**Form 10-300**

**UNIVERSAL STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)*

### 1. NAME

**COMMON:**

Robert Cleveland Log House

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

### 2. LOCATION

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

On SR 1300, 0.2 mile Northwest of Junction with SR 1317

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Purlear vicinity (Ninth Congressional District, Honorable Charles Jonas)

**STATE:**

North Carolina

**CODE:**

37

**COUNTY:**

Wilkes

**CODE:**

193

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Yes: Unoccupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Private Residence
- Other (Specify): [ ]
- Comments:

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**OWNER'S NAME:**

Mrs. Parks Church

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

Harris Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Ypsilanti

**STATE:**

Michigan

**CODE:**

21

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**

Wilkes County Courthouse

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

100 Main Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Wilkesboro

**STATE:**

North Carolina

**CODE:**

37

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**


**DATE OF SURVEY:**


**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**


**STREET AND NUMBER:**


**CITY OR TOWN:**


**STATE:**


**CODE:**


**ENTRY NUMBER**


**DATE**


**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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*Note: The form contains blank spaces that could be filled in with additional information.*
The Robert Cleveland Log House is a large "two pen" log dwelling with exterior end stone chimneys and an uncoursed stone basement. The logs are hewn, nearly square in section, and joined in a dovetail in which the splays are sloped two ways. The roof, now covered with standing seam tin, extends far beyond the walls on all sides giving protection to the dovetail joints. (This protection is essential in log structures where the joints are susceptible to decay caused by rain water caught between the logs. The splayed dovetail construction only partially alleviates the problem.) The house has two equal rooms divided by a log partition, with a loft above. The floor joists for the loft floor are set into the outer walls and are visible on the exterior. The walls, however, continue about four feet above the joists before the roof begins, creating extra space in the loft.

The front (southeast) facade, partially covered with weatherboards, features two main entrances (one in each pen) containing board-and-batten doors. Above each entrance is a small rectangular opening lighting the loft. Each gable is dominated by an immense fieldstone chimney which tapers toward the cap. The only window lighting the first floor is located to the front of the southwest chimney. The rear (northwest) facade is similar to the front but lacks loft windows. Because of the slope of the land the stone foundation is quite high below this facade and contains two rectangular wooden grates with diagonally set bars which ventilate the full basement.

Both rooms are unfinished and have exposed-beam ceilings. The southwest room, probably the kitchen, features an unusually large fireplace with a wide rectangular opening. A trap door located in the north corner leads to a ladder descending to the basement. The only finished work in the room consists of beaded edges on the ceiling beams and a beaded architrave around the door leading to the northeast room.

The northeast room seems to have been the main "parlor." It has a smaller fireplace with an arched opening and an enclosed winding stair rising from the left side of the chimney to the loft. Although the interior faces of the chimneys are exposed at the loft level, there are no openings. This configuration appears to have been intentional, giving needed support for the logs used in the gables.
3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian
☐ 16th Century
☐ 18th Century
☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century
☐ 17th Century
☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal
☐ Prehistoric
☐ Historic
☐ Agriculture
☐ Architecture
☐ Art
☐ Commerce
☐ Communications
☐ Conservation

☐ Education
☐ Engineering
☐ Industry
☐ Invention
☐ Landscape Architecture
☐ Literature
☐ Military
☐ Music

☐ Political
☐ Religion/Philosophy
☐ Science
☐ Sculpture
☐ Social/Humanitarian
☐ Theater
☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning
☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

About 1775 Robert Cleveland moved from Virginia to what is now Wilkes County, North Carolina, and settled on a tract he had been granted near the Yadkin River. During the Revolution Robert Cleveland and his brother, Benjamin, who lived nearby, took an active part in reprisals against local Tories who were often accused of various crimes. Benjamin in particular was known for pursuing and hanging without delay a number of Tories. In the Battle of Kings Mountain, Benjamin served as a colonel in the militia and led one of the four columns which successfully assaulted the British position. Robert Cleveland was captain of a company in his brother's regiment. This victory of the colonial militia over the British was a significant one in that it forced General Cornwallis to withdraw into South Carolina and gave much-needed encouragement to revolutionary forces throughout the colonies.

Some sources put the date of the Cleveland's entry into what is now Wilkes County as far back as 1769. Ashe's Biographical History of North Carolina states that Benjamin Cleveland and his brothers, including Robert, were there in that year and that Benjamin was chiefly responsible for the formation of Wilkes County in 1777. The earliest available deed verifying the presence of Robert Cleveland, however, records a transfer of land to him from Benjamin in 1786. Additionally his grant of land from the state of North Carolina in 1787 makes reference to its location contiguous to a grant to him of an earlier date not given in available records. It was probably around 1780 that Captain Robert Cleveland, as he was called, built the present log house located on the "north fork of Lewis's Fork of the Yadkin River." The census of 1790 shows the Cleveland household consisted of twenty-four persons, including ten slaves. At least part of the activity of the farm was devoted to the making of whiskey as is evident from Cleveland's will. Proved in 1812, it conveys to his son, Presley, "all the Plantation after the Death or Widowhood of my Wife and my new waggon, also my Still..."

Presley Cleveland sold his inheritance to John Yates in 1823. At that time the estate amounted to 604 acres and brought $650 at sale. The Cleveland Log House with varying acreage was held by the Yates family for over one hundred years until finally it was acquired from a descendent of John Yates by Winfield S. Fletcher. Fletcher bought the house in 1930 because of his interest in its historicity. From him ownership passed to his stepdaughter, Mrs. Parks Church.
8. The Robert Cleveland Log House, in addition to having been the home of a well-known revolutionary soldier, stands as probably the oldest dwelling in Wilkes County. Architecturally, it serves as an extremely important example of the early two-pen log structures built by the pioneers in the western mountains in the eighteenth century.
As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  [ ] State [x] Local [ ]

Name: H. G. Jones
Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History
Date: 16 July 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
9.

Wilkes County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Robert Cleveland Log House
SR 1300
Purlear, North Carolina

Wilkes County Map
State Highway Commission
Scale: 1" = 1 mile
July 1, 1967

Latitude
degrees minutes seconds
36° 11' 45"

Longitude
degrees minutes seconds
81° 14' 01"