

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

10-900

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 Spoon, A.I. House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number N side of SR 1107, .7 mi. SW jct. SR 1005 not for publication N/A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. Price SAPO 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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

A.L. Spoon 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	
2	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	2	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
Domestic: secondary structures

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant: not in use
Agriculture: storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: log, multi-room plan

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
log
walls _____
weatherboard
roof metal
other brick

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets

A.L. Spoon 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. 1834; c. 1850

Significant Dates

ca. 1834

ca. 1850

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.)

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:

A.L. Spoon House
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 2.20 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

17	6	33	4	4	0	39	75	35	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

2

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S Dickinson

organization _____ date March 1, 1993

street & number 4606 Hunt Rd. 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 William S. Ricks

street & number 507 C Kernodle Dr. telephone (919) 227-0370

city or town Graham state NC zip code 27253

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

A.L. Spoon House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 7 Page 1

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The 1834 A.L. Spoon House is a substantially intact example of a two-story hall-and-parlor log house with an adjoining c. 1850 timber-frame side wing. The south-facing house is located at the end of a short driveway off a dirt road, Spoon Loop Road (State Road 1107), in southwest Alamance County. The house was occupied until the late 1980s; it is unoccupied at present and is somewhat deteriorated. Surrounding the house are the remnants of a decorative landscape plan. It is shaded by a massive magnolia tree and a large hemlock tree, an evergreen variety not commonly found in Piedmont North Carolina. Also in the yard are several large clumps of daffodils, a yucca bush, an old rose bush of undetermined variety and a ground cover of vinca minor (periwinkle).

Originally the centerpiece of a farm which encompassed about 400 acres, the house is now located at the front edge of a 74-acre tract. One contributing (C) farm outbuilding and two non-contributing (NC) outbuildings are located close to the house. They are: a substantial double-pen log barn (C) which probably dates to the mid-nineteenth century and may be contemporary with the log house or the timber-frame addition, and an early twentieth-century frame corncrib and frame well house (both NC).

Both sections of the Spoon House rest on low, rock foundations and their gable roofs are covered with standing seam metal. The main elevations are covered with (probably original) flush boards up to the ceiling rafters. This stylish flush sheathing denotes the "formal," public porch area. The sides and rear elevations of both sections of the house were covered with replacement weatherboards in 1935. A shed-roofed front porch extends the full length of the adjoining blocks. The original oak and poplar porch ceiling joists survive and are visible; the porch was apparently never ceiled.

There is a small, gable-front shelter with board-and-batten siding and a metal roof at the basement entrance on the west end of the house; the basement was dug out at an undetermined time and was used most recently as a tobacco ordering room (racks are still in place overhead).

The brick exterior end chimney found on the two-story log block was partially re-worked when the one-story frame wing was built in order to accommodate a new firebox which opens into the frame wing; the chimney retains an 1834 date brick.² The frame wing, probably used as a kitchen, also has a wide exterior end chimney of mortared fieldstone with sloped

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

A.L. Spoon House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 7 Page 2

shoulders.

The two-story wing is constructed with oak logs joined with a V-notch. Narrow (19") six-over-four sash windows on the first story flank the main entrance. The front door has six raised panels; a rear door has five raised panels. Two unusual six-light windows at the second story main elevation slide sideways into pockets formed between the exterior weatherboards and the interior plank sheathing. There are no windows on the second story rear elevation. The house has tapered rake boards and molded trim above the fascia.

The one-story timber-frame addition has six-light fixed windows which slide up into a pocket formed between the poplar exterior weatherboards and the interior sheathing of hand-planed poplar boards. This section has a plank-and-batten front door on the main elevation. The rear door has been replaced (date unknown) with a door which has two glass panes above molded horizontal panels.

On the interior of the two-story main block many original features survive. These include a tall mantelpiece with three flat panels above the arched fireplace opening; a chair rail on the plank partition wall dividing the hall and parlor; two-part molded casing around the door in the partition wall; molded base boards on the partition wall and beveled baseboards elsewhere in the hall and parlor; and oak tongue-and-groove plank floors on the first story. The door to the enclosed stairs is a duplicate of the raised-panel front door. Waxed poplar boards sheathe the stairwell. The stairs have a 3" square hand rail and a square newel post at the second story level. The second story has wide (8" average) poplar floor boards and a replacement tongue-and-groove plank ceiling. Some original (or early) mud daubing survives on the logs which are visible on the rear wall. All of the other walls are covered by pine boards.

An examination of the roof structures of both sections of the house provides clues to their ante-bellum construction dates. They have half-lapped and pegged attic rafters made of debarked 6" oak poles; there are no ridgeboards. In Alamance, ridgeboards generally appeared after 1850. The ceiling joists are 4"x 6" poplar boards. In the two story portion of the house, the attic roof sheathing is made of wide, machine sash-sawn boards. Here the rafter ends rest on a walkboard which, in turn, rests on the joist tails.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

A.L. Spoon House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 7 Page 3

The contributing outbuilding is a mid-nineteenth century two-story, double crib, v-notched oak, center-passage log barn with ground level stables and a loft above. The barn has shed-roofed rear and side additions. One of the two original double-leaf barn doors survives, along with the original iron retaining rings and mortised battens. The eave at the gable front projects about three feet to support a round log rafter which extends the width of the barn. Round log rafters are mitered together at the peak of the roof.³ Non-contributing outbuildings include a twentieth-century gable-front frame corn crib, covered with weatherboards on two sides and roofed with standing seam metal and a small gable-roofed well house covered with plain weatherboards.

The A.L. Spoon House and the contributing outbuilding, the log barn, convey the important aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Both are substantially intact, on their original locations, and display a strong sense of feeling and association. Because the house has been vacant for some years, it has become somewhat deteriorated, but the roof is sound and the building, stable. The house has seen surprisingly little alteration to its historic fabric. There are no bathroom facilities in the house and so no material was destroyed by the often destructive introduction of plumbing. Likewise, the introduction of electricity into the house was rudimentary at best and little historic fabric was disturbed. The barn continues in use, primarily for hay bale storage and so the roof is in good condition and the building, stable.

¹ Interview with Colonel T.L. Spoon by Carl Lounsbury, 1978. Colonel Spoon was 91 years old when he was interviewed by Lounsbury, architectural historian, during the course of the first comprehensive architectural survey of Alamance County's historic resources in 1978-1979 under the auspices of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Notes in the working file, Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History in Raleigh.

² Spoon interview; Lounsbury sketched the house floor plan and noted the 1834 date brick on his sketch.

³ For a discussion of double-crib log barns in Piedmont North Carolina see multiple property listing "Log Buildings in North Carolina c. 1780-c. 1930," Section F, pp. 11-13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

A.L. Spoon House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 1

8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Summary:

The 1834 A.L. Spoon House, with a c. 1850 timber-frame side addition, is significant in the local history of Alamance County under Criterion C. It is a largely unaltered example of a two-story hall-and-parlor plan log house, and a log house expanded with a frame addition, types discussed in the multiple property listing, "Log Buildings in Alamance County, North Carolina, c. 1780-c. 1930." Near the house is a mid-nineteenth century two-story, center-passage v-notched log barn, with a double-crib form. It is also largely intact, and a good representative example of its type. The Spoon family settled in southwest Alamance County in the late eighteenth century and established a 400-acre farm. Today, the farm contains 74 acres and continues in Spoon family ownership.

Historical Background:

According to Spoon family tradition, the earliest known owner of the A.L. Spoon House property is John Spoon whose name appears on a sampler stitched in 1790 and still in family possession.¹ The earliest recorded deed which concerns this property is dated September 22, 1785. It records a transaction between grantees Sarah Spoon, "widow of John Spoon and the orphan heirs of John Spoon," and grantors Margaret Young and Robert Agnew, executors of Joseph Young's estate. Young's executors sold Sarah Spoon 100 acres of land "on the waters of Stinking Creek" for 35 pounds.²

John Spoon's "orphan heirs" are not named in the will, but according to family historian Ruth Spoon Sharpe, he had a son also named "John" (born 1766).³ An 1802 deed between grantor John Spoon and grantee Adam Spoon (his half-brother) conveys 82 acres of land on the "south fork of Stinking Quarter Creek" and "the houses, orchards, woods, ways and watercourses" for \$400.⁴

The Spoon family was apparently wealthy enough to acquire several other nearby tracts along other creeks in Coble and Patterson Townships in 1817 and 1848.⁵ One 1848 land transaction is particularly interesting and may account for the family tradition that the farm "originally had 500 acres."⁵ On July 26, 1848, George Coble sold 380 acres "on the waters of Stinking Quarter Creek" to still another John Spoon. Two, two-acre

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

A.L. Spoon House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 2

lots are excepted from the acreage: one of the lots was the site of "Mountain lion Meeting house" and the other held "Publick School House District 35."⁶ (These buildings do not survive.) This 380-acre tract, in combination with widow Sarah Spoon's 100-acre tract on Stinking Quarter Creek purchased in 1785, would equal 480 acres. This was a relatively large farm for Alamance County in the mid-nineteenth century. Small farmers seldom owned more than 200 to 300 acres, and a majority held 50 acres or less.

An examination of the Alamance County Deed Books for the nominated property is a confusing exercise because the Spoon family tended to repeat a few favorite first names throughout several family generations, and the family often bought, sold and/or traded parts of the property among themselves. However, Alfred L. Spoon (b. 1849) is certainly associated with the nominated house, and it is named for him. He is listed in the 1870 Alamance County Population Schedule as the eldest son⁷ (age 21) of John and Milly Spoon (ages 61 and 57 respectively). He is listed (age 31) on the 1880 Alamance County Census Population Schedule as head of his own household which then consisted of his wife Amelia and children Cora and Walter, ages three and one, respectively and a "domestic housekeeper", Malinda (last name indecipherable), age fifty.⁸

The 1880 Agricultural Census of Alamance County details the size and production of Alfred L. Spoon's farm that year. Fifty-one acres were tilled, fourteen acres were meadow, fifteen acres were forest and twenty-five acres were "old (unimproved) fields." The land and buildings were valued at \$800, "farm implements" at \$60, and livestock at \$220. Twenty-five of the tilled acres were planted in corn, five in oats, one in rye, ten in wheat, and one acre in sorghum which produced forty-six gallons of molasses. Other crops included one bushel of cowpeas and eighteen bushels of Irish potatoes. A.L. Spoon had four horses, two cows which produced fifty pounds of butter, two calves, fourteen sheep (another nine sheep had been slaughtered that year),⁹ five swine and eighteen chickens which laid fifty dozen eggs.

An 1893 Alamance County map drawn by William L. Spoon (same family, but do not know which branch of the family tree) shows seven different Spoon family homesteads all concentrated south of Great Alamance Creek, near the western edge of Alamance County in Coble and Patterson townships. They include Willam Spoon, John Spoon, F.L.¹⁰ Spoon, S.L. Spoon, Sq. Sil Spoon, Katy Spoon and A.T. Spoon. The location of A.T. Spoon's homestead appears

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetA.L. Spoon House
Alamance Co., NCSection number 8 Page 3

to correspond most closely to that of the nominated property.

Deeds indicate that the property descended primarily via the maternal line beginning in 1925 when A. T. Spoon sold it to Charley and Ida Spoon Garrett.¹ The property eventually passed to Colonel Thomas L. Spoon and wife, Marguerite. Colonel Spoon, who lived into his early 90s, owned the property in the late 1970s² and 1980s when he used the house as a rental property.² Colonel Spoon's grandchildren, T.J. Ricks, Jr., R.M. Ricks, W. S. Ricks, and Elizabeth M. Ricks inherited the property from him. In 1987 Robert Melvin Ricks, Sandra Boggs Ricks and Elizabeth Ricks, joint owners, conveyed their individual interests to William S. Ricks, the present owner.¹³ According to William S. Ricks, the house was occupied by renters until 1987. The house has been vacant since then. Ricks's brother uses some of the land to pasture his cattle and the barn is presently in use for hay storage.¹⁴

Footnotes

¹ Telephone interview with William S. Ricks, March 12, 1992. Also see Elinor Samons Euliss, Ed., Alamance County: The Legacy of Its People and Places (Greensboro, NC: Legacy Publications, 1984), p. 417; contributor Ruth Spoon Sharpe wrote: "Adam, John and Christopher were three German brothers who emigrated to America bearing the surname 'Loffel.' Its English equivalent was 'ladle' or 'spoon'; so, following original church records, they changed their name to 'Spoon'. . . . John became the owner of vast lands that later were carved into Alamance County."

² Orange County Deed Book 9, pp. 89-90. Alamance County was a part of Orange County until 1849.

³ Heritage, p. 417.

⁴ See Orange County (OC) Deed Book 16, p. 119 (October 20, 1817) Thomas Murdock to Peter Spoon: "410 acres on the waters of Great Allamance"; OC Deed Book 16, p. 149 (October 23, 1817) Thomas Powell to Peter Spoon: "¹/₂ acre at the corner of Thomas Murdock's land standing on the bank of a big branch of Back Creek"; OC Deed Book 17, p. 91 (October 10, 1817) Daniel Apple to George Spoon: 110 acres "on the waters of Rock Creek"; OC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

A.L.Spoon House
Alamance Co., NC

Section number 8 Page 4

Deed Book 33, pp. 212-213 (July 26, 1848) Henry Coble to John Spoon: 190 acres "beginning at Adam Spoon's line to Patterson's line to the meanders of a creek."

⁵ Ricks interview.

⁶ OC Deed Book 33, pp. 213-214.

⁷ United States Census, 1870. Alamance County Population Schedule.

⁸ United States Census, 1880. Alamance County Population Schedule.

⁹ United States Census, 1880. Alamance County Agricultural Schedule.

¹⁰ "Map of Alamance County, North Carolina." Drawn by William L. Spoon, 1893 and printed by H. B. Stranahan & Co., Engravers, Cleveland, Ohio. This informative map is still in print. It records property owners or residents, county school houses, mills and churches, as well as roadways and cartways.

¹¹ Alamance County (AC) Deed Book 82, p. 476; see also AC Deed Book 11, p. 201; AC Deed Book 89, p. 23; AC Deed Book 98, p. 325; AC Deed Book 122, p. 14; AC Deed Book 3880, pp. 10-12; and AC Deed Book 541, pp. 365-369.

¹² Working file "AL Spoon House": Notes compiled by Carl Lounsbury in 1978-1979 on an interview with Colonel Thomas L. Spoon.

¹³ AC Deed Book 541, pp. 365-369.

¹⁴ Ricks interview.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

A.L. Spoon House
Alamance Co., NC

Major Bibliographical References.

Alamance County Deed Books 11, 82, 89, 98, 122, 541, and 3880.
Alamance County Court House, Graham, NC.

Orange County Deed Books 16, 17, and 33. Orange County Courthouse,
Hillsborough, NC.

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

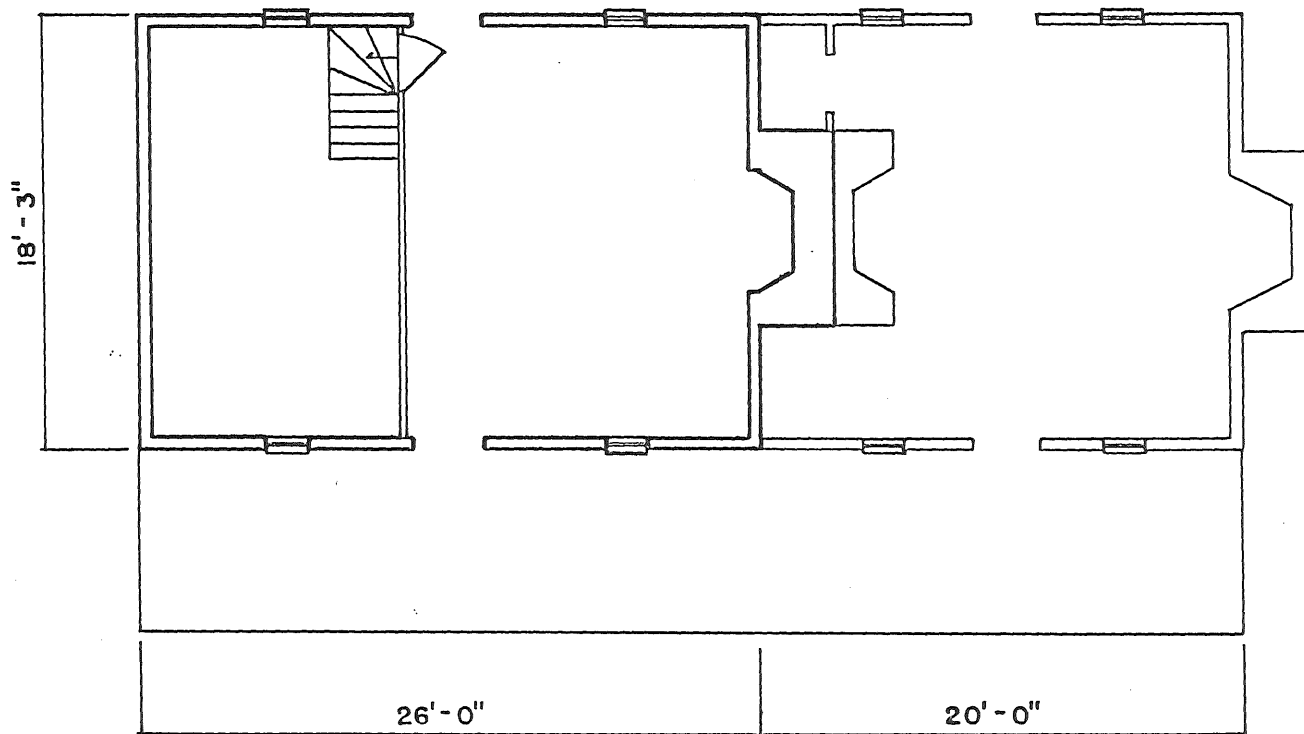
A.L. Spoon House
Alamance Co., NC

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated with the A.L. Spoon House is an approximately 2.20-acre rectangular portion of the parcel 36 of Alamance County Tax map No. 1-16. The nominated rectangle begins at a point on the north side of SR 1107 approximately 450 feet east of its intersection with SR 1106. From that point, the southwest boundary of the rectangle is a straight line that proceeds northwest about 320 feet. From there, the northwest boundary of the property is a straight line that proceeds northeast about 300 feet. From there, the northeast boundary of the property is a straight line that proceeds southeast about 310 feet to the right-of-way of SR 1107. The the southeast boundary of the rectangle follows the right-of-way of SR 1107 southwest to the beginning point.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property provides a setting for the historic resources on the A.L. Spoon Farm. The surrounding acreage is now used to pasture cattle and no longer retains its historic field and planting patterns.



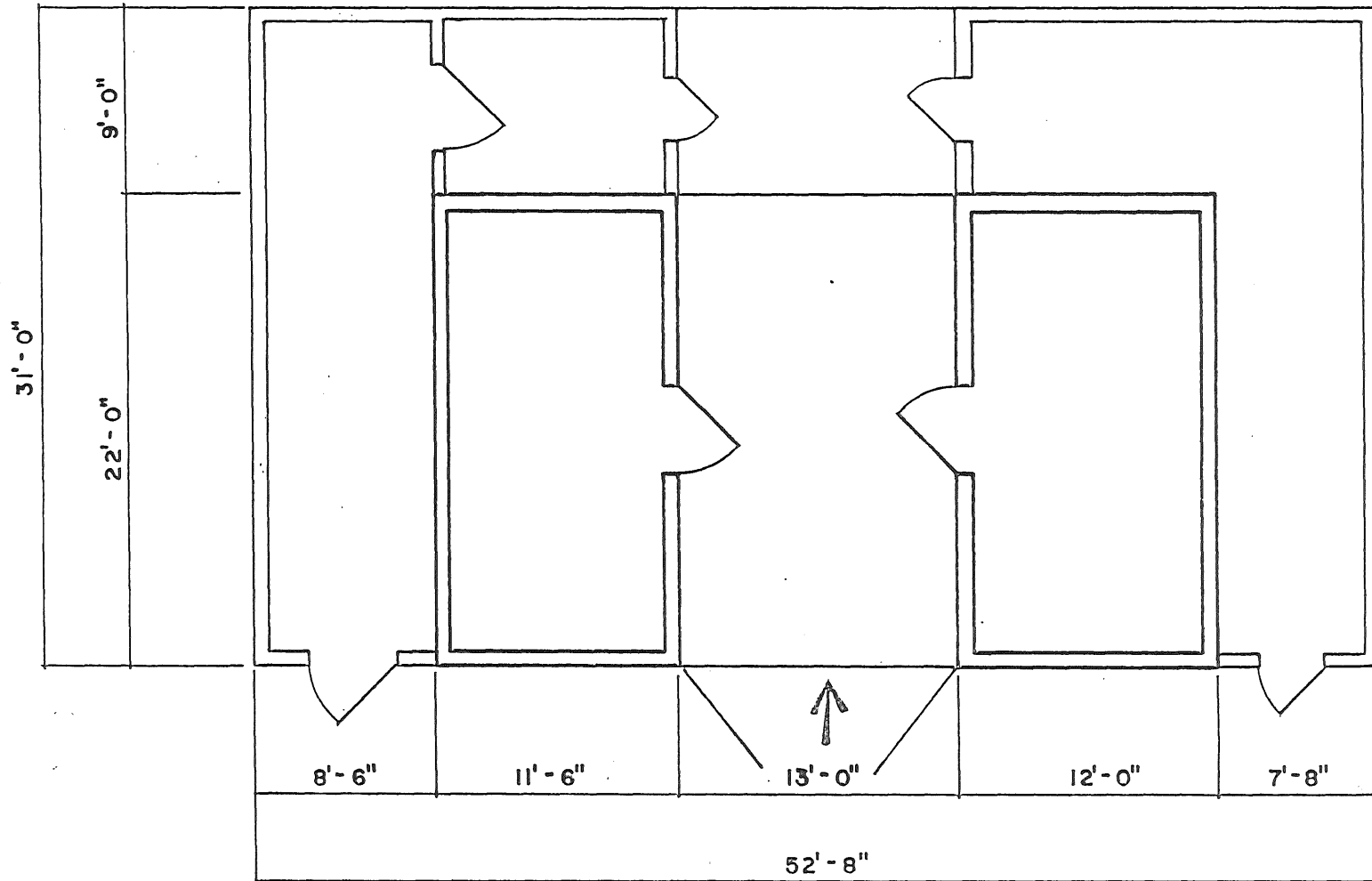
Snow Camp vicinity
 Alamance County, NC

A.L. SPOON HOUSE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 0 1 2 3 4 5 10





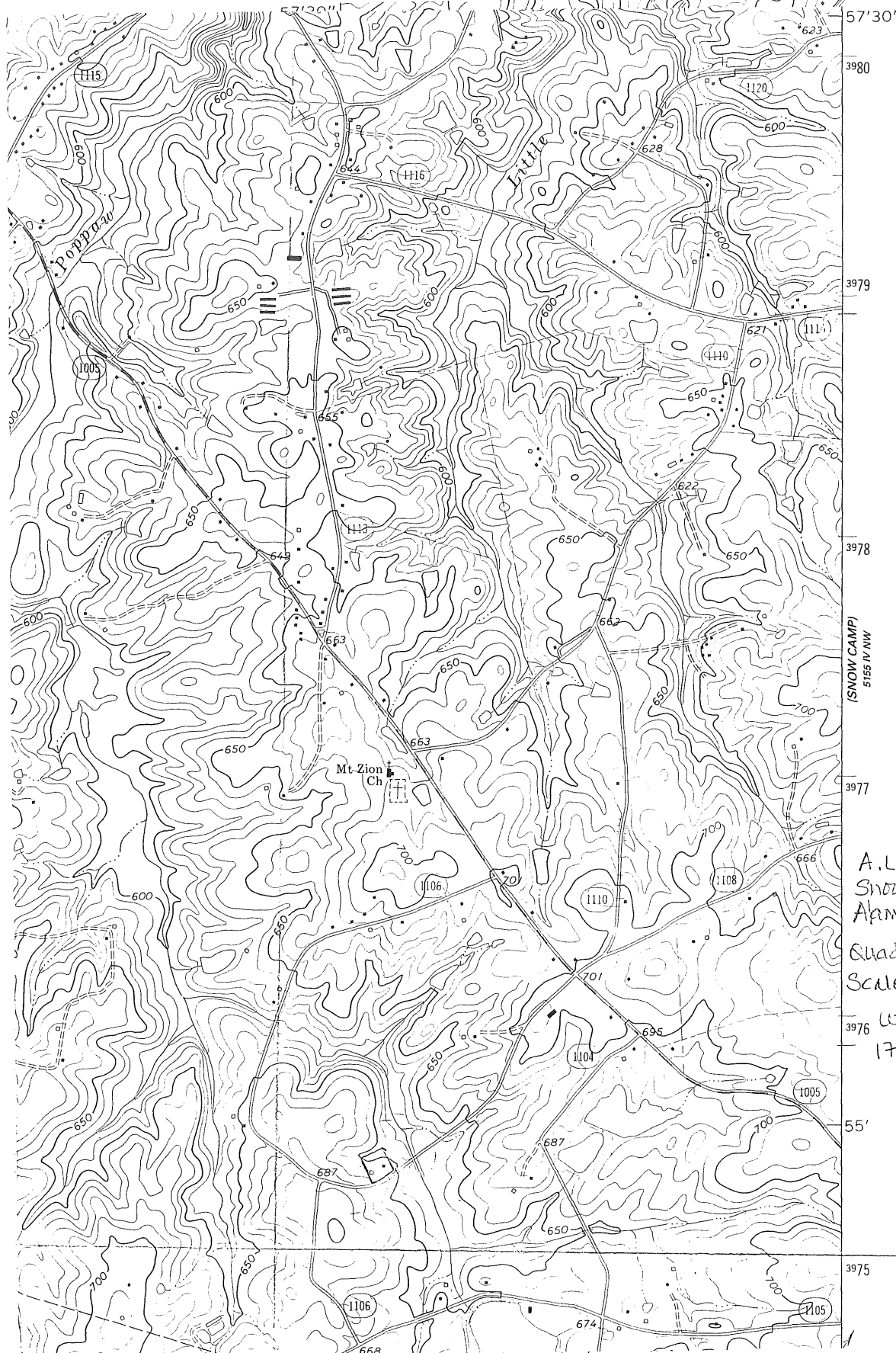
Snow Camp vicinity
Alamance County, NC

A.L. SPOON BARN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 0 1 2 3 4 5 10





A.L. Spoon House
Snow Camp vicinity
Alamance Co., NC
Quad: Kilmoreville, NC
Scale: 1:24,000
UTM References:
17/633440/3975350

