

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
Office of Archives and History  
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Cicero Pennington Farm**

Sturgills vicinity, Ashe County, AH0153, Listed 09/11/2018

Nomination by Eric Plaag, PhD, Carolina Historical Consulting, LLC

Photographs by Eric Plaag, PhD, February 2017 and January 2018



Front (south) elevation of main house, looking north



South and east elevations of carriage house/wood shop complex, looking north

**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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Pennington, Cicero, Farm

Other names/site number:

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Ashe County, North Carolina, c. 1799-1955

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

**2. Location**

Street & number: 630 Spencer Branch Road

City or town: Sturgills State: NC County: Ashe

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

Mailing address: 630 Spencer Branch Road, Lansing, NC 28643

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A     B X C     D

<p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>  <u>North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</u></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p> <p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

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  
Agriculture/Subsistence – Agricultural Outbuilding  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic - Single Dwelling  
Agriculture/Subsistence – Agricultural Outbuilding  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian

Other: I-House with Rear Ell (central, double-tier porch)

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: CONCRETE

Walls: WOOD – Weatherboard

Roof: METAL – Tin

Chimneys: BRICK

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Cicero Pennington Farm sits on a 20.799-acre parcel in northern Ashe County, North Carolina, and includes a main house built in 1884. It is a frame I-house with a rear ell. It features a gabled, double-tier porch centered on its façade and another gabled, double-tier porch on the rear ell. This common house form has a high degree of sawn-wood, ornamental detail applied, primarily to the porches, in keeping with the vernacular interpretation of popular architectural trends of the mid- to late-nineteenth century. Both the exterior and interior of the house display an unusually high level of decoration in comparison to similar I-houses in Ashe County, reflecting the skilled workmanship of its builder. Family oral history attributes the design, construction, and finish carpentry of the house to Cicero Pennington, who was also the original owner.<sup>1</sup> The property also contains five outbuildings—a springhouse, garden shed, carriage house/garage/wood shop complex, granary, and livestock barn—that were likely built shortly

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<sup>1</sup> The idea that Cicero Pennington built the Cicero Pennington Farm main house and outbuildings is frequently repeated in many sources. See, for example, Mae Pennington, "I Lived in Those Mountains," 34; Helto[n] Home Demonstration Club, "Pennington Home," *Home Demonstration*, July 22, 1965; Edwards, "Old Things Are Precious," C1.

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after the house was completed in 1884. Four of these outbuildings are considered to be contributing resources to the significance of the property; Masonite covers the character-defining ventilation features of the fifth outbuilding, the granary, so it is non-contributing. Two additional non-contributing resources—a footbridge and a domestic yard fence—are late additions to the property that mimic original features no longer extant. The individual resources and the property as a whole display a remarkably high degree of integrity for a property of this type from the period in Ashe County.

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## **Narrative Description**

### *The Setting*

The Cicero Pennington Farm sits on a 20.799-acre, irregularly shaped parcel located at 630 Spencer Branch Road in Helton Township in far northern Ashe County, North Carolina, between the unincorporated communities of Sturgills and Helton, and about one mile due south of the Virginia state line.<sup>2</sup> Its mailing address is keyed to the town of Lansing, North Carolina, located approximately six miles to the south. The southeast corner of the parcel lies just north of the split between two branches of Wallens Creek, and the property lies primarily to the northwest of the intersection of Wallens Creek Road and Spencer Branch Road, although a tiny sliver of the property sits just south of the first bend in Spencer Branch Road between the road and the east fork of Wallens Creek. This east fork of the creek runs through the property, joining it near the northeast corner of the parcel adjacent to Wallens Creek Road, passing west of the livestock barn and granary, turning west just to the north of the carriage house/garage/wood shop complex, then turning south and passing about 25 yards to the west of the main house before crossing Spencer Branch Road and continuing south off the property toward its junction with the west branch of the creek. Two outparcels have been carved out of the road frontage along Spencer Branch Road, one at the far west corner of the parcel and another along the southwest edge of the property, nestled in a hollow between the two prominent ridges that occupy the bulk of the property. The main house of the Cicero Pennington Farm, along with all of its outbuildings, sit at the southeast edge of the property, well below the grade of Wallens Creek Road to the east and squarely in the 100-year flood plain of the east fork of Wallens Creek. Aside from the area immediately surrounding the house and a large field to the northeast of the house and outbuildings complex, the vast majority of the parcel is planted in timber, including a mix of hardwoods and coniferous trees.

The entirety of the parcel is historically associated with Cicero Pennington (October 8, 1847-June 9, 1928), who lived on the land perhaps as early as 1868 and acquired various portions of this land between 1875 and 1893, although the present parcel represents a relatively small vestige of the 104 or more acres apparently left to Cicero Pennington's son, Dent Pennington

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<sup>2</sup> While the Cicero Pennington Farm is located in Helton Township, the unincorporated communities of Helton and Sturgills are actually distinct entities separate from the township designation. Geographically speaking, Sturgills is the nearest community, located 0.85 miles southwest of the farm. The community of Helton, however, located 1.48 miles southeast of the farm, is most commonly associated with the farm in recent literature, including the Ashe County MPDF.

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(August 31, 1895-December 5, 1984), upon Cicero's death in 1928.<sup>3</sup> While the full uses of the property in its historic context are not entirely clear, it is well documented that Cicero kept livestock on his land, maintained a subsistence-farming garden planted in corn and other vegetables, and harvested timber for his wood shop located at the farm.<sup>4</sup> Today, the property is primarily a rural residence and second home for its owners, with the outbuildings serving various storage functions. The new owners have made some effort to restore part of the former vegetable garden to the northwest of the house. The properties surrounding the Cicero Pennington Farm, meanwhile, continue to function as either residences or working farms, with numerous historic farm outbuildings visible across the nearby landscape. Most of the adjacent land is either planted in timber for eventual harvest or dedicated as livestock pasture. To this end, the Cicero Pennington Farm retains a clear sense of connection with its historic context in terms of both the feeling and character of the property.

The nominated property consists of the remaining 20.799 acres that passed directly from Cicero Pennington to Dent Pennington (1928), from Dent Pennington to the Voths (1986), and from the Voths to the present owners, the Coulters (2016). The rationale for this boundary is that the present configuration has existed for nearly 50 years, since Dent and Linnie Pennington sold off their last 40-acre parcel to Fred and Roxie Rash. The remainder of the former Cicero Pennington land is now heavily subdivided and has not had any direct connection to the Pennington family for more than 50 years.

### ***Historic Buildings and Resources***

The Cicero Pennington Farm includes five contributing buildings in total, plus two non-contributing structures and a non-contributing object. The first contributing building is the main house, which is positioned just to the north of Spencer Branch Road, just to the south and east of the east branch of Wallens Creek, and just to the west of Wallens Creek Road. The front elevation of the house faces south-southwest. To the rear or north of the main house is a

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<sup>3</sup> For details on Cicero Pennington's complex deed history in acquiring the property, see Section 8. The 104-acre figure comes from a 1953 mineral rights lease between Dent and Linnie Pennington and the H & H Contracting Company, in which reference is made to "that certain tract or tracts of land, containing 104 acres" that were conveyed to Dent Pennington from Cicero Pennington in the latter's will. See Cicero and Linnie Pennington to Grant Bauguess, agent for H & H Contracting Company, October 9, 1953, Deed Book O3, Page 305, Ashe County Registry of Deeds. No such figure for the amount of land conveyed to Dent appears in Cicero Pennington's actual will, which only vaguely called for "my land" to be conveyed to Dent Pennington. See Will of Cicero Pennington, Proved June 12, 1928, North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998, Wills Book G, Pages 167-68, available on Ancestry.com by subscription. When he was interviewed in 1983, Dent Pennington cited his landholdings at 113 acres. See Vestal Taylor, "Dent Pennington: A Man Comfortably at Home in Helton," *Jefferson Times*, August 11, 1983: 1B.

<sup>4</sup> For an image of Cicero Pennington in his vegetable garden, see "Mr. Pennington in the Garden, 1922," digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter. Another image in the Pennington Archives, untitled and undated (probably circa 1920), shows the high ridge to the northwest of the house completely bare of trees, suggesting that the timber had already been harvested and the land converted to pasture for the livestock. Corn is visible in the area to the west of the house and in the small portion of land on the opposite side of the road. The Pennington Archives includes digital copies of various images shared with the Coulters by Gene and Lori Voth, Emily Kilby, Brian and Pam Weaver, Richard Weaver, Harry Jones, and John Littlewood.

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detached, front-gabled springhouse (contributing) connected to the main house by a gabled breezeway. Immediately to the northwest of the springhouse is a detached garden shed (contributing). To the northeast of the springhouse is a procession of outbuildings essentially arranged in a row from southwest to northeast. The most southwesterly of these is a multi-use building complex (contributing) that faces south-southeast and consists of a side-gabled carriage house connected at its northeast end to a front-gabled wood shop with a root cellar below the shop, thus creating the appearance of a single, cross-gabled building. Immediately northeast of the wood shop is an altered, front-gabled structure that served as a granary (non-contributing). A short distance to the northeast of the granary is a shed-roofed livestock barn with hayloft (contributing). Two other resources—a fence surrounding the main house (non-contributing object) and a footbridge (non-contributing structure) near the garden shed—are modern replacements of historic features.

*The Cicero Pennington Farm Main House (circa 1884)—Contributing Building*

Family oral tradition states that the main house of the Cicero Pennington Farm was built circa 1884 by Cicero Pennington himself on land that he acquired through several transactions between 1875 and 1883.<sup>5</sup> The house is an unusually complex example of an ornate, two-story I-house with a rear ell, the side-gabled main block of which is three bays wide and one bay deep, featuring a front-gabled, double tier porch at the center bay of the front (south) elevation.<sup>6</sup> The rear-gabled ell is two bays wide along its east and west elevations and one bay deep along its north elevation, with another double-tier, gabled porch on its east elevation. The house features two interior chimneys on its main block with another interior chimney on the ell. The entire house rests on a stone foundation that recently has been parged with concrete, while the remainder of the house is clad in weatherboard, most of which is original. Stout cornerboards with corniced caps are present at each corner of the main block and the ell. Unusually ornate trim, described in greater detail below, highlights both of the double-tier porches and is possibly the handicraft of Cicero Pennington himself, while most windows are six-over-six, double-hung wood sashes that are original to the house. Exterior doors of the south (front) elevation on both levels of the two-story porch are single, wood, multi-panel doors (six panels on the first floor, four on the second) flanked by narrow, triple-light sidelights with a single, lower, wood panel and are capped by narrow, quadruple-light transoms. Exterior doors of the ell are more spare, single, wood, four-panel doors resembling the second floor porch door from the front (south) elevation, two of which feature screen doors with decorative flourishes. The roof of the entire

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<sup>5</sup> For more on those transactions, see the significance narrative in Section 8. Numerous sources from the twentieth century rely on a construction date of 1884. For examples, see Helto[n] Home Demonstration Club, "Pennington Home," *Home Demonstration Tour of Homes—Helton Community*, July 22, 1965, digital copies of portions of original typescript, Harry Jones Photograph Collection, Museum of Ashe County History; Arlene Edwards, "Old Things Are Precious: Their Museum Lives," *Winston-Salem Journal*, August 24, 1980: C1; and Vestal Taylor, "Dent Pennington: A Man Comfortably at Home in Helton," *Jefferson Times*, August 11, 1983: 1B. In all three cases, this date was likely provided by Dent Pennington. Mae Pennington suggests a date between 1882 and 1886. See Mae Pennington, "I Lived in Those Mountains," typescript, undated but ca. 1965, 34, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter.

<sup>6</sup> The front elevation of the house is oriented slightly to south-southwest, but for the purposes of this narrative, principal cardinal directions of north, south, east, and west will be used for simplicity.



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house is clad in standing seam tin that likely dates to the early twentieth century.<sup>7</sup> This tin roof has recently been repainted, making it appear new from a distance.

The south (front) elevation of the house presents an unusually ornate appearance for an I-house of this era in Ashe County. Three bays wide, the south elevation is dominated by a single-bay, centrally placed, double-tier porch, both levels of which feature silhouette posts that are sawn into curvilinear shapes with stout bases and capitals to divide the three sections of the porch. Decoratively sawn brackets fill the spaces between the capitals. The balustrades feature alternating, jigsaw-cut, curvilinear designs and attach to the house along twin pilaster-like features that interrupt the weatherboard and frieze board of the main block of the house. This double-tier porch is capped with a front-facing gable with a prominent pediment and cornice return. The gable end is clad in weatherboard, while an unusual, bell-shaped attic window (sometimes inaccurately described as a “circle-over-triangle design”) punctuates the center of the gable end. The floor of both porches is wood plank, while the ceiling of both porches is clad in beaded slats that do not dovetail into the adjacent boards, creating a slight gap presumably designed to help the second floor porch drain rainwater and the attic space breathe. A set of six wood steps descends to the yard from the first floor porch, while the area under the porch is obscured by a modern application of latticework.

Both porches of the south elevation feature prominent, multi-panel (six for the lower door, four for the upper), wood doors with deep surrounds, both flanked by narrow, triple-light sidelights with a single, narrow panel at the base and capped with narrow, quadruple-light, fixed transoms. Narrow, cornice-capped pilasters separate the doors from their flanking sidelights. A narrow, horizontally arranged panel also separates the transom from the door and sidelights below. This general configuration is visible in an 1892 image of the house, and the lower porch solid door is evident in a circa-1920 image of Cicero, Mae, and Linnie Pennington seated on the front porch, but a circa-1910 image suggests the possibility that the doors on both levels featured two upper lights at that time, meaning that the present paneled doors may have been early replacements.<sup>8</sup> The present upper porch door also features a one-over-two screen door that features beaded cobweb tracery trim in the corners of the screen sections and an unusual, horizontal, beaded trim piece at the center of the screen door that probably served as a push plate. Flanking the double-tier porch of the center bay on each side is a single, six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood window with a wood frame and pronounced, wood lintel trim. Aluminum storm windows are

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<sup>7</sup> A circa 1892 photo of the house shows the roof clad in shingles of an unknown material. A circa 1910 image, however, shows the present tin roof. See “Pennington House, 1892,” digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter; and “1890s Pennington House,” digital copy of photograph [probably circa 1910] in the John Littlewood Collection, Museum of Ashe County History.

<sup>8</sup> The 1892 image is a poor quality copy, and while it shows the pilasters and their cornice caps, the doors themselves are not decipherable. Efforts to manipulate the ca. 1910 image to reveal additional detail about the doors were not successful, and it is possible that the anomaly is either a painted design or a reflection off a solid wood door. See “Pennington House, 1892,” digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter; “Cicero and Almeda Pennington, with Dent’s wife Linnie, 1920s,” digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter; “1890s Pennington House,” digital copy of photograph [probably circa 1910] in the John Littlewood Collection, Museum of Ashe County History.

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affixed over all four windows. The roof of the main block and the double-tier porch gable is clad in standing-seam tin that was recently painted. Aluminum gutters run along the front of the roofline and the sides of the porch gable roof. A single, brick chimney with a pronounced corbel collar protrudes at the apex of the roof just to the east of the porch gable apex. A photograph dated to circa 1892 shows a matching chimney on the other side of the porch gable, but another image dated to the 1890s (more likely about 1910) does not show this second chimney, suggesting that it may have been damaged at some point in the early twentieth century and capped for a time. Today, a stunted version of a brick chimney, suitable only for a wood stove stack with a ceramic liner, rises barely above the apex of the roofline in the original second chimney location. This stack is visible in an August 1980 image of the house, meaning it must have been added sometime before then.

The west elevation of the main block of the house is relatively spare by comparison, being only one bay wide. At the foundation level, a centered, wood panel door with a deep, wood surround grants access to the crawlspace of the main block of the house. Both the first floor and second floor of the west elevation of the main house are clad in weatherboard and feature single, six-over-six, double-hung sash, wood windows with wood frames and pronounced, wood lintel trim. Aluminum storm windows are affixed over both windows. Above, the gable end offers pronounced cornice returns. What appears to be a small lightning rod is visible near the apex of the roof on this west gable end. The north elevation of the main block of the house west of the ell is nearly featureless, with an aluminum gutter visible on the north roofline and a small, protruding, hooded, metal vent visible between floors near the seam with the ell portion of the house. An inverted form of the cornice-capped cornerboards found elsewhere is also visible in the seam with the ell portion of the house.

At this point, the house transitions to the west elevation of the rear ell, which is somewhat changed from its original configuration. A circa 1890s image taken from the southwest shows the left (north) portion of this west elevation of the ell as having a single, four-panel, wood door set to the north, followed to its south by a small window (part of which is obscured in the photo by the west elevation of the main block of the house). Today, the area where this door was located is occupied by a three-sided, projecting, bay window attachment with a standing-seam, metal roof, probably added sometime in the late 1980s. The outer, canted sides of the bay are six-over-six, vinyl windows with fake muntins, while the center section, also vinyl with fake muntins, is eight-over-eight. Just below this bay window configuration and set slightly to the north are seams in the weatherboard that seem to indicate the location of the former doorway. The small window that was located to the right of the doorway has been removed and filled in, with evidence of a possible seam in the weatherboard visible just to the south of the bay window. On the second floor, above and just to the south of the modern bay window, is a single-light, tilt-in, wood, awning window added at an unknown date. At the right (south) end of the west elevation of the ell are first- and second-story, six-over-six, wood windows with covering storm windows. These windows are aligned proportionately to one another and match the windows found on the south and west elevations of the main block of the house; they were likely part of the original configuration of the ell. Aluminum gutters span the roofline of this west elevation of the house, with aluminum downspouts at each end of the elevation. A set of utility panels and

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meters is visible at the far north end of the west elevation of the ell, while two HVAC condensers are visible on concrete pads in front of the far south end of the west elevation of the ell.

The rear-gabled, north elevation of the ell features a single, wood doorway centered on the first floor of the elevation, with a single, six-over-six, double-hung sash, wood window at the second-story level, complete with a wood frame and wood lintel trim, as well as a covering storm window. The rear gable features prominent cornice returns, while a bell-shaped attic window, like the one found above the south, double-tier porch, is visible just below the gable. A short, concrete sidewalk covered by a breezeway with an open-rafter tailed, front-gabled roof clad in standing seam metal leads to the detached springhouse. Latticework covers both sides of this short walkway, with openings cut adjacent to the springhouse to allow passage from either side of the walkway into the yard.

The two-bay, east elevation of the rear ell is remarkably ornate for a rear portion of a house from this era. At the north end of the east elevation of the ell, one finds typical, six-over-six, wood windows stacked atop one another on the first and second stories. The east elevation of the ell also features a double-tier porch with a prominent, east-facing gable. While this porch feature replicates almost all of the details of the main, double-tier porch of the south elevation, this east double-tier porch is four sections wide rather than three, thus joining it to the north (rear) elevation of the main block of the house using some creative joinery at the roofline to accomplish this task. At first glance, this joinery suggested that perhaps the ell and/or the east double-tier porch were a later addition to the house, even if added shortly after the house was completed. However, a careful search through the attic indicated no evidence of alteration to the original joinery of either the main block or the ell, thus suggesting that these main features of the east elevation of the ell are original to the house. The first floor porch appears to rest on a cast concrete sill (although it may be cast concrete over stone) and features wood boards for decking, as does the floor of the second floor porch. The ceiling of each repeats the unusual, beaded slats that do not dovetail into the adjacent boards, as found on the south double-tier porch. On the upper porch level, these slats have been cut to create a narrow, hinged, drop-down staircase retrieved via a pull cord hanging from the ceiling; this is the only known access to the attic space of both the ell and the main block of the house. Trim is identical to that found on the south porch, and the gable features the same prominent pediment, pronounced cornice return, and bell design for an attic window under the gable. A concrete sidewalk leads from the first floor porch to the east, out to the property's gravel driveway.

Fenestration along the portion of the elevation sheltered by the porch is somewhat irregular. Moving from north to south (right to left) on the first-story level, the area under the porch offers a single, four-panel, wood door with a deep surround. This doorway is clearly visible in a circa 1892 image of the house, suggesting that it is original.<sup>9</sup> To the north (left) of this is a single, six-over-six, double-hung sash window with a wood frame and lintel trim, likely original. It also has a metal storm window installed over it. To the north (left) of this window is the ghost outline of a former opening in the weatherboard that was covered over at an unknown time but appears

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<sup>9</sup> "Pennington House, 1892," digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter.

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originally to have been another doorway. On the north elevation of the east end of the main block of the house is a single, four-panel, wood doorway with a screen door like those found elsewhere covering it. This doorway appears to have been added at an unknown date, probably early in the twentieth century. The remainder of the north elevation of the east end of the main block of the house is otherwise featureless, aside from having an aluminum gutter and downspout like those found elsewhere. The second floor portion of the east elevation of the ell under the porch offers only a single, centered, four-panel, wood door directly above the first-floor window below. A screen door like those previously described covers this door as well. Protruding from the apex of the roofline of the ell, just behind the apex of the east gabled porch, is a wide brick chimney with no ornamentation. The east elevation of the main block of the house is essentially a mirror image of the west elevation, repeating all of its details except the crawlspace panel door.

The interior of the main block of the house is a fairly typical, two-story, single pile with center hall arrangement. Upon entering through the main doorway on the south elevation, one finds wide oak floors that are believed to be original to the house. Offset to the right (east) is a wood staircase with paneled framing below the stairs and a newel post composed of four ornately carved, flat boards that resemble the trim found on the double-tier porch of the south elevation. Pennington descendants report that the newel post is almost certainly the carpentry of Cicero Pennington, revealing unusual, bullseye medallions on the upper part of the post and carved tracery in the lower section.<sup>10</sup> The staircase rises to a landing below the level of the second story, with the stair rail curving uninterrupted past the landing and to the second floor. The otherwise unadorned stair rail spindles are arranged in an alternating pattern of oak and walnut. A small closet is located underneath the stairs. Original wood trim survives around the front door and the doorways leading to the two rooms flanking the central hall at the front of the house. As with much of the trim throughout the house, the trim in this front hallway reflects a polychromed, faux bois application believed to originate relatively early in the twentieth century, if not earlier. Walls and ceilings throughout much of the first floor of the main block of the house appear to be drywall over the plank that originally adorned these walls, as evinced by looking inside a cutout at the rear of the center hallway that provides access to water shutoffs for the bathroom in the west bedroom. A paneled, fifteen-light door that likely dates to the early twentieth century, if not earlier, leads from the back of the center hall into the dining room in the ell section of the house. Generally speaking, door, window, and baseboard trim is largely unadorned, save for a cavetto base molding atop the baseboard trim, and simply molded casings on the doors and windows. First floor windows at the front of the house generally also have a trimmed, panel feature immediately below the sill, but this is not replicated elsewhere in the interior of the house.

The west room of the main block of the house, which has historically functioned as a bedroom, experienced some changes during the latter part of the twentieth century (almost certainly post-1984) in order to modernize the house. While this room retains its original wide oak floors, the addition of a closet and a bathroom disrupt the openness that this room would have originally displayed. The closet feature is located to the right as one enters this room, with stained, wood, bi-fold doors and wood trim that are obviously modern but complement the original features of

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<sup>10</sup> Mae Pennington, "I Lived in Those Mountains," 34; Helto[n] Home Demonstration Club, "Pennington Home," *Home Demonstration*, July 22, 1965; Edwards, "Old Things Are Precious," C1.

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the house. Walls are covered in wallpaper added at an unknown date in the late twentieth century, although surviving sections of old wallpaper found during repairs to plumbing in the house document that the Penningtons wallpapered the walls at some point during the early twentieth century. The modern bathroom, meanwhile, is located to the north of this closet. It has a hexagonal tile floor, square tile wainscoting, and wallpaper on the upper part of the walls, as well as modern plumbing fixtures that date to the 1980s. Just outside this bathroom, in the northeast corner of the bedroom, the original oak floors have sustained surface damage from what appears to be water overflow from either a tub system or an early water closet feature, no longer extant. All window trim and the wide baseboards along the outer perimeter of the room are believed to be original, although a return with original hardware from the old oil furnace (ca. 1920s) for the house punctures this trim and the floor along the baseboard of the west wall. As noted previously, the first floor windows of the front portion of the house have an unusually deep trim panel beneath the sill; this could be misread as an indication that the current windows were downsized from the originals, but a careful comparison of the original window dimensions as seen in the 1892 image from the Pennington Archives with current images of these same windows reveals that the windows of the first floor are indeed original to the house. The original windows in this room and elsewhere in the house, meanwhile, feature an unusual latching system almost certainly designed by Cicero Pennington, the attributed builder and carpenter of the home, to provide stops to allow the windows to remain open. Nearly all of these latches throughout the house survive. The inside of these windows, however, is covered by a modern, vinyl shutter system designed to give privacy to this bedroom, although this treatment is easily reversible. This same shutter system is found in all rooms in the main block of the house and on many windows in the ell. Located within the closet area is the stack for the original second chimney, the upper portion of which was removed from the house by 1910 for unknown reasons. Today, this stack ventilates a wood stove located in the second floor room above the west bedroom before penetrating the roofline in its current configuration, previously described.

The east room of the main block of the house is a living room space with narrow pine floors over the original oak, added at an unknown date during the twentieth century, perhaps to cover damage to the original floors. Original baseboards and trim survive in this room as well, some of it with the faux bois treatment applied. Walls are drywall over plank with wallpaper applied for decoration. A narrow picture rail survives in this room, with narrow crown molding located just above. A large chandelier at the center of the room is a later addition. A shutter system like that found in the west bedroom is present on both the windows in this room. At the west end of the room is a projecting fireplace with a cast concrete hearth (apparently covering original brickwork), with a stout, carved mantelpiece—possibly worked by Cicero Pennington—surrounding the fireplace opening. On the north wall of this room are two doors, the westernmost featuring a fifteen-light paneled door like the one at the back of the center hallway that leads into the dining room in the ell, and the other a four-panel, wood door with faux bois treatment that leads out onto the east porch of the ell. Another oil furnace return punctures the baseboard and floor in the corner near the interior door to the dining room.

The southern room of the ell is used today as a dining room. It is accessible from both the center hallway and the east living room of the main block and retains its original wide oak floors. Walls

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and ceiling are of drywall or gypsum board covered with wallpaper, which may cover the original plank walls, as seen in the front hallway. This suggests a room renovation after 1920, and baseboards and trim in this room—likely dating to the renovation of this room—are painted and substantially less sophisticated than those found in the main block of the house. A modern crown molding, apparently of wood and significantly more ornate than the rest of the trim in the room, appears at the ceiling level throughout the perimeter of the room. A chandelier at the center of this room does not appear to be original. The original windows on the east and west walls feature the same vinyl shutter system previously described, while large, mid-twentieth century furnace intakes are visible in the floors both inside the room and just outside the room at the doorway between the center hallway and the dining room. Above this doorway, on the south side of the room, a protrusion from the staircase leading into the second story of the ell above interrupts the wall and ceiling. At first, this feature raised some question about whether the ell was added after the main block of the house was built, but as described earlier, careful examination of the joinery in the attic space has discounted this notion. On the north side of this room, a wood, four-paneled doorway that appears original to the house leads into the north room of the first floor of the ell, which is used today as a kitchen.

The north room of the first floor of the ell is one of the few rooms in the house that has been dramatically altered, probably after Dent Pennington's death in 1984. The kitchen floors are made up of small, square, ceramic tiles, while the entire west wall of the room has recently installed kitchen cabinetry and appliances with ceramic tile countertops. The west wall also features the triple bay window complex previously described from the exterior. The north wall of the room has a painted, four-panel, wood door that is probably original and leads out to the breezeway to the springhouse. The northeast corner of the room contains an enclosure for the back staircase for the house, with four wood steps rising along the east wall to a wood, four-panel door (probably original) that leads up the obscured staircase. A small closet is tucked under the stairs along the north wall, adjacent to the back door. Immediately adjacent to the doorway leading to the back staircase is the previously described, six-over-six, wood window that is not under the east porch. A short distance to the right (south) of this window is the previously described, wood, four-panel doorway leading out to the east porch. The south wall of the room, meanwhile, features a projecting fireplace whose firebox has been sealed with cement board. Its ornately carved mantelpiece survives, however, and is almost certainly the work of Dent Pennington rather than his father, as described to the current owner by neighbors who knew Dent Pennington. This mantelpiece may be a modification of the original but simpler mantelpiece. The ceiling in this room, however, offers the only first floor example of what the ceilings of the entire house probably looked like originally, displaying wide oak planks that have been painted. A wood crown molding—probably recent—is visible just below this ceiling.

Returning to the center hall staircase, the stairs rise along the east wall of the central hall to a landing at the back of the main block of the house but below the second story level. Here, the balustrade curves 180 degrees, while the stairs split at the landing, allowing occupants either to use a short return flight to gain access to the second story of the main block or to use another short flight immediately opposite to access the second story of the ell. Some minor details in the trim configuration on this staircase create the impression that this set of stairs into the second

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floor of the ell may have been added later; the tread of the bottom step leading into the ell wraps the baseboard trim of the main staircase, and the baseboard along the ell steps is much simpler than the staircase baseboards. Further examination of the joinery in the attic, however, has discounted this notion. To the naked eye, the second floor of the main block and the second floor of the ell appear not to be level, but this is probably an optical illusion; the heights of the ell floor and the hallway floor measure to be the same relative to the landing. The second floor of the main block features a small central hallway where the faux bois treatment found throughout the house is perhaps on its best display, visible not only on the frame and the previously described, wood, four-panel door leading out to the second story of the south double-tier porch, but also on the door frame and doors leading to the two rooms on the second story of the main block of the house. Both room doors are wood, four-panel doors that are likely original to the house.

The east bedroom retains its original wide oak floors and plank walls and ceiling. A light fixture hanging at the center of the room is not believed to be original. Windows in this room are essentially identical to those on the first floor, and the original window trim with its faux bois treatment is intact. Perhaps the most intriguing part of this room is the west wall, where the projecting fireplace (its firebox sealed and its hearth still in loose brick) retains its original mantelpiece that displays unusually fine faux bois detailing. Similarly, the space to the north of the projecting fireplace includes a raised closet space, the wood, two-panel (narrow, side by side) door and trim for which also display an unusually fine faux bois treatment. It's not clear if this closet was original to the house or a very early addition. The west room of the second floor of the main block is carpeted over the original wide oak floors, save for a small pad of square tiles that supports a wood stove that is piped into the exposed original chimney on the west side of the house. Walls and ceiling in this room are also of wood plank and likely original. The windows on the south and west walls of the room feature their original trim.

Returning to the center hallway stair landing, a short flight of four steps with walls on both sides of the staircase rises north into the south room of the second story of the ell. A wood, four-panel door (probably original) opens into the room from the staircase. Once inside this room, it is clear that this return staircase was framed in this manner to create a closet to the west of the short staircase into the ell and also to shield the stairs to prevent accidents. To the west of the stairway door is another elevated, wood, two-panel (narrow, side by side), closet door like the one in the east bedroom of the second floor of the main block; this closet is believed to be original or a very early addition. The walls in this room are their original planks (painted), but the ceiling has been covered with drywall. The original wide oak floors in this room remain but have been painted. The west wall contains a single, original window configuration. The east wall, meanwhile, features a wood, four-panel door and its original trim, leading out onto the second level of the east double-tier porch. A rotating wood block serves as an interior security latch to this entry. Along the north wall of this room is an old flue opening that would have joined the fireplace chimney rising from the first floor ell kitchen area. A doorway with a wood, four-panel, trimmed door (likely original) to the right of this flue leads into an area that may have served as a servant's bedroom in the early twentieth century, when Dent Pennington and his wife had the

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house to themselves, aside from Glenn Phipps, the servant who lived with them.<sup>11</sup> A wood, two-panel (one over one) door to the left of the flue along the north wall leads into a bathroom area; this door is likely an early twentieth century addition from when the bathroom fixtures were installed.

This bathroom features plumbing fixtures from the 1930s and a more modern ceramic tile floor but retains its plank ceiling and its plank walls as a wainscoting. The upper portion of the walls is either clad in tile around the shower area or covered in drywall and wallpaper elsewhere. A wood, two-panel (one over one) door on the north wall of the bathroom leads out to the servant bedroom area; this door is also likely an early twentieth century addition. The servant space is currently L-shaped, with walls and ceiling of plank and flooring of the original wide oak. It's likely that the interior walls were added in the early twentieth century to create the bathroom space. Original window trim survives on both the north and east windows, and the original fireplace opening on the south wall of the servant bedroom space is still discernible from the wood plank covering that has been installed over the firebox. A simplistic balustrade, likely original, separates this bedroom space from the back staircase, which begins along the north wall, arrives at a landing, then turns south along the east wall below, before arriving in the previously described kitchen space.

*Springhouse (circa 1884, altered early 20<sup>th</sup> century)—Contributing Building*

Connected to the main house by the aforementioned breezeway from the north elevation of the ell of the main house is a springhouse that appears to be an altered version of the springhouse that was original to the property. Some version of a springhouse definitely existed when the circa 1892 photograph of the main house was shot from the southeast, albeit with a different window configuration on the east wall of the springhouse. In 1892, the springhouse featured a wood, six-over-six, double-hung sash window on the east elevation near the southeast corner, while the east elevation window today is a four-light awning window at the center of the elevation. In 1892, the upper portion of the weatherboard on the south elevation extended out below the eaves, creating a rough, boxed soffit appearance on the east elevation; today, the east elevation offers open-tailed rafters. The springhouse roof also appears to have been clad in wood shingles in 1892, while today it is clad in standing-seam metal identical to that on the main house. Given that documentation exists for the cladding of the main house roof in standing-seam metal by 1910, it's likely that these renovations to the springhouse occurred around the same time.<sup>12</sup>

The springhouse today is a one-story, front-gabled, rectangular outbuilding resting on a stone foundation that has been covered in cast concrete. While the imprints of the wooden forms used in this casting process suggest a poured concrete foundation, an area of repaired damage on the

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<sup>11</sup> See "Dent Pennington," Helton, Ashe, North Carolina, *1930 United States Federal Census*, Page 4B, District 9, Image 1003.0, FHL Microfilm 234106, available by subscription online at Ancestry.com.

<sup>12</sup> A circa 1892 photo of the house shows the roof clad in shingles of an unknown material. A circa 1910 image, however, shows the present tin roof. See "Pennington House, 1892," digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter; and "1890s Pennington House," digital copy of photograph [probably circa 1910] in the John Littlewood Collection, Museum of Ashe County History.



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north elevation betrays the presence of the stone foundation underneath. Clad on all four sides with weatherboard, the springhouse has a standing-seam metal roof, and the domestic yard fence runs right up to the northeast corner of the building. The east and north walls feature four-light, wood windows that appear to be interior awning windows. The west wall is featureless, and the south wall offers a single, featureless, wood door (probably early twentieth century) with original thumb latch hardware and a deep surround that provides access to the springhouse. The breezeway roof on the south elevation obscures a former, small window opening below the front gable of the springhouse, suggesting that the breezeway itself was a later addition. Inside the springhouse, the formed concrete trough is still visible, although efforts to modernize the springhouse into a laundry facility have created reversible counter space that currently covers the trough.<sup>13</sup> The rest of the interior is drywall with a Linoleum-type floor.

Water arrives at the springhouse via a long, underground line running from the natural spring source near the livestock barn downhill to the springhouse. The gravitational force of this water running down the line provides sufficient pressure to force the water up a pipe leading into the springhouse trough. Outside the springhouse near the southeast corner is a buried access point to the spring line, covered with a concrete lid. This access point includes water cutoff valves to prevent freezing of the spring pipe as it enters the springhouse. An exterior spigot adjacent to the access point can also tap the spring line.

*Garden Shed (circa 1920)—Contributing Building*

Just to the northwest of the springhouse is a wood, vertical board, shed building with a shed roof clad in standing-seam tin that slopes toward the west. Open rafter tails are visible on the east and west elevations. A building resembling the current iteration of this shed and located in approximately the same position is visible in the previously cited image of Cicero Pennington in his garden in 1922. This shed building sits on a stone foundation with a wood stoop located at the doorway on the south elevation. The west elevation offers two windows, one of them a six-light, wood sash with frame that sits at the center of the elevation and the other a makeshift hole cut in the vertical board near the southwest corner of the building, with old muntins wedged in to create the appearance of a window. The north elevation of this building is featureless, while the east elevation offers a single, six-light, fixed, wood sash near the northeast corner.

*Carriage House/Garage/Wood Shop Complex (circa 1884)—Contributing Building*

Approximately 25 yards to the northeast of the main house, and outside the domestic yard fence, are several outbuildings aligned roughly in a row, running from southwest to northeast. All of these buildings are clearly visible in a 1920 image of Dent Pennington standing in front of the southernmost building of the complex.<sup>14</sup> The southernmost building is a carriage

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<sup>13</sup> The current owner plans to remove this counter space and install a temporary plexiglass cover shielding the trough, so that it is more visible.

<sup>14</sup> "Dent Pennington, 1920," digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter.

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house/garage/wood shop complex, probably built shortly after the main house was built.<sup>15</sup> It sits to the west of the driveway that runs from Spencer Branch Road up the east side of the house, passing this complex, turning slightly toward the northeast, and ultimately terminating near the livestock barn described later. To the southeast of this driveway is a steep embankment rising to Wallens Creek Road, which essentially runs parallel to the driveway. To the northwest of the driveway, the land falls toward the creek that runs to the north and west, and this complex is built to take advantage of the topography. For the purposes of this description, the side facing Wallens Creek Road is referred to as the east elevation.

This complex consists of two primary elements—1) a side-gabled carriage house/garage at the south end of the complex and later used for wood storage; and 2) a front-gabled wood shop that is joined to the carriage house/garage at the north end of the latter. The roof of both sections is clad in standing-seam metal, probably tin. The east elevation of this carriage house/garage/wood shop complex, moving from south to north, features a vertical board, track door that offers access to a wide garage bay probably originally intended for either a carriage or an automobile. A view of the interior space reveals that the entire building is of post and lintel construction, with rough-hewn logs for many of the posts and additional framing used to divide interior spaces and support the roof and walls. Immediately to the right (north) of this bay is a large opening above a vertical board bulkhead, perhaps originally intended as a horse stall but now used for wood storage. Immediately north of this is a vertical board, slightly recessed doorway entering the horse stall/wood storage area. Open rafter tails are visible along the entire run of the east elevation of the carriage house. Slightly up grade and to the north of the carriage house portion is the wood shop, with a small set of wood steps rising to the vertical board door to the wood shop, which is sheltered by a large, front-gabled, projecting, wood storage area under the gable that is supported by brackets and clad in vertical board. A small number of open-tailed rafters are visible on the south side of the projecting gable as the gable joins the roof face of the carriage house. Also of post and lintel construction, the interior of the wood shop has a slightly more finished appearance in its framing, relying on hand-hewn posts instead of logs. Portions of Cicero and Dent Pennington's original workbench survive inside this building, which is now used mostly for storing various tools and outdoor materials.

The south elevation of the carriage house/garage portion of the complex is clad in vertical board, with the long slope of the west face of the gable roof extending lower on the west side of the building to cover a lower, narrow garage bay whose original purpose is unclear. Given that the terrain also falls to the west, this lower garage bay is located at lower height than the carriage house bay accessible from the east elevation. An irregularly shaped, strap-hinged door of vertical board provides access to this bay on the south elevation. The west elevation is featureless vertical board until it arrives at the end of the lower garage bay, at which point the building steps back to

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<sup>15</sup> The 2004 survey form for this property incorrectly identifies the wood shop as a granary and the nearby granary as a corn crib. See Sherry Joines Wyatt and Lori Tolliver-Jones, "AH 153, Cicero Pennington Farm, Ashe County, North Carolina," North Carolina Historic Structure Survey Form, December 16, 2004, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. The authors corrected this error when describing the property in the ASHE County MPDF. See Sherry Joines Wyatt and Lori Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Ashe County, North Carolina, c. 1799-1955," Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Register of Historic Places, undated [2005], F71, online, available at <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/AH0716.pdf>.

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a front-gabled wood shop attachment at the north end of this building. The rear, west gable of the wood shop and the lower portion of the west elevation are clad in vertical board and batten, with the entire wood shop resting on a banked, stone foundation. A single, horizontal, rectangular, six-light wood sash is visible at the upper part of the center of the wood shop main floor, while a wood, vertical board door with a strap-hinged, wood surround provides access through the stone foundation into a root cellar with early wood shelving.<sup>16</sup> The north elevation of the wood shop annex is featureless vertical board and batten resting on the stone foundation. Open rafter tails are visible at the roofline of the north elevation of the wood shop.

*Granary (circa 1884)—Non-Contributing Structure*

Immediately northeast of this carriage house/garage/wood shop complex by only a foot is a front-gabled granary that rests on a stacked stone pier foundation supported with large, wood posts at its center. The terrain falls away to the north and west, so that the granary is essentially propped up on this slope by the stacked stone piers that are much taller along the west and south elevations. The east elevation features unusually wide eaves supported by brackets clad on their outside faces by vertical board. A vertical board door with a loose, boulder stoop resting outside on the ground provides entry into the granary. The roof is clad in standing-seam metal, probably tin, with open-tail rafters visible on the north and south elevations. Masonite covers all of the original, diagonally arranged, open slat boards and the spaced, vertical, gable end boards on the east elevation, although they still survive mostly intact. These features were common to granaries and critical to encouraging the free flow of air in the granary.<sup>17</sup> The spaced, vertical, gable end boards of the west elevation remain exposed. Below this is a treatment of vertical board and batten, still exposed. It's not clear if this board and batten feature was original to the granary, replaced some other original feature—perhaps a rear doorway to facilitate easy loading of grain into a vehicle—or was later cut into the diagonally arranged, open slat boards for some other purpose. As the Masonite conceals the granary's character-defining features, the granary is a non-contributing structure. The former granary is now used largely for storing various furniture items.

*Livestock Barn (circa 1884)—Contributing Building*

Approximately fifteen yards to the northeast of the wood shop is an unusually designed, vertical board livestock barn with a hayloft and a standing seam tin shed roof that slopes toward the west. In its vertical orientation, the barn is essentially divided visually into a lower and upper section, both of vertical board, with the boards of the upper loft section slightly overhanging the boards of the lower section, perhaps suggesting a very early alteration.<sup>18</sup> While the building is level and rests on a stacked stone foundation at its west end, the sloping topography of the site makes the

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<sup>16</sup> This root cellar still retains a fairly large assortment of vegetables that appear to have been pickled by Dent Pennington.

<sup>17</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources," F71.

<sup>18</sup> The authors of the Ashe County MPDF repeatedly claimed that shed-roof barns were not commonly found in the county until after 1910, although no independent documentation for this claim was ever offered by the authors. For examples of this claim, see Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources," F65, F69.

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building appear to be misshapen as its walls rise with the grade to the east. The stone foundation has been buttressed at its west end by formed concrete applied over the west face of the foundation. Its south elevation features a centered, vertical board, double track door that offers access to the center aisle of the barn. The door track is shielded by a flap of tin mounted over the doorway, presumably to prevent the track from freezing up in inclement weather. Its west elevation offers three evenly spaced, unglazed window openings for each of the horse stalls inside. A pair of centered, vertical board, track doors occupies the north elevation and provides access to the center aisle, while another metal flap like that on the south elevation shields the north elevation door track. The east elevation shows two small, four-light window openings for the cattle/sheep stalls inside, while a large, vertical board, strap-hinged, hayloft door is located at the center of the loft level, above and between the two windows below. At the base of the east wall is the outer portion of the original trough inside the barn. Using a technique seen elsewhere on the property, this trough appears to have been originally of stone that has been covered by formed concrete.

As mentioned previously, horse stalls occupy the lower level west of the interior center aisle. Additional stalls, perhaps for cattle or sheep, are located along the east side of the aisle, although their boundaries are no longer clearly delineated. Beyond these cattle/sheep stalls is a long, roughly formed, concrete trough arranged in two, low levels. The exact purpose of this trough system is not known. A rough, narrow, wood staircase at the southeast corner of the barn rises in a straight run along the south wall to the hayloft. The area beneath these stairs in the southwest corner is no longer accessible, and its function is unknown. The hayloft is an open space dotted with vertical, wood posts, some with Y brackets, that support the barn roof.

*Domestic Yard Fence (circa 1990)—Non-Contributing Object*

Much was made in the Ashe County MPDF of the “historic fence” at the Cicero Pennington Farm, with the authors of the MPDF proclaiming the domestic yard fence here to be “one of the best examples” of such an historic fence. Indeed, the fence design is highly unusual, consisting of a repeating pattern of irregular-length, narrow pickets arranged into a sagging bow pattern between posts.<sup>19</sup> Unfortunately, the fence that has been well documented in past surveys and still exists at the property today is apparently not the original domestic yard fence and appears to date to sometime after 1983. At least two historic images, taken circa 1892 and circa 1910, clearly show a traditional picket fence with repeating pickets of the same size and height. By 1920, when the fence was visible in a photograph showing Cicero Pennington, his wife Almeda, and Dent’s wife Linnie, Cicero Pennington had replaced his original fence with one featuring alternating lengths of pickets, but these were all arranged on a level between posts, a pattern still visible in a photo accompanying a 1983 article on Dent Pennington. The sagging bow

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<sup>19</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” F66-67.

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configuration of the present fence was not documented until 2004, when S. Wyatt and L. Jones first noted that design in the official survey of the property.<sup>20</sup> As a result, this feature is not considered a contributing resource.

*Footbridge (circa 1985)—Non-Contributing Structure*

Another non-contributing resource on the property is a small, wood footbridge for pedestrian and small vehicle traffic that crosses the east branch of Wallens Creek from near the garden shed into the livestock pasture at the north end of the property. While it is likely that the Penningtons had some sort of bridge to allow easy crossing of the creek into this field, its original location is not known, and the present bridge is composed partially of substructure installed by Eugene Voth in the mid-1980s. The present owner recently added new planks to the bridge deck in 2016.

*Integrity*

The five contributing resources on the Cicero Pennington Farm, consisting of the main house and the four outbuildings, are either original to the property or date to some point during the property's period of significance, and all retain a high degree of integrity. All of the resources are located in their original locations and remain in a setting that has changed little since Cicero Pennington built his main house and farm outbuildings. Four of the outbuildings are mostly unchanged from the period of significance. The fifth historic outbuilding—the granary—is currently clad in Masonite. While easily reversed, this replacement material covers the original, character-defining, ventilated design of the granary. Since the granary does not retain sufficient integrity in its current state to convey its significance, it is presently considered non-contributing. Aside from a modest alteration to the west elevation of the rear ell, the exterior of the main house is nearly identical to its original appearance in terms of materials, workmanship, and design. Especially unusual is the survival, virtually unchanged, of the ornate trim elements that define the two double-tier porches and make this property highly unusual among similar I-houses in Ashe County. In addition, its interior retains the original floor plan for the house with the exception of the addition of the bathroom and closet in the west, first floor bedroom of the main block of the house. Examples of Cicero's and Dent's workmanship, design, and original materials—in terms of the carved mantelpieces, the original trim and doorways, and the faux bois treatment to trim elements—survive throughout the interior of the house, as reported by his descendants and surviving neighbors.

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<sup>20</sup> See "Pennington House, 1892," digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter; "Cicero and Almeda Pennington, with Dent's wife Linnie, 1920s," digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter; "1890s Pennington House," digital copy of photograph [probably circa 1910] in the John Littlewood Collection, Museum of Ashe County History; and Vestal Taylor, "Dent Pennington," 1B.

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**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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1884-1928  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1884, 1928  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Cicero Pennington (October 8, 1847-June 9, 1928)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ashe County MPDF highlighted the historic farm complexes of Ashe County as being eligible under Criterion A “for their local significance in the history of agriculture and settlement” and under Criterion C “for their architectural significance and construction craftsmanship or as representative examples of early or rare construction techniques.”<sup>21</sup> More particularly, the Ashe County MPDF noted,

The county’s historic farms are associated with the self-sufficient, minimal cash agriculture of the settlement period through the early twentieth century as well as the shift by the mid-twentieth century to cash-crop agriculture in the form of dairy and beef cattle as well as tobacco and other crops. The farms retain clusters of both the domestic and agriculture outbuildings related to food storage and preparation, livestock care, grain or crop storage, and occasionally the harvesting or processing of a cash crop. Most farm complexes also retain historic patterns of cultivated fields, meadows, pastures, woodlands,

<sup>21</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” F75.

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fences, farm roads, and a dwelling that convey information about the patterns of life, work, and agricultural production on the county's farms.<sup>22</sup>

The Cicero Pennington Farm, with a period of significance from 1884 to 1928, is significant at the local level under Criterion A for its agricultural associations as a remarkably intact farm complex and Criterion C as a highly decorative example of an I-house with a rear ell and double-tier porches, and as an intact example of a farm complex with representative examples of early construction techniques on such farms. The selected period of significance marks the window from construction of the main house at the farm in 1884 until the death of Cicero Pennington in 1928, by which time all of the contributing resources had been constructed. Such farm complexes and I-houses were commonly built throughout Ashe County (and more broadly throughout the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina and Virginia) between 1880 and 1915, reflecting the agricultural prosperity of the period. Context 2, "Slavery, the Civil War, and the Age of the Yeoman Farmer: 1860-1915," on pages E16-E35 of "Historic and Architectural Resources of Ashe County, North Carolina, c. 1799-1955" (MPDF), provides historic context for the Cicero Pennington Farm.<sup>23</sup> Located on the fringes of two rural, Ashe County communities—Sturgills and Helton—the Cicero Pennington Farm was one of the numerous farms "disbursed over a broad area" near Helton and serviced by its mills, church, stores, and post office, as suggested by the listings for Helton in a statewide business directory in 1890.<sup>24</sup>

The Cicero Pennington Farm is particularly noteworthy under the MPDF not only as an intact example of Property Type 1-A—Farm Complexes and Individual Outbuildings (pages F65-F76), but also for the presence of an ornate, vernacular example of Property Type 2-B—Frame Houses (pages F78-F83) that highlights local craftsmanship and retains a high degree of integrity.<sup>25</sup> Specifically, the Cicero Pennington Farm meets the registration requirements for historic farm complexes listed in the MPDF (pages F75-F76) by retaining sufficient farm acreage to convey the agricultural activities at the farm and retaining its original house and many of its original outbuildings with a high degree of integrity. Like most farm complexes dating to the 1880 to 1915 period, as described in the MPDF (page F65), the Cicero Pennington Farm had an I-house with a rear ell, along with the outbuildings commonly associated with these farm complexes—a barn, a granary, a cellar, and a springhouse.<sup>26</sup> All of these survive and nearly all retain a high degree of integrity in both materials and form; only the granary is non-contributing because of its current Masonite covering, which could be removed to reveal the original defining characteristics still present underneath the Masonite. The main house at the Cicero Pennington

<sup>22</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources," F75.

<sup>23</sup> Sherry Joines Wyatt and Lori Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Ashe County, North Carolina, c. 1799-1955," Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Register of Historic Places, undated [2005], E16-E35, online, available at <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/AH0716.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources," E18. Some similar services and businesses were available at Sturgills, to which the farm was geographically closer, although Sturgills was smaller, with a population of 25 in 1890, compared to Helton's 100 residents. See Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Agricultural Almanac for the Year of Our Lord 1890*, (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1890), 87-93.

<sup>25</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources," F65-F76 and F78-F83.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid*, F65.



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Farm would also be individually eligible under Criterion C. As described in this MPDF, the Cicero Pennington House is “one of the most elaborate examples of an I-house with a gabled, double-tier porch at its center bay,” and one of the finest examples of an I-house with a rear ell and double-tier, gabled porches in all of Ashe County.<sup>27</sup> Of particular note is the unusual use of ornately carved flat boards as decorative trim on both the exterior and interior of the house, as well as the extensive use of faux bois treatments on doorways and trim throughout the interior of the house.

The selected period of significance (1884 to 1928) begins with the construction date for the main house at the Cicero Pennington Farm and concludes with the year of Cicero Pennington’s death. Photographs and other evidence suggest that all contributing resources for the farm were constructed during this period, all contributing refinements to the main house were completed before 1928, and the use of the outbuildings as part of a multi-operational farm complex that was common to Ashe County between 1880 and 1915 probably diminished significantly following Cicero Pennington’s death. While it is true that Dent Pennington and his wife continued to live at the farm following his father’s death, and that there is some evidence of subsistence-level agriculture during Dent’s lifetime, there is no existing evidence to support the idea that Dent Pennington continued to operate the farm at the level of activity associated with the farm during Cicero Pennington’s lifetime. An account from 1980 clearly indicates that Dent spent his career as a mechanic, electrician, plumber, and furniture maker, while his wife Linnie was a schoolteacher, strongly suggesting that the farm was no longer a significant contributor to the local farm trade following Cicero’s death.<sup>28</sup>

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Historical Background**

Context 2, “Slavery, the Civil War, and the Age of the Yeoman Farmer: 1860-1915,” on pages E16-E35 of “Historic and Architectural Resources of Ashe County, North Carolina, c. 1799-1955” (MPDF), provides historic context for the Cicero Pennington Farm and the main house in particular, but additional context is necessary and helpful for understanding the farm and its history.<sup>29</sup> Ashe County was first established in 1799, following survey work by John Strother and others, with the town of Jeffersonton (today’s Jefferson) established as the county seat in 1803. Over the ensuing century, Ashe County remained a remote, mostly agrarian county often maligned for its disassociation from the rest of the State of North Carolina. The northern portion of the county, where the Cicero Pennington Farm is located, was thinly settled throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, and many of the first immigrants to this region were

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<sup>27</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” E32, F-80.

<sup>28</sup> Edwards, “Old Things.”

<sup>29</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” E16-E35.

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Virginians, like the Penningtons, who crossed the border in search of inexpensive farmland on which to expand their families and make a profitable living.<sup>30</sup>

It was into this setting that Cicero Pennington's mother and father, Stephen K. Pennington (March 24, 1821-March 18, 1890) and Johannah Spencer Pennington (November 30, 1820-December 28, 1911) elected to begin a new life for themselves that was still within easy reach of their relatives in the Grassy Creek portion of Grayson County, Virginia, just five or so miles away. Married circa 1842, the Penningtons had two children, including their son Cicero (October 8, 1847-June 9, 1928), before acquiring the first portions of the land on which the Cicero Pennington Farm is located. Stephen Pennington's first purchase was for 300 acres from Johnson Perkins in January 1848.<sup>31</sup> It was likely on this land that Stephen Pennington built a log cabin that stood just to the northwest of the present-day Cicero Pennington Farm main house, probably on the opposite side of Wallens Creek, and family tradition holds that Stephen Pennington carried his prized grandfather clock by hand from Virginia to their new home. The Penningtons were charter members of the New Helton Methodist Church, located in the nearby community of Helton, and Stephen Pennington served for a time as justice of the peace late in his life.<sup>32</sup> He continued to add to his holdings adjacent to this main parcel throughout the mid-nineteenth century, purchasing another 146 acres in four transactions over the next 25 years.<sup>33</sup>

On November 3, 1868, Cicero Pennington married Almeda Grubb Pennington (April 4, 1851-August 25, 1925), and it was likely shortly after that time that they built a smaller, one-room cabin for themselves.<sup>34</sup> By April 1875, Cicero Pennington was the father of three children who were all crowded into that small house, so he purchased three acres of land described as

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<sup>30</sup> For a good overview of the early history of Ashe County, see Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources," E14-E15.

<sup>31</sup> Johnson Perkins to Stephen Pennington, January 1, 1848, Deed Book O, Page 330, Ashe County Registry of Deeds. Copy also contained in "Pennington, Dent," Ashe County Genealogical Collection Vertical Files.

<sup>32</sup> On Stephen and Johannah Pennington, see "Genealogical data compiled on the Pennington Family," undated, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter; and Mae Pennington, "I Lived in Those Mountains," typescript, undated but ca. 1965, 34, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter. The log cabin they built is visible in a circa 1920s image of the Cicero Pennington Farm. See "1920s Pennington Home," Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter. Many of the images contained in the Pennington Archives also appear in the John Littlewood Collection at the Museum of Ashe County, Jefferson, NC. It is not known when the log cabin was demolished.

<sup>33</sup> See State of North Carolina to Stephen Pennington, June 4, 1851, Deed Book R, Page 234, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; and Johnson Perkins to Stephen Pennington, July 26, 1858, contained in "Pennington, Dent," Ashe County Genealogical Collection Vertical Files. The second transaction does not appear in the Ashe County Registry of Deeds index. See also State of North Carolina to Stephen Pennington, January 25, 1868, contained in "Pennington, Dent," Ashe County Genealogical Collection Vertical Files. This transaction may also be the same one indexed in the Ashe County Registry of Deeds as Deed Book V (2<sup>nd</sup>), Page 476. This deed is not visible in the Ashe County Registry of Deeds online interface and has not been located. For the fourth transaction, see State of North Carolina to Stephen Pennington, May 15, 1873, Deed Book X, Page 416, Ashe County Registry of Deeds, copy also contained in "Pennington, Dent," Ashe County Genealogical Collection Vertical Files.

<sup>34</sup> Mae Pennington, "I Lived in Those Mountains," 34. This building may be the one visible at the far left (southwest of the main house and in front of the Stephen Pennington cabin) in the "1920s Pennington Home" image, cited supra. It is not known when this cabin was demolished.

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adjoining the Stephen Pennington land and Spencer's Road (today's Spencer Branch Road).<sup>35</sup> Just two months later, Cicero purchased 76 acres from his parents' large landholdings in the vicinity.<sup>36</sup> That same month, Cicero purchased another three acres from Mary A. and E. G. Kirby.<sup>37</sup> Over the next 18 years, Cicero would add further to his landholdings through multiple purchases and sales, compiling final holdings of as much as 113 acres at the time of his death in 1928.<sup>38</sup>

Family tradition holds that Cicero built the house on his own, using his skills as a self-taught carpenter, coffin-maker, cobbler, and fine woodworker on timber he harvested from his own

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<sup>35</sup> Mary A. Kirby and E. G. Kirby to Cicero Pennington, April 27, 1875, Deed Book AA, Page 140, Ashe County Registry of Deeds, copy also contained in "Pennington, Dent," Ashe County Genealogical Collection Vertical Files. Cicero and Almada Pennington had a total of eleven children: Cora Ellen Pennington (Pugh) (1870-1929); Franklin T. Pennington (1872-1905); Victoria L. Pennington (Halsey) (1874-1960); Martha V. Pennington (Weaver) (1876-1967); Callie Pennington (Kilby) (1879-1950); Stephen Glenn Pennington (1882-1900, incorrectly reported as b. 1880 in family genealogy); William Edward Pennington (1885-1962); Josie Anna Pennington (Wall) (1887-1981); Charles Bradley Pennington (1889-1988); Carl Pennington (1891-1918); and Dent Pennington (1895-1984). All dates have been crossed checked against various primary sources available by subscription at Ancestry.com. Family genealogical records inexplicably list twelve children, although the twelfth child is never named. This may have been an enumeration error by the family researcher.

<sup>36</sup> Stephen and Joanna Pennington to Cicero Pennington, June 4, 1875, Deed Book AA, Page 136, Ashe County Registry of Deeds, copy also contained in "Pennington, Dent," Ashe County Genealogical Collection vertical file.

<sup>37</sup> Mary A. Kirby and E. G. Kirby to Cicero Pennington, June 17, 1875, Deed Book AA, Page 141, Ashe County Registry of Deeds, copy also contained in "Pennington, Dent," Ashe County Genealogical Collection vertical file.

<sup>38</sup> See Eli and Mary Weaver to Cicero Pennington, June 8, 1883, Deed Book CC, Page 121, Ashe County Registry of Deeds, copy also contained in "Pennington, Dent," Ashe County Genealogical Collection vertical file; Eli and Mary Weaver to Cicero Pennington, March 16, 1887, Deed Book GG, Page 282, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Stephen and Joanna Pennington to Cicero Pennington, March 11, 1889, Deed Book II, Page 537, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Eli and Mary Weaver to Cicero Pennington, March 14, 1889, Deed Book II, Pages 535-36, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Joel and Ennis Sturgill to Cicero Pennington, January 16, 1897, Deed Book NN, Page 273, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; and John A. Sturgill to Cicero Pennington, January 13, 1898, Deed Book NN, Page 271, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; and Emry and Frances Spencer to Cicero Pennington, May 1, 1905, Deed Book A1, Page 295, Ashe County Registry of Deeds. During this same period, Cicero also sold various parcels. See Cicero and Almada Pennington to H. W. Spencer, June 4, 1915, Deed Book V1, Page 15, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Cicero Pennington to Jason Spencer, December 10, 1925, Deed Book M2, Page 434, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; and Cicero Pennington to Jason Spencer, December 10, 1925, Deed Book M2, Page 174, Ashe County Registry of Deeds. A cluster of four transactions on November 18, 1893, which appear to be part of a land swap that does not provide total acreage on one of the transactions, make a calculation of Cicero's holdings at the time of his death nearly impossible. See Martha C. Sturgill, et al, to Cicero Pennington, November 18, 1893, Deed Book KK, Page 157, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Cicero and Meda Pennington, et al, to Orlean Young, November 18, 1893, Deed Book, KK, Page 173, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Jane Weaver, et al, to Martha Sturgill, November 18, 1893, Deed Book KK, Page 153, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; and Cicero and Meda Pennington, et al, to Jane Weaver, November 18, 1893, Deed Book KK, Page 155, Ashe County Registry of Deeds. A 1953 mineral rights lease between Dent and Linnie Pennington and the H & H Contracting Company suggests total acreage of 104 acres by referencing "that certain tract or tracts of land, containing 104 acres" that were conveyed to Dent Pennington from Cicero Pennington in the latter's will. See Dent and Linnie Pennington to Grant Bauguess, agent for H & H Contracting Company, October 9, 1953, Deed Book O3, Page 305, Ashe County Registry of Deeds. No such figure appears in Cicero Pennington's actual will. See Will of Cicero Pennington, Proved June 12, 1928, *North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998*, Wills Book G, Pages 167-68, available on Ancestry.com by subscription. When he was interviewed in 1983, Dent cited his landholdings at 113 acres. See Taylor, "Dent Pennington," 1B.

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land.<sup>39</sup> Documenting Cicero's various professions, however, is difficult. Mae Pennington, for example, recalled in 1965 Cicero's reputation not only as a house builder but also as a cobbler and furniture maker. Cicero's daughter-in-law, Linnie Pennington, recalled in 1980 that Cicero was "the official coffin maker" in the area, even showing the reporter who interviewed her the sticks stored in the wood shop that were routinely brought to Cicero with markings to indicate the size of the dead for whom coffins were being ordered. Little independent evidence for these claims appears to exist, however, beyond the existence of the wood shop and workbench still present in one of the outbuildings on the property. *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* for 1890, for example, makes no mention of Cicero Pennington, naming only two general stores, a painter, a livestock dealer, and woollens mill as businesses of note at Helton, with only a livestock dealer and general store listed at nearby Sturgills. Other directories from the early twentieth century are similarly silent on Cicero's occupation. Nor does Cicero Pennington appear among a list of notable farmers in the Helton vicinity, although Census records repeatedly list Cicero as a farmer from 1870 to 1920.<sup>40</sup> That Cicero possessed some measure of carpentry skills may be best evident in the skills of his sons. Both Dent and his brother C. Bradley Pennington were somewhat renowned in Ashe County throughout the twentieth century for their master carpentry skills, while their brother William Edward Pennington was alleged to have "built many of the nicest homes in the south part of Kansas City." Still another source claims that another brother was a "master builder in the Northern States...[of] homes in the \$50,000 bracket which were highly advertised as 'The Pennington Homes.'"<sup>41</sup>

A careful scan of other sources from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is a testament to Cicero's repeated willingness to dabble in multiple fields for income. In 1883, Cicero Pennington was listed as a magistrate for the nearby Helton community in Ashe County, and in 1893, Cicero Pennington's land—specifically the ridge just to the northwest of the house—was described as being a particularly promising source for titaniferous magnetite, a type of iron ore.<sup>42</sup> This likely explains Cicero and Almeda Pennington's decision to sell the mineral

<sup>39</sup> The idea that Cicero Pennington built the Cicero Pennington Farm main house and outbuildings is frequently repeated in many sources. See, for example, Mae Pennington, "I Lived in Those Mountains," 34; Helto[n] Home Demonstration Club, "Pennington Home," *Home Demonstration*, July 22, 1965; Edwards, "Old Things Are Precious," C1.

<sup>40</sup> Levi Branson and Myrtle C. Branson, eds., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1890*, Volume VII (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1889), 90-93; "Cicero Pennington," *1870 United States Federal Census*, Helton, Ashe, North Carolina, Roll M593\_1122, page 473A, Image 320859, Family History Library Film 552621, available by subscription on Ancestry.com; "Cicero Pennington," *1880 United States Federal Census*, Helton, Ashe, North Carolina, Roll 952, Family History Film 1254952, Page 561D, Enumeration District 18, Image 124, available by subscription on Ancestry.com; "Cicero Pennington," *1900 United States Federal Census*, Helton, Ashe, North Carolina, Roll 1182, Page 4B, Enumeration District 11, FHL microfilm 1241182, available by subscription on Ancestry.com; "Cicero Pennington," *1910 United States Federal Census*, Helton, Ashe, North Carolina, Roll T624\_1096, Page 1A, Enumeration District 23, FHL microfilm 1375109, available by subscription on Ancestry.com; "Cicero Pennington," *1920 United States Federal Census*, Helton, Ashe, North Carolina, Roll T625\_1284, Page 1A, Enumeration District 25, Image 101, available by subscription on Ancestry.com.

<sup>41</sup> On Dent and C. Bradley, see "Genealogical data," Pennington Archives. On William Edward, see Mae Pennington, "I Lived in Those Mountains," 34. On the unnamed brother, see Helto[n] Home Demonstration Club, "Pennington Home," *Home Demonstration*, July 22, 1965.

<sup>42</sup> "The New Magistrates," *Lenoir Topic*, March 28, 1883: 3; H. B. C. Nitze, *North Carolina Geological Survey Bulletin No. 1: Iron Ores of North Carolina*, (Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, 1893), 158-61.

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rights to 125 acres of their land in 1904.<sup>43</sup> By 1919, at least three mines were apparently operating on Cicero's property.<sup>44</sup>

Cicero's brush with mining suggests that he may have had some earlier contact with Captain John Dent, an English mining engineer responsible for developing a copper mine between 1870 and 1883 at Ore Knob in Ashe County, which was easily the county's largest and most profitable mine during the late nineteenth century. The town of miners that grew up around this mine by the mid-1870s had 600 residents as well as numerous supporting businesses, including carpenters, and it may have served as a source of employment for the newly married Cicero.<sup>45</sup> This may also explain Cicero and Almeda Pennington's decision to name their youngest son Dent when he was born in 1895, just two years after the iron ore seam was found on Cicero's property; it's a name that does not otherwise appear in the Pennington line prior to that date.

It's also likely that Cicero Pennington derived some income from a variety of activities beyond woodworking and mining, some of which are hinted at by the buildings located at the Cicero Pennington Farm. The presence of a granary and a large barn with livestock and horse stalls at the farm strongly suggest a farming component to Cicero's operations, at least for subsistence production and likely some light, local farm trade. Indeed, the MPDF notes that early farm complexes in Ashe County "were mostly self-sufficient, minimal-cash operations," with cash crops not becoming common until the 1930s.<sup>46</sup> Early images provide other evidence of Cicero Pennington's commitment to agriculture throughout the period of significance. An 1892 image of the Cicero Pennington House clearly shows a large field of crops, probably corn, planted halfway up the hillside to the northwest of the house.<sup>47</sup> An image from 1922 shows Cicero Pennington working corn and other crops planted in the field across the creek to the north of the garden shed.<sup>48</sup> Another 1920s image of the main house from the south shows the land below the house and the yard to the west of the house also planted heavily in corn—far more than a single family would use in a single year, suggesting that he was either diverting part of this corn to market or using it as feed for a livestock herd.<sup>49</sup> This same image appears to show cattle or other livestock grazing about halfway up the hill behind the house. Other evidence for the marketability of Cicero's crops and livestock can be found in the memories of family members. Peggy Taylor, for example, remembered that her grandfather Cicero had walnut trees and once traded meat and corn for a cherry cupboard.<sup>50</sup> Dent Pennington, Cicero's son, recalled in a 1983 article the "livestock and field crops" on the family farm when he was a boy.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Cicero and Almeda Pennington to Wyndham B. Robertson, June 11, 1904, Deed Book A1, Page 295, Ashe County Registry of Deeds.

<sup>44</sup> Joseph Hyde Pratt and H. M. Berry, *North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, Economic Paper No. 49: The Mining Industry in North Carolina During 1913-17, Inclusive*, (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1919), 49.

<sup>45</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources," E23-E24.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid*, F65.

<sup>47</sup> "Pennington House, 1892," digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter.

<sup>48</sup> See "In the Gardens, 1922," Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter.

<sup>49</sup> See "1920s Pennington Home," Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter.

<sup>50</sup> Arlene Edwards, "Old Things Are Precious: Their Museum Lives," *Winston-Salem Journal*, August 24, 1980: C1.

<sup>51</sup> Vestal Taylor, "Dent Pennington: A Man Comfortably at Home in Helton," *Jefferson Times*, August 11, 1983, unpaginated clipping, Ashe County Library.

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Later in life, Cicero also embraced other investments that might seem out of place for a self-taught carpenter and farmer, but that actually dovetail nicely with his skills. In May 1917, for example, Cicero Pennington was listed as one of the incorporators of the Helton Cooperative Cheese Factory at Sturgills; it is possible that the cheese factory was also a market conduit for the modest dairy production from his farm's herd, especially since all of his children were grown by that point and the household reduced to Cicero, Almeda, and Dent.<sup>52</sup> By 1925, though, Almeda Pennington had died, and Cicero Pennington passed shortly thereafter, in 1928. Upon Cicero Pennington's death, his will provided that "my land and my tools and machinery sufficient to work said land," along with a number of personal belongings and furnishings, would pass to his son Dent Pennington.<sup>53</sup>

Living at Cicero's farm and house was not a new experience for Dent Pennington, who had lived in the house for the vast majority of his life, aside from a short stint in World War I, where he was wounded on the battlefield just three hours before the Armistice.<sup>54</sup> Indeed, Dent grew up in the house, lived there immediately after his marriage to Linnie in December 1921, and remained there after he inherited the farm until his death in 1984. During his life, Dent Pennington also established a reputation for being a "jack of all trades [and] master of several."<sup>55</sup> In his early life, he apparently worked as a mechanic for a garage in Lansing, as an electrician for houses in Grayson County, Virginia, as a plumber, and as a noted furniture maker in the region. By the time he was in his 80s, Dent Pennington and his wife Linnie had transformed the Cicero Pennington Farm into something of a museum, showcasing furniture built by both Cicero and Dent Pennington over the preceding century.<sup>56</sup>

Dent even tried his own hand at profiting off the mining of his property, agreeing in 1953 to lease just ten acres of land in his "northwest field" on the condition that he would receive royalties of 25 cents per ton of any merchantable iron ore removed from the premises and 10% of the sale price of any other minerals or ores with prices higher than that for iron ore.<sup>57</sup> Nevertheless, Dent was not much for actually holding onto his land, preferring to sell it for income over time. Over the 42 years following his inheritance, Dent Pennington and his wife Linnie sold all but 20.799 acres through a variety of transactions.<sup>58</sup> Despite this sale of land, the

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<sup>52</sup> "New Corporations," *Raleigh News and Observer*, May 24, 1917: 5. On household size in 1917, see "Cicero Pennington," *1920 United States Federal Census*.

<sup>53</sup> See Will of Cicero Pennington, Proved June 12, 1928, North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998, Wills Book G, Pages 167-68, available on Ancestry.com by subscription.

<sup>54</sup> Taylor, "Dent Pennington," 1B.

<sup>55</sup> Edwards, "Old Things Are Precious," C1.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid*, C1.

<sup>57</sup> See Dent and Linnie Pennington to Grant Bauguess, agent for H & H Contracting Company, October 9, 1953, Deed Book O3, Page 305, Ashe County Registry of Deeds.

<sup>58</sup> See Dent Pennington to J. E. and Mandy Spencer, June 4, 1940, Deed Book Z2, Page 85, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Dent Pennington to Jo and Elsie Emerson, October 14, 1952, Deed Book Q3, Page 393, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Dent and Linnie Pennington to Bryan Kirby, Jr., and Rose C. Kirby, January 8, 1958, Deed Book X3, Page 299; Dent and Linnie Pennington to Paul. G. and Edra W. Sturgill, October 24, 1960, Deed Book C4, Page 167, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Dent and Linnie Pennington to Luetta Thompson, December 6, 1965, Deed Book L5, Page 599; and Dent and Linnie Pennington to Fred L. and Roxie B. Rash, December 1970, Deed Book

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area immediately surrounding the farm remains rural. When Dent Pennington died in 1986, Lorena P. Wolff purchased the remaining land at auction, eventually sharing ownership with her husband, Eugene C. Voth. The Voths then sold the land in 2016 to Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter.<sup>59</sup>

### **Agriculture Context—Property Type 1-A**

The Cicero Pennington Farm is an outstanding example of an intact, multi-operational farm complex that was common to Ashe County between 1880 and 1915. The Cicero Pennington Farm displays the typical layout of these farm complexes, as described in detail in the MPDF.<sup>60</sup> Located near the junction of two creek branches, the main house is on a slight rise to avoid flooding from the nearby creeks and has a predominantly south-facing exposure on its main elevation. No later than 1892, a large springhouse was located a few steps from the kitchen at the back of the rear ell of the main house. While the springhouse was certainly renovated (probably around 1910), it appears to occupy the same footprint as the original. The property also included a small root cellar built into the foundation of the wood shop a short distance from the house. Topography played a key role in the way these farm outbuildings were sited; the carriage house/wood shop complex, the granary, and the barn were all located well above the flood plain of the nearby creek, which paralleled the buildings and the main farm driveway situated just to the east. Conversely, the springhouse was located in the valley with the house, allowing gravity to assist the piping of water from a natural spring near the barn downhill to the springhouse location. This influence of topography on outbuilding arrangement was common, as seen in the Tyre and Esther Rash Farm (AH 384) mentioned in the MPDF.<sup>61</sup> Also common was the placement of outbuildings to the rear of the main house and along a farm driveway, as seen at the Cicero Pennington Farm. Indeed, this general arrangement of farm buildings to the rear of the house along a farm driveway can be seen in two other complexes mentioned in the MPDF—the Joel and Hattie Walters Farm (AH 517) and the Alexander and Rebecca Oliver Farm (AH 329).<sup>62</sup>

Two of the outbuildings at the Cicero Pennington Farm—the wood shop and the barn—have at least partially banked foundations, another common feature of the Ashe County farm complex often dictated by terrain. The livestock barn was located furthest from the house, as was also common. Although somewhat atypical for barns dating to this period, which were usually front-gable, two-story buildings, the two-story, shed roof form of the Cicero Pennington Farm barn did become more common in Ashe County after 1910, as seen in the examples of the barns at the

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W4, Page 335, Ashe County Registry of Deeds. After accounting for these known, recorded sales, there is not sufficient land remaining from the 104 acres allegedly conveyed to Dent Pennington to account for the known remaining 20.799 acres. No records of land purchases by Dent Pennington between 1895 and 1986 have been found that might explain this discrepancy, suggesting that the 104-acre figure shown on the aforementioned mining lease may be incorrect.

<sup>59</sup> See Estate of Dent Pennington to Lorena P. Wolff, March 20, 1986, Deed Book 152, Page 2097, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; Lorena D. P. Voth (formerly Lorena P. Wolff) and Eugene C. Voth to Eugene C. Voth and Lorena D. P. Voth, February 25, 1987, Deed Book 158, Page 837, Ashe County Registry of Deeds; and Eugene C. Voth and Lorena D. P. Voth to Jeffrey M. and Ellen D. Coulter, September 6, 2016, Deed Book 473, Page 1512, Ashe County Registry of Deeds.

<sup>60</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, "Historic and Architectural Resources," F65-F68.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid, F68.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid, F67.

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Isham Goss Farm (AH 106) and the James Anderson Farm (AH 138).<sup>63</sup> The positioning of the granary between the barn and other outbuildings located closer to the house was also a common feature, and as the MPDF notes, the granary at the Cicero Pennington Farm was an excellent example of a transitional form of the granary, with a carryover of traits from the earlier log granaries to the later frame granaries.<sup>64</sup>

The Cicero Pennington Farm was also specifically highlighted in the MPDF for its domestic yard fence, which was described as serving the “dual role of ornament and protection of the yard, its plantings, and the house itself from damage by livestock.”<sup>65</sup> While the fence inaccurately described in the MPDF as “one of the best examples of a historic fence” was actually a much later replacement fence, the property always featured a domestic yard fence with the same footprint, intended to separate the domestic space from the farm driveway and the farm fields to the north, west, and south of the house.<sup>66</sup> While the overall acreage of the farm had shrunk considerably by the late twentieth century, fields to the north and west of the main house that are documented to have been either planted with crops or used for grazing livestock are still included in the boundary of the remaining land associated with the Cicero Pennington Farm.

With the exception of the domestic yard fence (replaced) and the granary, whose character-defining features have been covered with Masonite, the surviving main house and farm outbuildings display a remarkable degree of integrity and still illustrate the general use and organizational patterns of the typical Ashe County farm complex built between 1880 and 1915. As an intact example of Property Type 1A—Farm Complexes and Individual Outbuildings (pages F65-F76 in the MPDF) with a high degree of integrity, the Cicero Pennington Farm, with a period of significance from 1884 to 1928, is significant at the local level under Criterion A for its agricultural associations.

### **Architecture Context—Property Type 2-B**

As characterized by the Ashe County MPDF, the main house at the Cicero Pennington Farm is an ornate, vernacular example of Property Type 2-B—Frame Houses that highlights local craftsmanship and retains a high degree of integrity.<sup>67</sup> More specifically, the Cicero Pennington Farm main house is an outstanding, highly decorated example of a two-story I-house with a rear ell, a popular style in Ashe County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Located on the fringes of two rural, Ashe County communities—Sturgills and Helton—the Cicero Pennington Farm was one of the numerous farms “disbursed over a broad area” near

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<sup>63</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” F69.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid, F70-F71.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid, F66.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid, F66. For examples of the two early versions of the domestic yard fence at the Cicero Pennington Farm, see “Pennington House, 1892,” digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter; “Cicero and Almeda Pennington, with Dent’s wife Linnie, 1920s,” digital copy of original photograph, Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter; “1890s Pennington House,” digital copy of photograph [probably circa 1910] in the John Littlewood Collection, Museum of Ashe County History.

<sup>67</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” F65-F76 and F78-F83.



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Helton and serviced by its mills, church, stores, and post office, as suggested by the listings for Helton in a statewide business directory in 1890.<sup>68</sup> As described in the MPDF, the Cicero Pennington House is “one of the most elaborate examples of an I-house with a gabled, double-tier porch at its center bay,” and one of the finest examples of an I-house with a rear ell and double-tier, gabled porches in all of Ashe County.<sup>69</sup> Two such porches are present—one on the main (south) elevation and the other on the east elevation of the rear ell. Of particular note is the use of ornately carved flat boards as decorative trim on both the exterior and interior of the house, as well as the extensive use of faux bois treatments on doorways and trim throughout the interior of the house.

As the MPDF notes, two-story, single-pile I-houses with a side-gabled roof and a three-bay, center hall plan were the second most common house form in Ashe County.<sup>70</sup> The exterior trim treatment, the rear ell, and the gabled, double-tier porches of the Cicero Pennington Farm’s main house were also fairly common in Ashe County; indeed, the Perry-Shepherd House in Apple Grove (AH 108) appears to feature similar detailing in the balustrade and also employs ornately carved, curvilinear flat boards as posts for its upper porch. These silhouette posts could also be found at the William Clark Farm (AH 114) at the time of the MPDF survey.<sup>71</sup> The Thomas Jefferson Jones House (AH 146) in Lansing offers similar exterior trim features, including flat board trim elements, a highly decorative carved balustrade, and two double-tier porches—one on the front elevation, the other on the rear ell. This house lacks the integrity of the Cicero Pennington Farm main house, as its front double-tier porch has been dramatically altered, and its windows and siding apparently updated.<sup>72</sup> What makes the main house at the Cicero Pennington Farm stand out among these comparable homes is the high quality and variety of the trim treatments; the unusual attic window design; the surviving, polychrome, faux bois application found on much of the interior trim throughout the main block of the house; and the intricately decorated newel post for the staircase in the main block of the house, which the MPDF described collectively as “some of the county’s best woodwork.”<sup>73</sup>

The main house at the Cicero Pennington Farm meets the MPDF’s registration requirements for listing under Criterion C as an unusually ornate example of a common architectural type in Ashe County between 1880 and 1915. As required for listing by the MPDF, the main house at the Cicero Pennington Farm retains a high level of integrity in both materials and form, especially for a property of this age in Ashe County.<sup>74</sup> Simply put, the main house at the Cicero Pennington

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<sup>68</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” E18. Some similar services and businesses were available at Sturgills, to which the farm was geographically closer, although Sturgills was smaller, with a population of 25 in 1890, compared to Helton’s 100 residents. See Levi Branson, *Branson’s North Carolina Agricultural Almanac for the Year of Our Lord 1890*, (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1890), 87-93.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid, E32, F80.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid, F80.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid, F80-F81.

<sup>72</sup> The house number for this property was not visible, but it is located east of the junction of Baldwin Jones Road and NC-194, about twenty yards southeast of the Jones Memorial Infirmary (AH 147). Given its proximity to the infirmary, the house may have been a doctor’s home, possibly the one identified in passing in the MPDF as AH 146. See Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” F94.

<sup>73</sup> Wyatt and Tolliver-Jones, “Historic and Architectural Resources,” F80.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid, F86-F87.

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Farm—an intact, two-story I-house with a rear ell and gabled, double-tier porches, as well as surviving ornate exterior trim elements and interior carved elements treated with faux bois ornamentation—is a highly unusual and remarkably well-preserved example of a late nineteenth-century farm residence. The main house at the Cicero Pennington Farm, with a period of significance from 1884 to 1928, warrants listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance at the local level under Criterion C.

Pennington, Cicero, Farm

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

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Name of repository: Pennington Archives, private collection of Jeffrey and Ellen Coulter.

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** AH0153

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 20.799 Acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.566253  | Longitude: -81.490153 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.565755  | Longitude: -81.489944 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.565566  | Longitude: -81.490211 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.565208  | Longitude: -81.489751 |
| 5. Latitude: 36.564860  | Longitude: -81.489399 |
| 6. Latitude: 36.565357  | Longitude: -81.488695 |
| 7. Latitude: 36.565078  | Longitude: -81.488684 |
| 8. Latitude: 36.564534  | Longitude: -81.489051 |
| 9. Latitude: 36.564174  | Longitude: -81.488704 |
| 10. Latitude: 36.563902 | Longitude: -81.488420 |
| 11. Latitude: 36.563717 | Longitude: -81.488326 |
| 12. Latitude: 36.563545 | Longitude: -81.488226 |
| 13. Latitude: 36.563508 | Longitude: -81.488095 |

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14. Latitude: 36.563672	Longitude: -81.487904
15. Latitude: 36.563924	Longitude: -81.487663
16. Latitude: 36.564033	Longitude: -81.487470
17. Latitude: 36.563547	Longitude: -81.487395
18. Latitude: 36.563503	Longitude: -81.487256
19. Latitude: 36.564008	Longitude: -81.486970
20. Latitude: 36.564265	Longitude: -81.486699
21. Latitude: 36.564399	Longitude: -81.486444
22. Latitude: 36.564701	Longitude: -81.486484
23. Latitude: 36.565200	Longitude: -81.486390
24. Latitude: 36.565808	Longitude: -81.486130
25. Latitude: 36.566104	Longitude: -81.485997
26. Latitude: 36.566352	Longitude: -81.486440
27. Latitude: 36.566088	Longitude: -81.486663
28. Latitude: 36.566560	Longitude: -81.487686
29. Latitude: 36.566893	Longitude: -81.488002

All coordinates are estimates based on parcel boundary as portrayed on the tax sheet.

Pennington, Cicero, Farm  
Name of Property

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Or

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property is the same as the boundary shown on the existing Ashe County Tax Parcel Map for parcel 06207-106, more specifically described in Eugene C. Voth and Lorena D. P. Voth to Jeffrey M. Coulter and Ellen D. Coulter, September 6, 2016, Deed Book 473, Page 1512, Ashe County Registry of Deeds.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property consists of the remaining 20.799 acres that passed directly from Cicero Pennington to Dent Pennington, from Dent Pennington to the Voths, and from the Voths to the present owners, the Coulters. The rationale for this boundary is that the present configuration has existed for nearly 50 years, since Dent and Linnie Pennington sold off their last 40-acre parcel to Fred and Roxie Rash. The remainder of the former Cicero Pennington land is now heavily subdivided and has not had any direct connection to the Pennington family for more than 50 years. The nominated acreage is historically associated with the Cicero Pennington Farm and includes the main house and outbuildings that contribute to the property's significance, as well as sufficient surrounding land to convey the property's historic, self-sufficient, minimal cash, agricultural use.

**Current Owners:**

Name: Jeffrey M. and Ellen D. Coulter  
Address: 141 Stoney Creek Lane, Union Grove, NC 28689  
Phone: (704) 619-3606

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Eric Plaag, PhD  
organization: Carolina Historical Consulting, LLC  
street & number: 703 Junaluska Rd.  
city or town: Boone state: NC zip code: 28607  
e-mail ericplaag@gmail.com  
telephone: (828) 773-6525  
date: April 18, 2018

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

The following information pertains to all photographs listed below:

Name of Property: Cicero Pennington Farm  
City or Vicinity: Sturgills vicinity  
County: Ashe County  
State: NC



Pennington, Cicero, Farm

Name of Property

Ashe County, NC

County and State

Photographer: Eric Plaag

Location of Original Digital Files: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

1. South elevation of main house, looking north, February 13, 2017
2. Oblique view of west and south elevations of main house, looking northeast, February 13, 2017
3. Oblique view of north and west elevations of rear ell, north elevation of main block, and west elevation of main block of main house, looking southeast, February 13, 2017
4. Oblique view of east elevation of main block of main house, north elevation of main block of main house, east elevation of rear ell of main house, north elevation of rear ell of main house, and east elevation of springhouse, looking west-southwest, February 13, 2017
5. Interior view of center hall staircase and south entrance to main block of main house, featuring faux bois treatment on door and trim, as well as rear of newel post, looking south, February 13, 2017
6. Interior view of center hall staircase in main block of main house with newel post detail, looking north, February 13, 2017
7. Interior view of first floor east room of main block of main house, including mantelpiece, hearth, and doorways to dining room in rear ell and east porch of rear ell, looking northwest, February 13, 2017
8. Interior view of rear ell kitchen on first floor, with door to springhouse breezeway at center and back stairway and door to second floor at right, looking northwest, February 13, 2017
9. Interior view of center hall staircase from second floor hallway in main house, looking north toward bedroom in rear ell, February 13, 2017
10. Interior view of second floor door from hallway in main block of main house to south porch on main house, featuring faux bois treatment on door and trim, looking south, February 13, 2017
11. Interior view of faux bois treatment on mantelpiece, closet door, and trim in second floor east bedroom in main block of main house, looking northwest, February 13, 2017
12. Interior view of servant's bedroom on second floor of rear ell, with staircase descending to kitchen, looking north, February 13, 2017
13. Oblique view of south and west elevations of garden shed, looking northeast, February 13, 2017
14. Oblique view of south and west elevations of springhouse, looking northeast, February 13, 2017
15. Oblique view of south and east elevations of carriage house/wood shop complex, looking north, January 16, 2018
16. West elevation of carriage house/wood shop complex, looking southeast, January 16, 2018
17. Oblique view of east and north elevations of granary, with main house and carriage house/wood shop complex in the distance, looking southwest, January 16, 2018
18. Oblique view of south and east elevations of the livestock barn, looking northwest, February 13, 2017

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

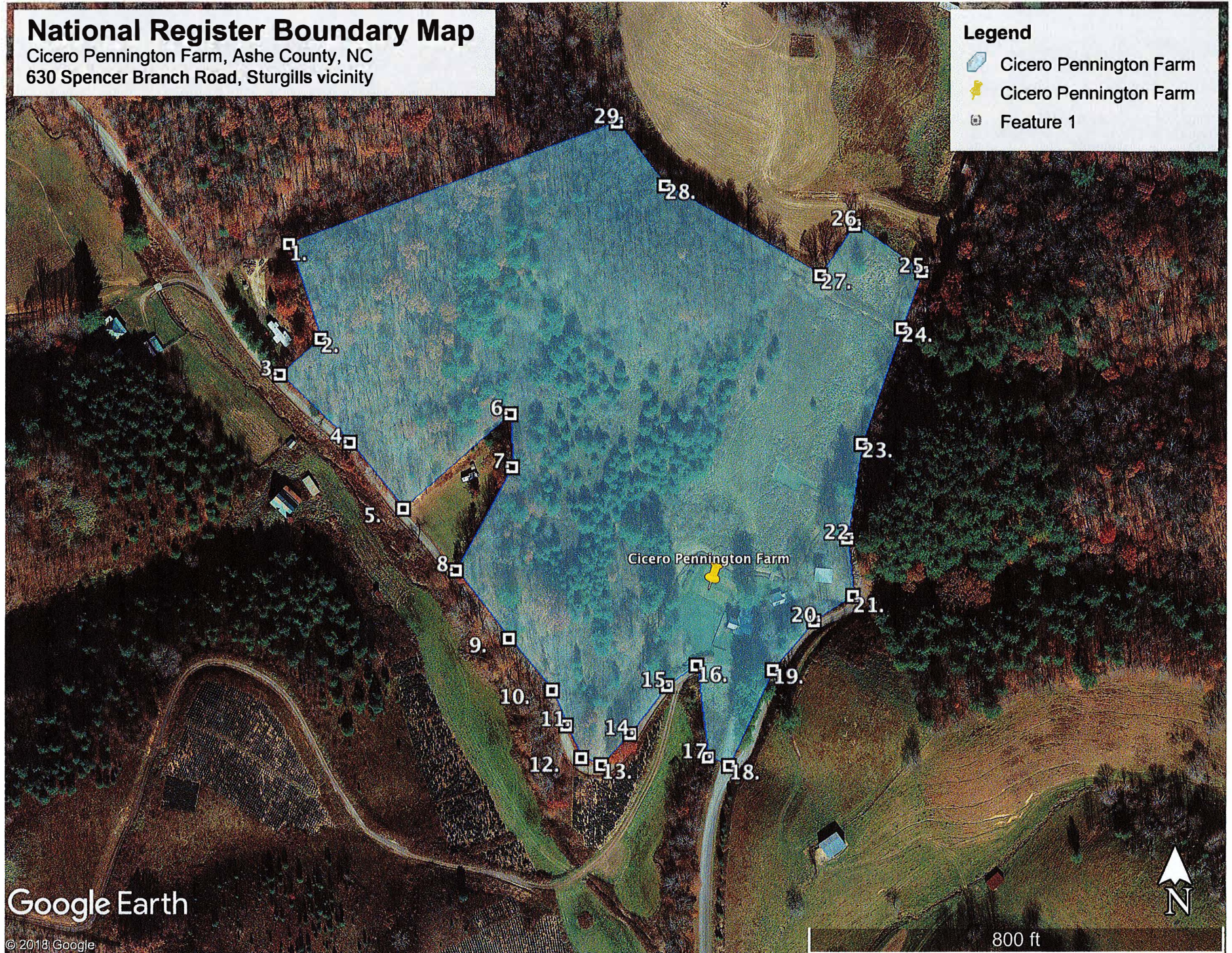
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

# National Register Boundary Map

Cicero Pennington Farm, Ashe County, NC  
630 Spencer Branch Road, Sturgills vicinity

## Legend

-  Cicero Pennington Farm
-  Cicero Pennington Farm
-  Feature 1



Google Earth

© 2018 Google

800 ft

### Cicero Pennington Farm

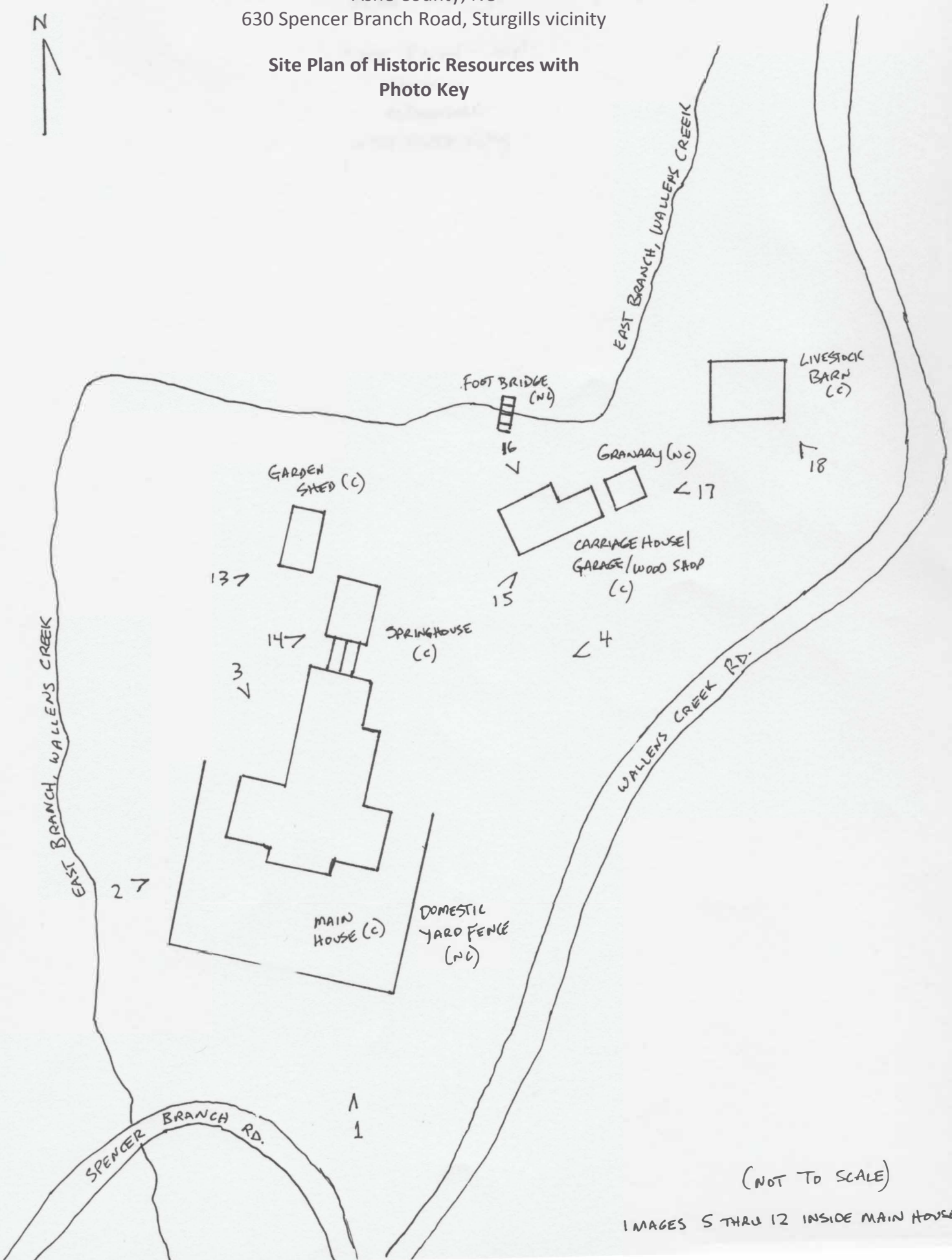
630 Spencer Branch Rd., Sturgills Vicinity, Ashe County, NC-----Scale Bar in Map



Date created: 4/19/2018  
Last Data Uploaded: 4/19/2018 3:51:47 AM

Cicero Pennington Farm  
Ashe County, NC  
630 Spencer Branch Road, Sturgills vicinity

Site Plan of Historic Resources with  
Photo Key



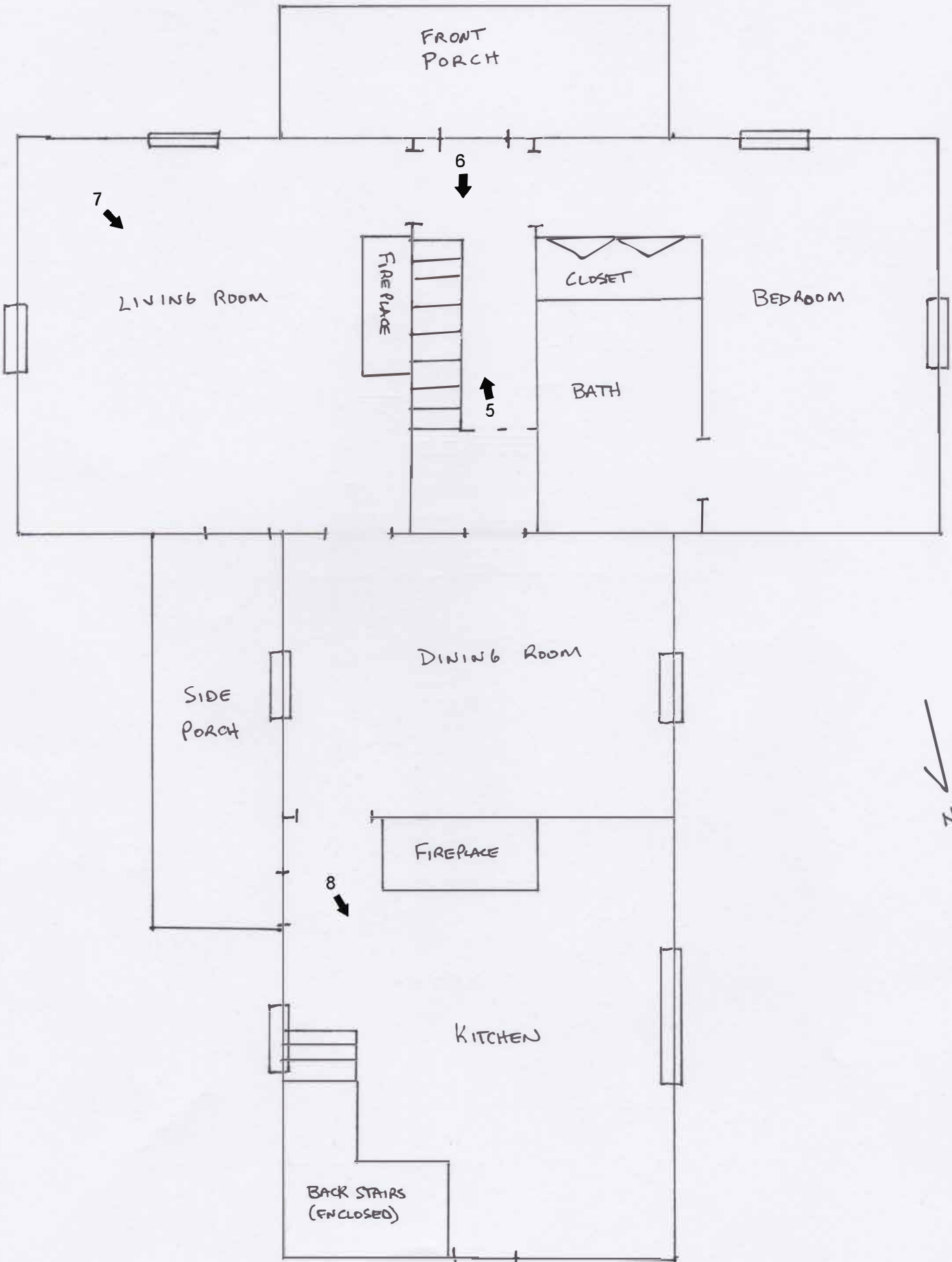
(NOT TO SCALE)

IMAGES 5 THRU 12 INSIDE MAIN HOUSE

Cicero Pennington Farm  
Ashe County, NC  
630 Spencer Branch Road, Sturgills vicinity

(NOT TO SCALE)

First Floor Plan



Cicero Pennington Farm  
Ashe County, NC  
630 Spencer Branch Road, Sturgills vicinity

(NOT TO SCALE)

Second Floor Plan

