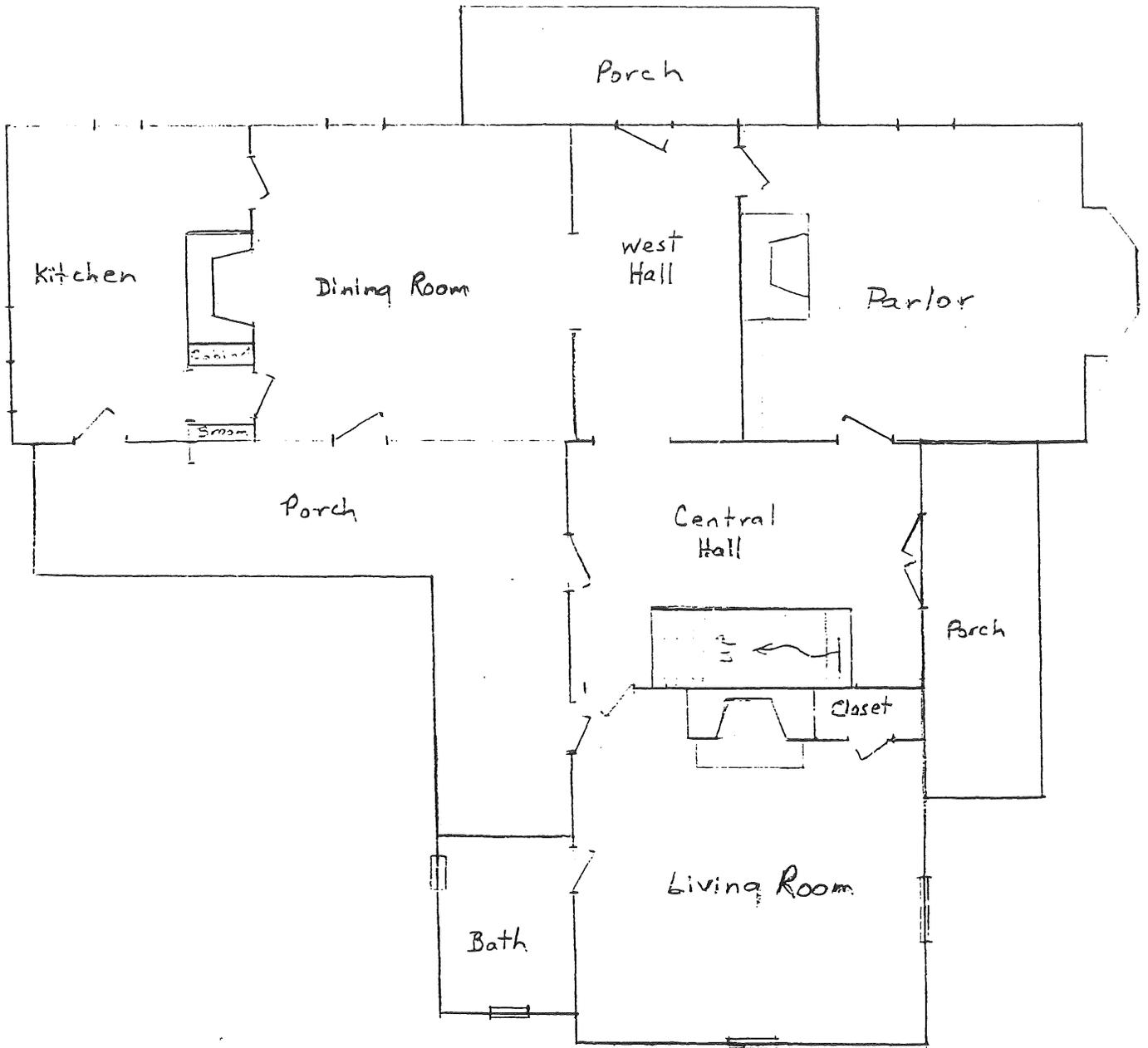
By: \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant/Deputy

I, WILLIAM CONWAY MOOREFIELD CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT WAS DRAWN UNDER MY SUPERVISION FROM AN ACTUAL SURVEY MADE UNDER MY SUPERVISION (DEED DESCRIPTION RECORDED IN BOOK \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE \_\_\_\_\_, ETC.) (OTHER: THAT THE BOUNDARIES NOT SURVEYED ARE CLEARLY INDICATED AS DRAWN FOR INFORMATION FOUND IN BOOK \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE \_\_\_\_\_; THAT THE RATIO OF PRECISION AS CALCULATED IS 1/100000; THAT THIS PLAT WAS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.S. 47-30 AS AMENDED, WITH MY ORIGINAL SIGNATURE, REGISTRATION NUMBER AND SEAL THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_\_\_.

*William Conway Moorefield*  
SURVEYOR L-1215

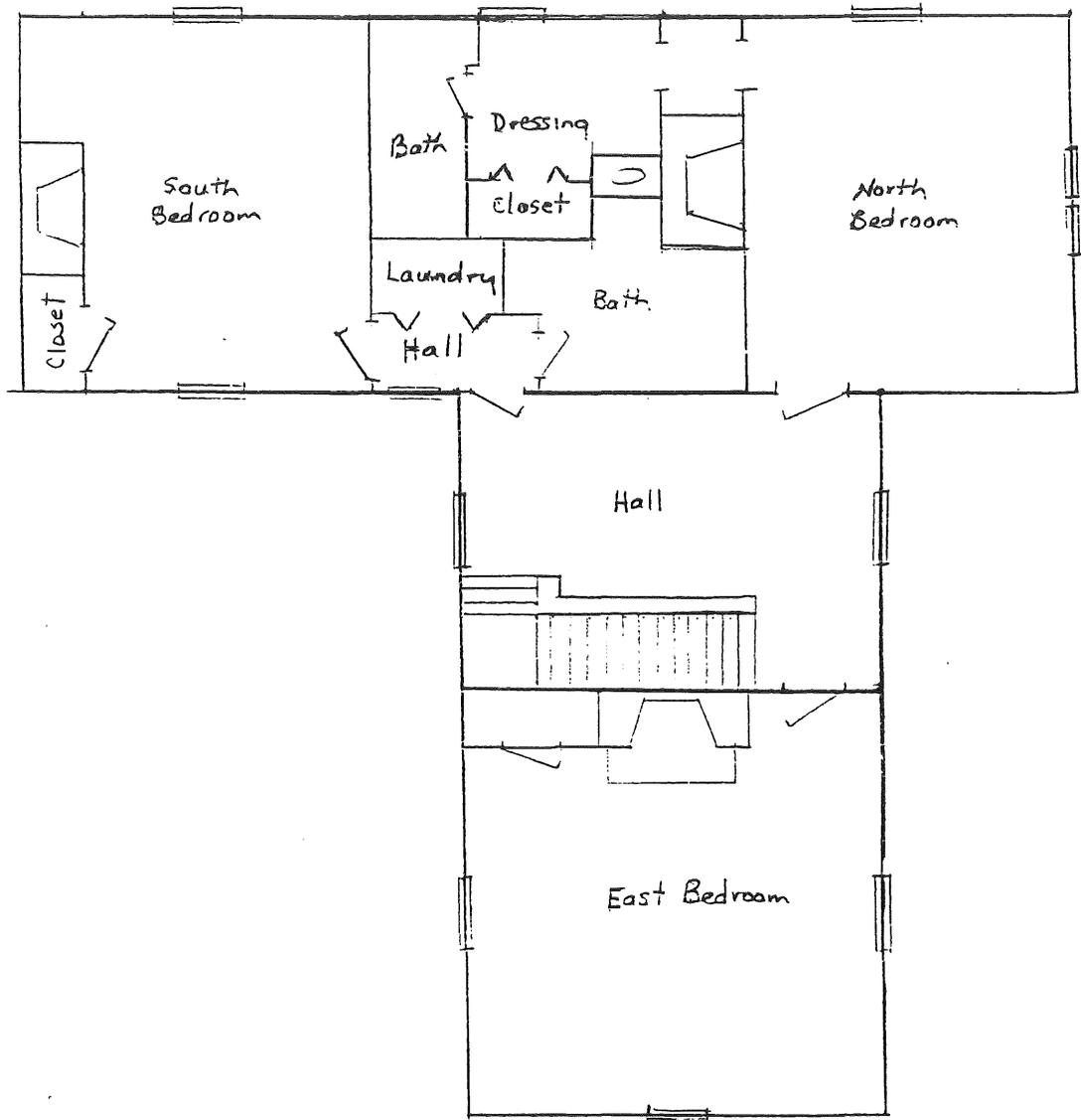


- I, W.C. MOOREFIELD DO CERTIFY THAT THIS MAP IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING, AS INDICATED.
- (A) THIS SURVEY DOES CREATE A SUBDIVISION AS DEFINED BY COUNTY ORDINANCE;
  - (B) THIS PARCEL IS LOCATED IN A UNREGULATED PORTION OF COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY;
  - (C) THIS SURVEY IS OF AN EXISTING PARCEL OR PARCELS OF LAND;
  - (D) THIS SURVEY IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
    - 1 RECOMBINATION OF EXISTING PARCELS;
    - 2 A COURT-ORDERED SURVEY;
    - 3 OTHER EXCEPTION TO THE DEFINITION OF SUBDIVISION
  - (E) I AM UNABLE TO MAKE A DETERMINATION TO THE BEST OF MY PROFESSIONAL ABILITY AS TO PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN (A) THROUGH (D) ABOVE.



First Floor Plan  
 WILDWOOD  
 Caswell County NC

scale  $\frac{1}{4}'' = 2'$



Second Floor Plan  
 WILDWOOD  
 Caswell County, NC

Scale  $\frac{1}{4}'' = 2'$

