

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 any 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 McCollum, Reuben Wallace, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2203 South Scales Street

not for publication N/A

city or town Reidsville

vicinity N/A

state North Carolina

code NC

county Rockingham

code 157

zip code 27320

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide XX locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPO 3/13/03
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or 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 or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

McCollum, Reuben Wallace, House
Name of Property

Rockingham County, North Carolina
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	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

<u>DOMESTIC/single dwelling</u>	_____
<u>DOMESTIC/secondary structure</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic Style

Other: log house

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Metal

walls Log

Wood

other Stone

Wood

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet.

McCollum, Reuben Wallace, House
Name of Property

Rockingham County, North Carolina
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.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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

ca. 1921-1928

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder McCollum, Reuben Wallace-builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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: Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC

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Reuben Wallace McCollum House
Rockingham County, North Carolina

Narrative Description

The Reuben Wallace McCollum House, erected in the mid 1920s and occupied by the McCollum family in 1928, is a well-preserved one-story Rustic-style log house standing at 2203 South Scales Street in Reidsville, the second largest city in Rockingham County. The house stands on a residual lot of 1.909 acres, shaded by towering white oak trees, in the southeast corner of South Scales Street (Business US 29) and Freeway Drive (NC 87). Reuben McCollum built the house in the southwest corner of a small tract of 12.53 acres of McCollum family land, fronting on the Greensboro highway (US 29), that was conveyed to him in 1920. The acreage included a small one-story-with-loft nineteenth-century log house that served as his family's residence during the years he was felling trees, removing their bark, curing the logs, and building the house. That house, standing east of the 1920s house and occupied until 1984, is included in this nomination together with a small frame garage/storage building that stands at the north edge of the (back) yard linking the two houses. Through purchase of two adjoining tracts in 1942 and 1946, the McCollums increased their holdings here to approximately 27.20 acres, built a farm pond for fishing and recreation, and added small agricultural outbuildings. This enlarged suburban farm remained intact through the death of Mr. and Mrs. McCollum in 1976 and 1984, respectively, and until the mid-1990s when the North Carolina Department of Transportation condemned the center third of the farm and laid the path of Freeway Drive through it. This action left the two log houses on a very narrow rectangle of land (4.503 acres) on the south side of the new road and physically removed from the farm pond and larger acreage (12.858 acres) on the north side. Subsequent to the road building, the tract was further subdivided by the builder's daughters and the two log houses now occupy a separate tract of 1.909 acres comprising the western part of the lower (southern) holding.

The rectangular residual lot (Figure 1: site plan) comprises the original lawn and essential domestic grounds of the Rustic-style log house, the renovated nineteenth century log house, and the garage/storage building. The original, asphalt-paved drive enters off South Scales Street and carries east along the south property line to a point, about seventy-five feet in front (west) of the house where it is joined by a later, secondary, perpendicular driveway leading north (to Freeway Drive). The front drive to Scales Street is lined by aged pecan trees planted by Mr. McCollum. A semi-circular extension of the drive provides access to the front porch, while an easterly extension continues along the south property line to the back yard, the garage building, and the older log house. Except for the pecan trees, the larger trees are mostly white oaks, and apparently volunteers, as are the dogwoods and cedars. Native woodlands enclose the south and east borders of the nominated acreage. The open, yet shaded, grounds of the house are mowed grass and enhanced with a variety of flowering shrubs including camellias, mahonias, lonicera, japonica, abelia, and weigela, planted individually as specimens and in grouped arrangements. To the

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Reuben Wallace McCollum House
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north of the house, an informal grove including apple trees, cedar, and a *Magnolia soulangeana* forms a mature border. The main foundation plantings at the house are paired abelia at either side of the front steps.

Rectangular in form with front and rear elevations measuring forty-nine feet in width and side elevations of approximately thirty-two feet, the Reuben Wallace McCollum House is a one-story, two-pile log dwelling, standing on a mortared quarried stone foundation and covered with a hipped roof of painted (red) standing seam metal. The round logs, skinned of their bark and chinked with concrete, are laid up in a saddle-notch joint with short projecting ends of uniform length. The front elevation, facing west, has a general three-bay division with the front porch recessed between symmetrical bays holding paired six-over-one sash windows in plain board surrounds. The foundation, built principally of stone from the Penn family quarries which supplied the stone for their Rockingham County mansion Chinqua-Penn (NR, 1993), engages a low perimeter apron across the front of the porch and the ends flanking the three centered stone steps; the apron balustrade and the ends are finished with a concrete cap. The house's main chimney and two flue stacks are also (faced?) of like quarried stone. The porch floor is painted wood and the ceiling is sheathed with tongue-and-groove ceiling. The main entrance, centered in the west wall and flanked by single six-over-six sash windows, is fitted with a nine-pane above three-panel door, while a second doorway in the south wall opening into the front (master) bedroom is fitted with a fifteen-pane French door; both retain their original screened doors with spindle friezes. The door and window surrounds are painted white, as are the sash, while the doors are painted brown, and this scheme is continued on the exterior. A low, hipped roof dormer is centered above the entrance and fitted with a trio of four-pane sash; it is sheathed with German siding.

The north and south side elevations were originally of like appearance; however, the two-bay log wall of the north elevation was covered with board and batten, ca. 1955, probably for insulation. A long horizontal opening, fitted with a trio of six-over-one sash windows, illuminates the dining room in the northwest corner of the house, while an opening, above the sink in the kitchen to the east, is fitted with paired six-over-one sash windows. The south elevation of the house retains its original appearance. Here, in the bedroom wing, the three partition walls defining closets between the two bedrooms and the bathroom at its east end, are reflected on the exterior where the log ends project in vertical tiers. Single window openings in the end bays illuminate the master bedroom and the bathroom, in the southwest and southeast corners, respectively, and frame the larger opening in the center bay that is fitted with paired six-over-one sash.

The rear elevation also has a generally symmetrical three-bay appearance. In the 1930s, the recessed porch in the center bay was enclosed (as a third bedroom) and sheathed with board and

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Reuben Wallace McCollum House
Rockingham County, North Carolina

batten. A large opening in the center of the new wall was fitted with a trio of six-over-six sash. The doorway, centered in the north bay, opens onto a passage giving into the kitchen, while a doorway, located at the right edge of the south bay, against the enclosure, opens into a long hall serving the bedroom wing. Both are fitted with nine-pane above three-horizontal panel doors and screened doors.

The H-shape plan interior of the house has a warm, mellow appearance imparted by the rich coloration of the logs (Figure 2: floor plan). Except for the kitchen, dining room, and bathroom, and the enclosed rear porch, the walls of the rooms and hall are chinked horizontal logs. The living room floor is oak while the others are pine. The plain board door and window surrounds are varnished pine in the living room and painted elsewhere; the doors are two-panel. The ceilings are sheathed with painted tongue-and-groove ceiling. The central front door opens directly in the living room, which has the most developed interior finish. Due east, on axis, and centered in the east wall, the stone fireplace and chimney breast are flanked by paired six-pane casement windows that originally opened onto the rear porch. The chimney is built of large-scale quarried stones while the engaged stone mantel is laid up of smaller stones, which are also used to enframe the firebox and support a shallow concrete shelf. Doorways in the north and south walls open into the dining room and bedroom wing hall, respectively.

The dining room and kitchen are located in the north tier of rooms. The walls of the dining room are plastered and fitted with a molded top baseboard. The two-panel swinging wood door linking the dining room with the kitchen has been taken down. The kitchen has sheet vinyl flooring and vertical tongue-and-groove wainscot with molded baseboards and chair rails on three walls with plaster above. The fourth, north wall is fitted with a countertop cabinet holding the original enamel-on-cast-iron sink. Wall-hung cabinets flank the window. A doorway in the kitchen's east wall opens into the passage, the pantry in the house's northeast corner, and the exterior service door. A doorway, with a two-panel door, in the kitchen's south wall opens into the room enclosed as a bedroom and long since used as a den/sitting room which is finished with sheet vinyl flooring and plaster walls.

The south wing of the McCollum House contains two bedrooms and a bathroom that are served by a long hall carrying on an east/west axis. The larger master bedroom in the southwest corner of the house is finished with wall board that was added for insulation and (winter) warmth. The "middle" bedroom has exposed log walls as does the hall. Both bedrooms are fitted with closets located on either side of a stone flue. The bathroom, with sheet vinyl flooring and wall board on its walls, retains its original tub and wall-hung sink.

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Reuben Wallace McCollum House
Rockingham County, North Carolina

Nineteenth Century Log House
ca. 1850-1875; 1921-1928
Contributing building

The precise date and origins of this one-story-with-loft log house are uncertain. Whether it was built prior to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 and was then home to a slave stonemason named Cicero "Bob", and/or was home to Cicero McCollum afterward is not now known; however, his name appears etched in the mortar of the stone chimney at its east gable end, and a strong family tradition associates him and his profession with the house. The house was standing here in 1920 when a small tract of the McCollum family lands was conveyed to Reuben Wallace McCollum. Its known history begins a year or so later when he renovated the house as a residence for himself and his wife. Among the improvements Mr. McCollum made was the enclosure of the breezeway linking the house to its frame kitchen, thereby creating a dining room, and the installation of new and larger windows. The couple's younger daughter was born in this house on 12 September 1924; the family lived here until occupying their new log house in 1928. With these alterations, the house became a guest house to the new main house. It achieves contributing status because it was reworked during the early 1920s as an outbuilding to the main house. The house was next the home of Mrs. McCollum's parents, Andrew Whimsett (1847-1945) and Hannah Minta (Lum) Davis (1861-1938) until their deaths. When Joe Aheron, an employee of Mr. McCollum's business, came to live here in the 1950s with his wife Louise and their family, the log walls of the house, below the always weatherboarded gable ends, were sheathed with board and batten and a shed-roof addition made along the east side of the kitchen/dining room ell containing a small room and a bathroom. The Aherons remained on the place, as retainers, until the death of Mrs. McCollum in 1984. The house has stood vacant or used for storage to the present. The addition of the board-and-batten sheathing in the 1950s was made because of the gradual erosion of the clay chinking between the logs and to make the house more weather-tight. The siding of board and batten was typically used in the mid-twentieth century for such secondary residences. Its net effect was to preserve the historic fabric of the mid-nineteenth century log house without compromising its integrity as might have occurred if the clay chinking had been removed and replaced with concrete chinking.

The small house consists of two blocks sheathed with board and batten and covered with sheet metal gable roofs. The one-story-with-loft log block, nearly square in plan and measuring about eighteen feet on each side, faces south. The centered front door and a six-over-six sash window to the east are sheltered by a simple shed roof porch with a wood floor and supports. A horizontal opening, installed above the entrance and the porch roof, holds paired four-pane windows illuminating the loft. Its west gable end has large openings at each level containing paired six-over-six sash windows in a plain board surround. The house's east gable end is

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dominated by the mortared stone chimney with a brick stack in the center of the wall. "Cicero McCollum" is inscribed in the mortar near its single shoulders. A four-pane window is set in the loft gable end, south of the stack. The one-story ell has a two-bay west elevation with nine-pane above three-pane door opening into the dining area and a window to the north in the kitchen end. The ell's north gable end is blind. A concrete flue stack stands near its original east edge where a small shed addition was made (to house a part of the bathroom and closet/storage area). The east side of the ell, added as a shed in the 1950s, includes a nine-pane above three-panel door in the north half and a quartet of windows forming a horizontal band in the south half.

The interior of the nineteenth century house has floor, wall, and ceiling coverings, dating from the 1920s to ca. 1980 and applied over the original fabric, and some visible nineteenth century features. The most important of these is the original enclosed stair in the northeast corner of the house that retains its original board-and-rail door and a small closet under the corner landing that is also fitted with a board-and-rail door. The ceiling in the living room features exposed beams (second-story floor joists).

Garage/Storage Building
ca. 1920s-1950s
Noncontributing building

Having an insubstantial, additive appearance and a combination of materials including board and batten, weatherboarding, and other sheathing, this one-story rectangular frame building is covered with a sheet metal shed roof. The south front has an apparent four-bay arrangement with, moving west to east, an open-front garage, a garage protected by paired wood, horizontally sheathed doors, an enclosed shop area, and an open storage area at its east end. The garage is noncontributing because it is extremely deteriorated.

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Summary

The Reuben Wallace McCollum House, a small one-story Rustic-style log house erected in the mid-1920s by Mr. McCollum and occupied by his family in 1928, holds an important place in the architectural history of Rockingham County. The significance of the house, within the context of the county's long tradition of domestic log construction, was defined in a promotional tabloid published in the REIDSVILLE REVIEW in 1937 wherein a photograph of the house bore the caption "An idyllic type of log-cabin farm house that is to be seen so recurrently in Rockingham County." While built of logs felled on the McCollum lands, following the practice of other builders of log houses in the county since the mid-eighteenth century, and incorporating stone from the Penn quarries, the McCollum House reflects both local building traditions and the broader national interest in Rustic-style log construction. The house was completed in 1928, the same year that the first edition of THE REAL LOG CABIN, a guidebook for the prospective builder of a log house, appeared. Interest in log construction, for permanent and summer houses, was so strong that Macmillan reprinted the book ten times in the fifteen years up to November 1943. The Reuben Wallace McCollum House satisfies National Register Criterion C and holds local significance in the area of architecture. The significance of this property is enhanced by Mr. McCollum's obvious affection for the log building tradition in Rockingham County, expressed in his refitting of an existing ca. 1850-1875 log house on the family lands as a temporary residence for his own family, and by the family's stewardship of both houses to the present. The period of significance begins ca. 1921, when Mr. McCollum renovated the nineteenth-century log house as a temporary residence while building this house, and ends in 1928 with the family's occupation of their new Rustic-style log house.

Reuben Wallace McCollum (1891-1976), the founder of the R. W. McCollum Company, Inc., distributors and servicers of tank trailers, descended from a family that has lived in what is now Rockingham County since the mid-eighteenth century. On New Year's Day 1914 he married Clara Amelia Davis (1892-1984). The couple lived here until their deaths, and the house remains the property of their two daughters.

Historical Background

While the McCollum family has resided in what is now Rockingham County since the mid-eighteenth century, when the area was a part of colonial Orange County, their occupation of this property probably dates to the antebellum period. The first member of the McCollum family who is known to have lived here, on the larger lands of which the nominated acreage is a residual

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part, was David McCollum (ca. 1819-1909), the great-grandson of the pioneer settler Daniel McCollum (____-1779).¹ At present it is unclear whether this property was a part of the lands that he received from his father, property he bought of his own initiative, or property that might have come into his possession from Bailey Martin, his father-in-law and his neighbor in 1860 (United States Census, Rockingham County, NC). David McCollum built a house on this property which he occupied until his death in 1909. For periods of time the house was also home to his son Daniel Bailey McCollum (1869-1904), and his grandsons Turner Balsley McCollum and Reuben Wallace McCollum. That house stood on the west side of Scales Street, nearly opposite the log house built on the east side of Scales Street by Reuben Wallace McCollum, until the early 1930s when it was sold out of the family and subsequently moved west and back on its lot.

Among the outbuildings on David McCollum's farm is the one-story-with-loft mid-nineteenth century log house that stands on its original site here to the east (rear) of the Reuben Wallace McCollum House. Said to have been the residence of a slave stonemason, Cicero (or) "Bob" McCollum, who figures prominently in McCollum family tradition, the house was also the residence of Mr. McCollum and his family in the 1920s while he was building his modern log house. At present, the dates and specifics of Cicero McCollum's life have not been confirmed; the chief evidence of his existence is the appearance of his name etched in the mortar of the fieldstone chimney standing on the east gable end of the house. David McCollum (I), in his will written on 2 September 1833 and probated in February 1834, bequeathed "to my son Daniel McCollum two negroes named Bob and Mary" (Rockingham County Wills, Book B, 91-92). Whether this slave was the stonemason, credited in family tradition with the construction of dozens of fieldstone chimneys in the area, has not been confirmed, neither has the discrepancy been resolved between the tradition associated with "Bob," who is said to have lived in this house, and the appearance of "Cicero McCollum" in the chimney mortar.²

David McCollum (ca. 1819-1909) and his wife were the parents of three known children: Mary J. "Mollie"; James Reuben McCollum; and Daniel Bailey. Daniel Bailey McCollum (1869-1904), the youngest of the three, married Cora Adylene Turner (1870-1954) in 1888, and with her became the father of five children before his death in 1904. Their first child, Turner Balsley McCollum (1890-1983), was followed by a second son, Reuben Wallace McCollum, born on 27 June 1891, and three daughters.

In his obituary, published in the GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS on 30 November 1976, Reuben Wallace McCollum was described as having "spent his entire life on the McCollum Farm, south of Reidsville." He was educated in local schools and on New Year's Day 1914 he married Clara Amelia Davis (1892-1984), the daughter of Andrew W. Davis of Merry Point, Lancaster County,

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Virginia. When married Mr. McCollum was a manufacturer's representative, selling gasoline pumps; Mrs. McCollum was teaching at the Happy Home School at Nance, Rockingham County. The account of the marriage ceremony published in the REIDSVILLE WEEKLY informed readers "They will reside three miles south of Reidsville, at the groom's old home on his farm, after April 1st." They were living there when the first of their two daughters, Clara Adylene, was born on 4 July 1915. The McCollums relocated to Mississippi for a brief period after which they moved back to Rockingham County and to Reidsville where they lived until 1921 when they moved back onto the family farm.

Their move back to the family farm in 1921 followed on the settlement of a civil suit to divide the portion of the David McCollum family lands that would have come to Daniel Bailey McCollum's heirs. A commissioner sold the 123.74 acres in three tracts by private sale to the late Mr. McCollum's three sons. Reuben Wallace McCollum acquired the smallest of the three tracts, a parcel of 12.53 acres on the east side of the Reidsville/Greensboro highway (now South Scales Street) that includes the site of this house and the nominated acreage, for \$1,253 (Rockingham County Deeds, 206/103).³ Reuben McCollum and his family lived with his brother in the homeplace while he undertook improvements to the nineteenth-century log house, enclosing the breezeway between the house and its one-story frame kitchen. Mr. and Mrs. McCollum and their daughter Adylene were living in the renovated log house when the couple's second daughter, Minta Wallace McCollum, was born there on 12 September 1924.

Preparations for the construction of the family's new log house were begun in the early 1920s, when trees were felled on the property, and logs skinned of their bark. Construction of the house occupied several years and it was not until the summer of 1928 that the family occupied the new log house. The nineteenth-century log house then became the residence of Mrs. McCollum's parents, Andrew Whimsett Davis (1847-1945) and Hannah Minta (Lum) Davis (1861-1938), who lived there until their deaths. In 1939 the two houses and their 12.53-acre grounds were placed in the ownership of Mrs. McCollum (Rockingham County Deeds, 331/501). In the 1940s the McCollums enlarged their property here through two purchases totaling 13.67 acres (Rockingham County Deeds, 337/600-601 and 374/503).

Reuben McCollum and his wife Clara occupied the log house from 1928 until their deaths in 1976 and 1984, respectively. During this period Mr. McCollum continued his work in truck and transportation equipment sales. Working as an equipment jobber in 1938 he was appointed a distributor for Heil truck tanks and he prospered in the 1940s as a dealer in tandem-axle trailer transport tanks, serving the petroleum and chemical industries. In 1952 his business operations were incorporated as the R. W. McCollum Company, Inc., specializing in both sales and servicing of tanker transports and related equipment. That same year Mrs. McCollum retired

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after a career of thirty-six years teaching in the Rockingham County public schools. In 1962 Mr. McCollum sold the business to four employees, including his son-in-law Richard Robertson Saunders and Clyde T. Suddreth, and retired from the concern in 1963. Messrs. Saunders and Suddreth, the surviving partners, sold R. W. McCollum Company, Incorporated, in 1990 to David Cook, who continues the business.

Reuben Wallace McCollum died on 30 November 1976 and was buried in Greenview Cemetery, Reidsville. His widow was his sole heir (Rockingham County Wills, 76-E-452). Clara McCollum lived here until her death on 24 January 1984. By her will she devised her entire estate, real and personal, in equal shares to her two daughters (Rockingham County Wills, 84-E-104).

For nearly a decade after the death of Mrs. McCollum the two sisters held their childhood home and its acreage in undivided shares. For periods the house was occupied by caretakers rent-free. In the mid 1990s the North Carolina Department of Transportation undertook a road project, the construction of Freeway Drive as a re-routing of NC 87, that effectively took one-third of the sisters' holding. The property assembled by Mr. McCollum in three acquisitions between 1920 and 1946 comprised a long rectangle fronting on South Scales Street with the family residence in its southwest corner. During planning for the road project the McCollum property was resurveyed as 25.765 acres. The State of North Carolina took possession of a long narrow rectangular tract of 8.404 acres through the lower center of the holding for the path and right-of-way of Freeway Drive. This cleaving left a rectangular tract of 12.858 acres on the north side of Freeway Drive and a long, very narrow parcel of 4.503 acres, including the two log houses, on the south side of the new road. The tract was further subdivided, and the Reuben Wallace McCollum House, standing in a sheltering grove of aged white oak trees, and the nineteenth-century log house now occupy a residual tract of 1.909 acres in the southeast corner of Freeway Drive (NC 87) and South Scales Street (Business US 29). Owned by the sisters and occupied by a caretaker, the house is being considered for sale with preservation covenants through Preservation North Carolina.

Architectural Significance

In 1937 the REIDSVILLE REVIEW published a special sixteen-page "National Publicity Rotogravure Industrial Section" to promote the industrial, commercial, and agricultural advancement of Rockingham County and to encourage investment. A photograph of the Reuben Wallace McCollum House appeared in the two-page center-spread, "Rockingham County Farms Yields Big 'Money' Crops," where it was described as "An idyllic type of log-cabin farm house that is to be seen so recurrently in Rockingham County." The caption paid homage to the many log houses in the county where log construction persisted as a traditional form of rural domestic

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architecture from the eighteenth century throughout the nineteenth century. During that period, and well into the twentieth century, the log walls of many, if not most, of these houses remained visible to residents and passers-by. By the mid-twentieth century the elevations of many of these log houses were sheathed with weatherboards. One such example is the nineteenth-century log house standing on this property that was occupied by retainers both before and after members of the McCollum and Davis families lived in it from the early 1920s to 1945. Flanked on one or both gable ends by large fieldstone chimneys, the houses punctuated the rural agrarian landscape where tobacco was the principal cash crop. The log house was not alone in the countryside; it stood as the center of a complex of buildings, housing the activities of farms large and small, and here the log tobacco barn was the most pervasive structure.

By defining the McCollum House as “An idyllic type of log-cabin farm house,” the newspaper editor perceived it as standing apart from the usual log dwelling in Rockingham County, and so it did. Reuben Wallace McCollum deliberately chose to build a modern log house, one that reflected the mythology of the Rustic style and the opportunity of choice rather than humble necessity. That said, however, he was mindful of the long tradition of log construction in the county, and he deferred to it through the renewal of an existing log house on his property as his family’s residence while he was building his new log house. It, in turn, served as the home of Mrs. McCollum’s parents until their deaths.

The McCollum House represents a strong appreciation for native materials and individual craftsmanship which informed a small, appealing body of (mostly) residential buildings in North Carolina that were erected as primary or seasonal (mostly mountain) dwellings in the opening decades of the twentieth century. The rise of the Rustic style was coincident with the Arts and Crafts movement and the growing efforts to preserve portions of the American wilderness as national parks at the turn of the twentieth century. The earliest known examples of the modern Rustic-style log house in North Carolina date from that period. Two important ca. 1900 log houses, designed by Richard Sharp Smith and erected in Buncombe County, were published in *MY SKETCH BOOK*, a promotional monograph, in 1901.⁴ The larger of the two log houses, containing “7 nice rooms and hall,” was built on “Beaumont (probably Beaucatcher) Mountain” for Dr. Samuel Westray Battle (1854-1927), a prominent Asheville physician who is believed to have counted Mr. Vanderbilt’s mother as a patient. Susan Chester Lyman’s one-and-a-half-story log bungalow contained “5 rooms,” and it may have been a part of her Log Cabin Social Settlement where she operated a mission weaving program (*CABINS & CASTLES*, 24). Probably contemporary with the above was a one-and-a-half-story log summer cottage built for industrialist Julian Shakespeare Carr (1854-1924) on his Oconeechee Farm, near Hillsborough, North Carolina.

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Research on Rustic-style buildings in North Carolina is still in its infancy, and there are few known documented log buildings between these early examples and the substantial group erected in the 1920s and 1930s, including the McCollum House. A particular penchant for the Rustic mode developed in the summer colonies of western North Carolina, and particularly in Highlands where Joe Webb (1881-1950) erected an important group of summer cottages on the model of the 1925 Baldwin cottage which is believed to be the prototype for the series (see the pending National Register nomination for the Baldwin-Coker Cottage, Macon County, NC, 2002). The round log and saddle-notch construction utilized by Mr. McCollum here was the most popular mode of the period and was utilized for both summer and permanent residences, summer camps including Camp Sequoyah at Asheville, and roadside tourist accommodations including Marshall's Cottages in Hendersonville, the Log Cabin Motor Court on the Weaverville Highway in Asheville, and in 1940 at the Snowbird Mountain Lodge in Graham County (NR, 1993). The Rustic-style round log mode was also utilized in the construction of the Glen Choga Lodge at Aquone in Macon County (NR, 1996). The smaller Rustic log dwellings were probably built from published plan books, including THE REAL LOG CABIN, or magazines that were in wide circulation.

The McCollum House is one of a small number of permanent log residences known to have been erected in central and eastern North Carolina in the 1920s. Most of these houses were one-story in height and relatively small, like the McCollum House that contains living and dining rooms, a kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bathroom. They obviously appealed to builders of a certain sensibility, and usually served as homes to relatively small families. Because of their scale and usually limited provisions for closets and storage, they have not proven to be easily adaptable to conventional later-twentieth century lifestyles; additions to them are often unsympathetic.⁵ Thus the well preserved condition of the McCollum House, where the only significant change has been the enclosure of the rear porch, is all the more remarkable.

When this nomination was undertaken in 2001, at least one other, smaller ca. 1930s hip-roof log house stood in Rockingham County and a picturesque log filling station/country store stood on the north side of US 158, a short distance south of the Rockingham/Guilford County line in northwest Guilford County. The small log house survives today, in the southeast corner of NC 87 and Conner Road (SR 2053) in northwest Reidsville; however, the altogether more prepossessing log filling station was demolished this year.

As a rare twentieth-century Rustic-style log house in Rockingham County, the Reuben Wallace McCollum House is an important early example in North Carolina of a house form that enjoyed national popularity in the interwar period. In 1918, the Minneapolis-based architect Chilson Darragh Aldrich (1876-1948), who until then had a largely conventional residential practice,

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Reuben Wallace McCollum House
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undertook a specialization in log cabins, camps, and summer houses (WHO WAS WHO IN AMERICA, Volume II, 20). A decade of experience reached fruition in 1928 with the publication of his THE REAL LOG CABIN, a how-to guidebook for the prospective builder of a log house. It was reissued by Macmillan in ten reprintings up to November 1943. The popularity of this book reflected a broad interest in log construction that continued in the years after the war when, in 1948, Macmillan also published the first edition of a second guide for the log cabin builder, LOG CABINS by William Elmer Swanson (1893-19__). By then Reuben Wallace McCollum and his family had enjoyed their log house for twenty years, and it had become an architectural landmark in Rockingham County.

Endnotes

1. Daniel McCollum came to this part of North Carolina in about the 1750s; he is believed to have settled on lands at or near Jacobs Creek and the Dan River, in west central Rockingham County, a few miles west/southwest of Wentworth, the county seat. Property of this description was the home plantation of his only known son and heir David McCollum (ca. 1763-1833/1834). The immigrant's grandson Daniel McCollum (ca. 1796-ca. 1868) also lived on acreage watered by Jacobs Creek for a period after his marriage in 1817 to Celia "Selah" Simpson. Daniel McCollum (II) later acquired property in the southeast corner of Rockingham County at the confluence of Troublesome Creek and the Haw River. There (or nearby) he built a two-story house on the Mizpah Church Road that stood into the opening decades of the twentieth century. That property is located some few miles southeast of the nominated acreage. In his will, written on 12 September 1867, Daniel McCollum directs his executor to sell "my plantation lying on Big Troublesome Creek and Haw River" and divide the return among seven named heirs. "That tract of land on which I now live" was devised to his wife's use, then to pass to their son Cummings McCollum. In the final item of his will Daniel McCollum wrote "I having considered my son David Collum interim, and that he has already received a full share of my estate, I cant justify leaving him any more" (Rockingham County Wills, Book E, 4-6).
2. In the 1850 Slave Schedule for Rockingham County, Daniel McCollum is listed as the owner of six slaves, the oldest of whom is a black male aged forty-eight years. In the 1860 Slave Schedule two men by the name of "Daniel McCollum" owned slaves in Rockingham County; one owned eight slaves and the other nine. In neither case do the ages of the slaves bear specific coordination with the ages of the slaves in the 1850 schedule. At present, and for the purposes of this nomination, the strong family tradition, passed by David McCollum (II) to his grandson Reuben Wallace McCollum and by him to his daughter Minta McC. Saunders, has not found its footing in historical documentation. Nevertheless, the tradition is repeated

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here because of its endurance and for the possibility that later research may prove the tradition and the associations of a skilled and prolific slave stonemason with this place and the nineteenth-century log house that stands as an outbuilding to the rear of a twentieth-century log dwelling.

3. The house occupied by David McCollum at his death in 1909 and afterward by members of his family, together with 61.23 acres, was sold to Turner Balsley McCollum for \$7,000 while the third tract of 49.98 acres was sold to Clyde D. McCollum for \$3,747 (Rockingham County Deeds, 206/103-104). Presumably the aggregate sum of \$12,000 realized for the real estate was divided between Adylene McCollum and her three daughters.
4. Smith (1852-1924), an English-born architect in the New York office of Richard Morris Hunt, came to Asheville in 1890 to supervise the construction of Biltmore House for George Vanderbilt. After the essential completion of the mansion in the summer of 1896, Mr. Smith opened his own architectural office in Asheville and enjoyed a successful practice until his death.
5. In a number of cases the log elevations were sheathed with weatherboards or manufactured siding for insulation, and today those historic interwar period log houses are effectively lost to notice. One instance of this process in Rockingham County bears mention. In 1937 Richard Robertson Saunders, senior, (1885-1947), then resident on Main Street in Reidsville, erected a log cabin of approximately the same size as the McCollum House as a retreat on his farm to the west of Reidsville, on the Old Wentworth Road adjoining the lands of Chinqua-Penn. He also built a smaller log cabin there as a guest house/caretaker's quarters. After his death the log cabin retreat was sold out of his family. Manufactured siding has been applied over its log elevations and other changes made, effectively compromising its character. The fate of the small cottage is not known. Mr. Saunders' son, Richard Robertson Saunders, married Minta Wallace McCollum in 1944.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

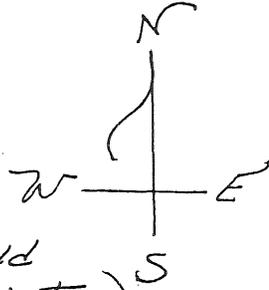
Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated acreage, a tract of 1.909 acres, is the parcel bearing property identification number 8903-0024-6022 in the Rockingham County Tax Mapping Office. It is the parcel labeled "3A" on the enclosed map of the "Property of Adylene M. Burch & Minta M. Saunders" prepared by Obie M. Chambers & Associates and dated 23 March 1995.

Boundary Justification: The nominated acreage (1.909 acres) comprises the site, setting, and domestic grounds of the Reuben Wallace McCollum House and its outbuildings. The parcel, slightly less than one-half of the 4.503 acre-tract separated from the larger McCollum farm by the construction of Freeway Drive, has been set apart by the owners (daughters of Mr. McCollum) who anticipate selling the house and nominated acreage with preservation covenants.

Figure 1

Reuben Wallace McCollum Noise
Site Plan
Drawn by David Ford Hood
8 January 2003

Based on map of McCollum Property
prepared 23 March 1995
by Obie M. Chambers Associates
Scale 1" = 100'



(Acreage also held
by McCollum sisters)

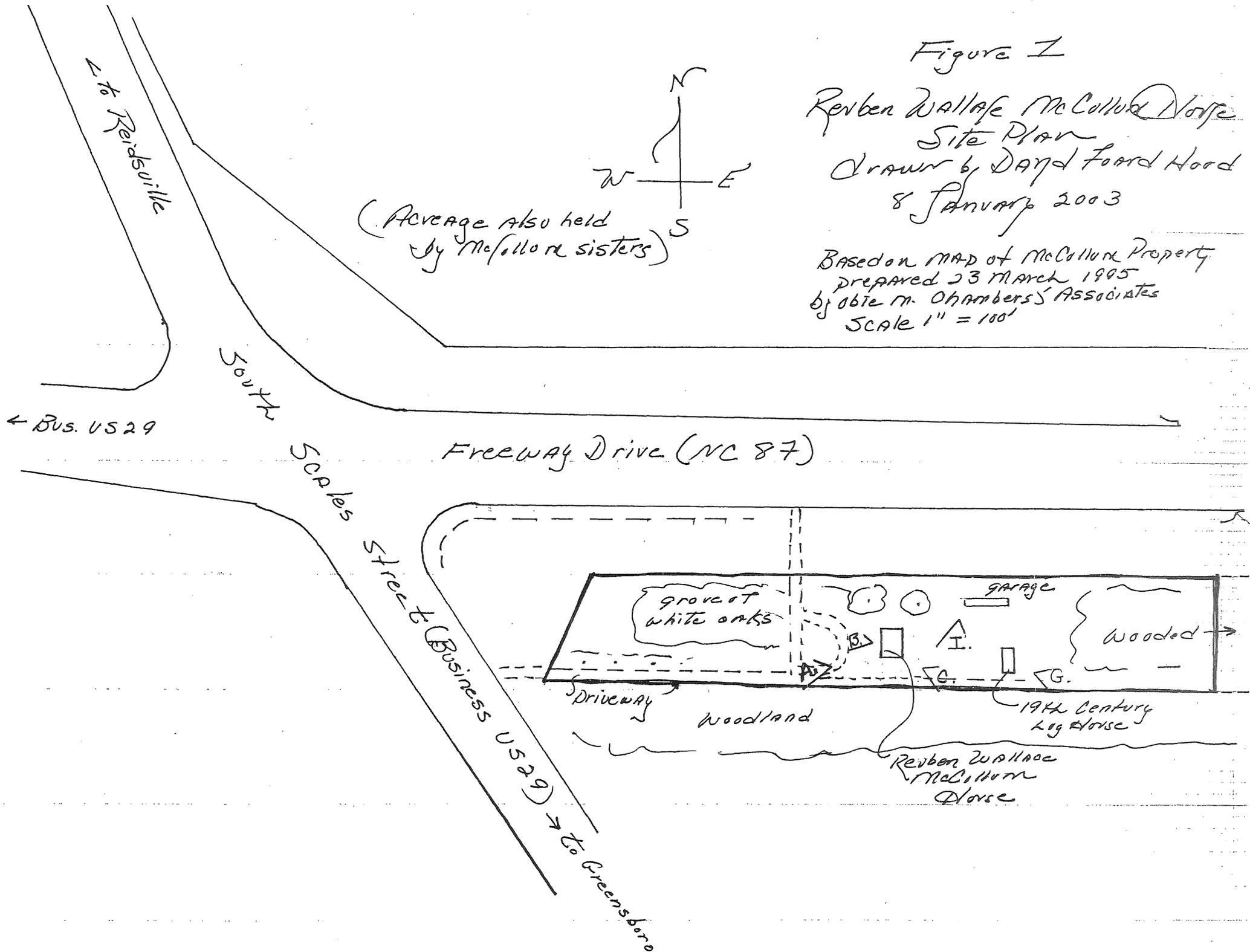
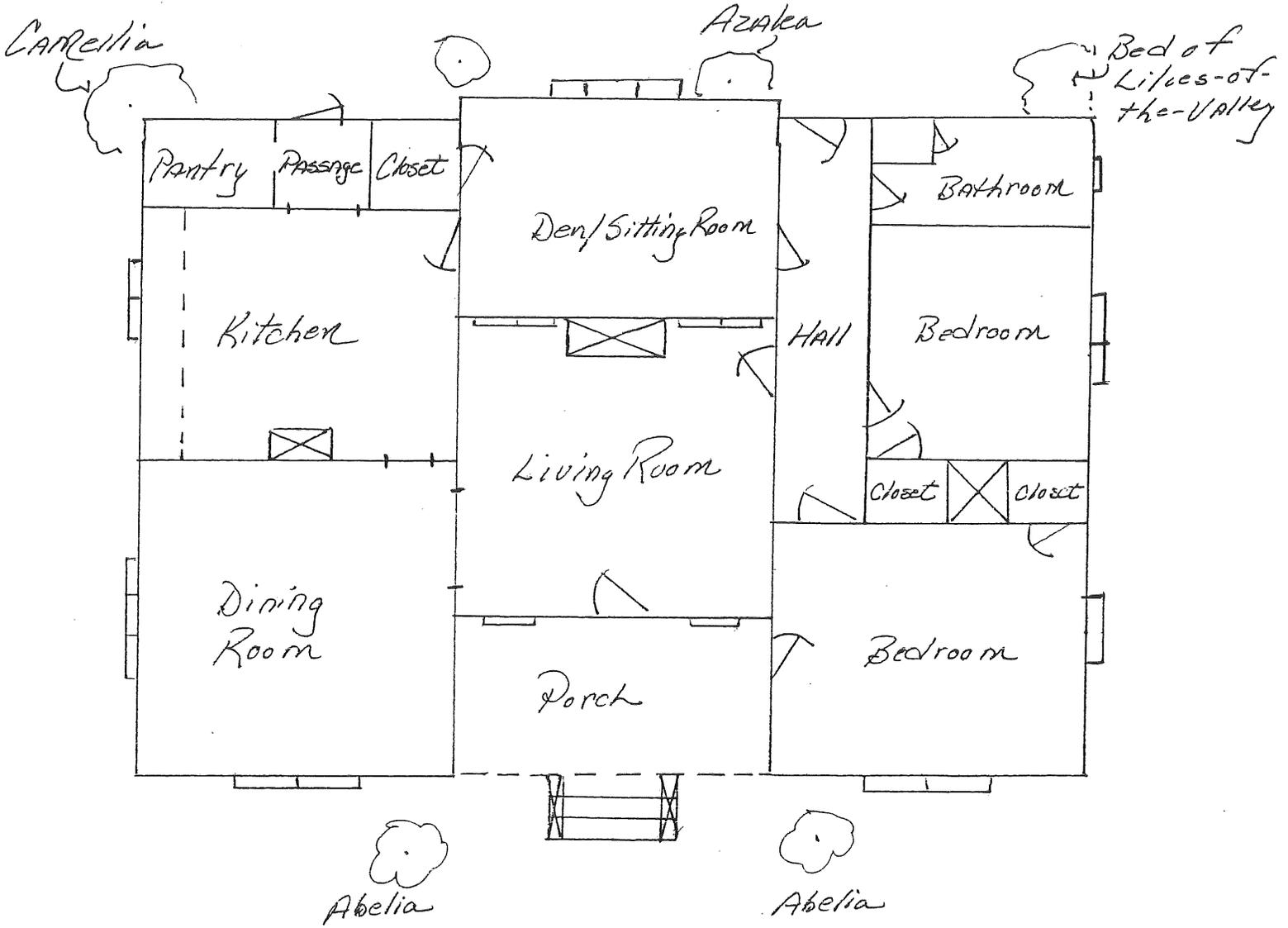
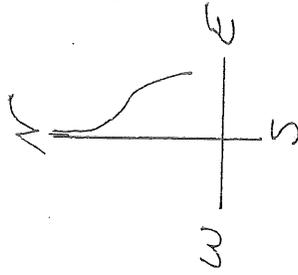


Figure 2

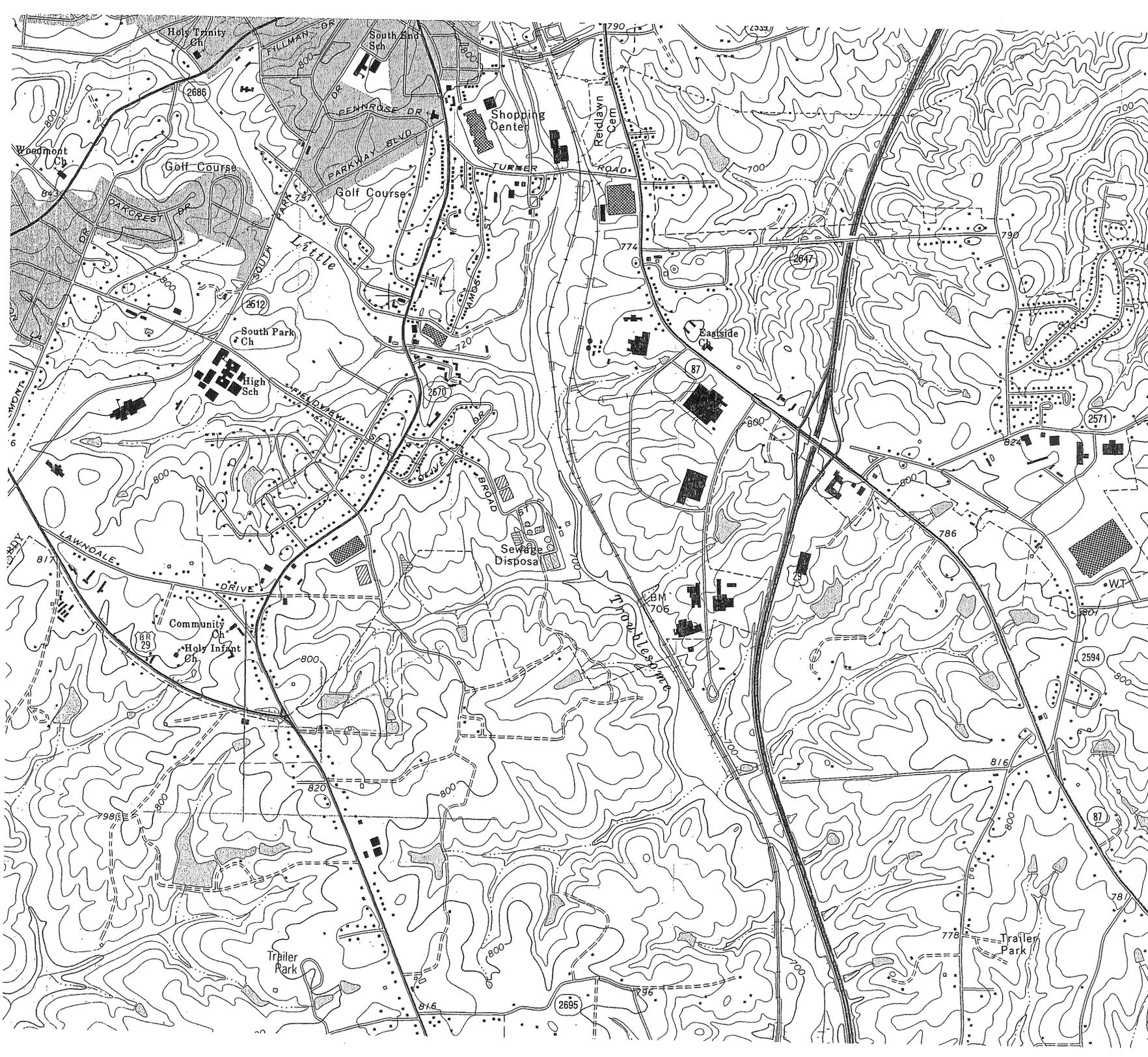


Reuben Wallace McCallum House
Floor Plan

Drawn by David Ford Hood

26 April 2001

~ Not to Scale ~



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20'
940 000
FEET

Reuben Linnace
McCotton House
Rocking horn Co,
NC zone 17
Northing
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Easting
619370
Reidsville
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(WILLIAMSBURG)
5056 1 SG
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JAMSBURG 2.5 MI.
JRLINGTON 21 MI.

