

APR 10 1984
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic John Covington Moore House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N side SR 1307, 1.2 mi. west jct w/SR 1328 not for publication

city, town Tusquitee vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state North Carolina code 37 county Clay code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. George Evans

street & number Route 4

city, town Hayesville vicinity of state North Carolina 28904

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Clay County Courthouse

city, town Hayesville, North Carolina 28904 state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Western North Carolina Reconnaissance Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978-1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records N. C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Asheville state North Carolina

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

John C. Moore built his home in the Tusquitee area of Clay County around 1838, shortly after the government's removal of the Cherokee Indians. The story and loft log structure is sited on a small embankment just north of SR 1307 which skirts the northern edge of the broad alluvial valley of Tusquitee Creek, about four miles northeast of the small town and county seat of Hayesville. Against the wooded backdrop of the 4000 foot Tusquitee Mountains, the Moore house faces due south across the broad Tusquitee plain.

The present form of the Moore house is a compact story and loft mass rising from field-stone piers and with a semi-engaged porch across its front, shed rooms across its back, and exterior end chimney and flue. (The east chimney has been replaced with a brick flue.) The present center-hall plan may be the outgrowth of staged construction as one hallway partition contains a log wall, which is quite rare for North Carolina log dwellings. A kitchen ell was removed from the house and replaced by the rear shed rooms in the 1930s.

Records indicate that the house was weatherboarded in 1903, but it is unclear whether this was the initial application or a reapplication. Given the fact that the sheathing on the facade protected by the porch was applied flush--in the mid-nineteenth century manner--one suspects a pre-1903 initial covering.

Five irregularly spaced, slightly tapered square posts support the semi-engaged front porch. A single window with 6/6 sash lights each end room on the facade. Another 6/6 window just west of the centered entrance lights the center hall. Fenestration is the same on each end wall of the log block: 6/6 windows to either side of the chimney/flue on the ground floor and smaller, 4/4 windows to either side lighting the loft. Fenestration on the shed room addition is irregular; the west end of the shed addition is partitioned off into a screened porch.

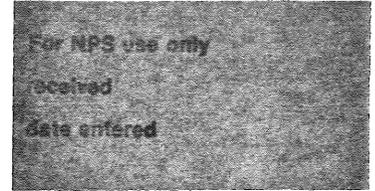
Perhaps the most interesting exterior feature is the stone and brick chimney on the building's west end. This chimney apparently dates from the original construction period and features a stuccoed stone base with painted mortar joints simulating coursed ashlar. A common bond brick shaft rises above the chimney's smooth single shoulders. Though missing its uppermost courses, there is evidence of some corbelling at its head.

Except for some rearranging of secondary partitions within the center hall, the building is completely intact and unaltered within its log walls. The hall is sheathed in vertical poplar boards. At present one turns left upon entering and mounts three steps before encountering the door to the boxed-in stairway to the loft. This diminutive stair door is a well-crafted four-panel composition with raised panels facing into the hall and with a decorative bead along the panel edge of each rail and stile. The doors to the end rooms are similar full-size four-panel creations.

To the rear of the center hall, on the same west side as the stairway, is a small closet of light board partitions. It is these partitions and those enclosing the stairs that appear (from ghost marks on the hall ceiling) to have been rearranged at some point, the effect being an increase in the open area of the hall.

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Continuation sheet DESCRIPTION Item number 7 Page one

Door and window surrounds in the hall, as in the end rooms, are plain boards. All three original ground-floor rooms display broad, unmolded baseboards. East of the center hall, beyond the thick partition containing a log wall, is the principal parlor. The parlor features horizontal poplar sheathing, a post and lintel mantel composition with Federal-reminiscent accents applied at the lintel ends and center built up of diminishing sized blocks, and a bold wall cornice built up of four layers of a simple ogee molding. A small wood heater sits in front of the fire opening which has been sheathed over.

Ghost marks of two windows are apparent on the south wall of the parlor. Along with the log partition between this room and the central hallway, this evidence suggests the possibility that the east end of the house was constructed first as an independent cabin, and later enlarged.

On the east end of the house is the minor parlor or sleeping chamber. This room features a mantel of similar, though diminished, design and a less notable single molding cornice.

The shed addition is undivided except for the porch at its west end. It is sheathed and presently used as a kitchen. The house has no indoor plumbing.

The building's loft is also undivided across its length. It is fully sheathed in broad yellow poplar boards and some later beaded boards.

A cluster of twentieth-century farm buildings immediately across the road from the house has not been included within the nomination boundary.

The John C. Moore house survives relatively intact from the mid-nineteenth century when it housed the family of one of Clay County's first settlers.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1838 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John Covington Moore House in the Tusquitee area of Clay County is among the few surviving houses associated with the exploration and settlement of the North Carolina mountains. The house is a weatherboarded story-and-loft log structure with semi-engaged porch and frame shed rooms and featuring a stone and brick chimney which was stuccoed and painted to simulate coursed ashlar. Built on a center-hall plan, the house displays a virtually intact interior with notable vernacular detailing within its log section. Moore (1811-1902) entered the area and homesteaded among the Cherokee Indians around 1833. He laid claim to land on Tusquitee Creek following the government's removal of the Indians in 1838 and soon after built the present house. In 1861 he was chosen as one of three commissioners for newly-created Clay County. Moore was primarily a small farmer, cultivating about a third of his 300 acres in most seasons. He also had an interest in two area gold mines.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The John C. Moore House is among the few surviving houses associated with the exploration and settlement of the North Carolina mountains.
- B. The Moore house was the home of John C. Moore, generally recognized as Clay County's first white settler and one of three commissioners selected to lay off the county in 1861.
- C. The John C. Moore house is a rare, relatively unaltered example of mid-nineteenth century western North Carolina vernacular architecture.

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The John Covington Moore House is among the oldest surviving examples of mid-nineteenth century folk housing in western North Carolina. It is located about five miles northeast of the Clay County seat of Hayesville; nearby are Tusquittee Creek, a tributary of the Hiwassee River, and the community of Tusquittee. Clay County is in the southwestern corner of North Carolina, bounded by Macon County and Cherokee County, from which it was formed in 1861, and by Rabun County, Georgia. The county, one of the smallest and poorest in the state, is the most rural, with ninety-four percent of the population living outside the small town of Hayesville. The Moore House has several vernacular features, such as a stuccoed chimney and shed porch, which are typical of area housing of both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Originally a log house, the building was weather-boarded in 1903; rear rooms and a tin roof have been added since that time. The primary significance of the structure, aside from its considerable age, is derived from its association with the exploration and settlement of the North Carolina mountains.

John Covington Moore (7 November 1811-23 March 1902) is generally considered by local historians to have been the earliest permanent white settler in the bounds of present-day Clay County.¹ His father, John Moore (1777-1857), and mother, the former Martha Covington, lived in Rutherford County at the time of the birth of their sixth child. The elder John Moore went on to father two more children by his first wife and, after her death and his remarriage, nine by his second wife Susanna. In the 1820s John Moore and his family moved westward to the section of Haywood County which in 1829 became Macon County. In time the aging Moore joined his son in the Tusquittee area and, following the removal of the Cherokee Indians in 1838, purchased some of the newly-opened land. The younger Moore married Mary Bryson (24 October 1813-12 October 1887) of the Mills River section of present-day Henderson County around 1831.² They had six children: William, born in 1833; Sarah, 1836; Joab, 1838; Elizabeth, 1840; Miriam, 1842; and Lethea, 1847. The oldest was born in Henderson County; the rest were born in the present-day Clay County area.³

John C. and Mary Moore moved farther westward very soon after the birth of their son William in 1833. The region was at that time the province of the Cherokees, a situation which was to change within the decade. Although Moore was not met by a welcoming party, his relations with the natives were not altogether hostile. By his own account one member of the tribe did object to his newly-built fences. The result was a fight in which Moore bit and almost severed the Indian's thumb. On another occasion a group of them challenged Moore but retreated after he demonstrated for them the powers of his flintlock rifle. His wife, on the other hand, befriended several Indian women, one of whom often stayed with her when her husband was away from home. In time he came to trust the Cherokees, teaching them various skills and sharing with them fundamental religious principles.⁴ Moore's first house, in the Shooting Creek area, has been described as "an Indian hut."⁵ At some point in the late 1830s or 1840s he acquired land and built his house in the Tusquittee area. The move was precipitated by the government's removal of the Cherokees and the opening of the land in 1838.

Land claimed at the time of the Cherokee land sales was often not officially recorded in court papers until some time later. This was the case with Moore's first Tusquittee tract. Only in February 1848 was it recorded in the Cherokee County Courthouse that Moore had received from the state property on Tusquittee Creek "lately acquired by treaty from the Cherokee Indians and sold in obedience to an Act of the General Assembly." He paid

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\$16.80 for the eighty acres.⁶ However, it is possible that Moore laid claim to, and homesteaded on, the property at any time between 1838 and 1848. In 1859 Moore purchased an adjacent 300-acre tract from Martin Lovelady for \$2,000.⁷ His purchase of the latter was made possible by profit realized from his speculation on land elsewhere in the county. In 1854 he had purchased 120 acres on Brasstown Creek for \$1,200. While removing saplings from the tract to use as fenceposts, he broke his axe on a rock. Picking it up he discovered flecks of gold in the ore. Moore sold the 120-acre tract in 1858 for \$7,000. William Calhoun and William Warne of Nashville, Tennessee, received the property by virtue of a deed which specifically mentioned mineral rights.⁸ The latter operated the Warne Gold Mine for several years. Moore, however, retained an interest in the mine and assumed control of the operation in the 1870s and 1880s. Moore, together with James Allen Shearer, also operated a gold mine at Tusquittee in the same years. In no case, however, were the operations gold mines in the figurative sense. Though the owners may have made a sizable profit in some years, the census records show that production did not exceed \$500 in the years 1870 and 1880.⁹

Moore devoted more of his time to agricultural pursuits but again his investment and production was on a modest scale. Still, he did own slaves, a practice uncommon among most small farmers in western North Carolina. In 1840 he had six bondsmen and in 1850 seven, four of whom were adults. However, in 1860 he only had three, all of whom were children. Moore's primary crop was corn, grown to feed his livestock. He usually produced about 500 bushels for his herds of about a dozen cattle and two dozen swine. Moore had smaller plantings of wheat and other grains, as well as vegetables and staples for his family's use. After the Civil War he planted eighty apple trees on two acres of his farm. In most years before and after the war he kept just over 100 of his 300 acres in cultivation; the greater part of his property remained uncleared. Moore valued his real estate at approximately \$1,500 in 1850 and \$2,100 in 1872.¹⁰ Moore also devoted time to local political and civic-minded activities. He was one of three commissioners appointed to lay off Clay County in 1861; he served as a county commissioner from 1869 to 1872.¹¹ He and his wife were both lifelong Presbyterians and helped organize the first Presbyterian church in Hayesville. Moore was also one of the founders of a private school near his Tusquittee home.¹²

By the end of the Civil War all of Moore's children were grown and most had left home. By 1870 only the two youngest daughters lived with their parents. Joining them were several grandchildren. One of the oldest, Thomas, lived with his grandparents through the 1870s and by 1880, at the age of eighteen, had virtually assumed management of the farm, by now reduced in size to eighty cultivated acres. By that year John C. Moore, sixty-eight years old, had suffered some health problems and was bedridden or somehow disabled.¹³ He apparently did recover, however, since he lived for over twenty years longer and continued to farm in his later years. In 1881 Moore sold 143 acres of his Tusquittee land (but not including the house) to his mining partner James Allen Shearer for \$550.¹⁴ In 1887 his wife Mary died at the age of seventy-four. The aging Moore sometime after her death left his homeplace to live with friends. In 1900 he was a boarder in the home of John Smith of Hayesville. Still he retained ownership of his old house and farm and indicated that his occupation was that of farmer, employed twelve months a year. John Covington Moore died in his ninety-first year, on March 23, 1902, and was laid to rest in the Baptist-Presbyterian Cemetery in Hayesville.¹⁵ Of him one local historian observed, "He saw, I think, more changes and assisted in more enter-

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prises than any other man that ever lived in Clay County, probably than any one in our great state."¹⁶

Moore's death led to the renovation of the house and sale of the property. The house had apparently fallen into disrepair after Moore moved out. S. H. Allison, the administrator of the estate, noted that the house "is needing covering very badly" and proposed to sell the hay and fodder on hand to pay for the construction. In May 1903 C. B. Stiles was paid thirty-five dollars for "covering the Dwelling house, furnishing boards, nails &c. for same." Since Moore had died intestate, Allison encountered a few problems with the settlement of the estate. The grandson, Thomas Moore, claimed to be entitled to an equal share in its division. To back up his claim the young Moore presented a note signed by his grandfather. Depositions presented in opposition to his claim challenged the handwriting; others questioned the soundness of Moore's mind during his final years. Since most of Moore's children lived outside the county and some outside the state, the administrator recommended that the property be sold intact. The house and 103 acres were exposed to public sale on the courthouse steps in October 1904. E. M. Bumgarner was the highest bidder at \$1,600; the bid was adjudged to be a fair one and the transfer was made.¹⁷ The house has had several other owners during the twentieth century and is today owned by George Evans. The structure had remained substantially unchanged since 1904 with the exception of the addition of shed rooms to the rear around 1930 and the replacement of the east end chimney with a new flue.

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NOTES

¹J. V. A. Moore, "J. C. Moore First White Settler on Tusquittee," Asheville Citizen, 16 March 1930; J. Guy Padgett, A History of Clay County, North Carolina (Hayesville, N.C.: Clay County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 9. Padgett notes, "It would be impossible to document this episode, but it seems that no one has contested the distinction awarded to Mr. Moore."

²Elizabeth Jarrett Walton, "John Moore" and "John Covington Moore," in Doris Cline Ward, ed., The Heritage of Old Buncombe County, Volume I (Asheville: Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society, 1981), 280-282; Macon County Deed Book B, pp. 652, 865. The elder John Moore had a particular weakness common to men of his day. He served as chairman of the Macon County Court at its very first meeting on March 25, 1829. Three days later the other justices present ruled: "Ordered by the Court that John Moore Chairman be fined five dollars for drunkenness and disorderly conduct in Court." Macon County Court Minutes, North Carolina State Archives.

³Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule.

⁴Asheville Citizen, 16 March 1930. Late in his life John C. Moore related tales of his exploits among the Indians to J. V. A. Moore, author of the newspaper article.

⁵John Preston Arthur, Western North Carolina: A History, 1730-1913 (Spartanburg: Reprint Co., 1973; originally published, 1914), 286.

⁶Cherokee County Deed Book 4, p. 5.

⁷Cherokee County Deed Book 9, p. 46.

⁸Cherokee County Deed Book 7, p. 522, and Deed Book 8, p. 541; Asheville Citizen, 16 March 1830.

⁹Ninth and Tenth Censuses, 1870, 1880, Manufacturing Schedules; Levi Branson, comp., Branson's North Carolina Business Directory (Raleigh: Branson and Farrar, 1866-1890), 1872, p. 65; 1877-1878, p. 76; and 1884, p. 222.

¹⁰Sixth through Tenth Censuses, 1840-1880, Slave and Agricultural Schedules; Branson's Directory, 1872, p. 65.

¹¹Arthur, Western North Carolina, 205; Branson's Directory, 1869, p. 40, and 1872, p. 64.

¹²Asheville Citizen, 16 March 1930.

¹³Ninth and Tenth Censuses, 1870, 1880, Population and Agricultural Schedules.

¹⁴Clay County Deed Book C, p. 291.

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¹⁵ Eleventh Census, 1900, Population Schedule; Ward, ed., Heritage of Old Buncombe County, 282.

¹⁶ Asheville Citizen, 16 March 1930.

¹⁷ Clay County Estates Records, John C. Moore folder, North Carolina State Archives.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property \pm 0.4 acre

Quadrangle name Hayesville, N. C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	4	7	2	8	0	3	8	8	5	8	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Description by Douglas Swaim, Preservation Specialist, Archives and History
Significance by Michael Hill, Research Specialist, Archives and History

organization Archives and History date April 14, 1983

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 919-733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *William S. Fica, Jr.*

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
_____	date _____
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date _____
Chief of Registration	

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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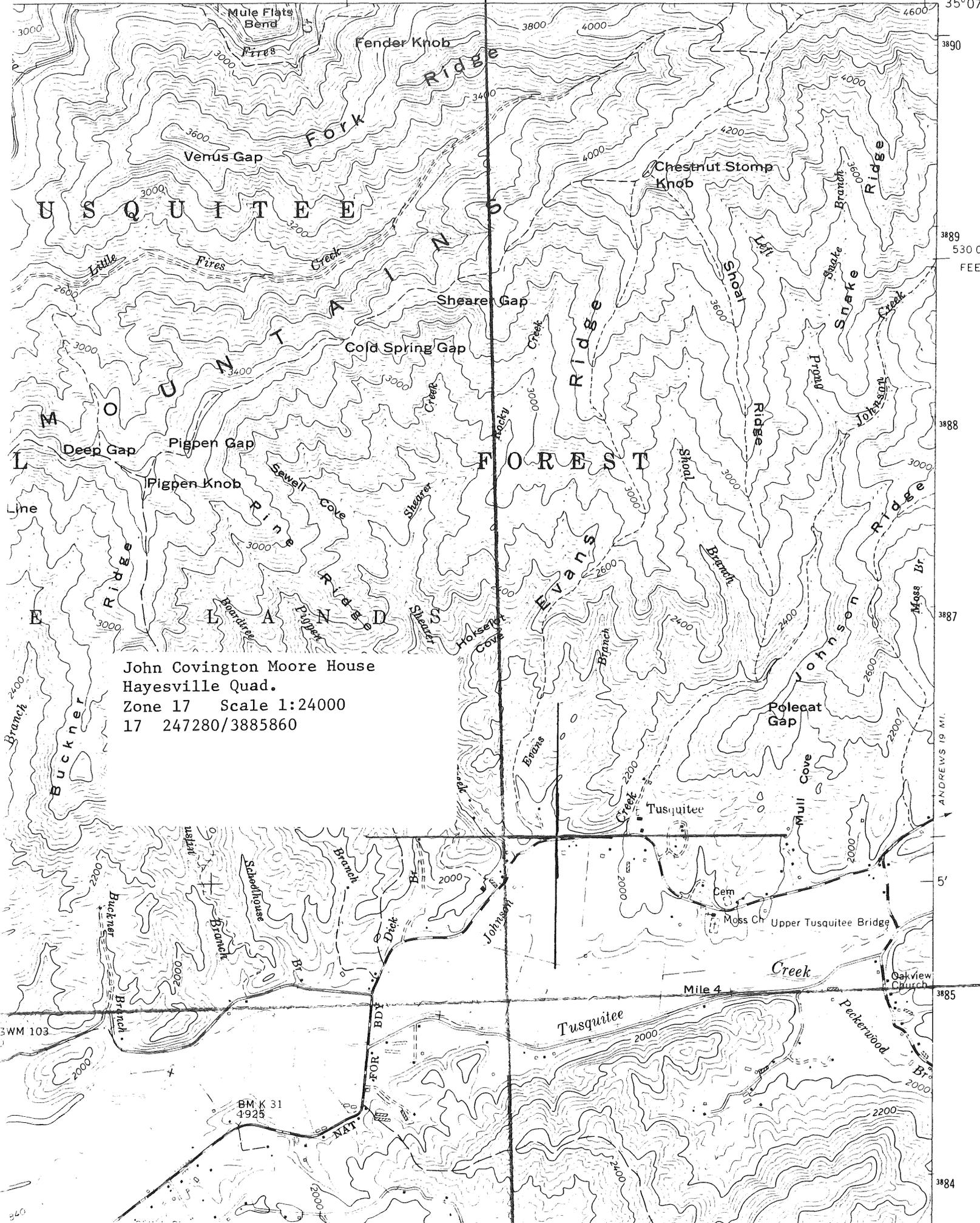
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Powell, William Stevens. The North Carolina Gazetteer. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

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John Covington Moore House
 Hayesville Quad.
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24000
 17 247280/3885860

ANDREWS 19 MI.

5'

3885

3884

3WM 103

BM K 31
4925

FOR. BDY.
NAT.

Mile 4

Tusquitee

Creek

Pederwood Br.

Oakview Church

Upper Tusquitee Bridge

Moss Ch.

Dem.

Tusquitee

Polecat Gap

Mull Cove

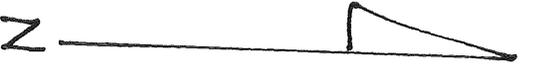
Evans

Johnson

Holsinger Cove

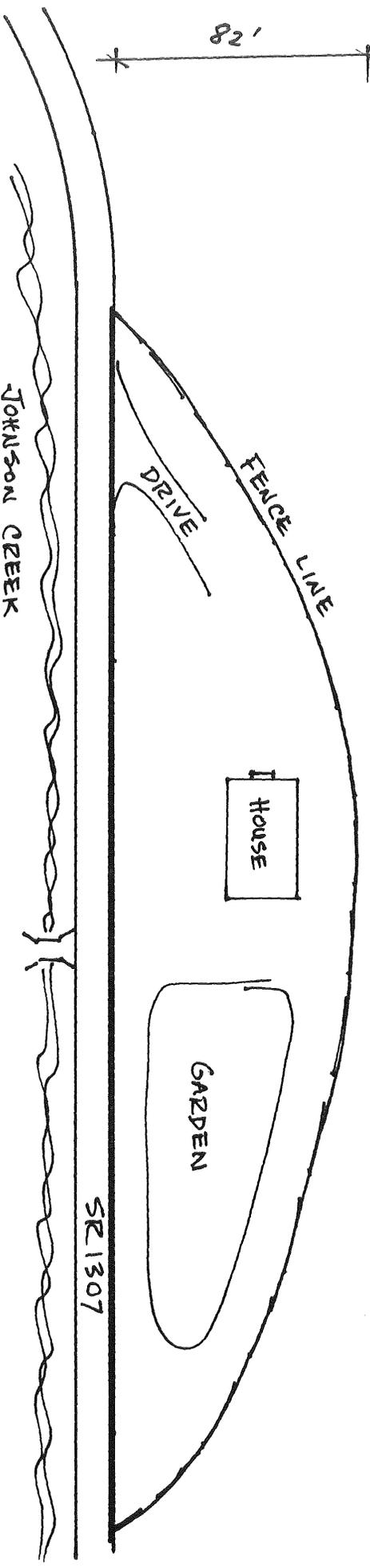
Shearer

TOTHI COVINGTON MOORE HOUSE
N SIDE SR 1307, 1.2 MI. W TOTW/SR 1328
TUSQUITE VICINITY
CLAY COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
(NO OFFICIAL MAP AVAILABLE)



398'

82'



1" = 50'

BOUNDARY OF
NOMINATES PROPERTY

