

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Braxton, Hiram House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 3440 Newlin Road  not for publication N/A

city or town Snow Camp  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Alamance code 001 zip code 27349

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. Pin SHPO 9-30-93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

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

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

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Hiram Braxton House  
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

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

Log Bldgs. in Alamance Co., NC c. 1780-c.1930

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

Domestic: single dwelling

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

Domestic: secondary structure

**7. Description**

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

Other: log; three-room plan

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls log

roof metal

other weatherboard

brick

**Narrative Description**

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

see Continuation Sheets

Hiram Braxton House  
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC  
County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

#### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is: N/A

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

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

#### Period of Significance

c. 1865; 1884

#### Significant Dates

c. 1865  
1884

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

unknown

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Hiram Braxton House  
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 5.5 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	65 11 81310	3 19 70 46 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March 1, 1993

street & number 4606 Hunt Road telephone (919) 732-5439

city or town Hillsborough state NC zip code 27278

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mary Irene Braxton

street & number 3440 Newlin Rd. telephone (919) 376-3318

city or town Snow Camp state NC zip code 27349

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Alamance Co., NC

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### 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Hiram Braxton House is located on the north side of Newlin Road about one-tenth mile west of its intersection with Green Hill Road in the southeast corner of Alamance County. The c. 1865 one-story V-notched log house with an 1884 side frame addition stands in what is now the back yard of a non-contributing modest one-story cinder block house built in the early 1960s by a Braxton family descendant. The log house is surrounded by a grassy yard, flanked by small apple orchards and grape trellises, and shaded by mature oak trees.

The adjoining log and frame portions of the Braxton House each have handsome dry-laid stone chimneys with offset brick stacks; the brick stack on the log portion retains the original painted mortar joints. Both sections stand on rock piers and are roofed with standing seam metal. The log pen has a full-width shed-roof porch. The frame side addition is set slightly forward of the log building and does not have a porch; exterior entrance to the addition is through a plank door which opens onto the log building's porch, or by a plank door centered in the main elevation of the addition. The V-notched logs of the main elevation are whitewashed up to the ceiling joist line and clapboards sheathe the other elevations. The log unit retains the original six-over-six sash windows set in hand-planed poplar casings. Four-panel doors stand opposite each other, centered on the main and rear elevations. A shed-roofed open carport was appended to the log rear elevation at an undetermined date.

An examination of the attic in the original log house reveals that the top plates are formed from quarter sections of logs, a feature common to many of Alamance County's log buildings. There are a ridge board and three-inch-round pole rafters. The gable ends are framed with round poles nailed with machine-cut nails. Power-sash sawn poplar boards sheathe the gable ends. Oak nailers show the nail marks of an earlier shake roof. The loft is floored with wide shiplap pine boards.

On the interior, the original log portion of the Hiram Braxton House displays evidence of a three-room, Continental or Quaker, plan. The three-room plan was a minor house type in Alamance County with its distribution limited to the southern part of the county. Most of the half dozen surviving examples (both log and frame structures) are found near the Snow Camp community, an area primarily settled by Quakers from Pennsylvania. In this plan, two small unheated rooms open at

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one end onto a larger heated room. No completely intact log examples of the Quaker plan are known to survive in the Alamance County. The most commonly found alteration is the removal of the interior room partitions in order to create a larger living space. In the Braxton House the partitions were removed (ghost marks remain) c. 1980 in order to accommodate tobacco storage. The stairs to the attic/loft area, originally located on the rear wall next to the door, were also removed at that time; a new open string staircase and a large trap door to the loft were installed for ease in moving and storing tobacco. The log house retains its whitewashed oak log walls, pine floor boards, hand-planed ceiling joists, simple mantelpiece of power-planed pine planks, and window casings of hand-planed poplar set with machine-made cut nails.

The frame addition functioned as the kitchen; a metal stove pipe runs up through the chimney flue. Flush pine tongue-and-groove boards cover the walls and the flooring is also pine. The doors are made of pine planks. There is no ridge board in the attic of this addition. Access to the attic is by a small scuttle in the ceiling.

No farm outbuildings survive.

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## 8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Summary:

The Hiram Braxton House, a c. 1865 log house with an 1884 frame side addition, is significant in Alamance County's local history under Criterion C as a rare, relatively intact, example of a log house with evidence of its original three-room, or Quaker, plan. It embodies the distinctive characteristics and distribution pattern of this type of log building in the county as discussed in the multiple property listing "Log Buildings in Alamance County, North Carolina, c. 1780-c. 1930." It also illustrates the fairly common Alamance County pattern of a log house expanded with an adjoining frame addition. The house is associated with the Braxton family, early Quaker settlers in Alamance County, and owners of the property on which it is located from 1761 to the present.

### ----- Historical Background:

According to family historians John and Judy Braxton, brothers Thomas and Robert Braxton immigrated from England to the Virginia Colony in 1636 and 1639 respectively. They settled south of the James River, near the present-day Jamestown, Virginia. There are apparently no surviving family records for about one hundred years until January 10, 1761 when a deed was transacted in the Colony of North Carolina by the Earl of Granville's agent, Thomas Child. It transferred 262 acres in Orange County (now Alamance County) to William Braxton, Hiram Braxton's great-grandfather. William Braxton had traveled from Virginia to the North Carolina piedmont via the Great Trading Path, a well-traveled route for settlers of North Carolina's frontier or "back country." Other Braxton family members moved farther south along the Path, settling in present Pitt and Hanover counties.

William Braxton and his wife Marjorie had four daughters and one son named Thomas. Thomas and his wife, Mary McPherson, had fourteen children including a son, John. John married Mary "Polly" Love and they had eight children including two sons, Hiram and William Elisha Braxton. The Braxtons were relatively prosperous farmers who had established their homesteads on various portions of the family's original land grant.

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Hiram Braxton (1841-1926) and his brother, John, fought for the Confederate Army in the Civil War. John Braxton was killed in the Battle of Spotsylvania. Hiram Braxton survived the War and returned in 1865 to the family's Alamance County land. He soon married Sophronia Lindley, daughter of a prominent Greensboro family, and lived with her in the three-room log house which they built at the time of their marriage. After the death of his first wife, he married Margaret Guthrie. Hiram and Margaret had three children: John Hiram Braxton (1882-1955), Thomas Herbert Braxton (1885-1970), and Junie Braxton (1887-1889). Perhaps his growing family prompted Hiram to build the frame addition to his log house which was completed in 1884 according to a date brick in the gable end chimney.

Hiram Braxton, or "Uncle Hi" as he was known to the family, is remembered as an accomplished fiddle player, as well as a hard-working farmer who grew many of the same crops and raised the same types of livestock as did his neighbors. These crops included small grains such as wheat, oats, and sorghum; a variety of vegetables including Irish and sweet potatoes; small orchards of apple and pear trees; and flocks of poultry, and herds of cattle, sheep and swine.<sup>2</sup>

Hiram Braxton died in 1926, and his will (dated December 31, 1920) was probated on January 19, 1927. He named his sons J. H. Braxton and T.H. (John Hiram and Thomas Herbert, respectively) as executors of his estate, valued at \$2,000. His sons inherited the land--"160 acres, all I possess and which I secured from my father, i.e. the tract on which I live"--and his wife Margaret was "to [have] the house as long as she lives, to be supported from said plantation."<sup>3</sup>

The log house and property continues to the present in Braxton family ownership. The current owner, Mary Irene Braxton, became the owner through both her family line and her husband's, the late William Albert Braxton. Hiram Braxton's son, Thomas Herbert is Mary Irene's father. Hiram's brother, William Elisha, had a son named Charles Ernest. Charles Ernest had a son named William Albert. William Albert Braxton<sup>4</sup> and Mary Irene Braxton were both cousins and husband and wife.

Nine years before he died in 1970, Thomas Herbert Braxton and his wife Bertha subdivided their tract and transferred a 5.5 acre tract containing the family homeplace to Mary Irene and William Albert Braxton.<sup>5</sup> Today, the fields immediately adjacent to the log house are planted with small apple and peach orchards; some of the trees in these orchards were planted by William Albert Braxton in the early twentieth century. Mrs.



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Mary Irene Braxton now lives in a small cinder block house (non-contributing) that she and her husband constructed in the mid-twentieth century; it stands in the front yard of the old family homeplace. For a time in the 1980s, the log house was used by one of her nephews for tobacco storage (the room partitions were removed by him and he added new stairs to the loft area to facilitate handling of the stored tobacco.) The log house is presently used for miscellaneous household storage.

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Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Telephone interview with John and Judy Braxton, February 21, 1993. In a family history recorded for the Alamance County Historic Properties Commission, the Braxtons wrote that Thomas Braxton arrived in Virginia on November 29, 1636 and Robert Braxton arrived aboard the "Prim Rose" on June 10, 1639. Another family member, George Braxton Sr., came to Virginia in the early 1700s; he was the grandfather of Carter Braxton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Also see Don Bolden, Alamance in the Past (Burlington: P.N. Thompson Printing Company, 1981) pp. 8-9.

<sup>2</sup> United States Census, Alamance County, North Carolina. Agricultural Schedules, 1870 and 1880.

<sup>3</sup> Alamance County Will Book 7, p. 276; a c. 1915 photograph of Hiram Braxton shows Braxton seated on the front porch of his log house. He is holding one of his grandchildren who is holding a rag doll. In this photo, the front door is open and a portion of the interior ceiling beams is visible. Photo in possession of John Braxton, op. cit. According to John Braxton, family historian, generations of the Braxton family men shared a few favored first names including Hiram and John. "At one point there were seven or eight John Braxtons alive at the same time." This is apparent (and confusing) in the deed research and the population and agricultural census schedules. Various family members have, over a period of years, shared, traded, sold and farmed portions the land granted to William Braxton in 1761. Marriage between cousins was also fairly common within the family. Braxton family members live on different portions of the land grant to the present.

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<sup>4</sup> Interview with Mary Irene Braxton March 3, 1992; interview with John Braxton op. cit.

<sup>5</sup> Alamance County Deed Book 293, p. 397.

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### Major Bibliographical References.

Braxton, John and Judy. Braxton family history. On file with the Alamance County Historic Properties Commission, Graham, N.C.

United States Census Bureau. Alamance County, North Carolina. Population Schedules and Agricultural Schedules: 1790-1930.

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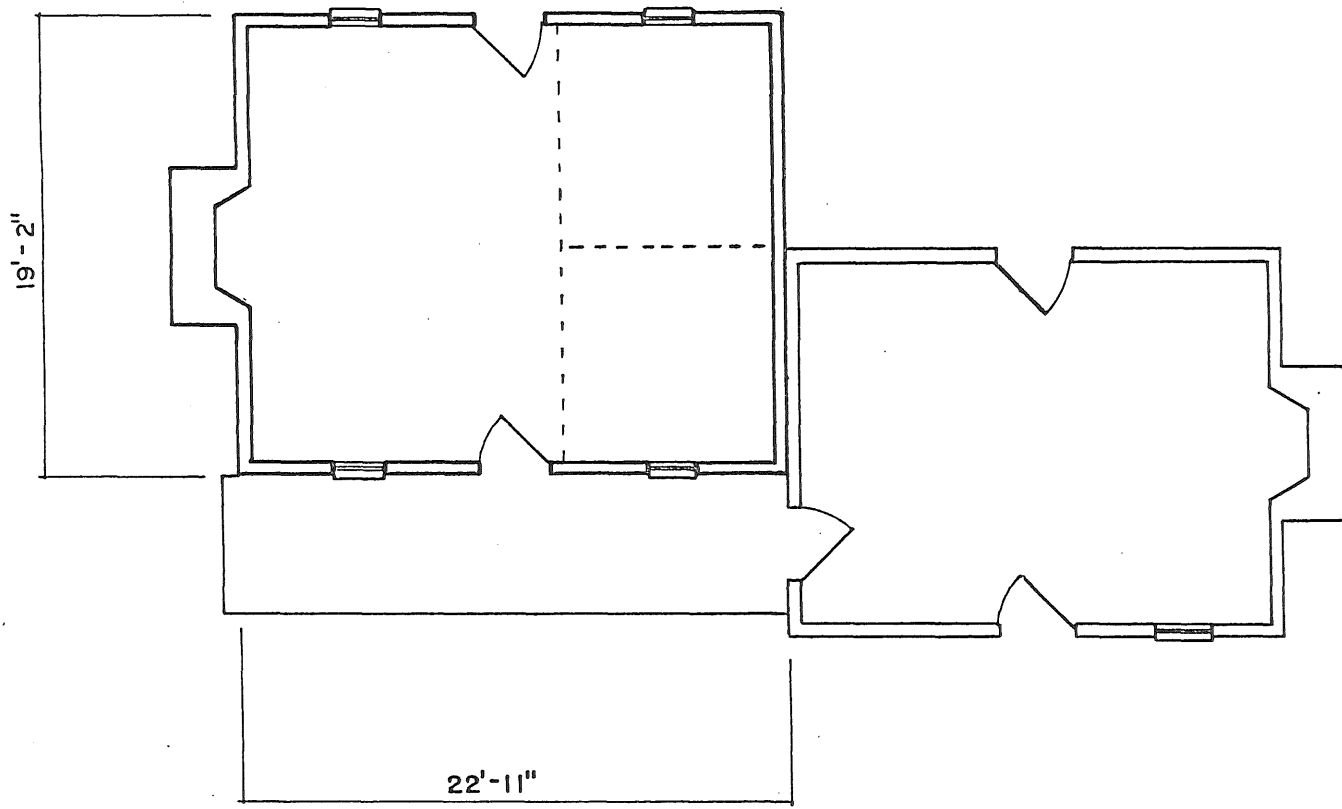
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10. Verbal Boundary Description; Boundary Justification:

All of the lot on Alamance County Tax Map 8, Sheet 11, Block  
14 A

The nominated tract is a portion of the land which is  
historically associated with the Hiram Braxton House. The  
remainder of the farm acreage has been subdivided and developed  
and is no longer a part of the original house tract.



Snow Camp vicinity  
Alamance County, NC

### HIRAM BRAXTON HOUSE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 0 1 2 3 4 5 10



Hiram Braxton House  
Snow Camp Vicinity  
Alamance Co., NC  
Quad: Silk Hope, NC  
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References: 17/651830/3970460

