

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Eli Moore House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER E side of SR 1741 at end of dirt lane across from SR 1756

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

High Point

VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina

CODE
037

COUNTY
Davidson

CODE
057

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES- RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES- UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles Clay Moore

STREET & NUMBER

809 West Lexington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

High Point

VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina 27263

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Davidson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE
North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth Little, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

May 26, 1983

STREET & NUMBER

Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE

919/733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eli Moore House is a well-preserved one-and-one-half-story hall-and-parlor log house located on an isolated ridge above Rich Fork Creek near the Wallburg-High Point Road in northeast Davidson County. Bypassed by twentieth century roads and improvements, the small farm complex also includes a late nineteenth or early twentieth century frame shed, barn, workshop and stone springhouse. A blacksmith shop which was formerly part of the homestead has been moved to the High Point Museum grounds and restored. The house has a number of unusual construction features which distinguish it from such mid-nineteenth century log houses as the Adderton-Badgett House and the Hamilton Everhart House and may indicate an early nineteenth century construction date.

The rectangular log house, twenty-six by eighteen feet, is set on fieldstone piers on the slope of a hill. The rectangular, hewn logs have V-notched corners and clay chinking, and, with the exception of the north gable end, have never been covered with weatherboards. The steep gable roof, covered with sheet tin, has exposed, decoratively scalloped rafter ends characteristic of early log construction. The top log in the south gable end has a series of drilled holes which probably supported an original pent roof, another early feature. In the main (east) elevation are two original door openings with pegged jambs. The north door is a replacement, but the south door is original. This batten door is constructed with handwrought nails, and hangs on unusual wooden strap hinges set in wooden pentels. Homemade wooden hardware is characteristic of log outbuildings in Davidson County, but rare in dwellings. The only original windows are a small square opening, with no sash, in the south wall and, perhaps, three rectangular openings in the gable ends. The larger windows with sash in the north wall and beside the north door are later additions. The exterior brick chimney on the north end, laid in stretcher bond, with stepped shoulders, is a smaller replacement for the original chimney in this location.

The rear gabled wing, containing the kitchen, has identical log construction details but all of the other fabric, such as windows, doors, and roof construction, are of late nineteenth or early twentieth century vintage. The wing has an exterior end brick chimney and shed porches along each side.

The most interesting features of the Eli Moore House are the ingenious substitutions of wood in lieu of iron hardware on the interior. This aspect of the construction is particularly intriguing since the house was built by a family of blacksmiths. The only interior change was the late nineteenth century addition of vertical sheathed walls and a Victorian mantel in the north room. An original log partition wall divides the interior into a larger north room and a smaller south room. Both rooms have beaded ceiling boards and exposed beaded joists. The south room retains whitewashed log walls and wooden battens pegged into the joints between the logs. This unusual method of weatherproofing must have originally been used in the north room as well. In the front corner of the south room, an enclosed stair rises in a straight flight to the loft. Use of nails was avoided with the ladder tread construction. The stair is raised on an open wooden platform, with two ladder steps up to the stair door. Like the south front door, this original batten door swings on wooden strap hinges.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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In the unfinished loft, the logs of the outside walls and the partition wall rise four logs above the floor level. The center section of the partition is cut out to allow access to the north end of the loft. Handhewn rafters with pegged collar beams, pegged at the ridge, form the roof. The studs forming the weather-boarded gable ends are also handhewn. One batten shutter with handwrought nails, probably belonging to a gable end window, is stored in the loft.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ STATE

 LOCAL

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 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	First half of nineteenth century	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eli Moore House is a one-and-one-half-story log house with construction details indicative of the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century settlement period in Davidson County. Although on architectural evidence it is the earliest log house in the county, historical documentation is inconclusive, and the date of construction can be made no more specific than the first half of the nineteenth century. The two-room structure with a loft, perched on a sloping site above Rich Creek in northeast Davidson County, is known as the Eli Moore House, and has been connected with five generations of the Moore family. Eli Moore, a blacksmith, owned the land by 1815 and it passed to his son Nathan, and his grandson Eli, both also blacksmiths. The ingenious use of wooden door hardware which is one of the most unusual features of the house is ironic in light of its ownership by three generations of blacksmiths. Fundamental to the architectural significance of the house is its primitive construction, demonstrative of the unchanging character of vernacular architecture in the county throughout the first half of the nineteenth century.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Characterized by a number of early construction features typical of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century log housing in Piedmont North Carolina.
- B. Associated with three nineteenth century blacksmiths in Davidson County: Eli Moore, his son Nathan Moore, and his grandson Eli Moore. A nineteenth century blacksmith shop from the farm was moved to the High Point Historical Museum and restored.

The log house on Rich Creek in northeast Davidson County is known through family tradition as the "Eli Moore House," presumably after the Elijah Moore (1832-1887) who owned the house at his death in 1887.¹ Architectural and historical evidence suggests that Eli did not build the house, but that his grandfather, also named Eli Moore, built it sometime between 1815 and his death in 1847, and that the grandson moved into the house sometime after 1850.

Determination of the date of construction is complicated by the fact that there were two houses located on the property in the second half of the nineteenth century. Eli Moore the first began to acquire land on nearby Abbott's Creek as early as 1815,² and at his death in 1847 he stipulated in his will that his "house lot" be sold at public auction and the proceeds divided among his children. At the public sale in 1848, the last item to be sold was an 83 1/2-acre tract which was purchased by son William for \$596.³ In 1849 William sold a 66-acre lot to his brother Nathan for \$570, described as being on the waters of Rich Fork, bounded by the lands of Alfred Haworth, Joseph Moore, and William Moore.⁴ It is unlikely that Nathan lived on this tract, because in 1842 he had received a 53-acre tract from his father described as being "where Nathan Moore now lives" located "on the waters of Abbotts Creek" bounded by the lands of Alfred Haworth, Eli Moore himself, and others.⁵ In the 1850 census Nathan's real estate is valued at \$450, and his wife and seven children live with him. His oldest son, Eli, is eighteen years old and employed as a "laborer."⁶ In 1853 Eli married Keziah Hayworth, and in the 1870 census he is listed as a blacksmith, living in a separate household, with his wife Keziah and four children ages four to fourteen. His real estate is valued at \$50.⁷ There is no record of Eli's purchase of any land, so he may have moved into his grandfather's house. Eli died intestate in 1887, his wife Keziah died in 1889, and in 1892 their land was divided among the five children. Alphonso, born in 1870, received lot number three, containing twenty-nine acres in one tract and seven and one-fourth acres in the other.⁸ Lot three is the same lot which contains the log house. Nathan had died intestate in 1882, and his wife Mathilda apparently received a dower interest in Nathan's homeplace, and lived until 1893.⁹ Thus two widows held dower interests in their husbands' homeplaces at the same time, strongly suggesting that there were two separate houses until at least the 1890s.

Alphonso and his wife Ora Ballard lived in Eli's homeplace until their move to High Point about 1900. Another member of the Moore family moved into the house and occupied it for some years, but during most of the twentieth century the house

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 29.44 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	584460	3982210	B	17	584790	3982260
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	17	584780	3981890	D	17	584440	3981910

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of Tax Map 19, Davidson County Tax Office, contained in Lot 1, bounded on the north by Lot 18, on the east by Lot 2, on the south by Lot 2, and on the west by Lot 31 and by a dirt lane, as outlined in red on map.

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has been vacant.¹⁰ At Alphonso's death in 1949 the homeplace was left to his three children Pearl, Charles Clay and Roy Belvin. Roy and Pearl deeded their interest to C. C. Moore in 1951.¹¹ C. C., the current owner, was born there in 1897 but has not lived there since the family moved to High Point.¹²

Footnotes

¹United States Census, 1850. Population Schedule. Davidson County, North Carolina, p. 263. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina; Eli Moore Estate File, 1887, Davidson County Estates, North Carolina State Archives.

²Rowan County Deed Book 23, p. 452.

³Eli Moore Will, 1847, Davidson County Wills, Book 1, pp. 16-17; Eli Moore Estate File, 1848, Davidson County Estates, North Carolina State Archives.

⁴Davidson County Deed Book 15, p. 175.

⁵Davidson County Deed Book 8, p. 168.

⁶United States Census, 1850. Population Schedule, Davidson County.

⁷Patricia Foster Hiatt, "Sketch of Eli and Keziah Hayworth Moore," The Heritage of Davidson County 1982 (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1982) p. 416; United States Census, 1870. Population Schedule. Davidson County. Browntown Township, no. 18. North Carolina State Archives.

⁸Henry Reeves, Cemetery Inscriptions Davidson (Old Rowan) Co., North Carolina, 1970, Abbott's Creek Primitive Baptist Church, row 32.

⁹Reeves, Cemetery Inscriptions.

¹⁰Indirect interview with Charles Clay Moore through his grandson, Steve Brewer, May 17, 1983, High Point, North Carolina, notes in file.

¹¹Guilford County Wills, Book X, p. 292, North Carolina State Archives; Davidson County Deed Book 212, p. 549; Davidson County Deed Book 212, p. 470, North Carolina State Archives.

¹²Indirect interview with Charles Clay Moore.

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Davidson County Deed Books, Wills. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Guilford County Wills. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

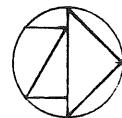
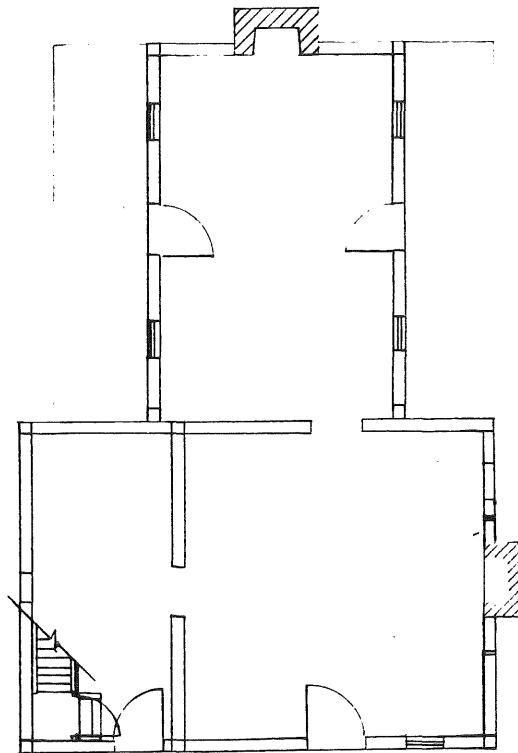
Hiatt, Patricia Foster. "Sketch of Eli and Keziah Hayworth Moore." The Heritage of Davidson County 1982.

Moore, Charles Clay, Indirect interview with. Through Steve Brewer, May 17, 1983, High Point, North Carolina.

Reeves, Henry. Cemetery Inscriptions Davidson (Old Rowan) Co., North Carolina. 1970.

Rowan County Deed Books. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

United States Censuses, 1850, 1870. Population Schedules. Davidson County. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

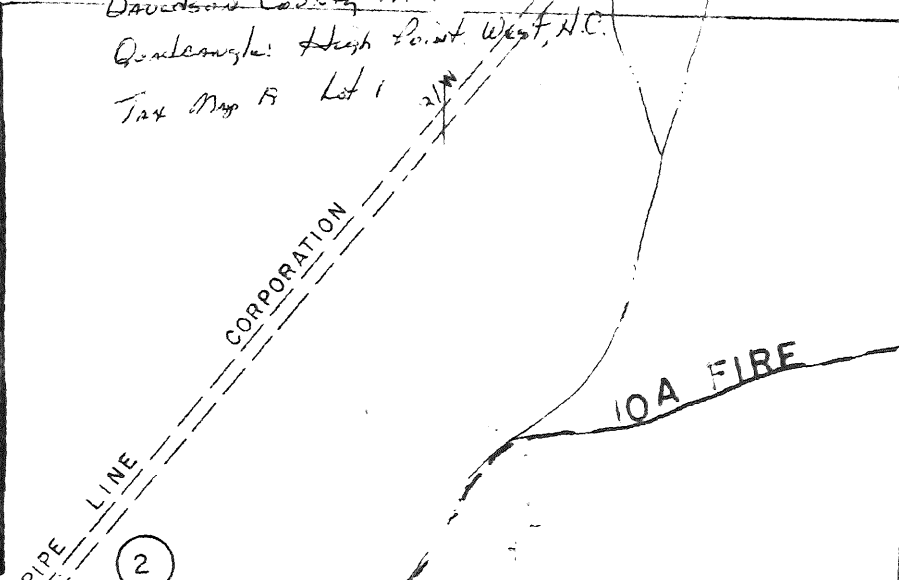
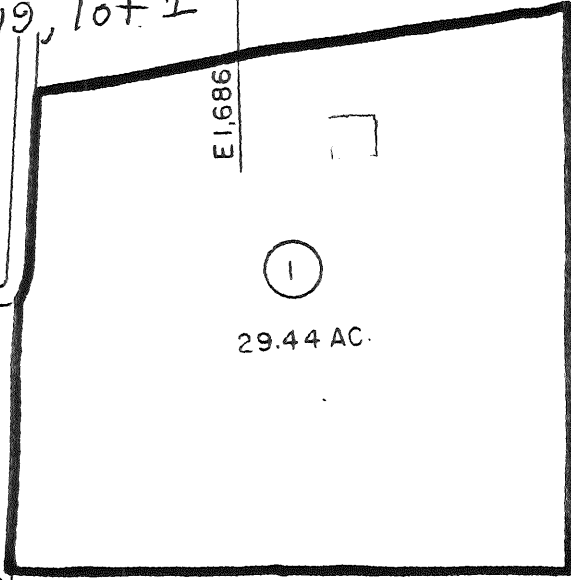


ELI MOORE HOUSE nr HIGH POINT
DV-125 1/8" = 1'0"

9-19-82 PBT

Tax Map 19, lot 1

El. Moore House
Davidson County, MEA
Quakerstyle High Point West, N.C.
Tax Map B Lot 1



IOA FIRE DISTRICT

