



## North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

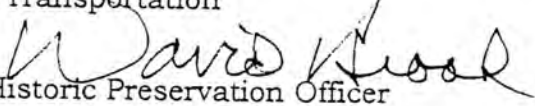
James B. Hunt Jr., Governor  
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

Division of Archives and History  
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

June 10, 1999

### MEMORANDUM

TO: William D. Gilmore, P.E., Manager  
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch  
Division of Highways  
Department of Transportation

FROM: David Brook   
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT: US 74 Shelby Bypass, Cleveland County, R-  
2707, State Project 8.1801001, ER 99-  
8828, ER 99-8839

Thank you for your letter of April 23, 1999, transmitting the survey report by Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc., concerning the above project. We have also received U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice for Action No. 199930376 from the Division of Coastal Management.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under the criterion cited:

Criterion A: The Hamilton-McBrayer Farm is believed to be eligible for nomination to the National Register in the areas of agriculture and commerce. The residence, outbuildings, and adjacent agricultural land are representative of the evolution of a Cleveland County farmstead through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Criterion C: The Hamilton-McBrayer Farm is believed to be eligible for the architectural significance of the house and outbuildings. The residence is a substantially intact example of nineteenth century domestic architecture and the outbuildings are representative of vernacular building types and methods of construction in rural Cleveland County.

In a letter to you of April 20, 1999, in response to a nationwide permit application on this project, we advised that we previously recommended that an archaeological survey be conducted prior to construction activities. These comments still stand.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.



Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

DB:slw

cc: Nicholas Graf  
Barbara Church  
Steve Lund, Army Corps of Engineers, Asheville  
Doug Huggett, Division of Coastal Management  
Mattson, Alexander and Associates

bc: File  
Brown/Alperin  
Claggett/Moore  
Griffith  
County  
RF

**ADDENDUM**

**PHASE II ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
AND EVALUATIONS  
US 74 SHELBY BYPASS  
CLEVELAND COUNTY  
TIP R-2707**

**Prepared by**

**Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.  
Charlotte, NC**

**Prepared for**

**De Lew Cather and Company  
Cary, NC**

**April 1, 1999**

### **Hamilton-McBrayer Farm**

Southwest side US 74 at junction with Broadway Drive  
 Mooresville vicinity, Cleveland County

#### Dates of Construction

ca. 1817, ca. 1885, early twentieth century

#### Associated Resources

Frame House, Log Barn, Log Doctor's Office/Store, Frame Barn, Frame Hog Pen, Frame Well House, Frame Smokehouse, Frame Garage, Stone Grave Marker, Roadway, Agricultural Fields

#### Setting and Landscape Design

The Hamilton-McBrayer Farm is located along US 74 in a rural, agrarian setting west of Shelby. Separated from the four-lane highway by a collection of mobile homes, the well-preserved farm complex contains the principal farmhouse and a notable assortment of log and frame outbuildings. A log doctor's office/store (abandoned) is sited just east of the farmhouse, facing an intact portion of the original Yorkville Road, which crossed the Rutherfordton Road on the Hamilton-McBrayer tract. Sandy Run Creek winds west of the house, while rolling agricultural fields survive around the farm complex.

#### Physical Description and Evaluation of Integrity (Plates 1-17)

The Hamilton-McBrayer Farm consists of a substantially intact collection of buildings and adjoining fields. The principal building is the two-story, frame, weatherboard farmhouse (ca. 1817 single-pile main block, ca. 1885 additions, modifications, and ornamentation). This L-shaped dwelling features a ca. 1885, front-facing wing and a two-story front porch that extends across the main facade. The porch has turned posts and balusters, and is treated with decorative sawnwork. The main body of the house also has ca. 1885 four-over-windows, brick interior and exterior end chimneys that date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and an enclosed shed-roofed rear porch. A modern deck also extends across the rear. The one-story, gable-roofed kitchen/dining room wing on the east side of the dwelling probably dates from the ca. 1885 renovation. It is connected to the main body of the house by a now-enclosed breezeway and has an enclosed hip-roofed porch on the east elevation.

The interior includes flushboard walls in the original rooms of the house, four-panel doors, and ca. 1885 mantels embellished with a variety of brackets, jigsawed trim, and incised decorative motifs that suggest the Eastlake style. Rooms in the ca. 1885 front-facing wing are finished with diagonal beaded-board walls.

In addition to the house, the Hamilton-McBrayer property features a host of notable contributing resources. A ca. 1817 frame, gable-front smokehouse stands immediately east of the house while an early-twentieth-century frame well house is located immediately to the north. A ca. 1817, half-dovetailed log doctor's office/store stands northeast of the house, facing a well-preserved trace of the original Yorkville Road. Northeast of the store is a late-nineteenth-century, frame, side-gable barn and a ca. 1949, frame hog shed. A ca. 1930 frame, gable-front garage stands south of the store. Dr. Joseph Hamilton's grave site, marked by a raised, engraved marble slab (1824), is located beside the garage. A V-notched, single-crib log barn (mid-nineteenth century) is located in the field south of the house. With the notable exception



of the modern mobile homes in the field north of the house, intact agricultural fields surround the farm complex.

#### Historical Background

In 1817, Dr. Joseph Hamilton purchased a 372-acre tract in Rutherford County (later western Cleveland County) from Joseph Moore. Two stage routes passed through the tract, and Dr. Hamilton, a physician, farmer, and merchant, built his frame house and log doctor's office/store where the Rutherfordton Road crossed the road to Yorkville, South Carolina. Hamilton died in 1824, and in 1853, the Hamilton family sold the property to Robert McBrayer. The McBrayers were mule and horse traders as well as farmers, and probably erected both the mid-nineteenth-century log barn and the later frame barn on the tract. Around 1885, Robert McBrayer's son, John E. McBrayer, more than doubled the size of the house, adding the front-facing ell, the kitchen wing, the two-story front porch, and the picturesque elements of style that still embellish the residence (McBrayer Interview 1999).

The farm complex and surrounding agricultural fields remain in the McBrayer family. The fields are currently used for pasturage and cultivation, and John R. McBrayer occupies the house part-time. The principal intrusion on the property is the collection of mobile homes north of the house near US 74.

#### Evaluation of Eligibility (Figures 1-2)

The Hamilton-McBrayer Farm is recommended as eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for agriculture, commerce, and medicine, and Criterion C for architecture. In its intact two-story farmhouse, assortment of outbuildings, and adjoining agricultural land, this property neatly represents a Cleveland County farmstead as it evolved through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Surrounded by rolling fields, the barns, hog pen, and smokehouse express the diversified nature and persistent self-sufficiency of such operations. In addition, the rare surviving log doctor's office/crossroads store reflect Dr. Hamilton's rural medical practice as well as rural commercial enterprise in the early nineteenth century.

The house and outbuildings are also considered eligible for their architectural significance. The Hamilton-McBrayer residence is a substantially intact example of nineteenth-century rural domestic architecture in Cleveland County. The traditional, one-room-deep main block of the house (ca. 1817) and the ca. 1885, picturesque modifications illustrate the transition from regional to national architectural trends in the county. The outbuildings reveal common vernacular building types and methods of construction in rural Cleveland County.

The property is not considered eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. Finally, the property is not eligible under Criterion D because the architectural component is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

#### Boundary Description and Justification

The recommended National Register boundaries encompass approximately forty acres of land, including the farm complex and the adjoining cultivated fields and pasture. This proposed area contains the Hamilton-McBrayer House, the log doctor's office/store, the other log and frame outbuildings, the Dr. Joseph Hamilton grave marker, and the trace of the Yorkville Road--all

considered to be contributing resources. It also preserves the geographical relationship between the farm complex and the intact surrounding fields, which are also considered to be contributing. Northwest of the farm complex, the recommended boundaries are drawn along a tree line to omit the modern trailers near US 74. Primarily, the boundaries follow existing property lines, which encompass land still owned by John R. McBrayer and his brother, David Yates McBrayer. Along US 74 (north) and Broadway Drive (east), the recommended boundaries conform to the existing rights-of-way.



Plate 1. Hamilton-McBrayer House and Smokehouse (left), Looking West.



Plate 2. Hamilton-McBrayer House, Looking Southwest.





Plate 3. Hamilton-McBrayer House, Looking West.



Plate 4. Hamilton-McBrayer House, Rear Elevation, Looking East





Plate 5. Hamilton-McBrayer House, Mantel and Diagonal Beaded Board Wall in Ca. 1885 Wing.



Plate 6. Hamilton-McBrayer House, Staircase.

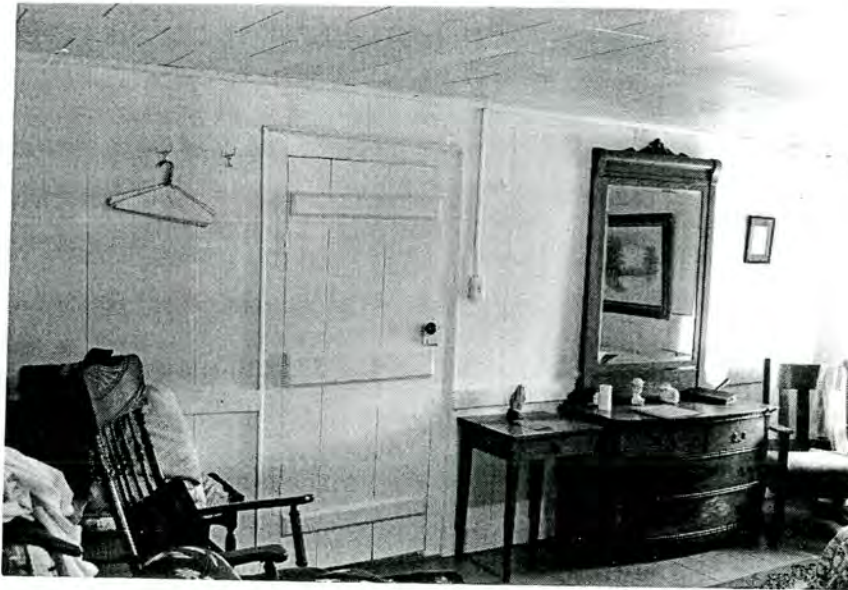


Plate 7. Hamilton-McBrayer House, Upstairs Bedroom, Ca. 1817 Main Block.

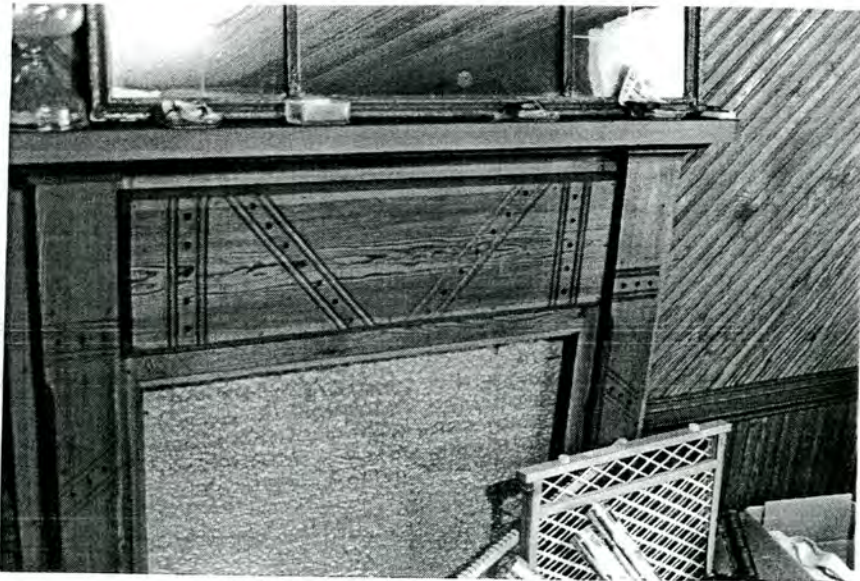


Plate 8. Hamilton-McBrayer House, Mantel and Diagonal Beaded Board Wall, Upstairs Bedroom, Ca. 1885 Wing.



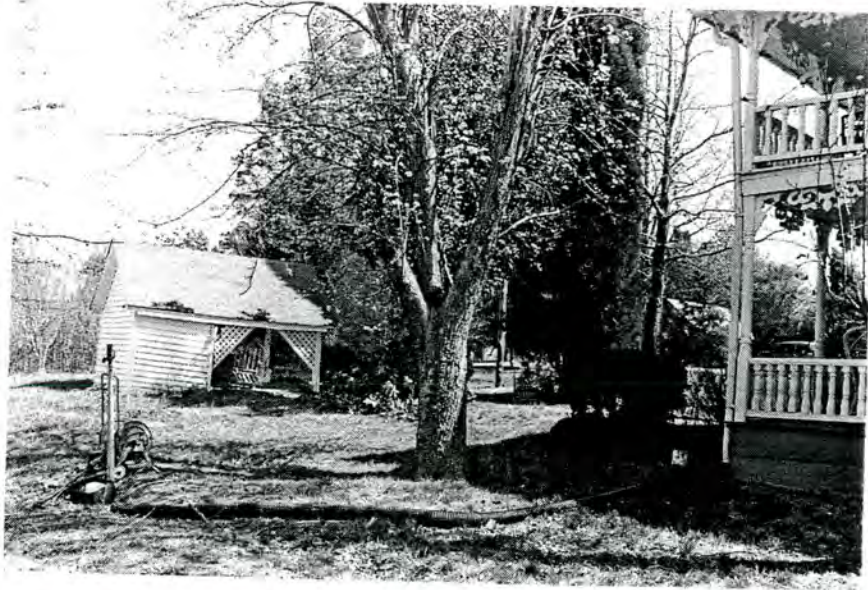


Plate 9. Hamilton-McBrayer Farm, Well House, Looking Northeast



Plate 10. Hamilton-McBrayer Farm, Log Doctor's Office/Store, Looking East.





Plate 11. Hamilton-McBrayer Farm, Log Doctor's Office/Store and Surviving Trace of Yorkville Road, Looking Southeast.



Plate 12. Hamilton-McBrayer Farm, Garage and Dr. Joseph Hamilton Grave Marker, Looking North.



Plate 13. Hamilton-McBrayer Farm, Frame Barn, Looking East.



Plate 14. Hamilton-McBrayer Farm, Log Barn, Looking East.





Plate 15. Hamilton-McBrayer Farm, Fields, Looking South.



Plate 16. Hamilton-McBrayer Farm, Fields, Looking Southeast.



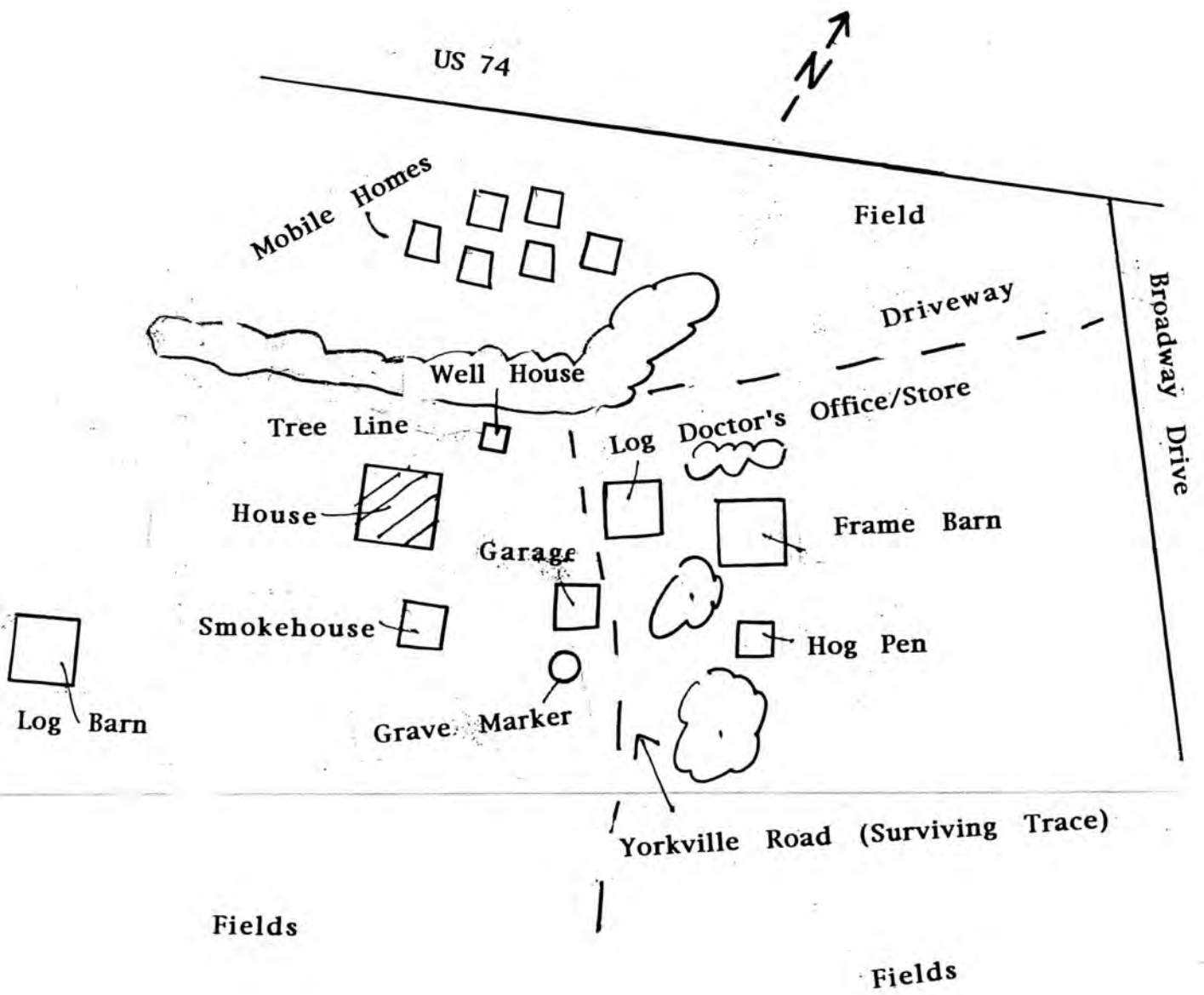


Plate 17. Hamilton-McBrayer Farm, Mobile Homes, Looking West.

Figure 1

Hamilton-McBrayer Farm  
Site Plan

(not to scale)





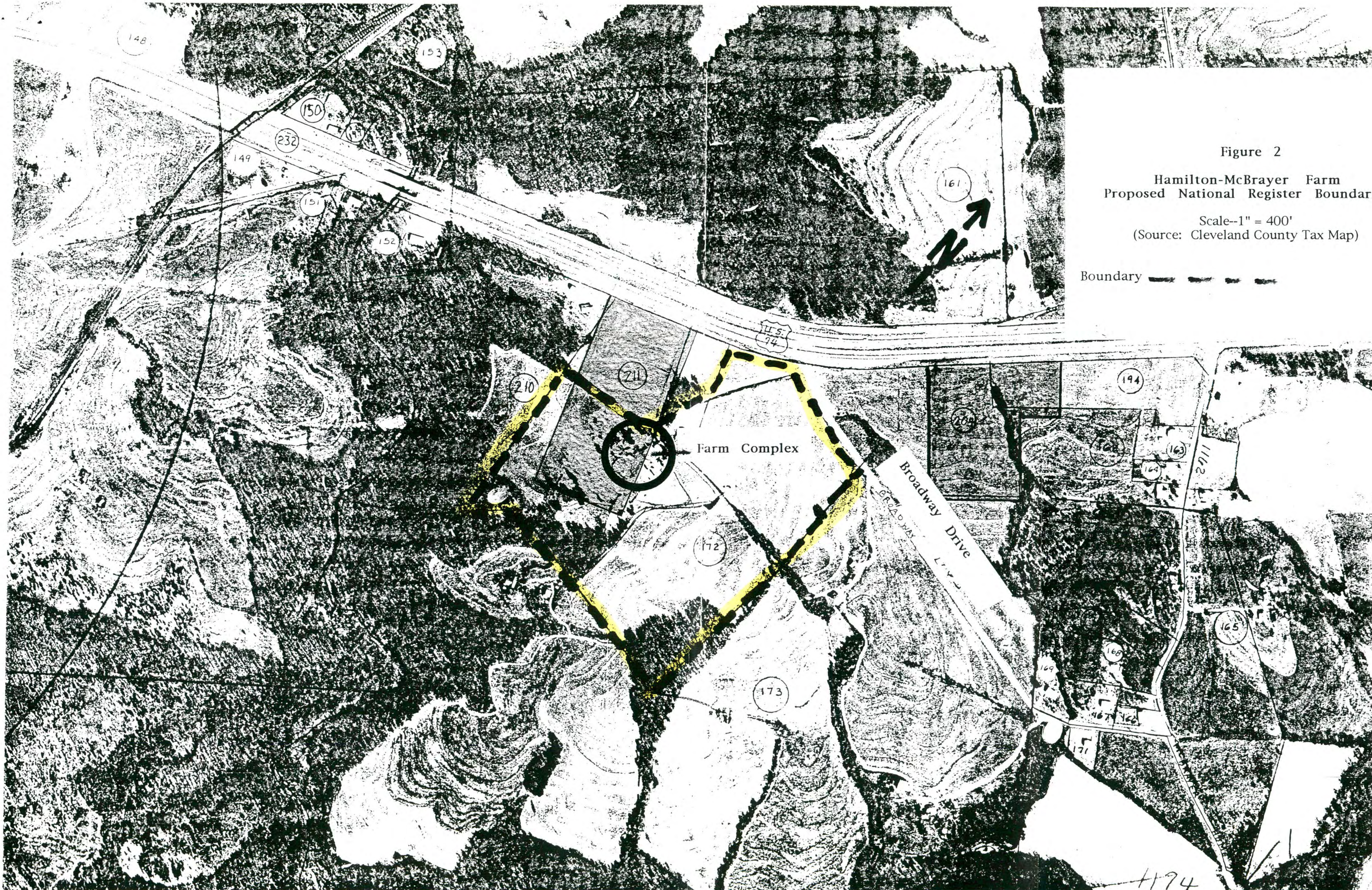


Figure 2

Hamilton-McBrayer Farm  
Proposed National Register Boundaries

Scale-1" = 400'  
(Source: Cleveland County Tax Map)

Boundary 



### **References**

"Hamilton-McBrayer Farm." North Carolina Historic Structure Data Sheet.  
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Western Office.  
Asheville, North Carolina.

McBrayer, John R. Interview with Richard L. Mattson. 20 March 1999.