

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 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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1. Name of Property

historic name Sloan-Throneburg Farm

other names/site number _____

=====

2. Location

street & number N side of SR 1429, (Throneburg Road), 0.3 mi W of jct with SR 1450. (2285 Throneburg Road, Morganton, NC 28655) Not for publication N/A
city or town Chesterfield vicinity X
state North Carolina code NC county Burke Code 023 zip code 28655

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey A. Crows SHPD 2/5/02
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper Date
of Action

=====
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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u> _____	<u>0</u> _____	buildings
<u>1</u> _____	<u>0</u> _____	sites
<u>1</u> _____	<u>0</u> _____	structures
<u>0</u> _____	<u>0</u> _____	objects
<u>8</u> _____	<u>0</u> _____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>storage</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>animal facility</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>irrigation</u>

6.cont.

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>agricultural outbuilding</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>storage facility</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>irrigation</u>
<u>Vacant</u>	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: I-house
Greek Revival
Italian Villa

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof metal
walls wood/weatherboard
other stone

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance Ca. 1882 - 1951 (Agriculture)
Ca. 1882 - 1926 (Architecture)

Significant Dates N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Sloan, J.H., builder

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: Historic Burke Foundation, Inc.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 44.96

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	440600	3966920	3	17	440630 3966770
2	17	440640	3966900	4	17	440770 3966640
	<u>X</u>	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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====
name/title Greer Suttlemyre, Ph.D.

organization Table Rock Farm date 3 September, 2001

street & number 3467 Fish Hatchery Road telephone 828 433 4821

city or town Morganton state NC zip code 28655

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Additional Documentation

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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)

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Property Owner

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

name Ruby Throneburg Bozeman & David Throneburg

street & number 2285 Throneburg Road telephone 828 433 9390 or

828 438 6012

city or town Morganton state NC zip code 28655

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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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Sloan-Throneburg Farm
Burke County, North Carolina

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Sloan-Throneburg Farm is located in a rural area of northeast Burke County and remains secluded and picturesque, buffered by surrounding farmland and woods. Burke County, located in the upper Piedmont of North Carolina, contains broad river bottom land along the Catawba River and its tributaries, as well as rugged mountains. The Sloan-Throneburg Farm is located in an area of rolling farmland, well supplied with water, but not on a major stream. It is located near the boundary of Burke and Caldwell counties. It is located north of the Chesterfield community, east of the Piney community, and south of the Hartland community. The Throneburg children attended Chesterfield School, and thus consider Chesterfield their community. The core of the farm contains an intact grouping of domestic and agricultural buildings constructed from 1882 through the first quarter of the twentieth century. They are within 44.96 acres of what was a 580 acre tract when J.H. Sloan built a new house for his family in 1882.

The house, with its back to the paved highway, rises above a grassy knoll about two hundred yards north of the reoriented main road. The house faces north. The paved road, State Road 1429, was built in 1926 and is called Throneburg Road. It separates the house and farm buildings from the field and forested hill to the south. The house is sited on a hill overlooking the 44.96 nominated acres. The north west corner of the nominated area extends north to include the pond. The driveway runs north from Throneburg Road, and separates the three major structures of the farm from the house in its tree shaded setting. These three resources, located about two hundred yards west of the house, are the wheat house, corncrib, and barn. The wheat house is located on the northwest side of the junction of Throneburg Road and the driveway. The corncrib is about twenty or thirty yards north of the wheat house, and set closer to the driveway. The barn is a similar distance north of the corncrib, but set back from the driveway in a manner similar to the wheat house.

East of the driveway, and north of Throneburg Road, is a narrow field about seventy-five yards wide and two hundred and eighty yards long. A small stream flows west through this field. The house is sited upon a knoll with its rear, south, façade overlooking the field and Throneburg Road. Located half way up the knoll, south of the house, is a cave that was constructed in the first quarter of the twentieth century. It functioned as a root cellar. The previously mentioned stream joins a second stream that flows south, to the west of the barn, corncrib, and wheat house. This stream flows from a pond located at the northwest corner of the nominated property. The area south of the pond is now planted in a pine forest. The forest area was the original location of the farm's kitchen garden, and was irrigated by the pond to the north. Remnants of the

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Sloan-Throneburg Farm
Burke County, North Carolina

foundations of a wash house can be seen along this stream in the pine forest. The garage/carriage house is located northwest of the dwelling house, and at the south end of the pine forest.

The gravel drive curves east and passes between the house and the garage/carriage house. The house is an I-house plan with an original, one story, two room wing projecting from the southwest corner of the main block. Single shoulder, two story brick chimneys rise from the south wall of the main block. The east exposed chimney, provides a focal point as one approaches the house, driving west on Throneburg Road. A ca. 1926, one bay addition to the south end of the wing provides a bathroom and cellar entrance. About fifteen to twenty yards east of the wing is a three room, rectangular building which parallels the wing. This building is divided into three equal parts, the south portion contains sleeping space for a servant, the center portion contains a room for curing hams, and the north portion is a space for fire wood storage. Just northeast of this building is an area currently being used for the kitchen garden.

Ruby Throneburg Bozeman, who holds a life estate, occupies the house. Her nephew, David Throneburg, manages the farm and will inherit the property. The farm now consists of 44.96 acres.

DESCRIPTIONS OF FEATURES OF THE SLOAN-THRONEBURG FARM: (a sketch map is attached as Exhibit A with buildings keyed to descriptions)

1. LANDSCAPE, contributing site

The acreage of the farm has varied throughout its history, and at this point in time has been divided among the descendants of Oscar and Mary Throneburg. The core of the farm, however, is contained within the 44.96 nominated acres. State Road 1429 (Throneburg Road) separates the house and farm structures from the field and forested hill to the south, and provides the only access to the farm. The farm lies among rolling hills, and either the east or west approach on Throneburg Road takes the traveler down into a shallow valley. The house and farm buildings are placed above the flood plain, with the house occupying the highest and most prominent spot. The house is shaded by large oaks, which were planted in two intersecting rows. One row runs north/south, on the west side of the house. These oaks are placed thirty-three feet apart. The other row runs east/west, on the south side of the house, and they are placed twenty-two feet apart.

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Sloan-Throneburg Farm
Burke County, North Carolina

Northwest of the house and farm buildings is a narrow strip of white pines, planted where the Throneburg family formerly had their vegetable garden. The pond, north of the pine forest is located approximately one hundred yards north of the garage and covers one fourth of an acre. An earthen dam impounds the waters of a spring to form the pond. The pond was used to irrigate the vegetable garden. It was stocked with fish, and provided not only food, but also summer recreation for the family in the form of swimming and fishing.

The hills to the south of Throneburg Road primarily contain mixed hard woods and pines. Among this mixture are red and white oaks, white and yellow pines, tulip poplar, sourwood, hemlock, dogwood, birch, walnut, and sycamore. The bottom land south of Throneburg Road, formerly pasture and crop land, is now planted in white pines. All of the soil of the farm has a base of red clay that is typical of much of Burke County. There is an overlay of dark, humus, top soil that varies from naught to a few inches in depth at the more elevated locations. The bottom land has a humus/sediment overlay ranging from six to twelve inches.

2. Sloan-Throneburg House, ca. 1882, contributing building, I-house (*Floor plans of the house are attached as Exhibit B*)

The only approach to the house is the gravel drive that gives access to an informal parking area located northwest of the house. The parking area is screened by a row of young hemlock trees. Located at the edge of the gravel parking area is a swing, with a substantial board seat suspended by chain links, hanging from a large branch of an oak. The grassy yard surrounding the house is landscaped in a casual manner, typical of well kept farm homes of Burke County. The ornamental shrubs in the yard were popular in the late nineteenth century, and their old fashioned beauty continues to have great appeal. In the front yard is a large forsythia bush, which is commonly called yellow bell or golden bell. Other flowering shrubs in the yard are japonica, hydrangea, snowball, and lilac. Traditional flowers that remain in the yard are peony, iris, lily of the valley, as well as daffodil and jonquils, collectively known as March flowers, and the ubiquitous daylilies. Fruit trees, including apple, cherry, and pear, provided beauty and shade. Of these, only two pear trees survive.

Main Block and wing, ca. 1882

Exterior

The house is a center hall plan, one room deep and two stories high. The three bay, rectangular, weatherboard structure rests on a brick foundation. Two single shouldered, exterior, brick

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Sloan-Throneburg Farm
Burke County, North Carolina

chimneys rise along the rear façade above a gable roof. Ranged along the roof ridge are three lightning rods, installed in 1926. The center lightning rod is a weathervane in the shape of an arrow. The roof, one board thick and covered with metal shingles, extends approximately two feet beyond the walls and gable ends of the house. It is supported by slender, tapered elements of the roof support structure, which extend to the roof edge. The original roof covering was sawn, wooden shingles. An unadorned twelve-inch frieze on the gable ends separates the lapped siding and roof overhang. A one story, shed roof porch shades the main façade. It is supported by four slender replacement columns. The original porch supports, late 19th century turned posts, are stored in an outbuilding and await restoration.

A one-story wing, containing the dining room and kitchen extends south from the west side of the rear façade. The west wall of the rear wing originally had three windows ranged symmetrically. Two of the original windows have been paired and centered in the west wall of the dining room. The third has been installed horizontally in the rear wall of an addition to the south end of the rear wing. The addition contains a bathroom and a sheltered entrance to the cellar. The addition is attached to the wing with an off set gable roof that parallels the west roof face, and follows the sweep of the east roof face. The west wall of the addition contains a sheltered entrance to the cellar. The addition is sheathed in German siding and has two panel doors. Along the east side of the rear wing there is an original shed porch, now enclosed with a range of mid twentieth century windows. Original, four over four sash remains throughout the main block and rear wing. The exterior window architraves have heavy windowsills and unadorned surrounds.

Dominating the main façade of the house is an impressive three-part entrance consisting of a large, four-panel door flanked by sidelights. A single wooden panel is located at the foot of each sidelight. The panels of both the door and sidelights have flat panels on the exterior and raised panels on the interior. The rails and stiles show the pegs, which secure the mortise and tenon construction of the front door, sidelight panels, and the rear hall door. Plane marks on the panels indicate handmade workmanship rather than factory construction. The moldings of the front entrance configuration are broad and deep, as one would expect to find in a mid to late nineteenth century structure. The front and rear doors are supported by butt hinges.

Interior

The door frames of the center hall have symmetrical, beaded molding with corner blocks embellished by roundels. Five panel doors, typical of the mass-produced doors of the late nineteenth century, are found in the first floor east room, and in the two bedrooms of the second

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Sloan-Throneburg Farm
Burke County, North Carolina

floor. The original wall covering, which can be seen in some areas, is horizontal flush sheathing. In places beaded sheathing, typical of the early twentieth century, has been applied to the flush sheathing; in others, drywall has been applied. The interior window surrounds have an applied back band that creates the impression of a molded bead around the window. A wide board at the bottom of the windowsills is ornamented with a beaded lower edge. An interesting staircase rises from the front of the house along the east wall of the hall. The newel is square in section and chamfered. It is surmounted by a graceful, vernacular finial, which appears to be hand carved. The molded handrail is supported by curvilinear, scroll edged, flat balusters.

Following a fire in the west chimney, which threatened the house, all of the original fireplaces were closed. Only the second floor, east bedroom retains its firebox with original mantel piece. Fortunately, the original mantels have been saved and, like the turned posts of the front porch, are safely housed in an outbuilding awaiting restoration. Because the mantels have been removed from the wall, it is possible to see the circular saw marks on their backsides. Included is a photograph showing the circular saw marks in juxtaposition with an old circular saw found in an outbuilding. It is possible that wood from one of J.H. Sloan's sawmills was used in making the interesting vernacular mantels. The dining room mantel is very simple in construction. Wide, heavy, well-finished boards fit around the firebox. Engaged pilasters, superimposed upon the firebox frame, support the unadorned mantel shelf. The other mantels are similar in construction, but contain more ornamentation. Their pilasters are slender with a molded cap. They rest on tall bases, also with molded caps. The pilasters support an open frieze, which is embellished with curvilinear scroll saw work along the lower edge. The top and side edges of the frieze are framed by a narrow, but deep, strip of molding. Variations of this vernacular theme are found in the two other mantels.

SERVANT DWELLING AND OUTBUILDINGS.

2. Servant Dwelling, Ham House, and Wood Storage First Quarter of Twentieth Century, contributing building

Located about twenty yards to the east of the rear wing of the house, this one story, three-room structure is parallel to the dining room/kitchen wing. The building rests on a brick foundation, and is clad in German siding. It has a gable roof covered with sheets of molded tin, and is three rooms long and one room deep. Each room has a door opening on the west side, facing the kitchen wing. Currently used for storage and general utility, it is called Carrie's House. Carrie Baker, nurse to Mrs. O.L. Throneburg for an extended period of time, had a bedroom in the south end of this structure. Her bedroom has a six light window in the south wall, and the interior has

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horizontal, flush sheathing. The center room, which has a dirt floor, was used to salt cure, and store hams. The center and south rooms have two panel doors. The north room has always been used for wood storage. The entrance to this space has no door, and this space is lighted by a large opening located in the north gable wall. The opening, approximately three feet by six feet, is located about four feet above the dirt floor of the room.

3. Carriage House/Garage

Late Nineteenth Century Building, Remodeled First Quarter of the Twentieth Century.
contributing building

Used as a garage for most of the twentieth century, this rectangular shaped building has a gable roof and it is located across the driveway, north east of the house. Covered with sheets of molded tin, the garage has German siding on the south and west walls. The south end of the building contains two large sliding doors that give access to the interior. The heavy sills of the structure rest on fieldstone piers. The north wall has vertical, random width, board and batten sheathing. It has cuts which indicate that an entrance once existed here. The west wall of the garage has the same board and batten sheathing. The original use of this structure is unknown, but a likely supposition is that it was a carriage house.

4. Wheat House

Late Nineteenth Century Building, Enlarged First Quarter of the Twentieth Century. contributing building

Located on the west side of the driveway, near the highway, the Wheat House is the first of three farm structures arranged in an irregular line extending north. Originally a one room, one and a half-story, gable structure of uncertain use, it has an addition to its west end which tripled the structure's length. Drive through shed additions on the north and south of the building provide covered work space and storage for farm machinery. Heavy sills that rest on fieldstone piers and concrete blocks support the minimal, balloon type construction. A one-story porch, with shed roof, shelters the front, east end, of the main block. The porch protects a vertically sheathed door with a small window just to its left. The porch is enclosed on the south and east sides with German siding. Lapped siding sheathes the east gable end wall. The small, east room is now used for storage, but this room and the room above were once used to process and store soybeans.

The walls of the shed additions, the north and south walls of the main block, as well as the west gable end, are covered with flush sheathing. The south wall and west gable wall have no openings. The addition to the main block contains one large room. Entrance to this space is

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gained through a large sliding door located in the north, shed addition. The door is constructed of vertical boards, and slides in wooden slots. Above the door is a large open space for filling the room with wheat. Inside the wheat storage room, lapped siding of the west gable end of the original structure can still be seen. The roof, originally covered with wooden shingles, is now protected with molded, tin sheets. The boards show clear circular saw marks and are held together with machine made nails.

5. Corncrib

First Quarter of the Twentieth Century, contributing structure

Located just north of the Wheat House, and closer to the driveway, is the corncrib. It is a double pen structure with a central drive through, all covered by a gable roof. The roof is protected by molded sheet tin. The heavy sills of the structure rest on stone piers and blocks. Both cribs have alternating strips of three-inch and one-inch boards, leaving air spaces between. Handmade doors, assembled with vertical boards, provide access to the cribs. These doors are located at the east end of the drive through. Horizontal three by four-foot vented doors, located in the tops of the crib walls, are used for loading corn into the cribs. A storage loft is located above the drive through. A drive through shed addition is located across the rear, west end, of the corncrib. The west wall of this addition is covered with lapped siding. The north wall of the corncrib has a shed addition, which is used to store farm machinery. It is covered with German sheathing.

6. Barn

1926, contributing building

Located north of the corncrib, the barn is the largest of the outbuildings. It is sited further west than any of the structures. It was built on the site of a log barn, similar in size, which burned in 1926. The new barn has a two-story, gable-roofed, center block. A large opening in the east gable affords loading access to the hayloft. There is a storage area on the rafters, above the hayloft. A shed addition wraps around the sides and rear, or west wall of the barn. The roof is covered with molded sheet tin, and the roof ridge of the main block is surmounted by three lightning rods. The center lightning rod is also a weather vane, which features a horse in silhouette. The entire structure rests on heavy, sawn timbers supported by fieldstone. The structure is a modified balloon system, lighter than timber frame, but heavier than balloon construction. The barn has a heavier support system than the wheat house. The walls of the barn are covered with flush, horizontal sheathing of heavy, wide boards. A central door of vertical boards, located at ground level of the east gable end, gives access to a raised walkway and harness storage area that separates the two large stalls on either side of the walkway. These two

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stalls fill the remainder of the main block, ground floor. The stalls were used to house the large number horses and mules needed for operating a farm and sawmill. Sliding doors, made of widely spaced, vertical boards, flank the central door and were the only entrance and exit for the horses and mules. The south, shed addition is tall, and open on the east end. It was used for hay storage. There are three stalls located in the shed addition across the rear of the barn, and three stalls in the shed addition on the north side of the barn. They were used for housing cows.

7. Cave/Root Cellar

First Quarter of the Twentieth Century, contributing structure

Located approximately thirty feet to the rear of the house is a cave, dug by hand, which extends a considerable distance into the hillside. Though still accessible, the entrance to the cave has suffered partial collapse, and is unsafe to enter. Three rooms are said to open from the main shaft. They acted as a root cellar and provided winter storage for potatoes. The walls of the main shaft, as well as the rooms, are unlined. The rooms, however, are said to have timber supports. It seems likely that ice would have been cut from the pond during the winter months and preserved in sawdust inside the cave for used in the summer months.

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Sloan-Throneburg Farm
Burke County, North Carolina

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sloan-Throneburg Farm qualifies for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, agriculture, and criterion C, architecture. In both categories the qualifying significance is local, and the period of significance is from ca. 1882, the construction date of the residence, the oldest resource, to 1926, the date of the barn, the youngest building on the property.

The Sloan-Throneburg Farm is a significant example of an intact farm that operated in Burke County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For the builder, James Sloan, and subsequent owner, Oscar Throneburg, the traditional agricultural aspects of the farming operation primarily served to support the harvesting of timber. The farm provides us with an illustration of the adaptation of a traditional agricultural farm to meet the needs of the growth of industrialism in Burke County, epitomized by the emerging Drexel Furniture Company.

Of the examples of the type in rural Burke County, the Sloan-Throneburg Farm provides the most nearly intact example of an I-house and its surrounding outbuildings. The servant dwelling-ham house-wood house is an example of a custom built structure, designed by Oscar Throneburg to meet the specific needs of his family. It is a unique aspect of Burke County's rural architectural history. Likewise the barn, rebuilt following a fire in 1926, is unique to the needs of Oscar Throneburg's timber business. The first floor of the main body of the barn is divided into two large spaces, each with one domestic size door in the east face of the barn. Mules were housed on one side, horses on the other. Both were used in the timber operation. A narrow walkway divides the two spaces. This configuration, unique today in Burke County, maximized floor space available to house mules and horses, while minimizing the size and number of entrances. Cows, not a part of the timber operation, were relegated to shed structures at the rear and north side of the barn. In addition the three-room cave dug into the hillside just south of the kitchen is the only known example of a root cellar of this type in Burke County. The well-kept house, outbuildings, and farmland are significant messengers from our recent past, which are quickly disappearing.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND AGRICULTURAL CONTEXT

Though no major battles of the Civil War were fought in Burke County, one skirmish in April 1865 resulted in the destruction of all public records housed in the Burke County Courthouse. Therefore, deed research prior to April 1865, becomes difficult or impossible. The earliest

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Sloan-Throneburg Farm
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recorded transfer of the land, occupied by the Sloan-Throneburg Farm, is on November 11, 1872. W. S. Sudderth, Commissioner of Burke County, sold the property to Thomas McNeely of Morganton Township. It is not clear if Sudderth is acting in his capacity as County Commissioner, or for himself. Sudderth's father, Colonel John R. Sudderth, who died in 1865, owned large tracts of land in this area, and was a well-known slave trainer, a term rarely spoken of today. Sudderth, acting in his capacity as County Commissioner, may have been selling the property, belonging to unknown persons, to pay back taxes, or he may have been acting on behalf of himself or his family, settling his Father's estate. Whatever the reason for the sale, however, it seems clear that Thomas McNeely bought the property, which contained four hundred acres, for speculation. He paid four hundred dollars for the property on November 11, 1872, and sold it to James H. Sloan on November 25, 1872, for six hundred dollars.

Descendents of the Sloan family related to Ruby Bozeman Throneburg and her sister Rata Throneburg their family tradition, which holds that the Sloan family lived in a one-room log house while their father built their permanent home. This log structure was located about fifty yards northwest of the Sloan-Throneburg House. It was used by the Throneburg family to store oil, and was demolished ca. 1940.

In September of 1881, James Sloan leased his farm property to George G. Frances for twelve months to mine for gold. This is the only record of the farm having been leased for gold mining. The gold mining lease illuminates an interesting aspect of Burke County history. Prior to 1849 California gold discoveries, North Carolina produced more gold for the Philadelphia mint than any other state. Christopher Bechtler, a German immigrant, opened a private mint in nearby Rutherford County in 1831, and the Federal Mint in Charlotte was authorized in 1835. Both mints were closed by the Civil War. A remnant of an open pit mine can still be seen at the Sloan-Throneburg Farm. The pit is located northeast of the property being nominated. Burke County tax records indicate that the house occupied by James Sloan was built in 1882.

James H. Sloan divided his farm among his family on May 12, 1896. J.B. Isbell and C.S. Blackstone of Caldwell County, North Carolina, who were the surveyors, drew a map of the property. It shows the home place and various plots of fifty acres assigned to members of his family. The property was described as formerly being the Sudderth farm. At that time the farm consisted of 580 acres. James H. Sloan died on August 12, 1902. On October 31, 1907, James B. Sloan, son of James H. Sloan, and his wife Marion purchased this 580 acres from the eleven heirs for five hundred dollars and other valuable considerations. James and Marion Sloan were living in Knox County, Illinois, at the time of the transfer. Finley Rader, who was renting the farm and hauled lumber for Oscar Throneburg, learned that James B. Sloan intended to sell the

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farm. Rader, who wished to continue renting the farm, told Oscar Throneburg of the impending sale in hopes that he would purchase the farm. On December 2, 1912, James B. Sloan, then living in Fulton County, Illinois, sold the property to Mrs. May Pearl Throneburg, wife of Oscar L. Throneburg, for six thousand dollars. According to family tradition, Sloan came by train from Illinois to Morganton, where Oscar Throneburg met the train, and the exchange of deed and money occurred. Though it is clear that this deed transferred the house and all parts of the farm complex included in this nomination, the deed makes no reference to the amount of land involved.

Oscar Lane Throneburg was born on June 12, 1866, in Gaston County, North Carolina. As a young man he and his brother Plato went to Coal Creek, Tennessee, now called Lake City, to work in the mines. While there, in 1900, Oscar met and married Mary Pearl Vowell. Following their marriage they returned to Burke County and operated a general merchandise store that contained a post office. The store was located in the northeast portion of Burke County in a rural area called Gilmer. In 1908, the Throneburgs purchased property from John W. Whisenant and moved to within one mile of the Chesterfield School, also located in rural northeast Burke County. This move provided easier access to school for their children. Oscar's father and his brother, Plato, were engaged in the timber business in Hudson, North Carolina. Oscar purchased the equipment for a sawmill from his brother, Plato, and continued to operate his store while operating his sawmill.

One common manifestations of post Civil War industrialization in North Carolina was the development of the furniture industry. Those who were employed to work in the early furniture factories of Burke County were those who had worked in saw mills. The origins of Drexel Furniture Company, a name that has the longest association with the furniture industry in Burke County, are very humble. In 1899 Samuel Huffman and D.B. Mull of Morganton set up a sawmill in a pasture where the wagon road crossed the railroad and produced corncrib boards. This effort was a financial success even though economic times were very hard. They joined forces with other investors in 1903 and formed Drexel Furniture Company. The company began making furniture in a modest, wooden building located by the rail line. The first furniture made by Drexel was suite of native oak, comprised of a bureau, washstand and double bed. It sold for fourteen dollars and fifteen cents. Under the guidance of Robert O. Huffman, from 1935 into the decade of the 1960, Drexel Furniture Company grew into an internationally significant company. By using a plentiful natural resource, timber, they began a move away from farming toward an industrial society.

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Economic collapse following the Civil War resulted in a gradual trend away from agriculture. Many people continued to farm, but only because they had no alternative. Construction of The Western North Carolina Railroad was halted just east of Morganton by the Civil War. Soon after the war construction was resumed. Resourceful individuals recognized that the railroad provided them with a means of delivering goods, if they could find something to sell. Timber was an obvious choice. In Burke County and surrounding areas, timber was in abundant supply. Both James B. Sloan, who built the house in 1882, and Oscar L. Throneburg, who purchased the house in 1912, operated saw mills, and both used this farm as the nexus of support for their lumber businesses. The farm provided food and shelter for their families and for the large number of horses and mules needed to operate a sawmill. Horses, mules, and occasionally oxen were used to pull the lumber wagons, and to drag the logs from the forest to the place where the sawmill had been erected.

The term sawmill, as used in Burke County in the late nineteenth and through mid twentieth century, indicated a mobile operation. The equipment consisted of a steam driven engine in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which was later replaced by a gasoline engine. The gasoline engine had the advantage of being lighter and more easily transported. Both engines turned a large, circular saw blade. The blade, approximately four to six feet in diameter, was usually attached to the power source by a large, leather belt. The engine could be part of a larger machine, such as a tractor, and therefore provided its own mobility. The engine could also be a working unit in and of itself, and therefore needed to be transported to the site where the sawmill was to operate. Logs were placed on a wooden cradle and moved backward and forward into the stationary circular saw blade. The logs were cut into boards of various widths and lengths at the locations where they had been harvested. The length of the wagons used to haul the boards to the lumberyards limited the length of the boards. Once the sawmill had been set up, it usually stayed at that location for six to twelve months.

Sawmill operators like James Sloan and Oscar Throneburg usually transacted business on a contract basis. Typically they would make a contract with individual landowner. The contract might specify that the timber be cut into lumber of specific sizes and lengths for the individual landowner. More likely, however, the contract specified that the timber was to be sold to the lumberyards and the lumberyards would specify what they needed and what price they were paying. A few sawmill operators would purchase tracts of land, cut and market the timber, with the hopes that they would both own the land and make a profit as well. Successful speculators such as these became very wealthy and accumulated large amounts of land.

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As stated previously, both Sloan and Throneburg used their farm to provide food for their families, the farm animals, and the animals needed for logging and lumber business. From time to time, Throneburg, and probably Sloan, cut timber on their farm. Though most of the land was in timber, harvesting the timber was an activity that would have taken place on this farm for only a few years out of the time frame under discussion. At most, one hundred to one hundred and fifty acres of their farm was under cultivation, and during most of Oscar Throneburg's tenure the number of acres under cultivation was from eight to ten acres. Therefore it is fair to observe that the agricultural products of the farm did not provide much, if any direct profit.

Insight into the types of agricultural products produced by the farm can be gathered by an examination of the storage facilities. Located closest to the house is the ham house, which is one third of the servant quarters/wood house building. The salt cured hams were for the consumption of the Throneburg family. Also located near the house is the root cellar/cave that was used for storing potatoes. These were for family use as well. Large quantities of hay could be stored in the barn, and there was a large need for hay to feed the horses, mules, and oxen used in the logging operation, as well as the domestic cattle used for milk, butter, and beef. It is unlikely that the farm produced hay for sale. The horses, mules, and oxen could, of course, pull the agricultural equipment as well as lumber and logs. Corn, stored in the corncrib, was used to feed horses, mules, and hogs. Some of the corn was milled into corn meal. Corn meal was a staple in cooking and baking. Given the size of the corncrib, the number of animals to be fed, and the size of the Throneburg family, it seems unlikely that there would have been corn for sale. The wheat house, however, has large storage potential. Given that wheat was milled into flour, as well as fed to chickens and cows, there is the potential for excess above that which was needed for domestic and farm uses. The wheat and corn were turned into flour and meal at Snipes gristmill, which was located in the Chesterfield area. Soybeans were stored in the wheat house during the second half of the twentieth century. A small percentage of the farm was used for pasture and cultivation; the remainder was in timber. Farming held the highest priority in the summer months and the sawmill was operated during the winter months. Pines cut during the summer months were at risk of having a blue mold attack the freshly cut wood. It did not damage the strength of the wood, but made a dark stain on the lumber, making it less desirable. This was especially applicable if the wood was to be used in the manufacture of furniture.

The Throneburg family presents an interesting view of a Burke County family adapting to the economic changes brought about by the industrial revolution. They placed a high value upon education for their children. This is illustrated by the fact that though the Throneburg family purchased the farm from the Sloan family in 1912, they did not move there until December of 1925. They wished to continue living near their community school, making it easy for their

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children to receive an education. The move to their new home did not take place until all of the Throneburg children had completed their local schooling. In addition, Oscar L. Throneburg had a broad range of civic involvement. As examples, he promoted better education and roads in Burke County, while contributing the lumber to construct the first African American Church of God in the Piney Community. He lived at the Sloan-Throneburg farm until his death in 1955. His wife continued to make her home at this farm until her death in 1962, at which time she conveyed the home tract to her daughter, Rata E. Throneburg. Rata Throneburg conveyed a life estate to her sister, Ruby Bozeman, who resides at the Sloan-Throneburg House. At her death the house will pass to their nephew, David Throneburg.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Following the Civil War, an expanding economy provided money for the construction of new homes. James H. Sloan was a part of this movement in both his work and his home. Mr. Sloan's sawmill provided much of the construction material for the house, and it provided cash to purchase those things which neither the farm nor sawmill could provide. Stylistically the house falls under the category of an I-house. This is a term attributed to geographer Fred Kniffen. He used this term to describe two-story houses that were one room deep and, at least, two rooms wide. He associated the form with states beginning with the letter I. It has since become an acceptable term to describe any house built in that configuration, but which does not have an easily identified architectural style. The I-house usually incorporates aspects of architectural styles that were popular at the time of construction. The Sloan-Throneburg House combines modest examples of the Greek Revival and Italian Villa styles. The wide overhang of the roof is evocative of the Italian Villa style, while the broad molding and sidelights of the main entrance are influenced by the classical ornamentation of the Greek Revival style. The house contains an unusual staircase that combines elements that might have been drawn from several styles ranging across the nineteenth century. The newel post appears to draw inspiration from the first half of the nineteenth century, while the scroll-sawn balusters could be mid to late nineteenth century. Dating the staircase is difficult because there is no other known example of this staircase in Burke County, or surrounding area. There is, however, no record to indicate that the stair is earlier than the 1882 building date of the house.

The Sloan-Throneburg Farm is a fine example of individual interpretation and adaptation of architectural forms that were typical to many of the rural, late nineteenth century farms in the Burke County area. The way of life embodied in this farm complex speaks eloquently of the industrious, independent families who combined home and work. James Sloan was in the timber

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business as well as farming. This gave him access to lumber from his own saw mill, to the lumber yards in Morganton and Lenoir, as well as the small factories that manufactured blinds, windows, mantels, and shingles. The identity of the person or persons who framed the house is unknown. It is, however, a strong Sloan family tradition that their father supervised construction of the house. In addition, it seems certain that a person who had a sawmill that turned logs into boards and timbers would not have purchased them from another source.

The massing of the Sloan-Throneburg house, with its two-story rectangular shape and projecting rear wing, is probably the most common house form found in nineteenth century North Carolina. It is fair to say that the rectangular shape was among the most common throughout the late eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth century, especially for more practical, less ambitious house forms. It was a traditional shape that had stood the test of time, and required less cost and skill to erect. By the second quarter of the nineteenth century more Americans were becoming wealthy and a few were able to visit Europe, but many more had access to books and magazines which illustrated stylish architecture. Among the things they saw were Italian Villas with irregular massing which had evolved over a long period of time. Those with great wealth adopted full-blown examples of the styles, while others of lesser means continued building in the traditional, rectangular form. The traditional form was ornamented with one or more architectural features selected from specific architectural styles. The stylistic ornamentation was frequently given individual interpretation by both the one who constructed the house and the house owner. The rise of mass-produced architectural elements, however, made for a more homogenized appearance.

The I-house was a popular late nineteenth building style in Burke County. Among the examples that have survived are: the Hamp Harris House, ca. 1902; the Francis Kincade House, ca. 1898; the Theodore McGimsey House, 1886-1887; and the McGimsey House, ca. 1903, all located in Upper Creek Precinct of Burke County. Lower Creek Precinct adjoins Upper Creek Precinct, and contains the Sloan-Throneburg Farm. Examples of the I-house in Lower Creek Precinct are: the Carroll House, ca. 1895; the Crawley-Chapman House, Ca. 1890; and the Duckworth-Arney House, ca. 1895, now demolished. Of these examples, only the Theodore McGimsey Farm and the Sloan-Throneburg Farm retain a full compliment of outbuildings.

The ornamentation of the Sloan-Throneburg House is a reflection of the transition from the handmade to machine made. The timbers and boards of the house were undoubtedly sawn at James Sloan's sawmill. The front door with its sidelights and panels, as well as the simple three part dining room mantel are reflective of the Greek Revival architecture, handsomely illustrated in Burke County during the 1830's, 40's and 50's. The Burke County Courthouse, Creekside,

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Magnolia, Swan Ponds, and the Gaither House are some of the extant examples of Greek Revival architecture in Burke County. The entrance configuration of the Sloan-Throneburg House, and the four panel doors found in the rear hall, west room of the first floor and the dining room wing exhibit excellent hand made construction. Similar doors are used at nearby Stoney Hill, build by William Macon Michaux ca. 1885. It is one of the few examples of a board and batten, Gothic Revival cottage in Burke County.

The newel post of the stair at the Sloan-Throneburg House may have been made on the site, certainly it is handcrafted and local. The mantels were probably manufactured locally, using timber from the local sawmills, perhaps from James Sloan's sawmill. The symmetrical, beaded molding applied to the hall door surrounds, and the corner block roundels, are typical architectural trim for builders in the 1880's in North Carolina, and across the country. They were undoubtedly manufactured. The newel and balustrade create a staircase that is handsome and interesting. The four over four sash is found in a number of late nineteenth century houses, ranging from the Salt-Flax House in Old Salem, remodeled in 1879, to the ca. 1885, Captain L.A. Bristol House in Morganton.

The outbuildings surrounding the house reflect the utilitarian nature of a working farm of this time and place. All rest on heavy timbers and have a modified balloon construction that balances the size and number of framing members against the minimum amount needed to properly support the buildings. Their shapes conform to needs at the time of construction, but allow for multiple usage. An example of this would be the large number of drive through areas that are roofed. They can be used for loading or for storage. The circular saw marks on all of the planks and timbers indicate that they were cut at sawmills like James Sloan's and Oscar Throneburg's. The German siding used to cover the walls of the servant's quarters/ham house/wood house, (known as Carrie's House), and the bathroom addition were undoubtedly purchased. Mobile sawmills like Sloan's and Throneburg's could rough cut planks, but not finish them.

Carrie's House was built after the Throneburg family began to reside at this farm in 1925. It is a unique example of an outbuilding constructed specifically to contain three very different functions, and all three functions were needed within close range of the kitchen. One well finished room was a sleeping space for Mrs. Throneburg's nurse, one room was built to store and cure hams, and one room was created to store firewood. The German siding and two panel doors support the ca. 1926 building date, and these elements date the bathroom/basement entrance addition as well. German siding was used to update an existing board and batten structure when it was transformed from horse and carriage use into a garage for automobiles. The board and batten sheathing would indicate a building date in the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century.

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German siding also marks additions to existing outbuildings that were made after the Throneburgs begin to live on the farm. The structures were added as necessity dictated. Labor and living spaces were created with materials at hand, and formed from plans within the minds of those who created them. When the log barn was destroyed by fire, it was quickly replaced by lumber cut at the Throneburg sawmill and constructed by Mr. Throneburg's sons and work crew. The log barn, with a split shingle roof, was replaced by one of balloon construction, and the roof was covered with sheets of molded tin. The barn type has some elements not like any known surviving barns in Burke County. The overall form, gable roof with shed additions, is not unusual. The unusual features are the three entrances to the main body of the barn, which are located in the east gable facade. A central door opens onto a narrow, raised platform that divides the main body of the barn into two large feeding areas of equal size. The platform and two feeding areas occupy all of the space covered by the gable roof of the main block. Entrance to the two feeding areas is by way of two doors, each flanking the central door. The three doors are approximately four feet wide, and eight feet high. Mules were housed and fed in the south feeding room and horses were housed and fed in the north feeding room. The barn, not unusual in overall shape, was divided into spaces to fit very special needs of Oscar Throneburg's timber business.

Buildings constructed on the farm were always functional, and finished with good workmanship that gave them a beauty of their own. Local building modes influenced the construction, but function was the overriding consideration. This type of farm complex, once a common element of the Burke County landscape, is now rapidly disappearing, and intact examples are rare. The architectural forms found at the Sloan-Throneburg Farm are a unique view into the rural building history of Burke County from 1882 to 1926. No dramatic changes have been made. Where change has occurred it reflects adaptation to the technological changes that have taken place during the life of this house and its complement of outbuildings. This is a remarkably intact picture of the man made environment of rural Burke County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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UTM REFERENCES

continued

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5.	17	440770	3966590
6.	17	440860	3966590
7.	17	440450	3966620
8.	17	440465	3966260
9.	17	440460	3966630
10.	17	440560	3966580

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the property included in the Sloan-Throneburg Farm nomination is shown on Parcel Number 27522 & 33404 and Record Number 27552 & 33404 of the Burke County Tax Office mapping system. The nominated area is 44.96 acres owned by Ruby Throneburg Bozeman, who holds a life estate. Deed to the property is in Burke County Deed Book 96, Page 605. The south west property line of the portion of the farm north of Throneburg Road, (SR 1429), begins at a point on Throneburg Road, (SR 1429), and runs north east 276 feet; it continues north 930 feet; then turns south east 150 feet; from which point the line runs south 436 feet; then south east 710 feet; then south 123 feet; and west 840 feet with Throneburg Road, (SR 1429), to the beginning.

The north west property line of the portion of the farm south of Throneburg Road, (SR 1429), begins at a point on Throneburg Road, (SR 1429), and runs east 1420 feet with the road; from which point the line runs south 1200 feet; then west 1364 feet; and north 1200 feet to the beginning point on Throneburg Road (SR 1429).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses 44.96 acres around the Sloan-Throneburg House, and includes the land on which the supporting elements that have historically comprised the core of the farm are located. Though the actual acreage of the farm has varied throughout its history, the present

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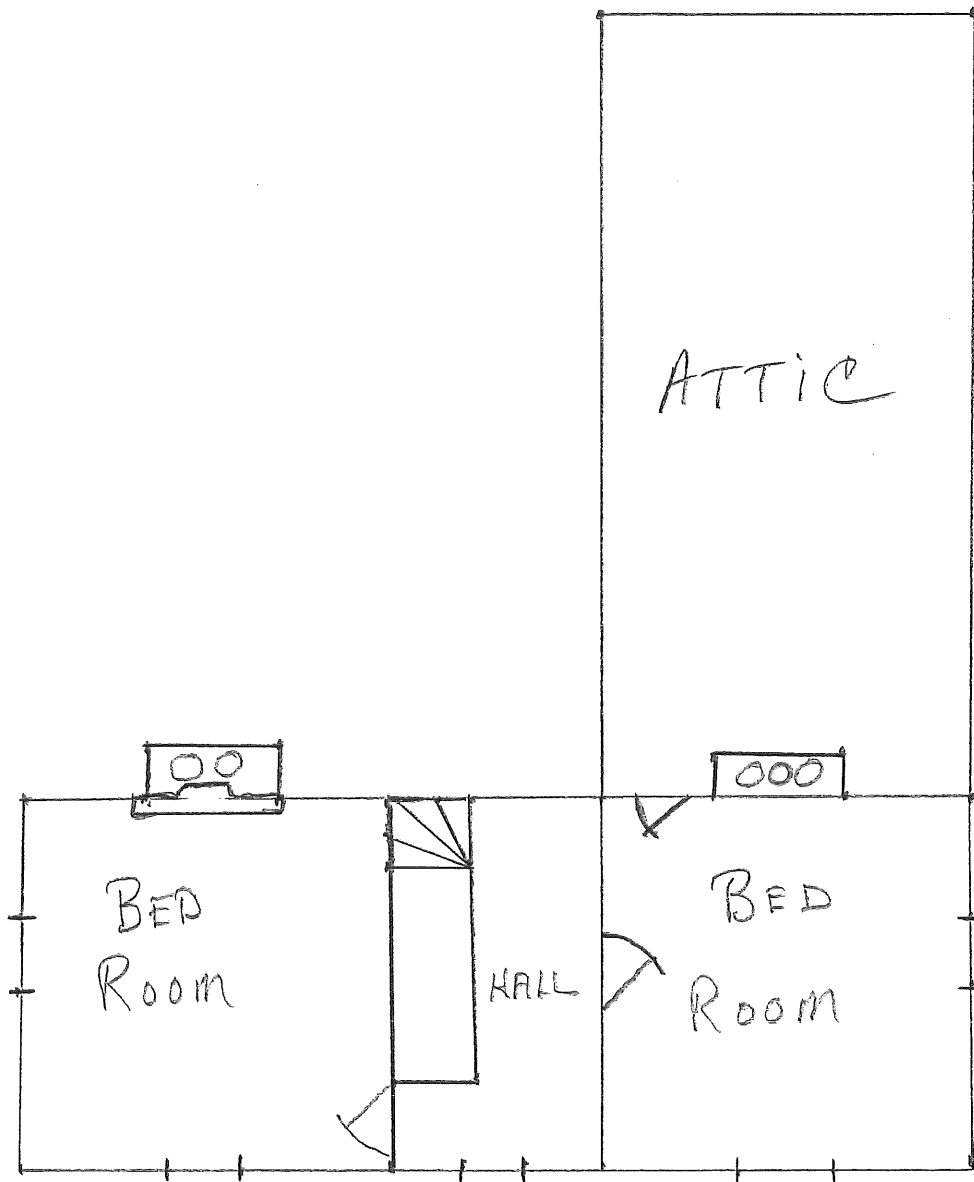
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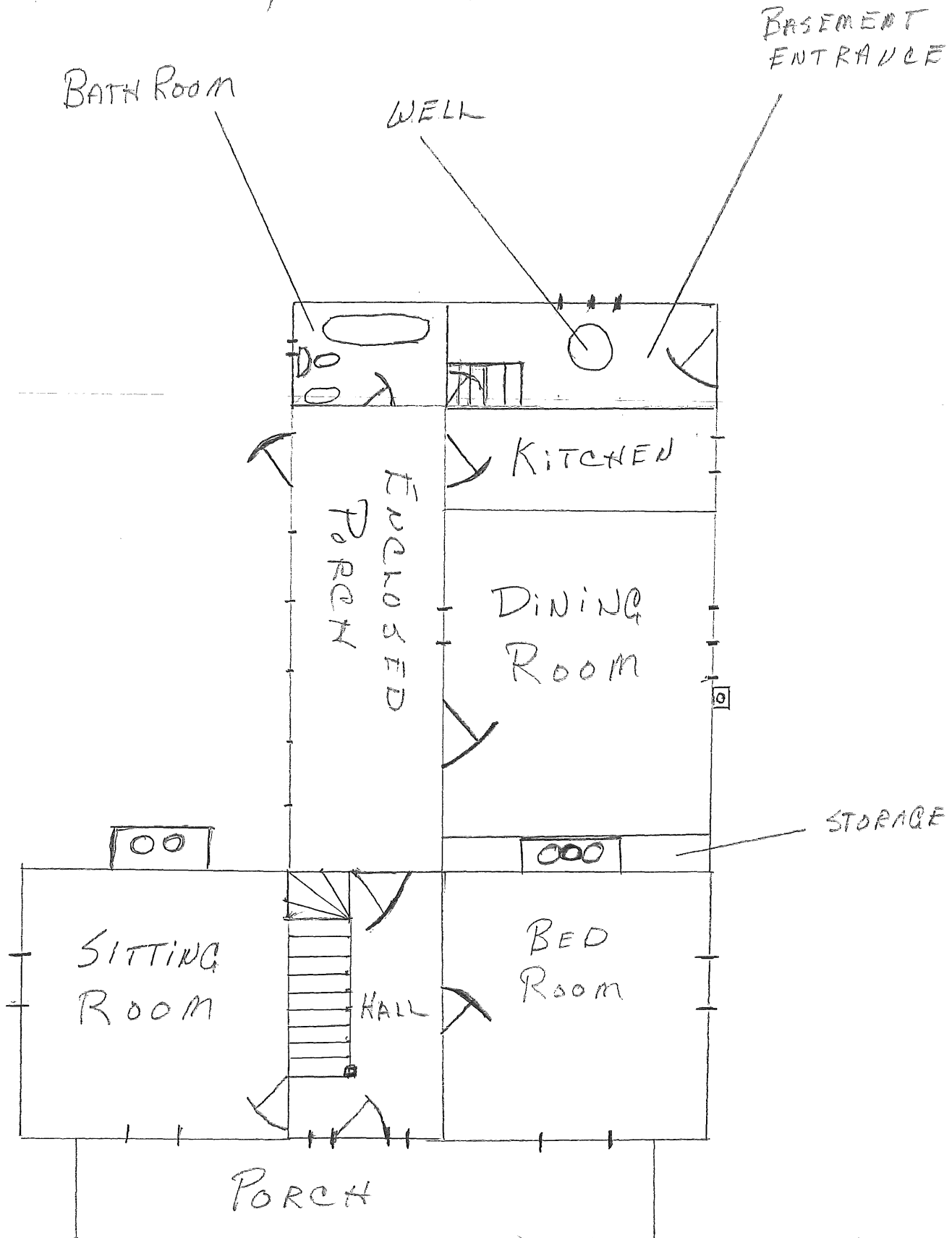
boundary is sufficient to convey the historic context of the property and to protect its architectural and agricultural character. The 8.94 acres north of Throneburg Road contain the significant structures of the farm. The 36.02 acres south of Throneburg Road provide a setting that displays both the agricultural and forest aspects of this farm.

SLOAN - THRONEBURG HOUSE
2285 THRONEBURG ROAD
MORGANTON, N.C. 28655



SECOND FLOOR
(GREEN SETTLEMENT)
OCTOBER 2000

SLOAN-THRONEBURG HOUSE
2285 THRONEBURG ROAD
MORGANTON, N.C. 28655



FIRST FLOOR
(CREEP SUTTIENYAE
OCTOBER 2000)

#8



SLOAN - THRONEBURG FARM

PINE FOREST

FORMER VEGETABLE GARDEN



VEGETABLE GARDEN

#1 HOUSE

#2A SERVANT QUARTERS
HAM HOUSE

#2B WOOD HOUSE
(CARRIES HOUSE)

#3 GARAGE/
CARRIAGE HOUSE

#4 WHEAT HOUSE

#5 CORNERIB

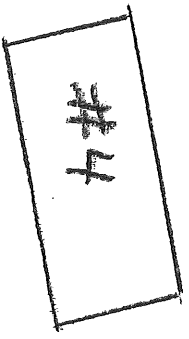
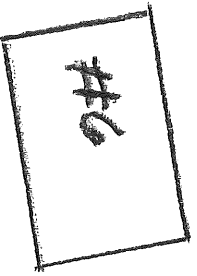
#6 BARN

#7 CAVE/

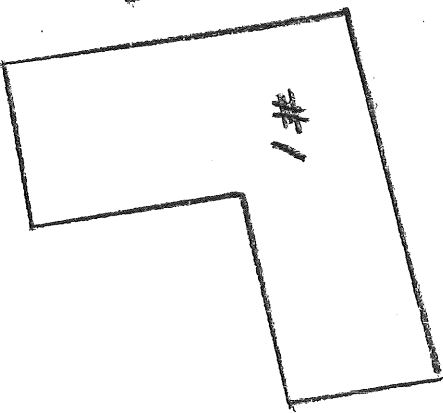
ROOT CELLAR

#8 POND

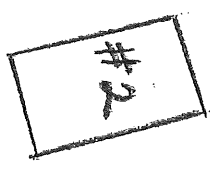
STREAM



DRIVE WAY



FIELD



THRONEBURG ROAD

SR 1429

11010

NAT TA

