

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
other names/site number Cedarvale

2. Location

street & number 730 Morrison Road N/A not for publication
city, town Midland vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Cabarrus code 025 zip code 28107

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>3</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>8</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

William S. King Nov. 16, 1990
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

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:)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

See Continuation Sheet

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

See Continuation Sheet

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt shingle

other wood

brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine,
Cabarrus Co., NC

Section number 6 Page 1

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

GOVERNMENT: post office

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:
agricultural outbuilding

COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:
gold mine

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE: storage

Vacant/not in use

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 7 Page 1

The Robert Harvey Morrison Farm is a 27.7-acre parcel with rolling topography bounded by Pioneer Mill Road on the west, Morrison Road on the south, a branch of Caldwell Creek on the east and half of the north, and a northeast-southwest line from the creek branch back to Pioneer Mill Road. Although there has been some housing development in the vicinity, the immediate area around Cedarvale still retains its serene and rural character. A visit to Cedarvale Farm, as the present owners call it, uniquely gives one the impression of being on an antebellum plantation. The cedar-lined gravel drive to the restored Robert Harvey Morrison House, the log barn, smokehouse, post office, school house, farm shed and shop, and buried utility lines combined with well-tended grounds that slope gently downward in all directions from the house transport the visitor to another time: the plantation era of pre-Civil War Piedmont North Carolina. An additional unique aspect of Cedarvale is an important archaeological site at the southwest corner of the property that contains the Pioneer Mill gold mine shaft and ore mill, the ruins of a miner's cabin, and a former general store warehouse.

House

The Robert Harvey Morrison House is a two-story, Greek Revival, central hall plan, weatherboarded house, three bays wide by two bays deep (48 feet wide by 54 feet deep) that faces south. Its graceful symmetry is felt through its one-story, hip roof porch extending the width of the facade, supported by six plain box columns with simple balustrades; the shuttered, double-hung sash, nine-over-nine windows with unadorned surrounds; the cedar shake hip roof and two brick interior chimneys; and the central front-entry door with simple surrounds, four-light transom and six-light side lights. The simple, undecorated cornices are directly at the top of the second-story windows. In the rear of the house, a center entry door exactly matches that of the front, complete with four-light transom and six-light side lights. Two one-room, gable-roofed ells project from the end bays of the north side of the house; the one on the northeast side is lightly offset about three feet beyond the house side wall. A one-story porch supported by two plain box columns extends between them. A shed addition further extends northward from the one-story room on the northwest side. On the upper story in the rear, the windows are shuttered, nine-over-six double-hung sash, while those on the first floor are six-over-six double-hung sash, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 7 Page 2

only those on the northwest side are shuttered. The house was originally built on stone piers that have subsequently been bricked in.

The simple, unadorned character of the house is repeated in the interior. It is basically symmetrical, with four main rooms downstairs and four up, and has wide, heart-of-pine floors and flushboard sheathing on all the walls and ceilings. The two-panel doors have wide-fluted surrounds with plain cornerblocks. Closed-string stairs with heart-of-pine treads rise north to south along the east side of the central hall and have a turned newel post at the top and bottom and plain balusters and handrail. The mantels are all of exactly the same style: they have rectangular openings that are framed by plain pilasters with plain baseblocks and a small entablature, and a low arch with a small bracket in the middle; the pilasters continue up to the plain mantel shelf and are topped by a wide bracket under the shelf; a third, matching bracket is under the middle of the shelf. The mantels in the two downstairs front rooms are original and the others are replacements from an old farmhouse in the area that were put in when the present owners restored the house. The current use of the rooms appear to closely match their original uses: the two front rooms downstairs are a parlor and dining room; the back downstairs rooms contain another parlor and kitchen (the latter has been modernized); and the upstairs rooms are all bedrooms.

The house is in superb condition. When the Joneses bought the house in 1973, they hired Charlotte architect Ralfe Mesrobian to oversee its restoration. Victorian gables and a pedimented porch were removed and replaced with the original architecture. All necessary replacement of flooring, stairs and other materials were, as far as possible, done with recovered materials from the period from Charleston and elsewhere. The chimneys, piers and brick skirts have been reconstructed, as have the one-story rooms on the rear of the house. Every detail of hardware, materials and finishes were carefully chosen with attention to historical accuracy.¹

Outbuildings (keyed to map) C-Contributing; NC-Noncontributing

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>C/NC</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	Smokehouse	C	c.1846	Weatherboarded; side-gabled; one story; no windows; one room; open rafters with meat hooks.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 7 Page 3

-
- | | | | |
|----------------|----|--------|--|
| 2. Post Office | NC | c.1880 | One story; side-gabled; reconstructed end chimney of coursed fieldstone and brick, using pattern from adjacent tenant house; weatherboarded exterior; nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows, some with shutters; finished on inside as an office. This is a fragment of a building that was once attached to the Barnhardt store, and was moved to the present site c. 1905. |
| 3. Log Barn | C | c.1846 | Two-story, central-passage, double-pen with saddle-notched corners and tin gable roof. Approximately 40 feet wide and 20 feet deep. |
| 4. Garage | NC | c.1974 | Side-gabled, one story, two-car garage with double overhead door, cupola and brick and glass enclosed shed entry. |
| 5. Schoolhouse | NC | c.1974 | One story; side-gabled; reconstructed chimney of brick and uncoursed fieldstone; shake roof; shed porch, supported by four plain columns; screened-in shed back porch; entirely reconstructed as a guest house on the site and to the scale of the former schoolhouse. |
| 6. Shed | C | c.1900 | One story; side-gabled; open front, supported by three square columns; shed roof enclosure on side; tin roof; was equipment storage shed. |
| 7. Shop | C | c.1900 | One story; front-gabled; two bays wide by three bays deep; tin roof; was used as a shop; now used for storage. |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 7 Page 5

This building and the one above are typical farm support buildings.

- | | | | |
|---------------|----|---------|---|
| 8.. Warehouse | NC | c. 1885 | One story, front-gabled frame structure; stone piers; was once warehouse associated with Barnhardt store at road corner; inscriptions on inside walls from several Barnhardts bearing dates of 1891, 1894; now used for hay storage. Moved to present site c. 1905. |
|---------------|----|---------|---|

Mine Area

Remains of the Pioneer Mills Gold Mine are located approximately 600 feet to the southwest of the house. Evidence of a shaft and shaft head structure, the remains of a cabin, and extant store or warehouse and surface evidence for a milling operation are to be found on an east-facing slope overlooking the house. The shaft has been filled in, but may still be seen as a debris-filled depression in the hillside. Several "I" beams located south of the shaft are probably the remains of the "A" frame for the shaft windlass. Little evidence of mine tailings is visible as these were used to fill a recent subsidence in the shaft area.²

Surface evidence for the mill includes an H-shaped mound rising three feet above the surrounding topography. A number of faced field stones, which were part of a superstructure, may be seen on the periphery of this mound. These stones could have been used for the foundation of the mill building and as machinery bases. No machinery or crushing stones were located in the mill area during a survey in April, 1990 (by staff members of

the Archeology Branch, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC), but several stones from a Chilean Mill were taken from the general area and transported to the house, where they are used as decorative elements in the yard.³

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 7 Page 6

Mine Area Resources (keyed to map) C-Contributing; NC-Noncontributing

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>C/NC</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
9.	Mine Shaft site	C	c.1832	See above
10.	Ore Mill site	C	c.1832	See above
11.	Miner's Cabin site	C	c.1855	Ruin of a miner's cabin; front-gabled, saddle-notched log structure, one story; stood until Hurricane Hugo, September, 1989. Owner intends to restore.

¹Interview with Freeman and Helen Jones by Dr. William H. Huffman, Cedarvale, 10 January 1990.

²Report by John Clauser, Archaeology Branch, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC, May, 1990.

³Ibid.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Industry
Archaeology: Historic - Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

c. 1832 - c. 1860; c. 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1832

c. 1846

c. 1900

Cultural Affiliation

None

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
Summary

The Robert Harvey Morrison Farm is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C because of the carefully restored Greek Revival Robert Harvey Morrison House and related early outbuildings. The Greek Revival style was popular in Cabarrus County from the early 1840s to the start of the Civil War, and this house is one of the very best preserved of the thirty-five extant examples in the county and one of only two houses of its size and type identified in the 1981 architectural survey. Judging by the size of the house and the fact that the builder, Robert Harvey Morrison, owned ten slaves, the farm was clearly a prosperous plantation. The surviving outbuildings important under Criterion C include the ante-bellum smokehouse and c. 1900 shed and shop, which are intact, representative examples of their types. (The slave housing is no longer extant.) The barn also is notable as one of Cabarrus County's few examples of a two-story double-pen, center-passage log barn and perhaps the only ante-bellum one remaining here.

The property also is eligible for the National Register under Criterion D because of the Pioneer Mills Gold Mine shaft site, ore mill site and miner's cabin ruin, which are located about 200 yards southwest of the house. Gold mining was extremely important to North Carolina in the ante-bellum period, and the remains of the Pioneer Mills mine are a significant element of the history of this property. In addition to providing a certain amount of financial support to the plantation owners, the mining operation significantly affected the landscape. Disposal of tailings altered the topography of the property and the location of the cabin is dependent on the presence of the mine. Proper investigation of these remains could provide valuable evidence for the low technology gold mining which was prevalent in North Carolina. The property's period of significance, encompassing construction of the Morrison house, barn and smokehouse, is c. 1832, when the mine began operating, to c. 1860, when operations apparently ceased. The period of significance also is c. 1900, the construction date of the shop and shed.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 8 Page 1

Early Background of the Morrison Farm and Architectural Context

Robert Harvey Morrison (1817-1895) established his farm on land he inherited from his father in 1846.¹ The Morrisons were Scots who emigrated to Pennsylvania in the mid-1700s, then traveled down the Great Wagon Road to North Carolina, where three pioneer brothers, James (1726- 1804), John (d.1777) and Robert (1728-1810), reached the Rocky River settlement in what is now Cabarrus County in 1764.² In October, 1766, James Morrison bought 136 acres on Caldwell Creek, and in subsequent years bought and sold additional acreage in the area.³ James' son John (1768-1846, married Mary McCurdy in 1794) inherited the Caldwell Creek land from his father, and, on his death in 1846, willed it to his son, Robert Harvey Morrison.⁴

On November 4, 1845, Robert Harvey Morrison was married to Mary Ann Stuart (1821-1875), with whom he had eight children from 1846 to 1863.⁵ It is reasonable to presume that Morrison built his house not long after inheriting the farm from his father in 1846, since he was already starting his family. (His first child was born in September of that year.)⁶ He does not appear in the 1850 census, but the 1860 census shows Morrison as farming 200 improved acres, and owning another 88 unimproved, with the whole being valued at \$2,016. The most abundant produce crop was corn, followed by wheat, oats, peas and sweet potatoes. Cotton was the important cash crop, and the census indicates that Morrison had ten slaves to tend to the fields and other chores. His personal estate in 1860 was valued at \$5,435, which would include the slaves as well as personal property.⁷ These figures and the size of the Morrison house clearly show that the farm was a prosperous one. The prosperity is also indicated by the size and location of the outbuildings. Because there are at present no statistics available on farming operations before or after the 1860 census, and until such data might be discovered, the farm is not being nominated for agriculture.

The meticulously restored Greek Revival Robert Harvey Morrison House and its associated log barn are rare and highly important examples of Cabarrus County's surviving architectural heritage. The Greek Revival style for houses began in the United States in the 1820s, and reached North Carolina later in the decade. In Cabarrus County it was most popular from the early 1840s to the start of the Civil War, but it continued to be popular in the North Carolina Piedmont until the 1870s.⁸ Drawing on architectural forms of Ancient Greece meant that the young republic identified with the ideals of Greek democracy. Most builders in the county employed a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 8 Page 2

conservative use of the style, which is the case in this example. The Robert Harvey Morrison House is one of the very best preserved of the thirty-five extant Greek Revival houses in the county, and the only one of two houses of its size and type identified in the 1981 architectural survey.⁹

In the same inventory, no other example of the exact size and construction of the two-story, double-pen log barn is known to be extant in the county.¹⁰ Log construction for agricultural outbuildings in the county was the norm from the pioneering days of the late 1700s through the first half of the 1800s. For most every farm of any size, a grain crib, smokehouse and barn were necessities.¹¹ In this instance, a surviving smokehouse is located near the barn, and other typical, but later outbuildings, a shed and shop, are situated on the eastern side of the house. The barn, as well as the location and size of the other outbuildings, suggests a prosperous plantation for which the barn was built about 1846.

A very important part of the pioneer communities settled by the Scots and Scotch-Irish in the Piedmont section of North Carolina were the Presbyterian churches. In the case of the Rocky River community, it was the Rocky River Church, in which the Morrison families played a leading role. It is believed that the church was organized about 1751, and James Morrison, one of the three pioneer brothers, was one of the first elders. Two of his sons, William and John, were ordained elders after him, the latter in 1816. Upon his death, he was succeeded by his son, Robert Harvey Morrison, who served from 1847 to 1895.¹² During the off season, Robert Harvey Morrison was a colporteur, or seller of religious material, in Piedmont North Carolina. His commitment to the church was such that when the Rev. J. B. Mack was called to the pastorate of the church (in the 1870s), there was as yet no manse to house the minister and his family, so Morrison moved his own family into two small houses (probably tenant houses - which ones and where they were located is not known) at the farm and gave the big house over to the minister until a manse could be built.¹³

The Pioneer Mills community, centered at the crossroads of Pioneer Mills and Morrison Roads (which run along the eastern and southern sides of the Morrison farm, respectively) was already established when, in August, 1831, Fredrick L. Folger was appointed postmaster for the settlement. It was the second rural post office established in Cabarrus County. Samuel McKee took over the post in 1833, but gave it up two years later when he married Cynthia Caroline Morrison (1817-1909), Robert Harvey Morrison's twin sister, and moved to Alabama. At that time, John M. Morrison (1806-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine Cabarrus Co.

Section number 8 Page 3

1863, a brother of Robert Harvey Morrison) was appointed to the post and held it for one year, when it was taken over by a brother-in-law, George C. Marvin [married to Jeannette Morrison (1814-1875)] in 1836. Robert Harvey Morrison assumed the post on November 7, 1839 (after the Marvins also moved to Alabama) and held it for nearly twenty-seven years until June 18, 1866. Exactly where these early post offices were is not known.¹⁴

Morrison was succeeded as postmaster by Elizabeth M. Black, who served until 1872, when Jacob C. Barnhardt was appointed. Barnhardt built a house and general store at the southeast corner of Morrison and Pioneer Mill Roads just south of the Morrison Farm, and ran the post office from his store. The restored post office building at the Morrison farm may date from this period when he was postmaster.¹⁵ John A. Barnhardt (1855-1923), Jacob's son, succeeded his father as postmaster and owner of the general store. He served as postmaster from 1883 to 1905, and built a new house near the store site. About 1905, the Barnhardt house was bought by James Pharr Morrison, who succeeded as postmaster from October, 1905 until January, 1906, when the post office was closed and mail was routed through Harrisburg. The former Barnhardt store was torn down in the early 1900s and used for lumber for a house near Rocky River Church by M. D. Reid. A warehouse used by the store is located near the old gold mine site, where it is presently used for hay storage.¹⁶ Inscriptions on the inside walls bear the names of several Barnhardts, and are dated 1891 and 1894.

Industrial Context, Background of Pioneer Mills Gold Mine and Later Background of the Morrison Farm

One of the important resources of the Robert Harvey Morrison Farm is the site of the Pioneer Mills Gold Mine shaft and ore mill and nearby miner's cabin ruin. The earliest reports of mining at the site come from the Miners' and Farmers' Weekly Journal [Charlotte, N.C.] on February 8, 1832 and December 6, 1834, which note that the Cabarrus Gold Mining Company intended to mine at Pioneer Mills. No information is presently available on the principals of the gold mine company, and it is reasonable to assume that Morrison's only connection with the mine was that of lessor of the mining rights. This original venture did not fare well and in 1835 was attached for debts, which was not uncommon (see below). A 1948 Geological Survey report states that "Except for brief periods the mine appears to have remained closed since the late 1850s." The brief periods are not otherwise identified, and no other information has come to light about any operations after 1850.¹⁷

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine Cabarrus Co.

Section number 8 Page 4

Mining was done by a shaft dug from the surface which led to tunnels at various levels (see below). The ore was brought up in a skip and hoisted to the surface by a windlass. It was then taken to the adjacent ore mill site, which was a Chilean mill, which used mill stones to crush the ore. The ore was then probably washed in rockers to separate the gold.¹⁸ The ruin of the miner's cabin appears to date from the antebellum mining period.¹⁹ A full-scale archaeological investigation of this relatively undisturbed site is likely to reveal much about this type of mining, which was so widespread in antebellum North Carolina.

It was reported in 1856 that up to that time about 283 ounces of gold had been recovered from about 100 tons of ore, with a value in those days of \$5,674.²⁰ This would indicate that it was a relatively small mine, not nearly as big as its profitable big neighbors, the Reed mine in Cabarrus County and the Rudisill and St. Catherine mines in Charlotte. The U. S. Geological Survey pumped the water from the mine and surveyed it in 1934, and found in their report that

... The workings include a shaft, sunk to a depth of 147-1/2 feet, the first 50 feet being vertical and the remainder on an incline, from which drifts were turned at several levels. Those on the 100- and 130-foot levels extend southwest 44 feet and 222 feet respectively. One at 133 feet depth extends only 16 feet northeastward. Older workings at higher levels extend as much as 770 feet southwest from the shaft. Stopes raised from the 130-foot level are 180 feet long at the level, but lengthen to 700 feet near the surface. Their average width is estimated to be 3 feet or more. . . . Samples were cut at intervals of 5 feet along a stretch extending for 80 feet . . . In a section near the face that is 20 feet long and averages 19 inches in width, the gold content was 0.32 ounce per ton. Disregarding a sample at 55 feet from the face that contained 0.86 ounce, the 80-foot length averaged only 0.09 ounce per ton.²¹

Gold was first discovered in North Carolina in 1799, when a son of John Reed, a German mercenary deserter from the British General Cornwallis' army who had settled in what is now Cabarrus County, found a 17-pound gold nugget along the Little Meadow Creek bank on their farm. For three years, it was used as a doorstop, until a jeweler in Fayetteville recognized it as gold, and bought it for \$3.50 in 1802. (Reed was later received more, but

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 8 Page 5

unspecified, compensation.) Word of the find spread quickly, Reed found more gold on his land, and a gold rush was on. By 1804, the first gold deposits from North Carolina arrived at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, and from that time to 1828, all domestic gold coined the the U.S. came from the state.²² From 1831 to 1857, a German immigrant and his son, Christopher and Augustus Bechtler, privately minted gold coins in Rutherford County, N. C. and in 1835, Congress authorized three branch mints in Charlotte, N.C., Dahlonega, Ga. and New Orleans. The Charlotte Mint struck gold coins from 1838 to 1861. In the antebellum period, some \$17 million in gold coins were minted in the state. Gold mining flourished until the peak year of 1849, when the California gold rush lured many of the miners west, but it continued until 1861 and the beginning of the Civil War, after which it never regained its former prominence. In 1830, there were fifty-six mines in operation, but by 1860 that number had dwindled to nine. A number of the larger mines operated at a profit, but many of the medium and small ones went bankrupt.²³

A map published in 1948 locates 342 gold mines and prospects in the central Piedmont region of North Carolina and South Carolina; 40 of them were in Cabarrus County, and 57 in neighboring Mecklenburg County, which were the most in the region.²⁴ During the antebellum period, it is estimated that between \$50 million and \$65 million dollars gold were produced in the state, and during part of that time, gold mining employed some thirty thousand men and was the second most important industry, ranking only behind agriculture.²⁵

In 1869, the Morrison farm passed out of the ownership of the Morrison family when its 280 acres were sold at a sheriff's sale to Joseph H. Wilson for \$2,150.²⁶ By agreement, Robert Harvey Morrison continued to live in the house plus a twenty-acre homestead, apparently until his death in 1895.²⁷

In 1903, Wilson's estate sold the property to Coleman Wallace Abernathy (1873-1958), who farmed it until his retirement in 1949, when it was in turn sold to John D. Mitchell.²⁸ Mitchell also farmed the former plantation until 1973, when he sold it to Freeman R. and Helen B. Jones, the present owners.²⁹ After they first purchased the present 27.7-acre site, the Joneses undertook extensive renovations and restoration of the main house, smokehouse, post office and grounds. They also added a garage and reconstructed the old red schoolhouse on its original site where the Morrison, Barnhardt and Abernathy children attended in the late 1800s and early

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet **Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine** Cabarrus Co.

Section number 8 Page 6

1900s; the latter is now a guesthouse. The Joneses planted the large cedar trees lining the gravel drive from the road to the house, and adopted the name "Cedarvale Farm" for the property³⁰ After the extensive work was completed, Cedarvale Farm was featured in Southern Accents magazine in 1980.³¹

¹Cabarrus County, N.C. Will Book 1, p. 91.

²Adelaide and Eugenia Lore and Robert Hall Morrison, The Morrison Family of the Rocky River Settlement of North Carolina: History and Genealogy (Charlotte: Privately Printed, 1950), p. 8.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid., p. 44.

⁵Ibid., p. 61.

⁶Peter Kaplan, in his survey of Cabarrus County, dated the house between 1846 and 1853; Peter Kaplan, The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina (Charlotte: Historic Cabarrus, 1981), p. 202.

⁷1860 U.S. Census, Agricultural Schedules, Cabarrus County; Betty L. Krimminger and James R. Wilson, eds., "Eighth Census, Cabarrus County, North Carolina, 1860," 1987, pp. 75 and 176.

⁸Kaplan, cited above, p. 9.

⁹Ibid., pp. 63 et seq.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid., pp. 7 et seq.

¹²Lore and Morrison, p. 28.

¹³Ibid., p. 62.

¹⁴"The Mail Comes Through: How The News Was Carried To And From Cabarrus County Citizens From 1792-1967," Stephen Cabarrus Historian Club, n.d.

¹⁵According to information given to Freeman Jones by Frank Mitchell, a descendent of former owner John Mitchell in February 1990, the post office was attached to the Barnhardt store, and was later bought and reconfigured by C. W. Abernathy in the early 1900s.

¹⁶See note 10.

¹⁷Miners' and Farmers' Weekly Journal (Charlotte, N.C.), February 8, 1832, December 6, 1834 and July 3, 1835; Richard F. Knapp and G. W. Stinagle, "A Preliminary Report on Gold Mining . . ." Report, Historic Sites Section, Division of Archives and History, State of North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, pp. 76, 93 and 135-138; see also Pardee and Park, cited in note 16 below.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 8 Page 7

- ¹⁸See, for example, Bruce Roberts, The Carolina Gold Rush 2nd Ed. (Charlotte: McNally and Loftin, 1972), p. 5; and P. A. Carpenter, III, Gold Resources of North Carolina, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Division of Land Resources, Geological Survey Section, Information Circular 212, Raleigh, 1972; revised edition, 1978, pp. 3, 5, et passim.
- ¹⁹Frank Mitchell (see note 15) said that C. W. Abernathy built the cabin around the turn of the century, but the actual date is unknown.
- ²⁰Ebenezer Emmons, Geologic report of the Midland Counties of North Carolina (Raleigh: H. D. Turner and New York: Putnam, 1856), pp. 178-180, cited in J. T. Pardee and C. F. Park, Jr., Gold Deposits of the Southern Piedmont, U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 213, 1948, p. 69.
- ²¹Pardee and Park, cited above, p. 69.
- ²²Bruce Roberts, cited above, pp. 7, 11.
- ²³H. T. Lefler and A. R. Newsome, The History of a Southern State: North Carolina (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973), pp. 394-395.
- ²⁴Pardee and Park, cited above; also see P. A. Carpenter, III, cited above.
- ²⁵Lefler and Newsome, cited above.
- ²⁶Cabarrus County, N.C. Deed Book 22, p. 193.
- ²⁷Ibid., Book 50, p. 464.
- ²⁸Ibid., Books 61, p. 224 and 223, p. 245.
- ²⁹Ibid., Book 436, p. 24.
- ³⁰Interview with Freeman R. and Helen Jones by Dr. William H. Huffman, Cedarvale, 10 January and 14 February 1990. Mrs. Jones was told by the previous owner Mitchell that he heard it had once been called "Cedarvale," but no such name appears in the extant records.
- ³¹"Cedarvale Farm," Southern Accents 3, No. 4 (Fall, 1980), pp. 88-95.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 27.7

UTM References

A

1,7	53,7	3,7,0	3,9	0,2	1,8,0
Zone	Easting				

C

1,7	53,7	8,0,0	3,9	0,1	7,9,0
Zone	Easting				

B

1,7	53,7	8,0,0	3,9	0,2	1,8,0
Zone	Easting				

D

1,7	53,7	3,7,0	3,9	0,1	7,9,0
Zone	Easting				

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated area is indicated by the bold line on the accompanying survey entitled, "Survey for Freeman R. Jones."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the current tax parcel, which has always been associated with the historically significant resources. The adjacent property that was once part of the farm has lost the integrity of much of its resources, and is owned by individuals who would object to the listing.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. William H. Huffman
 organization _____ date July 27, 1990
 street & number 5045 Beckford Drive telephone 704-364-8237
 city or town Charlotte state N.C. zip code 28226

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
Cabarrus Co.

Section number 9 Page 1

Selected Bibliography

Cabarrus County, N.C. Deed Books.

Carpenter, P. A., III. Gold Resources of North Carolina. North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Division of Land Resources, Geological Survey Section, Information Circular 212. Raleigh, 1972; revised edition, 1978.

Clauser, John. "Report on Survey of the Pioneer Mills Gold Mine Site." Archeology Branch, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C. May, 1990.

Jones, Freeman and Helen Jones. Interview with Dr. William H. Huffman, 10 January and 14 February 1990.

Kaplan, Peter R. The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Charlotte, N.C.: Historic Cabarrus, Inc., 1981.

Knapp, Richard F. and G. W. Stinagle. "A Preliminary Report on Gold Mining..." Report, Historic Sites Section, Division of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Office, State of North Carolina.

Lefler, H. T. and A. R. Newsome. North Carolina: The History of a Southern State. 3rd edition. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973.

Lore, Adelaide, Eugenia Lore and Robert Hall Morrison. The Morrison Family of the Rocky River Settlement of North Carolina: History and Genealogy. Charlotte: Privately Printed, 1950.

Miners' and Farmers' Weekly Journal. Charlotte, N.C.

Pardee, J. T. and C. F. Park, Jr. Gold Deposits of the Southern Piedmont. U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 213.

Roberts, Bruce. The Carolina Gold Rush. 2nd edition. Charlotte: McNally and Loftin, 1972.

"Stephen Cabarrus Historian Club. "The Mail Comes Through: How The News Was Carried To And From Cabarrus County Citizens From 1792-1967." n.d.

United States. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Census of the United States: Agricultural Schedules, Cabarrus County, N.C.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills
Gold Mine, Cabarrus County, NC

Section number Photos Page 1

The following information pertains to all photographs:

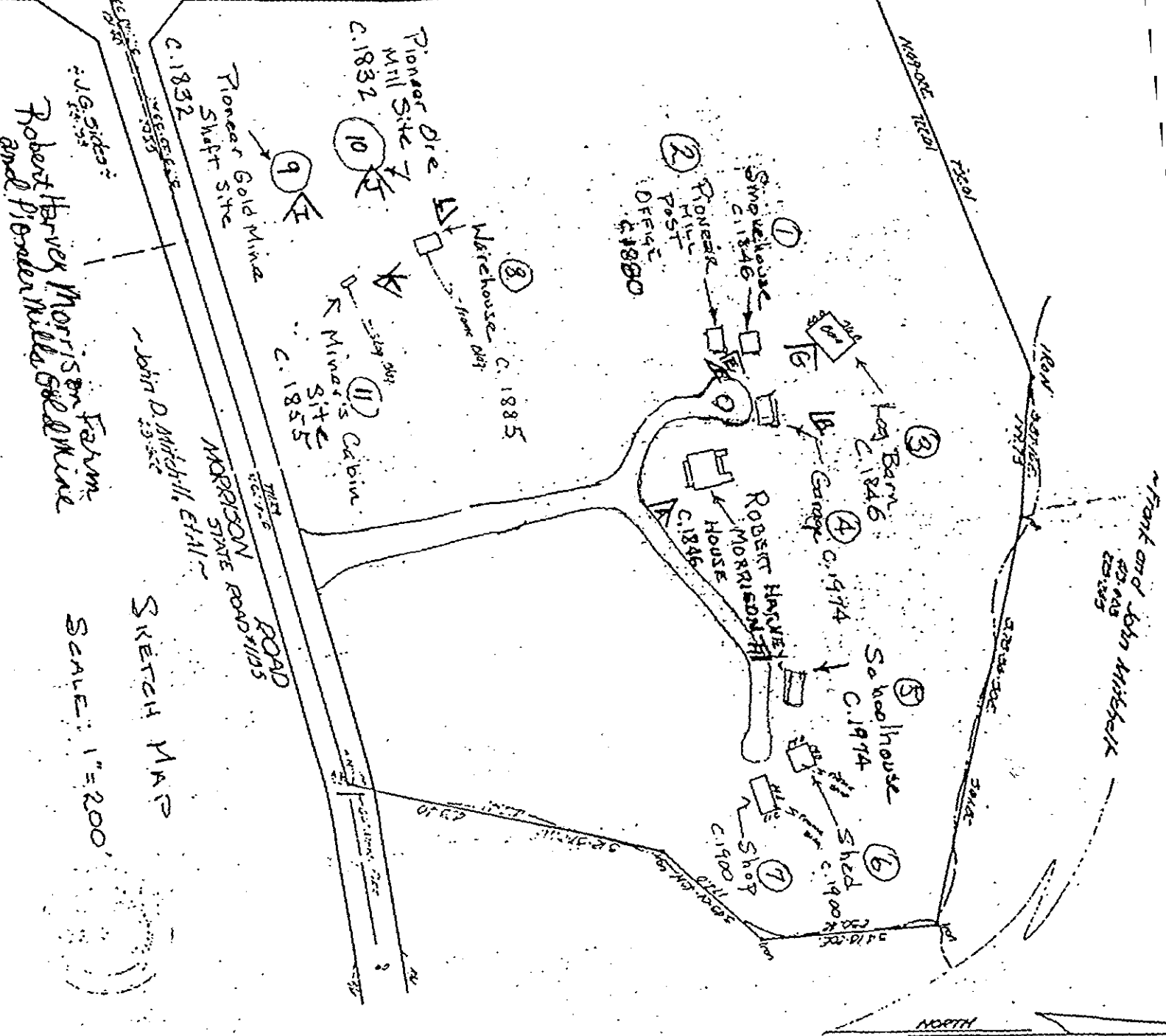
- 1) Robert Harvey Morrison Farm and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine
 - 2) Midland vicinity, NC
 - 3) January 10, 1990
 - 4) William H. Huffman
 - 5) N.C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC
-
- A. main house exterior, looking northwest
 - B. main house exterior, looking north
 - C. main house interior, northeast downstairs room, looking northeast
 - D. aerial view of farm, to the northeast
 - E. smokehouse, looking northwest
 - F. post office, looking southwest
 - G. log barn, looking northeast
 - H. schoolhouse, looking northeast
 - I. Pioneer Mills Gold Mine shaft site, looking west
 - J. Pioneer Mills Gold Mine ore mill site, looking west
 - K. miner's cabin ruin, looking south
 - L. warehouse, looking southwest

~ Frank and John Mitchell ~

~ C.R. Shoen
335-112

STATE ROAD #1134
PIONEER MILL ROAD

N. 0-0314' 431.75' N. 14-53N N. 17-00W N. 50-23SE 233.07' 100.00' 100.00' 100.00' 100.00'



~ J.G. Siders ~
Robert Harvey Morris on Farm
and Pioneer Mills Gold Mine

~ John D. Mitchell, et al ~

~ Frank and John Mitchell ~
335-112

SKETCH MAP

SCALE: 1" = 200'

FREEMAN
R.D. PHARR
SUBSTITUTE
SIS INDEPENDENCE