

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Irvin-Hamrick Log House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER N side SR 1153, 0.2 miles northeast of the junction with SR 1152.

CITY, TOWN _____ VICINITY OF Boiling Springs Tenth
STATE North Carolina CODE 37 COUNTY Cleveland CODE 045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Memorial

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Cameron Street Hamrick Memorial Association
c/o Dolores Hamrick

STREET & NUMBER Route 3, Box 352
CITY, TOWN Shelby VICINITY OF _____ STATE North Carolina 28150

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cleveland County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Shelby STATE North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE _____
DATE _____
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Irvin-Hamrick Log House stands off an isolated rural road in the rolling farm country of southwest Cleveland County. The simple structure is typical of many that once dotted the western North Carolina Piedmont, but it is one of a diminishing few that have survived with any degree of integrity, and one of still fewer recognized and protected by living descendants of nineteenth century occupants.

The house faces south and is composed of two distinct sections. The front log portion probably dates from the late eighteenth century, possibly constructed by John Heins, or, more likely, by James Irvin after his purchase of the property in 1794. The frame rear section was added by the Hamrick family after the Civil War.

The log section is a small, rectangular-in-plan, gable roof structure with a raised attic, resting on fieldstone piers. The hewn logs are joined with half-dovetail notches, the dominant corner-timbering method in western North Carolina for many generations. The gables are weatherboarded. Weatherboards also cover the logs on the entire west gable end and appear on the front elevation above the porch. Though the evidence is inconclusive, the entire structure may have been clad in weatherboards at one time and possibly originally.

The front (south) elevation is sheltered by a full-width shed porch framed with standard sawmill lumber; none of its components are likely to be original, though it probably follows the lines of an early porch. An entrance is centered on the facade under the porch. The original door, probably batten, has been replaced with a temporary, makeshift plywood door. Left of the door is a small square window sawn into the logs. Neither this window nor any other in the house has ever been glazed. A similar, smaller window is centered above the porch roof to light the attic. The exposed ends of the attic joists are visible, notched into an upper log under the porch roof.

A crude fieldstone chimney stands on the west gable end, flanked by a small window to the right. A single window is centered on the east gable end and is fitted with a batten shutter.

The interior was originally two rooms, with a vertical board partition setting off a small, unheated space on the east side. This partition was removed at some undetermined date. The interior walls are finished with wide vertical sheathing. On the west end is a simple vernacular mantel composed of plain, flat pilasters flanking the fire opening and set on simple blocks that serve as bases; the pilasters support caps similar to the bases, and between these extends a plain board frieze above the fire opening. A simple shelf is placed across the top. To the right of the fireplace is an enclosed stair, with winders rising up to the unfinished attic.

The frame rear addition is under a gable roof set perpendicular to the log house roof. The roof covers an engaged porch along the east elevation. A batten door is centered on the east side, and a shuttered window is set beside it to the left. The west wall of the addition mirrors this door and window arrangement, but there is no porch. The addition encloses one large, unheated room finished with flush vertical sheathing.

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East of the house is a small cemetery enclosed by a wrought iron fence, and containing the reinterred graves of Cameron Street Hamrick's parents, his grandparents, and Isaac Robinson, another of his Revolutionary ancestors.

The isolation of the house has made it vulnerable to the abuses of vandals and indigents, and for this reason the family has felt it necessary to erect a chain link fence around the acre of land that remains in association with the house. While this may at first strike the visitor as a disturbing intrusion into the setting, it appears to have helped deter casual vandalism, and it is to be hoped, it is a temporary measure until a more satisfactory means to protect the house is developed.

Within the acre surrounding the house are a number of mature cedars, hardwoods, and other trees, some planted by the family some years ago as memorials. During the warm months the family frequently uses the site for picnics and reunions.

B SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1795, 1865 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Irvin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Irvin-Hamrick Log House is a small dwelling of half-dovetail notch construction representative of thousands of such structures that were the primary house type for small farmers of Piedmont and western North Carolina during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This is one of the very few that has seen consistent maintenance and for which there is a genuine hope of continued preservation. The two-room house was probably built by James Irvin, a veteran of the Revolution, sometime after his purchase of 200 acres along Beaverdam Creek in 1794. Irvin married Rebecca Hardin of Lincoln County, and the couple raised ten children in the tiny house. After Irvin's death in 1845, the house and land passed to his children, who sold the property to Cameron Street Hamrick in 1850. C. S. Hamrick (1822-1900) and Elmira Bridges Hamrick (1822-1897) raised six sons in the house. The family added the present frame rear addition sometime after the Civil War. All of the Hamrick sons sired large families and their descendants remain in great numbers in Cleveland County and neighboring areas of the western Piedmont of North and South Carolina. The house has never left Hamrick family ownership. In 1951 it was acquired by the Cameron Street Hamrick Memorial Association, a family organization dedicated to the preservation of the homestead and the maintenance of the adjacent family cemetery.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. The two-room log dwelling is representative of the agrarian society of small farmers that settled and developed Piedmont and Western North Carolina in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

- C. The half-dovetail structure with its gable-end stone chimney survives intact as an important example of the principal house type for the majority of North Carolinians of the period, few of which have survived in their original locations with any degree of integrity or hope for continued preservation.

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The Irvin-Hamrick House in Cleveland County stands on part of a 200 acre tract granted by the state of North Carolina to Benjamin Camp in 1787.¹ Three years later Camp sold the tract to John Heins (or Hines) for £40 current money. On December 6, 1794, Heins deeded the 200 acres to James Irvin for £100 current money.² The increased selling price indicated improvement. Fifty six years later (1850), virtually the same acreage with the dwelling house sold for approximately the same price (\$320), suggesting that the earliest part of the house may have been built by John Heins between 1790 and 1794.³ This, of course, does not eliminate the possibility that Heins's improvements were elsewhere on the tract, and that Irvin constructed his home sometime after 1795. Local tradition attributes the house to Irvin.

James Irvin was born in Orange County in 1765 but moved to South Carolina on the eve of the American Revolution. At the age of sixteen he enlisted in the South Carolina Continental Line where he "marched about from one place to another" under command of General Nathanael Greene. After the Revolution Irvin returned to North Carolina, and in 1795, he married Rebecca Hardin of Lincoln County.⁴ Whether he was living in the log house west of Shelby at the time of marriage or moved there afterwards is not known; however,⁵ James and Rebecca Irvin had established their home and had begun their family by 1800.

Through land deals and working farms, Irvin managed to provide for his growing family. Between 1797 and 1819, ten children (five boys, five girls) were born, all presumably in the small log house.⁶ In 1841, the section of Rutherford County in which he lived was cut off to form part of the new county of Cleveland, and when James Irvin died on May 16, 1845, he was a resident of that county.⁷

Irvin's will directed his executors to "make sound, safe and sure provision for the comfortable maintenance and support of my dear wife, Rebecca Irvin." All real and personal property was to be sold and the proceeds divided equally "amongst my nine (surviving) children and one granddaughter." Irvin named two of his sons, James W. Irvin and Abraham C. Irvin, as executors.⁸ The estate was sold as directed and on January 1, 1850, Cameron Street Hamrick purchased from James W. Irvin the homeplace and 216 acres.⁹

C. S. Hamrick, better known as Street Hamrick, was born August 29, 1822, one of thirteen children. With little opportunity for education, Street grew up on the farm of his father, Moses Hamrick. In 1843, Street Hamrick married Elmira Bridges and established a home near Beaverdam Church. There, the first three of Street Hamrick's six sons were born. Shortly after the birth of the third son, John C. Hamrick, the family moved southward along Beaverdam Creek to the old Jimmy Irvin home recently acquired by Hamrick. His last three sons were born in the log structure now known as the Irvin-Hamrick House.¹⁰

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Street Hamrick was a disciplinarian who believed that his sons should remain in the home until twenty-one years of age. Consequently, by 1860, the log home was becoming crowded with a household consisting of Street and Elmira, their six sons, and Elmira's younger sister, Frankie Bridges Hamrick, who moved in after the death of her husband and daughter.¹¹ Street planned to put an addition on the rear of the house and some work had begun when the Civil War broke out. Construction was halted as the two oldest sons, Newton and Sidney, enlisted in Confederate service. The addition was completed after the war, apparently under the supervision of Sidney Hamrick who had learned carpentry skills while attending school in Boiling Springs before enlisting for service.¹²

Emma Hamrick Andrews fondly recalled visits to her grandparents' home:

Grandmother was a tall, stately looking woman and very pretty.
Grandfather was a small man with whiskers, his health not so good...
In the large front room of the house a log fire was always burning
in the huge fireplace. Grandfather and grandmother sat on each side...
She was busy making things with her hands.

Tantalizing odors came from the kitchen. Aunt Frankie was mixing
golden molasses and flour into gingerbread. It was rolled into great
sheets and baked in large pans. Wonderful fruit pies were stacked
one on top of the other.¹³

Such was the life in the Hamrick home in the last half of the nineteenth century.

Elmira Hamrick died in 1897 and Street passed away three years later. After Elmira's death, Aunt Frankie spent her remaining years living at two week intervals with each of her five nephews then living in Cleveland County.¹⁴ It is unclear who lived in the house following Street Hamrick's death. Ownership fell to John C. Hamrick, but his home was on adjoining property. John, however, employed six tenant farmers, and possibly one of them, or one of Street's grandchildren, occupied the home during the early twentieth century.¹⁵

In the late 1940s, the Cameron Street Hamrick Memorial Association formed to restore and preserve the family homeplace, which apparently had stood vacant for many years. In 1949 Hubbard Hamrick became chairman of the building and grounds committee and began the task of preservation and commemoration. Six oak trees were planted to honor the six sons of Street Hamrick. A new marker with life dates of Street and Elmira Hamrick and their children was placed in front of the log house.¹⁶

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Thurman Hamrick, son of John C., deeded the property to the association in 1951.¹⁷ Work soon began on the house and cemetery. In the latter are buried Isaac Robinson (a reinterment), one of Hamrick's Revolutionary ancestors, and the reinterred remains of Hamrick's parents, Moses and Sally Hamrick and grandparents Price and Nancy Hamrick. In the late 1950s, the memorial markers erected to various members of the Hamrick clan were enclosed with an iron fence.¹⁸ Today in a trapezoid shaped lot measuring 84' x 209' x 161' x 244', stands the memorial cemetery and the restored Irvin-Hamrick Log House.¹⁹

FOOTNOTES

¹Rutherford County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, Deed Book 10-1, p. 508, hereinafter cited as Rutherford County Deed Book.

²Rutherford County Deed Book O, 248, 270. Book O composes pages 183-361 of bound volume M-V. The pages are numbered consecutively.

³Cleveland County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cleveland County Courthouse, Shelby, Deed Book H, 351, hereinafter cited as Cleveland County Deed Book.

⁴Biographical data abstracted from Revolutionary War pension application in National Archives, Washington, D. C. Here taken from Mrs. Ernest R. Newton and Mrs. Roy Brooks, "Bridges to the Past," This Week (Forest City), July 29, 1970, hereinafter cited as Newton and Brooks, "Bridges to the Past."

⁵Newton and Brooks, "Bridges to the Past." She also Second Census of the United States, 1800: North Carolina--Rutherford County, Population Schedule, 109. Census records hereinafter cited by number, year, and schedule.

⁶Newton and Brooks, "Bridges to the Past."

⁷David Leroy Corbitt, The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943 (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950), 69; and Newton and Brooks, "Bridges to the Past."

⁸Son John had died leaving a daughter, Margaret Susannah, as an heir to his father's will. Cleveland County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Cleveland County Courthouse, Shelby, Will Book A, 42.

⁹Cleveland County Deed Book H, 351.

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¹⁰ Mary Lou Causby and others, The Family Tree: Founding in America of the Hamrick (Hamerick) Family (Shelby, 1964?), 1, 41, 11, hereinafter cited as Causby, The Family Tree.

¹¹ Causby, The Family Tree, 5-7, 17. Compare household size with Seventh Census, 1850, Cleveland County, Population Schedule, 152.

¹² Causby, Family Tree, 10.

¹³ Emma Hamrick Andrews was the sixth child of Newton Hamrick, oldest son of Street Hamrick. Her recollections are recorded in Causby, Family Tree, 5.

¹⁴ Wylie Cicero Hamrick had moved to South Carolina in 1895, according to his grandson, John Martin Hamrick. Causby, Family Tree, 5, 17.

¹⁵ Causby, Family Tree, 11-12. See also Cleveland County Deed Book 4 P, 289, for transfer of property from John C. to Thurman Hamrick. The manner by which John C. acquired the tract could not be found.

¹⁶ See remarks of Mary Lou Causby made at 39th Annual Reunion of Hamrick Clan, September 8, 1963, contained in Causby, Family Tree, 4.

¹⁷ Cleveland County Deed Book 6 S, 447.

¹⁸ Causby, Family Tree, 4.

¹⁹ See description in Cleveland County Deed Book 6 S, 447.

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Miscellaneous (Estates Papers)
Wills

Corbitt, David Leroy. The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943.
Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950.

Griffin, Clarence. The History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties, 1730-1936.
Asheville: Miller, 1937.

Newton, Mrs. Ernest R. and Mrs. Roy Brooks, "Bridges to the Past," This Week,
Forest City, July 29, 1970.

Our Heritage: A History of Cleveland County. Shelby: The Shelby Daily Star, 1976.

Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution. U.S.A.: The
North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution, 1932.

Rutherford County Records
Deeds
Estate Papers
Marriage Bonds
Wills

United States Census Records, 1790-1850.

Weathers, Leo B. The Living Past of Cleveland County: A History. Shelby: Star
Publishing Company, 1956.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Causby, Mary Lou and others. The Family Tree: Founding in America of the Hamrick (Hamerick) Family. Shelby, 1964?

Cleveland County Records
Deeds
Inventories and Settlements

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	4 4 3 0 7 5	3 9 0 3 6 7 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a trapezoid shaped one-acre lot containing the house and the small cemetery area. The lot is bounded by a chain-link fence and measures 84' x 209' x 161' x 244'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Statement of Significance by Jerry L. Cross, Researcher, Raleigh, N. C.
Property Description by Michael Southern, Survey Specialist, Asheville, N. C.

ORGANIZATION: Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section DATE
N. C. Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street TELEPHONE: Raleigh: 919-733-4763
Asheville: 704-298-5024

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL X

As the designatd State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby name this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

WITNESSETH:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

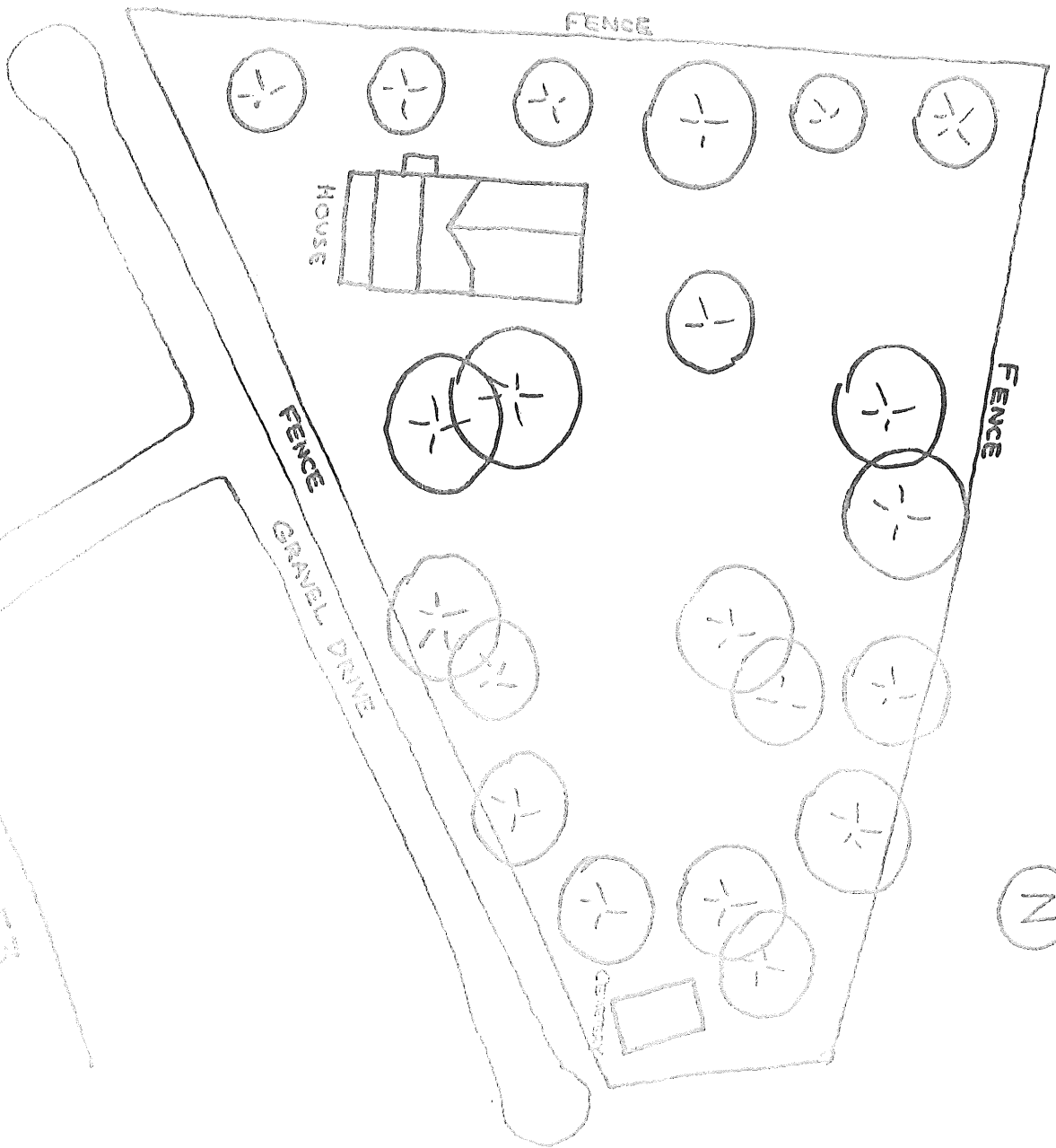
IRVIN - HAMRICK LOG HOUSE

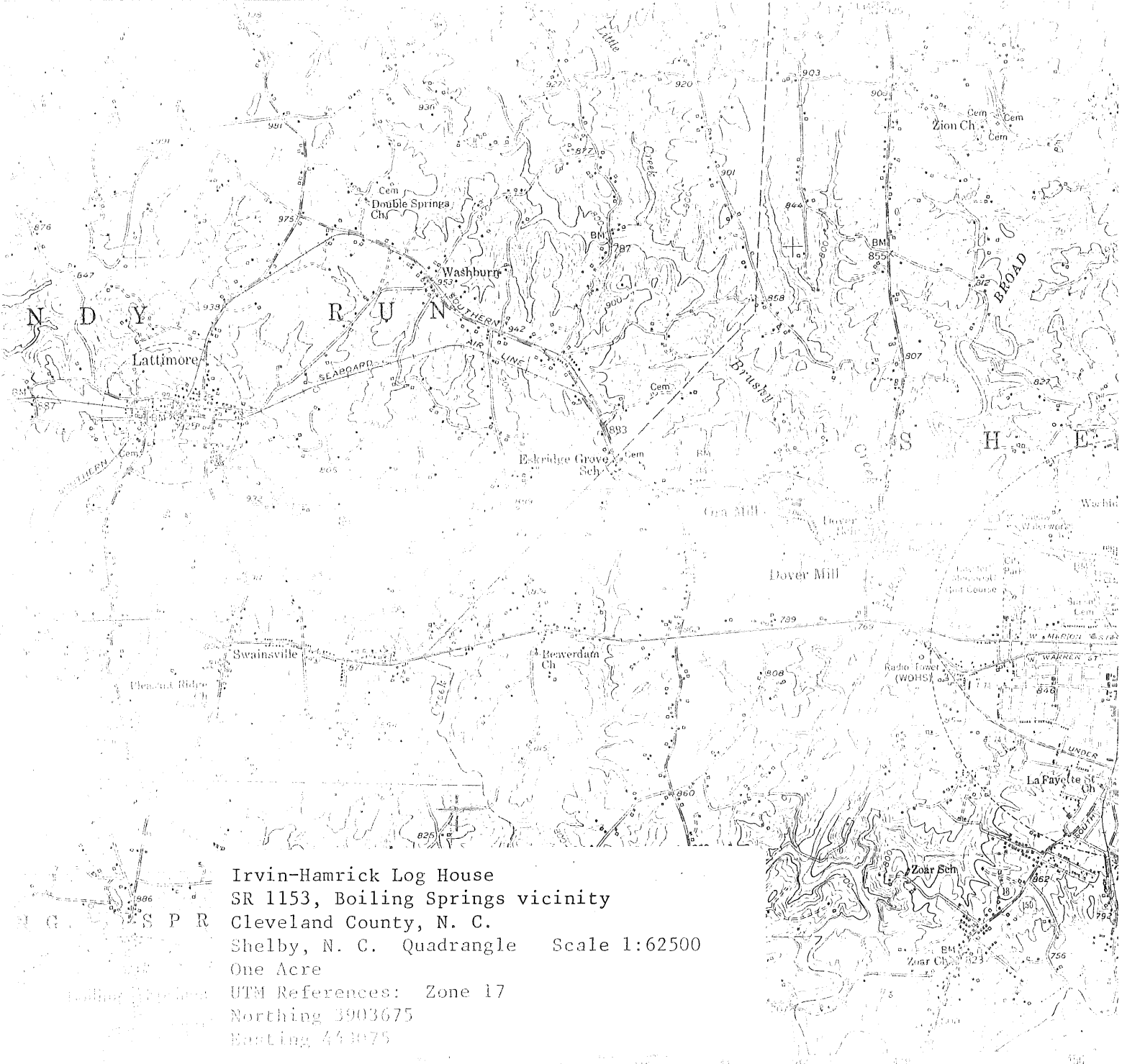
CLEVELAND COUNTY, N.C.

BOILING SPRINGS VICINITY

MARCH 1980

1 ACRE





Irvin-Hamrick Log House
 SR 1153, Boiling Springs vicinity
 Cleveland County, N. C.
 Shelby, N. C. Quadrangle Scale 1:62500
 One Acre
 UTM References: Zone 17
 Northing 3903675
 Easting 443075

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 BOILING SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA

