OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

	s—complete applicabl	e sections		
1. Nan	16			
historic Spur	geon House			
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	'E. side SR 1743	, 0.3 mi. S. of jct.	w/SR 1741	not for publication
city, town Hi	igh Point	_ <u>x</u> vicinity of	congressional district	
			•	oods 057
state N. C.	sification	ode 037 county	Davidson	code 057
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public both Public Acquisition in process being considered N/A	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park _X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
name Mr.	John Spurgeon Abbots Creek Chu Route 2	urch Road		
city, town Hig	h Point	vicinity of	state	N. C. 27260
		al Descripti	on	
	stry of deeds, etc. Dav	ridson County Courtho	puse	
street & number				
city, town	Lexington			North Carolina
6. Repi	esentation	in Existing	Surveys	
itle	N/A	has this pro	perty been determined el	igible?yes _X_no
late			federal sta	te county loca
lepository for su	rvey records	N/A		

7. Description

Condition excellent _X_ good	deteriorated	Check one X unaltered altered	Check one X original si moved	site date	
fair	unexposed		110000		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Spurgeon House is a large, two-story frame dwelling constructed, according to family tradition, in 1845. The house is irregular in form with a central, original core displaying late Federal and Greek Revival stylistic elements and additions made both contemporary with the original construction and later, around the turn of the century. With a large collection of outbuildings, some of which appear to be original although deteriorated, the Spurgeon House is an important survivor both architecturally and historically of the Abbott's Creek Township area near the city of High Point. Strong family tradition maintains that the house was built under the supervision of the local builder Elijah Welch. In addition, several of the original furnishings are thought to have been made by John Swicegood, a local cabinetmaker whose work has been recognized as some of the finest vernacular furniture produced in the antebellum South.

The central core of the Spurgeon House is a two-story gable-roofed structure aligned along an east-west line perpendicular to the road. The house is carried on a stone foundation with partial stone cellar and is sheathed in weatherboards. original three-bay form of the house followed a typical hall-and-parlor plan with both a shed-roof front porch and a single enclosed room along the rear shed porch. Its heavy timber mortise and tenon construction is crowned by a common rafter system with an unusual occurance of a ridge pole. A tin roof is carried by a box cornice and returns featuring a curved frieze band. Single stepped-shoulder brick chimneys laid in running bond dominate the gable ends. A two-story wing was added to the house on the front southeast corner, apparently around the turn of the century, giving the present onestory shed-roofed porch carried on turned posts its L-shaped configuration. is also of frame construction sheathed in weatherboards with six-over-six sash windows and a gable roof with a box cornice with returns. Unlike the older two-story core, the junctures of the box cornice and returns do not have the slightly curved flat frieze band. A brick chimney laid in running bond is found on the south elevation of the wing and a one-story shed-roofed porch is displayed on the east elevation.

The rear north elevation, dominated by another gable-roof addition also displays a one-story L-shaped porch with a shed roof; the central section of the porch was enclosed later for a sunroom. At the east end of the north elevation is the one-and-a-half-story wing which perhaps is contemporary with or slightly later than the main core of the house. This frame wing with its nailed common rafter system is sheathed in weatherboards. Shed extensions distinguish both the wing's east and west elevations; the one-story shed porch on the west joins with the enclosed porch of the main block, and the other one-story shed porch to the east has one enclosed room. A large brick chimney laid in running bond is displayed on the north elevation of the wing.

The entrance to the Spurgeon House is located on the south facade of the central core. The door is a later alteration which entered directly into the parlor. The original portion of the house is arranged with two rooms on each floor and an enclosed stair rising between them. The parlor is distinguished by flat-paneled wainscoting and a late Federal mantel on the east wall. The mantel consists of a rectangular opening flanked by reeded pilasters carrying a frieze with two flat panels separated by a plain

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

***********	***********		
FGI	NPS us	0.000	
reci	elved		
date	enter	ed .	
2000			

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

Page 1

break in the center under a molded cornice and a plain shelf. Above the wainscoting the parlor walls are sheathed in wide horizontal boards. The original doors are of an eight panel design with flat panels on one side and raised panels on the reverse, and are set within asymmetrically molded surrounds. The other first floor room in the main block is entered by way of a door in the west wall of the parlor. The room is also sheathed in wide horizontal boards and has a fireplace with mantel in the west wall. The mantel is a similar but plainer design as the parlor mantel with two flat panels in the frieze, a plain flat architrave, and no breaks. A simple molding carries under a plain shelf. In the north wall of the parlor an eight-panel door opens into the enclosed porch and a second door of similar design to the right opens into the north wing.

The north wing has two rooms, the first of which is a dining room sheathed in horizontal boards. In the northeast corner of the room is a large built-in corner cupboard original to the house and said to have been built by John Swicegood. The second room of the wing is a kitchen; in the north wall is a large fireplace displaying a later mantel. The location of an early stair is visible in the ceiling boards. The father of the present owner removed the stair, and the second floor of the wing is now accessible only from the second floor of the main block.

The second floor of the main block is reached by way of an enclosed stair behind an eight-panel door in the northwest corner of the parlor. The narrow stair passage is sheathed in wide boards and rises to the south through a set of winders to a small hall which is a later alteration. The stair originally entered the west room on the second floor directly, and the east room was enclosed as a separate room. Only the east room has a first floor bedroom. The mantel is somewhat smaller and has a plain, flush architrave, two flat panels in the frieze, and a plain shelf carried on a heavy cornice. In the northeast corner of the east room is a simple vernacular Gothic doorway which consists of a plain board surround which peaks in the center; the door is a simple board and batten design. This doorway, which leads to the loft over the kitchen, was apparently opened when the stairway from the kitchen was removed. Like the first floor rooms, the second floor is sheathed in wide horizontal boards with simple asymmetrical door and window surrounds.

The south wing, constructed around the turn of the century, consists of one room on each floor with an enclosed stair connection between the two. The rooms are entered by way of doors in the south walls of the parlor and the east bedroom of the second floor. There are no distinguishing features evident in either of the rooms, which are sheathed in modern paneling.

The collection of outbuildings at the Spurgeon House consists of a variety of structures ranging from a period perhaps older than the house to modern agricultural buildings. The oldest outbuilding is a somewhat deteriorated kitchen located immediately to the southeast of the house and presently in use as storage. The structure is of frame construction utilizing a common rafter system and chamferred ceiling joists sheathed in clapboards with a wood shingle roof, flush gables, and a partially collapsed original shed on the east elevation. A board and batten door with strap hinges is centered in the north wall with a small window with solid shutters to the left of the door. A

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS u	ie only
received	
date enter	ed

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

Page ²

Dutch door is located in the center of the south elevation.

Several hundred feet to the southwest of the house is a small house thought by the family to have originally been a slave house. The structures is three bays wide with board and batten doors flanked by nine-over-six sash windows with solid shutters on both the east and west elevations. It is sheathed in weatherboards under a tin roof with flush gables. There is no evidence of the presence of a chimney.

Behind and to the south of the main house across a creek is a small spring house of early date, constructed of brick on a stone foundation with a flush-gabled roof. A low board and batten door is set in the west elevation. The interior is sheathed in plaster. In addition, there are a smokehouse and a chickenhouse, both circa 1900, between the main house and the spring house. Further to the east, behind the main house, are two frame barns, a frame carriage house which was moved from a site adjacent to the main house, and a diamond-notched log root cellar. Finally, there are several modern farm buildings of much more recent date, also to the east of the main house.

8. Significance

1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 _X_1800-1899	agriculture X architecture art commerce communications			re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	Unknown	Builder/Architect Eli	jah Welch (attribute	ed)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Reflecting the evolution of a family farm complex from 1845 to the present, the Spurgeon House and its outbuildings illustrate a significant variety of building periods characteristic of vernacular piedmont North Carolina architecture. Composed of three distinct sections the Spurgeon House today evolves around a three-bay, two-story frame dwelling featuring transitional Federal/Greek Revival woodwork. This portion of the house is said to have been built c. 1845 for John Spurgeon under the supervision of the local builder Elijah Welch. Additions to the house have given it an irregular form, but in one instance appear to be contemporary with the main structure. The interior is remarkably intact with handsomely executed, simple woodwork and much of the original furnishings including pieces by the noted cabinetmaker John Swicegood. Several members of the Spurgeon family were of local significance, including the father of the original owner, who was a state senator from what was then Rowan County. Along with its collection of outbuildings, the Spurgeon House is an important reminder of the lifestyle in piedmont North Carolina during the second half of the nineteenth century.

Criteria Assessment:

- B. The Spurgeon House is associated with the locally prominent Spurgeon family. Joseph Spurgeon, the father of the original owner of the house, was a state senator who introduced the bill in the General Assembly forming Davidson County from Rowan County in 1822. William Spurgeon, the father of Joseph, was a judge before the Revolutionary War, and a Tory Colonel who fled North Carolina after the Revolution.
- C. Illustrating an important development continuum in vernacular piedmont North Carolina architecture, the Spurgeon House is comprised of three significant building periods: a c.1845 two-story frame transitional Federal/Greek Revival dwelling with one contemporary or slightly later frame one-and-a-half-story wing and one late nineteenth century two-story frame addition. Throughout this evolutionary process, each segment has maintained its period integrity and function. In addition the collection of outbuildings serve as a complement to the house and is significant for its range of types and periods of construction, further emphasizing the property's importance as a small farming complex.
- D. Is likely to yield information about life on a mid-nineteenth century piedmont North Carolina farm complex.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet Histo

Historical Significance

Item number 8

Page 1

The Spurgeon House is situated in the Abbott's Creek Township area near Thomasville vicinity in Davidson County. Known as the family seat of one of the oldest families living in the piedmont section of the state, this ten room structure is still in a fine state of preservation. Its wide-board, hand-dressed ceilings and floors, its strong hatchet-marked overhead beams, and some small-paned windows attest to its pre-Civil War construction. 2

William Spurgeon, progenitor of the Abbott's Creek family branch, was of English descent. Coming from the Maryland side of the Potomac in the early 1750s, he had moved to the fertile land on the headwaters of Abbott's Creek and ultimately became one of the first justices of what was then Rowan County. William became an avid and staunch Tory during the Revolution, fighting under Tory Colonel Alexander McLeod at Moores Creek Bridge on February 27, 1776.

The Spurgeons remained a prominent family in spite of William's Tory activities. Joseph Spurgeon, a son of William, introduced the bill in 1822 which set off the new County of Davidson from Rowan.⁶ It was the son of Joseph, John Spurgeon, and the grandson of William, who constructed the house presently under study.

The tax lists for Davidson County imply that John Spurgeon owned 234 acres valued at \$800 in Captain Rodenhamer's district in the Abbott's Creek vicinity as early as 1839. In 1843 Spurgeon, along with Davis Raper, purchased two tracts of land which were also located in the Abbott's Creek area, at a public auction. Some of this acreage could possibly have been improved land. Tradition holds that the house itself was built in 1845, yet the tax lists show that the value of Spurgeon's property did not substantially increase in value until 1847. Family tradition also maintains it was built by Elijah Welch of Deep River. The farm produced corn as its staple crop, followed next by wheat and cotton. Family tradition also maintains it was built by Elijah Welch of Deep River at a cost of \$600.10 The farm produced corn as its staple crop, followed next by wheat and cotton. It

At the death of John Spurgeon in 1881, the property was bequeathed to his wife Sarah Raper Spurgeon for her lifetime and was then to be given to his son John Sanford Spurgeon. Receiving title to the property in 1889, John S. Spurgeon in all likelihood enlarged the house around the turn of the century to its present appearance by adding the two-story southeast wing. A number of the outbuildings such as the smokehouse, chickenhouse, and washhouse also date from this period. Following John's death in 1928, the 218 acre property passed shortly thereafter to his sons, Charles E. and W. D. Spurgeon. In a division of the estate later apparently Charles E. Spurgeon received the house tract comprising 37.14 acres which his son John H. Spurgeon inherited in 1946.

The homeplace has remained in the Spurgeon family to this day. One of the more curious features of the old home is a large block of basalt located at the porch entrance. It is reputed to be from the Old William Spurgeon homestead which is no longer standing but was formerly located about two miles away. Along with its large collection of outbuildings, the Spurgeon House is an important reminder of the lifestyle of mid-to-late nineteenth century piedmont North Carolina.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Historical Significance

Item number

Page 2

The structures of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structures. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structures. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Historical Significance

Item number 8

Page 3

FOOTNOTES

- Harry Z. Tucker, "Old Spurgeon Home," <u>The State</u>, XV, Number 6 (July, 1974), 19, hereinafter cited as Tucker, "Old Spurgeon Home."
- ²Jewell M. Sink and Mary Green Matthews, <u>Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Davidson County</u>, North Carolina (High Point: Hall Printing Co., 1972), 348.
 - Sink and Matthews, Pathfinders Past and Present, 15.
- Sink and Matthews, <u>Pathfinders Past and Present</u>, 16, 36; The Spurgeon File, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
- Jacob C. Leonard, <u>Centennial History of Davidson County</u> (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1927), 263-266; Richard Lane, <u>Historical Gleanings of Davidson County, N.C.</u> (Lexington: Baker Printing Co., 1977), 21-24; Sink and Matthews, <u>Pathfinders Past and Present</u>, 28; Tucker, "Old Spurgeon House," 8.
- Leonard, <u>Centennial History of Davidson County</u>, 25; Sink and Matthews, <u>Pathfinders</u> <u>Past and Present</u>, 366; Tucker, "Old Spurgeon House," 19.
 - 7 Tax Lists 1827-1848, 1849-1863 for Davidson County, State Archives, Raleigh
- ⁸William Raper, auctioner, to John Spurgeon and Davis Raper, 1843, Deed Book 8, p. 536; William Raper, auctioner, to John Spurgeon and Davis Raper, 1843, Deed Book 8, p. 537; John Spurgeon to John S. Spurgeon, 1881, Deed Book 3, p. 328; John S. Spurgeon to C. E. Spurgeon and W. D. Spurgeon, 1928, Will Book 7, p. 86; C. E. Spurgeon to John H. Spurgeon, 1946, Will Book 8, p. 500; Ara Green Spurgeon by Court decision, 1963-1964. References on microfilm in State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Davidson County Records.
 - 9 Tax Lists 1827-1848, 1849-1863 for Davidson County, State Archives, Raleigh.
 - 10 Tucker, "Old Spurgeon House," 8; Notes from Spurgeon File.
 - 11 Leonard, Centennial History of Davidson County, 81-83.
 - 12 Davidson County Records, Will Book 3, p. 328.
 - ¹³Davidson County Records, Will Book 7, p. 86.
 - 14 Davidson County Records, Will Book 8, p. 500.
 - 15 Davidson County Records.
 - ¹⁶Sink and Matthews, <u>Pathfinders Past and Present</u>, 30.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

OMB 1024-0018
EXP 12-31-84
For HCRs use only
received APR 2.8 1582
date entered

Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number

9

Page 1

Davidson County Records State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Richard Lane <u>Historical Gleanings of Davidson County, N.C.</u> Lexington: Baker Printing Co., 1977.

Leonard, Jacob C. <u>Centennial History of Davidson County</u>. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1927.

Sink, Jewell M. and Matthews, Mary Green. <u>Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Point: Hall Printing Co.</u>, 1972.

Smith, A. Davis, Comp. Western North Carolina, Historical and Biographical. Charlotte:

Spurgeon File. Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Tucker, Harry Z. 'Old Spurgeon House,' The State, XV, Number 6. Raleigh, 1947.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geograph	nical Data			
Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle nameHigh_P UMT References		es_	Quad	drangle scale1:24000
1 1 7 5 8 12 0 10 10 Tolerand	319 812 81610 Northing	B 1_ Zc	17 5 8 2 3 14 ne Easting	10 3 19 8 12 8 13 10 Northing
117 5 812 31410 	319 812 61410	D <u> 1</u> F <u> </u> H <u> </u>	17 5 8 12 0 10 1	319 812 61410
trined in red on the	attached map. Thi	is is part of and outbuild	of a larger fa lings as shown	tion includes approx. 10 a mily farm located on the E on the attached site plan
nte N/A	code	county	N/A	code
ite	code	county	-14	code
1. Form Pre				
N. C. Divisio	m, Consultant n of Archives and nes Street		ter D. Best, date Septembe telephone (91	
y or town Raleigh			state North	Carolina 27611
2. State Hist e evaluated significance of th national	is property within the s		n Officer	Certification
the designated State Historic 5), I hereby nominate this pro- cording to the criteria and pro- ate Historic Preservation Offic	perty for inclusion in the peedures set forth by the	e National Regi	ster and certify that	n Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– t it has been evaluated
e State Historic Pre	servation Officer		Revised	and Retyped Oct. 7, 1982 te October 16, 1980
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this pr		endere kontrologia (h. 1917). 1918 - Francisco Politico (h. 1917).	eren i Terren yksinyere	
Keeper of the National Regis	ster		dat	





