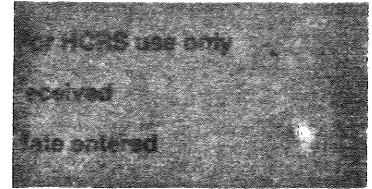


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 John Lattimore House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number East side of SR 1373, 0.5 mile south of the junction — not for publication with US 226

city, town Polkville  vicinity of congressional district Tenth

state North Carolina code 037 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Unused</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name John Lattimore

street & number 7 Pine Tree Road

city, town Asheville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state North Carolina 28804

**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 N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 John Lattimore House stands in an isolated setting off the east side of SR 1373 in a quiet rural section of northwest Cleveland County. Though the house is in a badly weathered condition, its owners have taken steps to stabilize the structure to protect it from further deterioration. The vernacular one-story-with-raised-attic dwelling is composed of a one-room, half-dovetailed log structure of uncertain but probably early nineteenth century date, expanded by an 1820s or 1830s frame addition on the west side, a full-length porch with enclosed ends on the facade, and shed rooms across the rear. The gable roof dwelling now presents a uniform, weatherboarded exterior.

The structure rests on free-standing fieldstone piers. A one-story shed porch with chamfered posts connected with simple hand and foot rails without intervening balusters fronts the dwelling. Small rooms with small windows enclose the porch ends and are entered through batten doors off the porch. Horizontal flush sheathing covers the wall under the porch, which is treated as an exterior room in a manner more commonly seen in coastal houses, and finished with a plain chair rail and baseboards. Two six-panel front doors set in simple surrounds with mitred moldings give access to the interior. These hang on original strap hinges. Between the doors is a four-over-four sash window cut off center to the left. Wood shingles are visible beneath the metal front porch roof. In the rear, an enclosed shed area contains a recessed porch with two chamfered posts.

Brick chimneys rise at the gable ends. Both chimney stacks have deteriorated. The east chimney appears to have been double-shouldered, though the upper portion has fallen. The 1:4 common bond east chimney rests on a fieldstone base while a large stone slab base supports the 1:6 common bond, single-shoulder west chimney.

In its present form, the interior follows a two-room plan with an intervening central passage set within the original log portion; this passage has no exterior access. Horizontal flush sheathing covers the interior except for the partition in the log portion, which is vertical sheathing. Baseboards and simple chair rails embellish the modest interior. Ceiling beams remain exposed. In the east room, the mantel over the arched fireplace opening has been removed. The west room contains a vernacular double-panel Federal style mantel, with a molded shelf, located between narrow four-over-four sash windows.

An enclosed stairway with a six-paneled door rises from the west room along the interior partition to the attic. Beaded weatherboarding survives on the original exterior west gable end of the log portion, which now divides the log and frame sections. The only remaining outbuilding is a deteriorating, gable-roofed board crib with a center passageway standing nearby.

Approximately seventy-five yards from the house lies the Lattimore family cemetery, with several early gravestones and a beautiful, unspoiled setting with broad vistas of the surrounding countryside.

# 8. 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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**    Early nineteenth century    **Builder/Architect**    Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

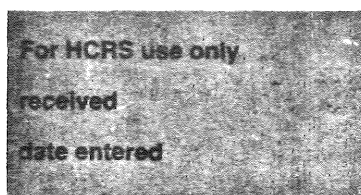
The John Lattimore House in Cleveland County typifies the substantial but unpretentious dwelling of the average antebellum planter in the western North Carolina Piedmont. The original section was a log dwelling of traditional form dating from the early nineteenth century, and was expanded with frame additions in the 1820s or 1830s to meet the increasing demands of a growing family and a rising prosperity. The house throughout its existence has remained in the ownership of a single family, one of local prominence and success. John Lattimore, the wealthiest of the owners, occupied the structure for approximately a half century and gave his name to the house. Though other family members sought professional careers, he and his successors chose to work the land, giving the John Lattimore House a distinctive agricultural heritage. Though badly weathered, the house has been stabilized by its owners and survives as one of the least altered early nineteenth century houses in the region.

**Criteria Assessment:**

- A. Associated with the early nineteenth century development of the agrarian society of the western North Carolina Piedmont.
- B. Associated with the lives of various members of the Lattimore family, a prominent family of the southwestern Piedmont of the state.
- C. Embodies characteristics of the historic architectural development in the western piedmont in form, construction, materials, and details. It began as a traditional log dwelling, probably dating from the early nineteenth century and received a frame overbuilding in the 1820s or 1830s with simple Federal style details. The house has seen virtually no material changes since the antebellum period.
- D. Is likely to reveal information important in the study of the nineteenth century agrarian economy of western North Carolina.

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The land on which the John Lattimore House now stands was issued under patent to William Willis in 1771. On March 3, 1787, Willis's widow, Margaret, and Isaac Hinton<sup>1</sup> sold 250 acres of the tract on Hinton's Creek to John Lattimore for £200 current money. Lattimore was then living a few miles north of the property on Duncan's Creek where he had established himself after serving in the Revolution.<sup>2</sup> Captain John Lattimore (1745-1821) had acquired considerable land, seven slaves, and had become a prominent Rutherford County resident. Though he eventually moved to Hinton's Creek, it does not appear that he resided on the property in question.<sup>3</sup> That tract of 250 acres he transferred to his son Daniel Lattimore (1775-1833) on September 14, 1798, for the same price that he had paid for it eleven years earlier.<sup>4</sup>

During Daniel Lattimore's ownership, the oldest part of the structure known as the John Lattimore House was constructed. The records clearly show, however, that the dwelling was neither designed for, nor functioned as, the residence of Daniel Lattimore. The house was standing by 1824; whether or not it was constructed much earlier cannot be determined. It may have served as the home of one of the numerous Lattimores in the area or as the dwelling of a Daniel Lattimore tenant for a while, but not until John Lattimore bought the property from his father can the existence of the structure be documented.<sup>5</sup>

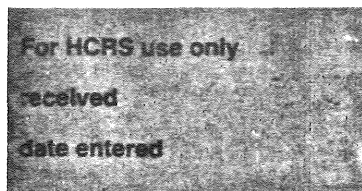
On October 1, 1824, Daniel sold 210 acres of his 355 acre home tract to his son John for \$500. The deed for the Hinton Creek land read in part ". . . with all buildings and improvements. . . ." <sup>6</sup> That the dwelling was not Daniel's homeplace can be documented by his will probated in 1833 which gave his house and furniture to his wife Sarah during her widowhood, then to go to his other sons Joseph and Daniel D. Lattimore. Excepted from his home tract was the property previously transferred to his son John.<sup>7</sup>

John Lattimore, known to the family as Big John, was born October 16, 1801.<sup>8</sup> He may have lived in the house that bears his name before his marriage to Isabella Carson on June 8, 1830.<sup>9</sup> The couple set up housekeeping in the small log structure and over the next twenty years at least eleven children were born. As the family grew, Big John enlarged the house to meet their needs. Since five, and possibly six, of his children were born in the 1830s, it would seem reasonable to assume that most of the additions were made during that decade.<sup>10</sup>

The growth of his family and enlargement of his dwelling coincided with John Lattimore's rise to prosperity. By 1860 he had increased his landholdings to 966 acres with a 200 acre working farm valued at \$4,666. A personal estate valued at \$13,597 included twelve slaves.<sup>11</sup> By the general standards of North Carolina in the antebellum era, Lattimore had elevated himself to the lower echelons of the planter class, but for the area in which he lived, he was considered a moderately wealthy and socially prominent resident. Principal income was derived from grain production; however, a substantial cash income was received from the sale of 900 pounds of ginned cotton and 400 pounds of tobacco. The last named was a somewhat unusual cash crop for that part of Cleveland County (cut from Rutherford in 1841) in the years before the Civil War.<sup>12</sup>

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The outbreak of hostilities disrupted operation of the Lattimore farm as it did many others in North Carolina. Local tradition maintains that all nine sons of Big John were actively involved in Confederate service. One ran a tannery (the location of which is unknown) to provide supplies while the remaining eight marched off to war. Two did not return.<sup>13</sup> Service records for five of the Lattimore sons can be verified, suggesting that the tradition may well be accurate.<sup>14</sup> The war stripped John Lattimore of a large portion of his wealth and much of his labor force. Sections of land were sold to pay off debts. He saved his homeplace by selling it and 206 acres to his son John L. Lattimore on March 22, 1870.<sup>15</sup> Presumably, John and Isabella lived in the house with their son until their deaths in 1877 and 1875 respectively.

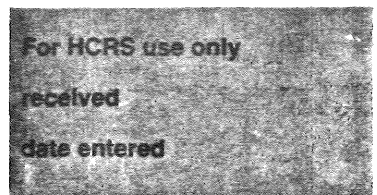
John L. Lattimore was born in the house on September 30, 1836.<sup>16</sup> Upon his return from Confederate service, he apparently resided with his parents. He married in 1870, about the time that he purchased the home tract.<sup>17</sup> Like all of the family who occupied the house, John L. was a farmer. The farm became primarily one of subsistence, though some cotton was produced for market.<sup>18</sup> John L. and his wife Nancy essentially raised two families. By 1900, the three oldest sons, Joseph C., M. R., and Samuel C., had reached maturity and left home. At age sixty-three, John L. remained in the house with his fifty-eight year old wife and their three children all under ten years of age.<sup>19</sup> John L. Lattimore died on June 3, 1905, leaving his 156 acre home tract jointly to his three oldest sons after the death of their mother.<sup>20</sup>

Between 1907 and 1917, Samuel C. Lattimore acquired the interests of his brothers and took full title to the house and property.<sup>21</sup> He resided there, farming the land, until his death in 1935. His will bequeathed the property to his wife, Mary Elliott Lattimore, who sold it in 1946 to John L. Lattimore, the nephew of S. C. and grandson of his namesake.<sup>22</sup> The sale kept the aging homeplace in the family and John L. Lattimore lived there for several years after his marriage. Lattimore moved out in 1950, and though he still holds legal title to the property, he transferred the right of ownership to his son, John B. Lattimore, an Albemarle school teacher, in 1978.<sup>23</sup> The John Lattimore House has stood vacant for many years, but the family has taken measures to stabilize the structure.

Though archaeological testing has not taken place at the site, the land around the house remains undisturbed and is likely to retain archaeological data related to the early development of the farmstead.

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Rutherford County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, Deed Book M-V, 250, hereinafter cited as Rutherford County Deed Book.

<sup>2</sup>On October 13, 1785, Benjamin Shank of Washington County sold to John Lattimore a tract of land on both sides of Duncan's Creek ". . . including Lattimore's improvement." Rutherford County Deed Book J-L, 134. John Lattimore did not acquire any land on Hinton's Creek until 1792. See Rutherford County Deed Book M-V, 107. For record of Revolutionary service, see Bulletin of the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County (Rutherfordton (?): Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, Inc., 6 volumes [bound], 1973-1978), vol. 3, p. 94, hereinafter cited as Bulletin of Old Tryon County.

<sup>3</sup>For life dates of John Lattimore, see Bulletin of Old Tryon County, vol. 3, p. 94; and WPA Pre-1914 Graves Index, State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as WPA Graves Index. For military rank and slaveholding, see Walter Clark (ed.), The State Records of North Carolina (Winston and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 16 volumes, 1895-1906), XXVI (Census of 1790), 1060. For landholding see Rutherford County Deed Book J-L, 134; Book M-V, 107, 250; and Book 25, p. 114.

<sup>4</sup>Rutherford County Deed Book 25, p. 114.

<sup>5</sup>Architectural analysis is also imprecise. Log structures such as the oldest section of the house have a wide range of possible construction dates. In this case, the original portion of the house could have been built, from an architectural standpoint, anytime between 1780 and 1830. Researcher's interview with Michael Southern, architectural historian in charge of western North Carolina surveys and inventories for the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section of the Division of Archives and History, Western Field Office, Asheville, September 29, 1980.

<sup>6</sup>Rutherford County Deed Book 36, p. 42. For property contained in home tract see Deed Book 25, p. 114; Book 15-17, p. 9; and Book 24-26, p. 42.

<sup>7</sup>Rutherford County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, Will Book E, 2. Daniel Lattimore died on December 13, the day after making out his will. See WPA Graves Index.

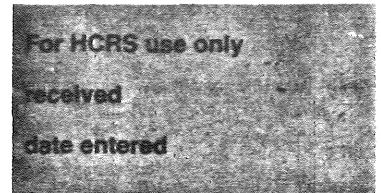
<sup>8</sup>WPA Graves Index; and Researcher's interview with John L. Lattimore, great grandson of Big John, September 29, 1980, hereinafter cited as Lattimore interview.

<sup>9</sup>Spectator and Western Advertiser (Rutherfordton), June 18, 1830.

<sup>10</sup>There were eleven children listed in the 1850 census: William C. (17), Sally (16), Daniel (15), John [L.] (13), Joseph (12), James (8), Samuel (7), Francis (6), Thomas (5), Audley M. (4), Macy C. (1). The first five were born between 1833 and 1838. Since John

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Footnote 10 (continued)

and Isabella were married in June of 1830, there is the possibility of one or two children born before 1833 but who had left home by 1850. See Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: North Carolina - Cleveland County, Population Schedule, 119. Census records hereinafter cited by number, date, schedule, and page.

<sup>11</sup>Eighth Census, 1860, Population Schedule, 47; Slave Schedule, 262-263; and Agricultural Schedule, 327.

<sup>12</sup>See Eighth Census, 1860, Agricultural Schedule, 327; and David Leroy Corbitt, The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943 (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950), 69.

<sup>13</sup>Lattimore interview.

<sup>14</sup>John W. Moore, Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War Between the States (Raleigh, 1882), Master Index in State Archives, Raleigh. Accounts of service were found for Daniel, John L., James, Thomas, and Audley M.

<sup>15</sup>Cleveland County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cleveland County Courthouse, Shelby, Deed Book SS, 18, hereinafter cited as Cleveland County Deed Book.

<sup>16</sup>WPA Graves Index. See also fn. 10.

<sup>17</sup>See Twelfth Census, 1900, Soundex (index) L 356, John L. Lattimore. The information states that John L. and Nancy had been married for thirty years. See also fn. 14.

<sup>18</sup>Lattimore interview. This John L. was the grandfather of the John L. Lattimore who was interviewed.

<sup>19</sup>Twelfth Census, 1900 (see fn. 17); and will of John L. Lattimore, Cleveland County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Cleveland County Courthouse, Shelby, Will Book 3, p. 267, hereinafter cited as Cleveland County Will Book.

<sup>20</sup>WPA Graves Index; and Cleveland County Will Book 3, p. 267.

<sup>21</sup>See transactions in Cleveland County Deed Book SS, 204, 205; and Book DDD, 108.

<sup>22</sup>Cleveland County Will Book 5, p. 234; and Cleveland County Deed Book 5-P, 289.

<sup>23</sup>Lattimore interview.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 65

Quadrangle name Shelby, N.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

**UMT References**

A 

1	7
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4	3	9	5	9	0
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3	9	2	2	9	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	7
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4	3	9	8	7	5
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3	9	2	1	8	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	7
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4	3	9	3	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	2	1	7	5	0
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D 

1	7
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4	3	9	2	5	0
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3	9	2	1	9	4	0
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E 

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F 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is a tract of approximately 65 acres incorporating all of parcel 2 and all that part of parcel 1 of Cleveland County Tax Map # 1101 lying on the east side of SR 1373, including the house and all undeveloped property that has remained in continuous association with the house. See attached map.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

# 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title** Property description by Janet Hutchison, Archaeology Assistant, Asheville, Statement of Significance by Jerry L. Cross, Research, Raleigh

**organization** Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section  
N. C. Division of Archives and History **date** April 9, 1981

**street & number** 109 E. Jones Street **telephone** Asheville: 704-298-5024  
Raleigh: 919-733-6545

**city or town** Raleigh **state** North Carolina 27611

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

**State Historic Preservation Officer signature** *William S. Rice, Jr.*

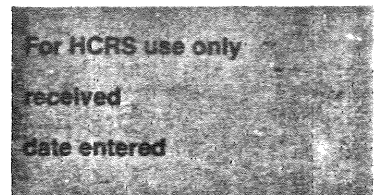
**title** State Historic Preservation Officer **date** July 8, 1982

<b>For HCRS use only</b>	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	<b>date</b>
<b>Keeper of the National Register</b>	
<b>Attest:</b>	<b>date</b>
<b>Chief of Registration</b>	



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Item number 9

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## Rutherford County Records

Deeds  
Wills

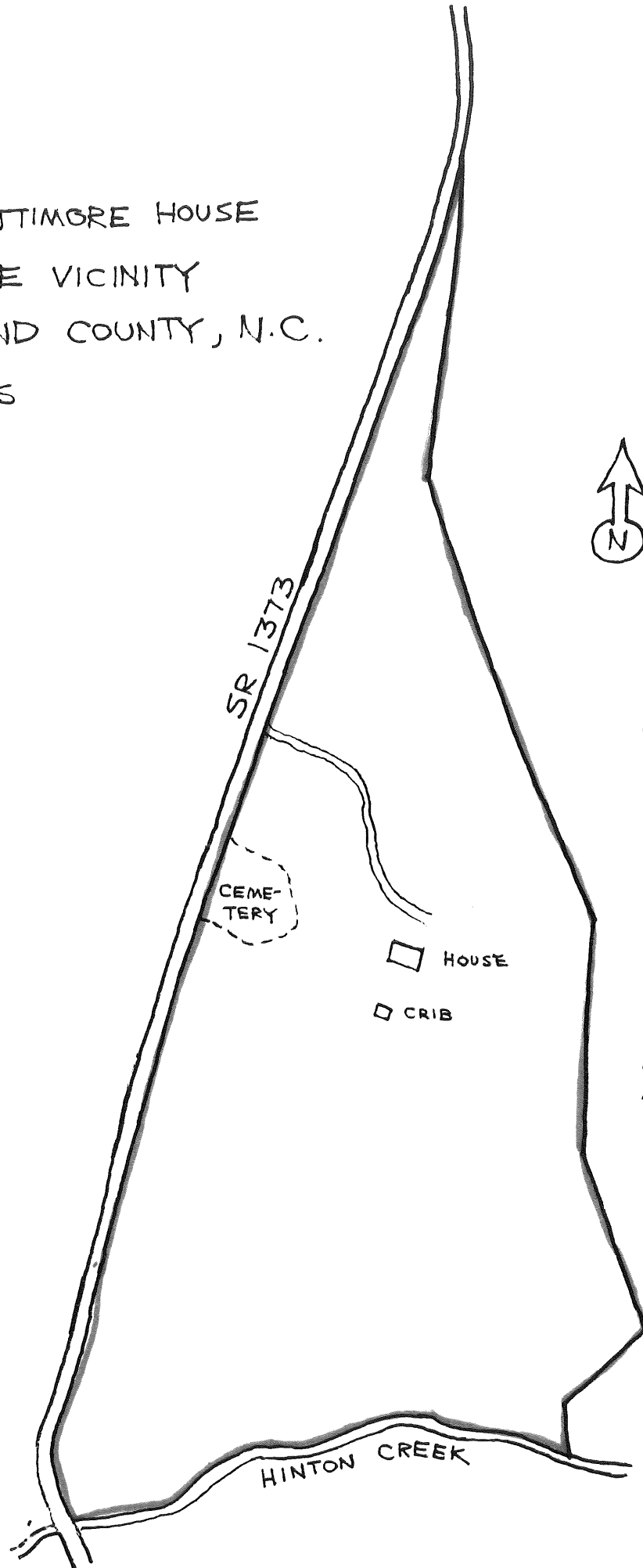
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JOHN LATTIMORE HOUSE  
POLKVILLE VICINITY  
CLEVELAND COUNTY, N.C.  
65 ACRES

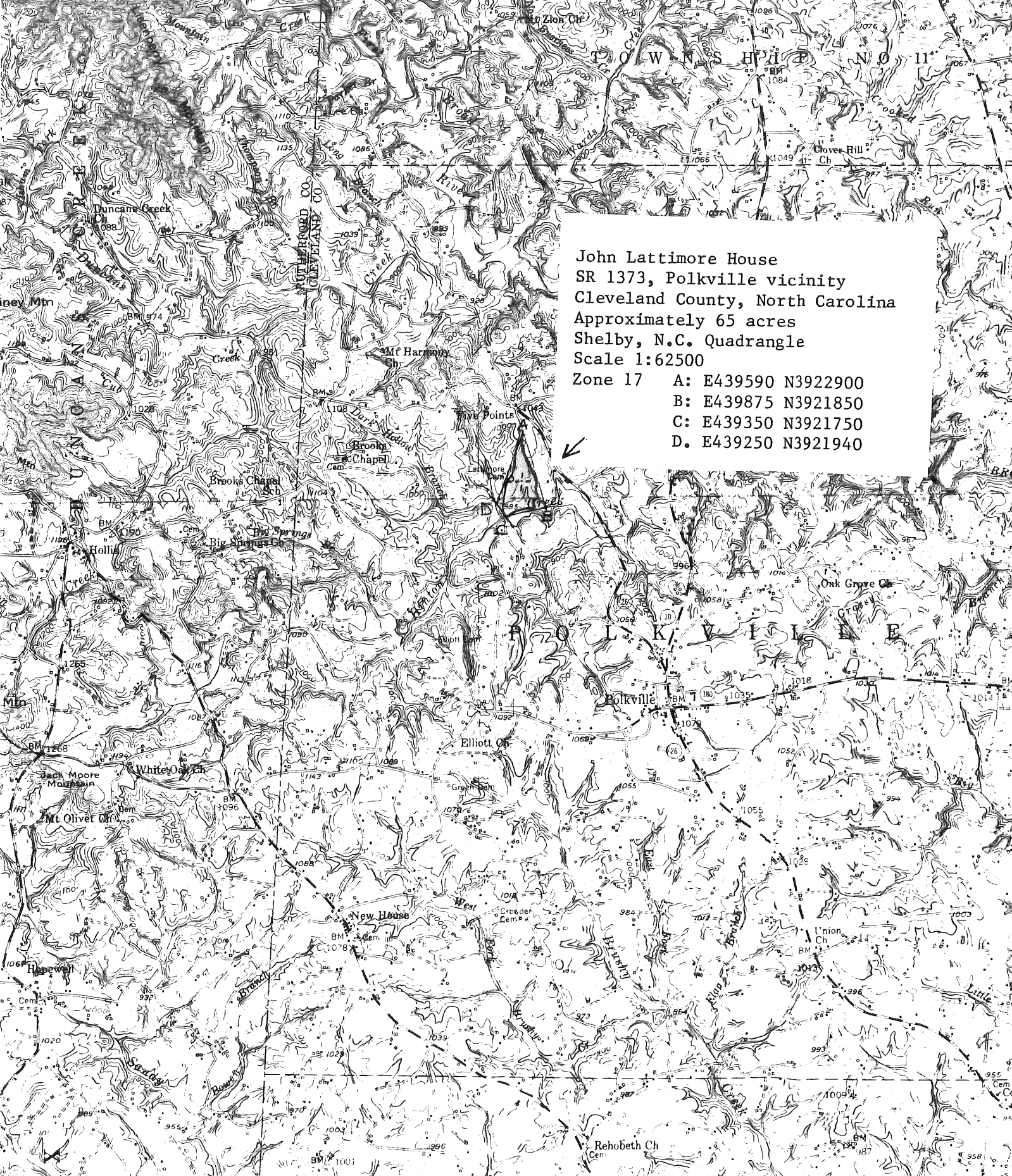


0 400' 800'  
SCALE 1" = 400'

DRAWN FROM  
CLEVELAND COUNTY  
TAX MAPPING DEPT.  
MAP # 1101  
PARCELS # 1 AND # 2  
JOHN LATTIMORE PROPERTY

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

433000m.E 434 435 12 MI TO U.S. 64 (BENN KNOB 1:24 000) 439 40' 440 441 NEWTON 36 M. CASAR 12 M. 444 CASAR 11 M.



John Lattimore House  
SR 1373, Polkville vicinity  
Cleveland County, North Carolina  
Approximately 65 acres  
Shelby, N.C. Quadrangle  
Scale 1:62500  
Zone 17 A: E439590 N3922900  
B: E439875 N3921850  
C: E439350 N3921750  
D: E439250 N3921940

