

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 Guy, Thomas House

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

### 2. Location

street & number N side SR 2135, .3 mi. W jct. SR 2142  not for publication N/A

city or town Mebane  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Alamance code 001 zip code 27302

### 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. Price 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:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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

Thomas Guy 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	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	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 Buildings 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: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: log, saddlebag plan

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls log

roof metal

other weatherboard

**Narrative Description**

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

see continuation sheets

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.) N/A

Property is:

- 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. 1890

Significant Dates

c. 1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Guy, Thomas and Nash, Andrew,  
builders

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Thomas Guy House  
Name of Property

Alamance Co., nC  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 25 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1 

17	655750	3986250
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 2 

17	656360	3986390
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 3 

17	656120	3985910
Zone	Easting	Northing

D 4 

17	655760	3986180
Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

see continuation sheet

(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 E.H. Whitmore

street & number Jim Minor Road telephone (919) 376-3889

city or town Haw River state NC zip code 27258

**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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Thomas Guy House  
Alamance Co., NC

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## 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Thomas Guy House is a one-story saddlebag plan log house located on a twenty-five acre farm on the north side of Jim Minor Road (SR 2135) a short distance west of its junction with Mt. Willen Road (SR 2142). This tract is at the east-central edge of Alamance County, near the Orange County line. The log house stands in the rear yard of a one-and-one-half story frame Cape Cod style house (non-contributing) constructed in 1945 by E.H. Whitmore, Thomas Guy's grand-nephew. The houses are located close to the road and are surrounded by a grassy yard and shaded by mature trees. A cleared field and household vegetable garden are located at the rear of the log house.

The saddlebag plan, a rarity in Alamance County, is one method used to expand a log house in which a pair of individual log pens share a common central chimney. The Thomas Guy House is composed of a two individual one-room log pens. The east pen is 21' x 16' with a habitable loft, and the west pen is 20' x 20'. The units share a central stone base/brick stack chimney and each is roofed with standing seam metal. (A short brick stack, serving a later cookstove, pierces the roof of the east unit.) Both pens were constructed within a few years of each other in the 1890s, according to E. H. Whitmore, the current owner.

The east, or right side, pen displays half-dovetail notches, a narrow and steep enclosed corner staircase, and flush eaves, all features more commonly found on houses dating from the early nineteenth century, rather than from the end of that century. This unit also has a quarter log top plate, 2" x 4" circular sawn oak rafters, circular sawn sheathing boards in the gable end, and is built with a mixture of machine made and cut nails. The top plates are nailed into the end logs. The interior log walls, both loft and first floor, are exposed and retain some original whitewashed mud daubing. The original plank-and-batten main and rear doors survive. There are no windows on the main elevation of this pen; a shuttered window opening survives in the gable end. Shed-roofed porches on both the main and rear elevations extend to create car ports which cover miscellaneous stored items.

The west (left side) pen has 2" x 4" circular sawn pine rafters, square-in-section top plates, and oak and pine framing joined with cut nails. The roof sheathing is pine (appears to be the second roof for this unit) and the floor boards are

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Continuation Sheet

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Thomas Guy House  
Alamance Co., NC

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oak. The lofts of both units have low ceilings and are linked by a common landing at the top of the corner stairs and a doorway cut into the wall of the west unit. The lofts are currently used for storage. The mantelpiece in this unit was removed at an undetermined date in order to accommodate a wood stove and only a simple shallow shelf supported by plain brackets survives. The mantelpiece in the east unit had a wooden shelf (now removed) that surmounted a simple, two-paneled wooden architrave.

The replacement front door on the main elevation is composed of two molded panels with eight-light glass panes above; the door is flanked by a four-over-four sash window. The main elevations of both the west and east pens are sheathed with weatherboards up to the height of the ceiling joists; some courses of weatherboards have been removed. No porches survive on the west pen. The interior walls of this pen are covered with thin paneling; the ceiling is insulated and covered with celotex panels.

A makeshift enclosed storage area was created at the rear center of the house: the chimney base forms one wall of this exterior closet, the walls of the two log pens form two other walls of the closet, and wide salvage boards complete the enclosure.

The Thomas Guy House presents a somewhat ramshackle appearance, but the structure is sound and used often for family gatherings and as a "party house." It retains many of its original design elements and is the only known surviving saddlebag log house in Alamance County. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and method of construction, as well as its feeling and association with the descendents of its builder, Thomas Guy,

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Thomas Guy House  
Alamance Co., NC

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## 8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

### Summary:

The Thomas Guy House is architecturally significant under Criterion C as the only known surviving example of a saddlebag-plan log house in Alamance County, a house type discussed in the multiple property listing "Log Buildings in Alamance County, North Carolina, c. 1780-c. 1930." The house is composed of two individual log pens, one joined with half-dovetail notches and the other with V-notches, arranged on either side of a shared stone base and brick stack central chimney. According to family tradition, both pens were built within a few years of each other in the 1890s by Thomas Guy with help from his son-in-law Andrew Nash. The house remains in family ownership, now maintained by Guy's grand-nephew, E.H. Whitmore, who lives in a Cape Cod style house he built in the front yard of the log house. Whitmore uses the family homestead for storage and for family parties.

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Historical Background:

The Guy family appears as early as 1820 in the Orange County (North Carolina) Census records as "free colored persons," and is one of the earliest non-white families counted in the Alamance County (Orange County until 1849) area. The Alamance County Guys appear to descend from William Guy, originally from the Greensville County, Virginia area. William Guy married Abigail Chavers (Chavis) in 1780 and subsequently moved with their sons Jesse and John, to Orange County. William Guy, identified in U.S. Senate Document #144 as a Catawba Indian, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War and received a pension for his services.

In his book Free Negro Heads of Families in the United States in 1830, Carter G. Woodson lists a Henry Guy as a "free mulatto."<sup>2</sup> Oral interviews conducted with Alamance County residents G.C. Whitmore (1897-1992) and Thomas Burnette (1897-1988), both related to the Guy family, reinforced the Senate Document 's assertion that the family was of American Indian rather than African ancestry.<sup>3</sup>

Thomas Guy's name first appears in the Census records in 1850, listed as the seven year old son (b. 1843) of Jacob and Rebecca Guy, one of their eight children. Jacob Guy is listed as a "mulatto laborer."<sup>4</sup> The oral interviews with Whitmore

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and Burnette indicated that a later Thomas Guy constructed the nominated log house; it appears that he was a Guy through the maternal line, his father being a Jeffries. It is likely that his mother was a sister to the Tom Guy born in 1843, and that Jacob Guy was his grandfather. Alamance County historian, Forrest Hazel, observed that "the Guys and Whitmores were colored only in the sense that they were not white; the color came from their Indian ancestry, and not from any African ancestry. (A view supported by the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1857 in N.C. vs. Chavis, when the court specifically ruled that a person of color was not always the same as a negro, but could be a person colored by Indian blood)."<sup>5</sup>

The Thomas Guy House was built about 1890 by Thomas Guy with help from his son-in-law, Andrew Nash. Thomas Guy, age 51, is listed in the 1920 Alamance County Population Census along with his 51 year old wife Martha, daughter Cassie (age 21), another daughter (age 19, name illegible), and sons Samuel (16), Ober (13), Joseph (9) and Julius (4). He eventually had eight children, "all over six feet tall," according to E.H. Whitmore, Tom Guy's grand-nephew and current owner of the twenty-five acre family farm. Guy also reared three grandchildren here, in addition to his children.

The crowded living conditions probably prompted Guy to add a V-notched log pen to the original half-dovetail notched pen. According to family tradition, both log pens were reportedly built, within a few years of each other, during the 1890s. According to Forrest Hazel, the Guys, Whitmores and related families in the area "had by the late 1800s, been almost completely assimilated culturally by the mainstream society. The fact that Thomas Guy built [a portion] of the house using an older style [i.e. with half-dovetail notches] is a cultural trait found in Indian communities throughout the state: older styles tend to linger there long after the mainstream culture has changed. . . .None of this is meant to imply any Indian cultural influences on the [nominated] structure itself."<sup>10</sup>

Thomas Guy did not purchase the 25 acres of land on which the house stands until February, 1911 when James A. Martin sold Guy the land for \$175.<sup>11</sup> It is not clear whether Guy might have leased the land and/or the log house between the reported construction date and the land purchase date.

Thomas Guy and his wife, Mattie, lived in the expanded log house for about fifty years and farmed the land producing cash crops of tobacco, corn and cotton, as well as growing an



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extensive kitchen garden.

E.H. Whitmore, a retired building contractor, purchased the farm from Thomas Guy (his great-uncle) in November 1947. The tract contained "25 acres more or less, it being the identical tract conveyed to Thomas Guy by deed from James A. Martin dated July 13, 1911."<sup>1,2</sup> Whitmore and his wife Laddie lived in the log house in 1944-1945 while he constructed his home, a one-and-one-half story frame Cape Cod style cottage (NC) which stands in the front yard of the log house.

Whitmore continues to grow corn and tobacco and raise a vegetable garden on the family farm. He also leases some fields to a neighboring dairy farmer whose cows keep field mowing to a minimum. He has made few changes to the family homeplace and maintains it as a storage space, as well a place for family parties and reunions.

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Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> United States Census Bureau. Orange County, North Carolina, 1820 Population Schedule. William Guy and sons, Jesse and John, are each listed as a "free colored person." Also, see notes compiled for the Alamance County Historic Properties Commission in July 1993 by Forest Hazel (hereinafter cited as Hazel notes). A copy of these notes is found in the survey files of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

<sup>2</sup> Carter G. Woodson. Free Negro Heads of Families in the United States in 1830 (Washington D.C.: Association for Study of Negro Life and History, 1925) p. 24.

<sup>3</sup> Hazel notes, op cit. Hazel wrote: "The fact that they were listed in 1830 as Free Negroes must be taken in social context of the period; every Indian family in Eastern North Carolina and Virginia was listed as Free Negro or Mulatto in 1830, including the ancestors of the Lumbee, Meherrin, Waccamaw, Coharie and Haliwa Tribes."

<sup>4</sup> United States Census Bureau. Orange County, North Carolina, 1850 Population Schedule.

<sup>5</sup> Hazel notes.

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Thomas Guy House  
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<sup>6</sup> Interviews with E.H. Whitmore, March 16, 1992 and January 15, 1993. (E.H. Whitmore's ancestors Charles and Jesse Whitmore are listed as "mulatto" in Woodson's book op cit.)

<sup>7</sup> United States Census Bureau. Alamance County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 1920.

<sup>8</sup> Whitmore interviews.

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Hazel notes.

<sup>11</sup> Alamance County Deed Book 47, p. 417. J.A. Martin had purchased 107 acres of land from C.L. Duke in January 1, 1907. The 25-acre tract was "a division of the lands of D.L. Thompson."

<sup>12</sup> Alamance County Deed Book 163, p. 460.

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Thomas Guy House  
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### Major Bibliographical References.

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

Woodson, Carter G. *Free Negro Heads of Families in the United States in 1830*. Washington, D.C.: Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, 1925.

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Thomas Guy House  
Alamance Co., NC

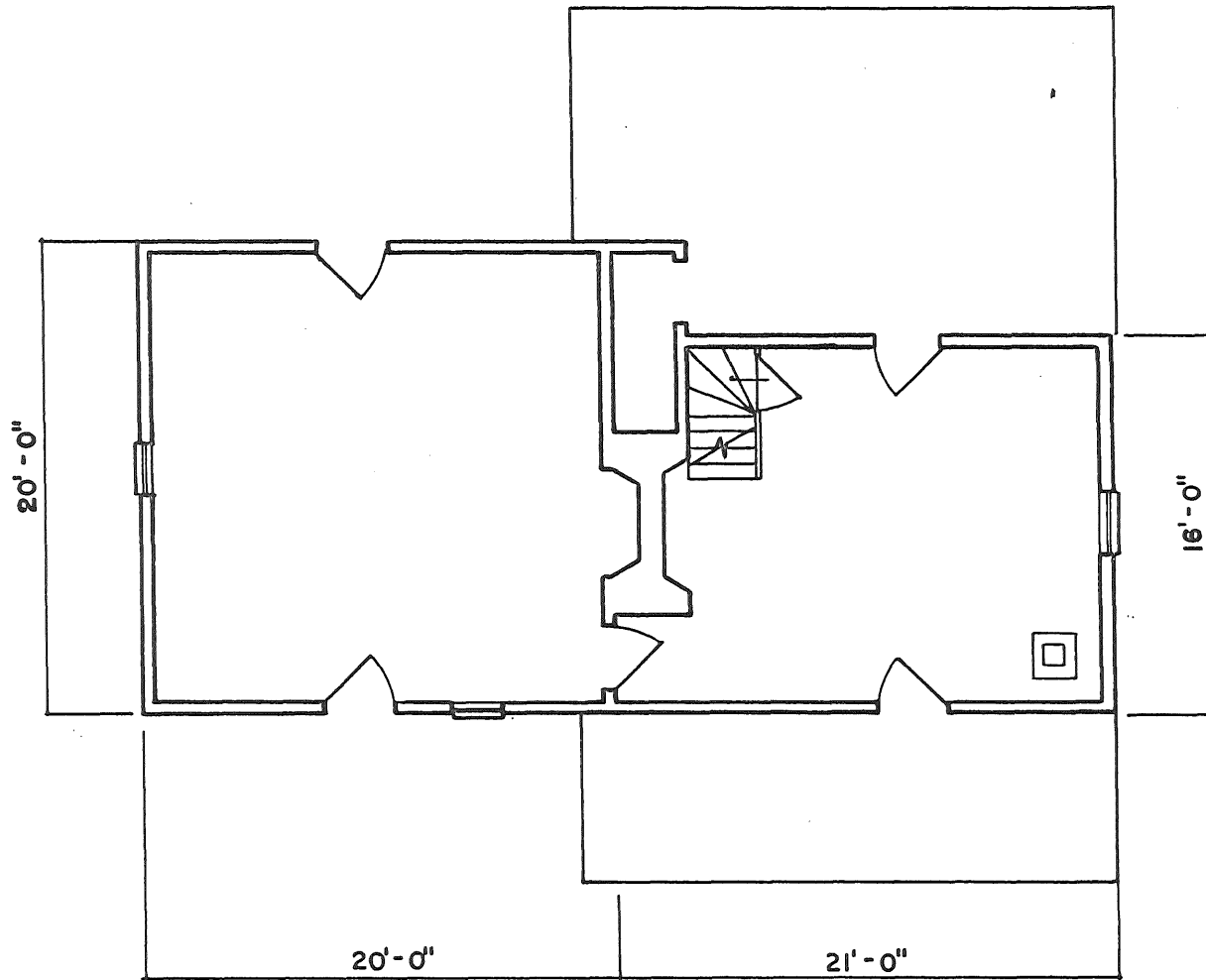
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## 10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries included all of Alamance County Map 9, Block 37, tract 5.

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Thomas Guy House



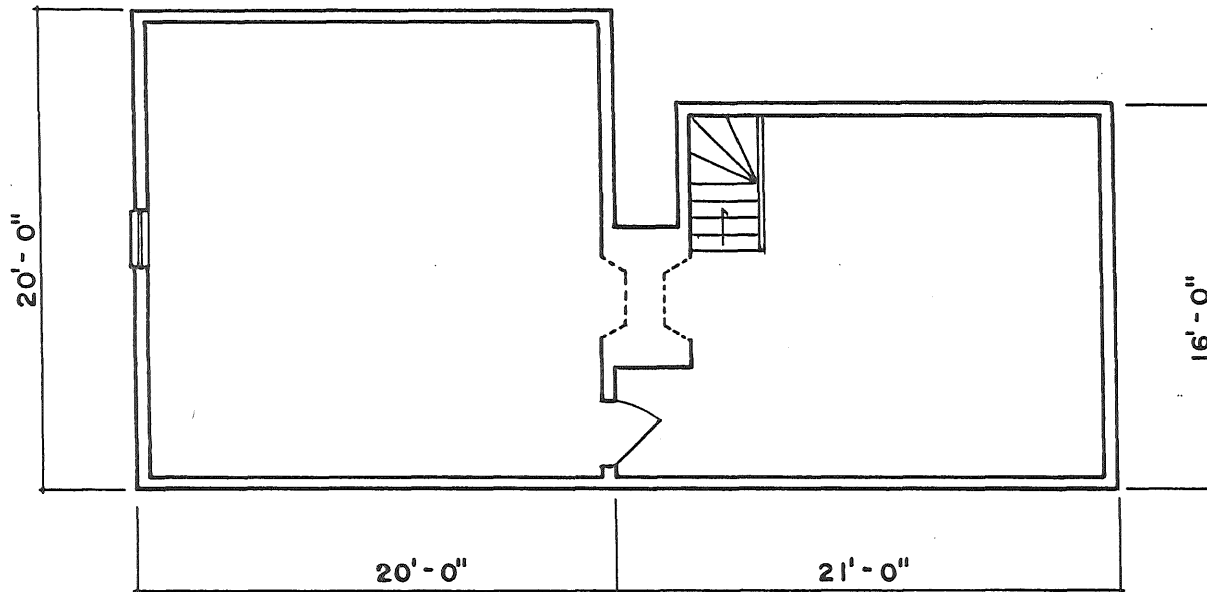
# THOMAS GUY HOUSE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 0 1 2 3 4 5 10



Mebane vicinity  
Alamance County, NC



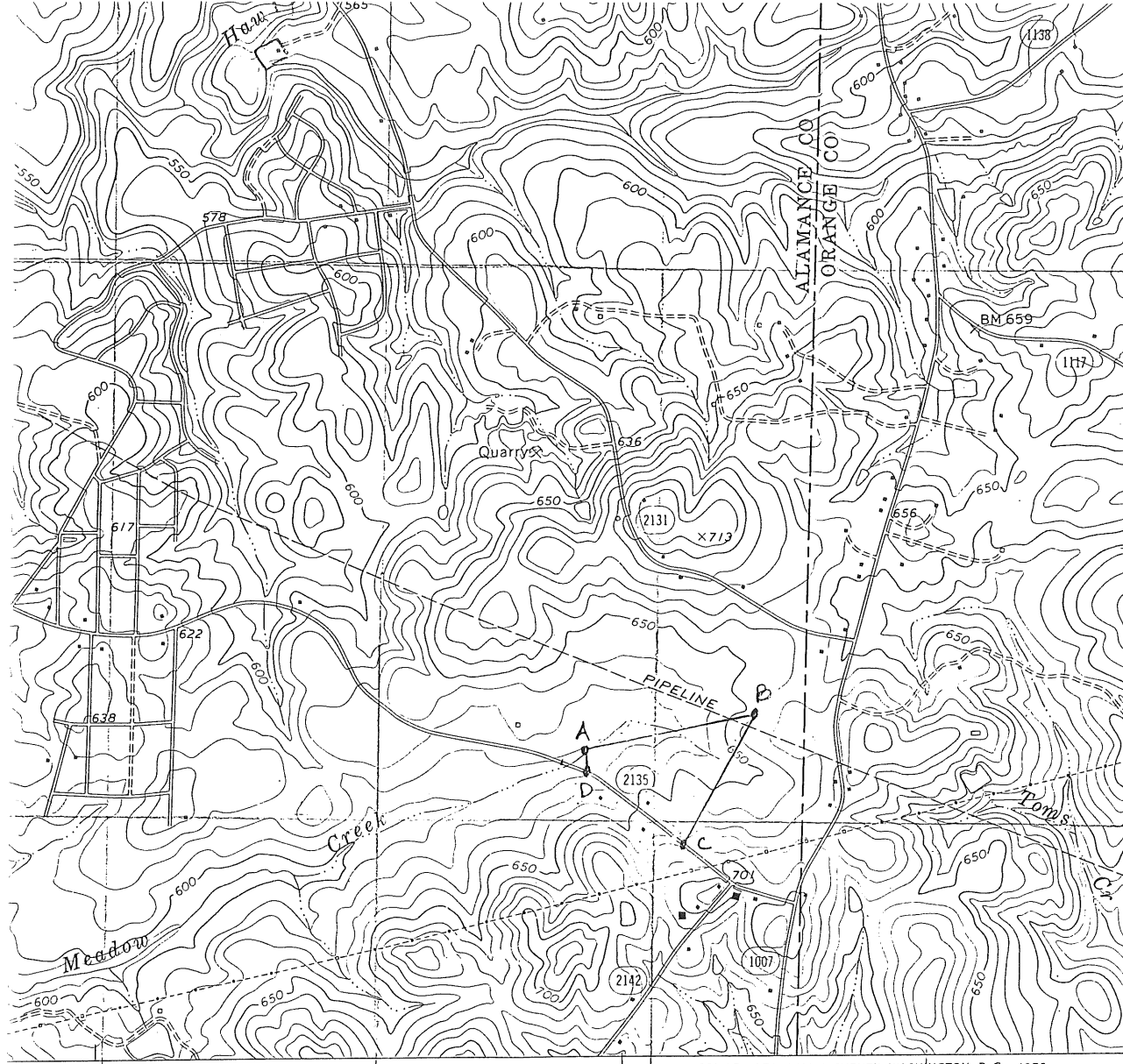
THOMAS GUY HOUSE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 0 1 2 3 4 5 10



Mebane vicinity  
Alamance County, NC



William Cook House  
 Mebane vicinity  
 Alamance Co., NC  
 Quad: Mebane, NC  
 Scale: 1:24,000  
 UTM References:  
 17/654580/3988770

Thomas Guy House  
 Mebane vicinity  
 Alamance Co., NC  
 Quad: Mebane, NC  
 Scale: 1:24,000  
 UTM References:

A 17/655750/3986250  
 B 17/656360/3986390  
 C 17/656120/3985910  
 D 17/655760/3986180

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1972  
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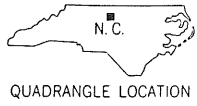
36°00'

79°15'

1 MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



MEBANE, N. C.  
 N3600—W7915/7.5

1969

AMS 5156 III SE—SERIES V842

(WHITE CROSS)  
 5155 I NW

