



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Pat McCrory, Governor
Susan W. Kluttz, Secretary
Kevin Cherry, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources
David Brook, Director

February 26, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos *RMB for Ramona M. Bartos*

SUBJECT: John A. Plott House Determination of Eligibility, Replace Bridge 29 on SR 1160 over Plott Creek, PA No. 12-08-0097, WBS 17BP.14..37, Haywood County, ER 13-0236

Thank you for your e-mail of January 31, 2013, transmitting the above report.

For the purpose of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the **John A. Plott House** (HW 0472) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development and popularization of the Plott Hound and under Criterion B for its association with the Plott family. We also concur that the proposed National Register boundaries appear appropriate.

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 919-807-6579. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NC DOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov

John A. Plott House

HW472

C. 1895 I-House

88 Plott Valley Road

PIN 7695-72-8115

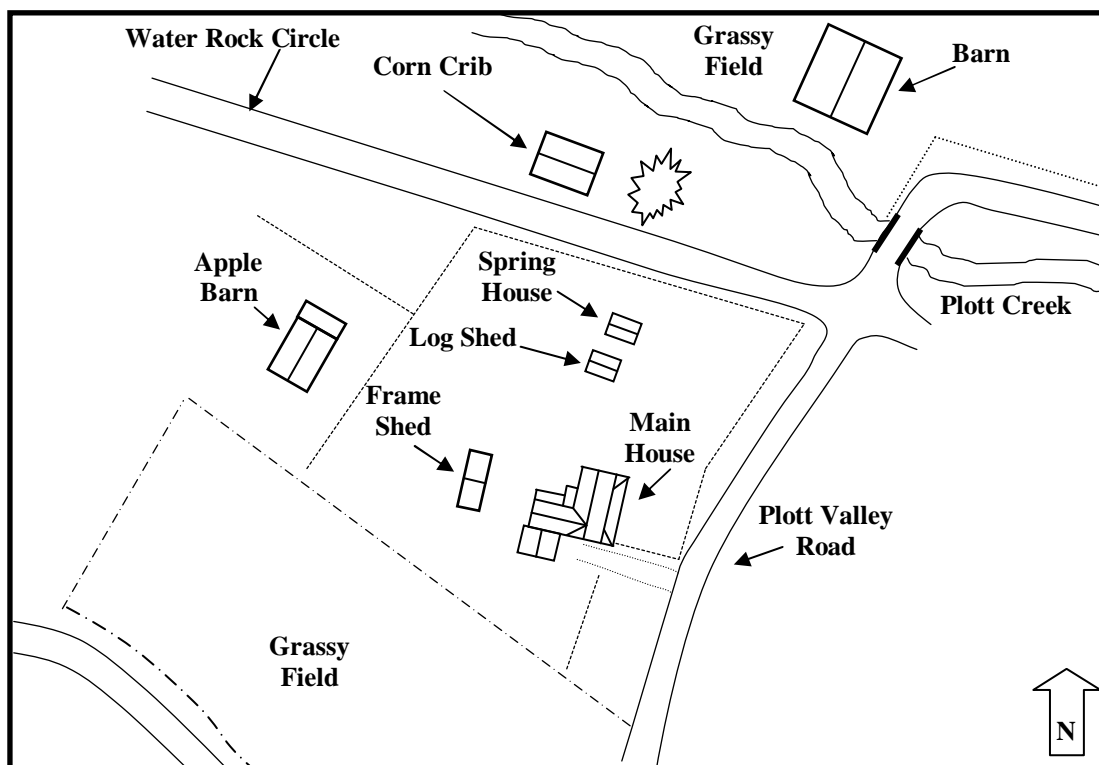
Waynesville Vicinity, Haywood County



John A. Plott House, looking west from Plott Valley Road.

Location and Setting

The John A. Plott House and related outbuildings sit on 4.8 acres on the west side of SR1160, Plott Valley Road, which is located west of Waynesville, NC. Plott Creek runs west to east through an open field directly east of the main house, and a one-lane paved road leading to a modern housing development (Water Rock Circle) parallels the creek. A wood fence surrounds the main house and several outbuildings, and trees dot the landscape. A grassy field lies south of the main house up a slight incline.



Site Plan, John A. Plott House and outbuildings.

Description

The John A. Plott House is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay single-pile I-House with a rear ell. Built c. 1890, the frame house is covered in masonite siding and rests on a continuous stone foundation. The side-gable roof is punctuated by two brick interior chimneys and three gabled wall dormers. The east façade contains a double-leaf door with frosted glass panels in the center bay, and one-over-one double-hung sash replacement windows flank the door. All windows on the house, which appear to have originally been four-over-four sash based on early twentieth century photographs, are now one-over-one double-hung replacement sash framed by wood shutters on the first floor and six-over-six double-hung replacement sash framed by wood shutters on the second floor. A one-story hipped-roof porch supported by chamfered wood posts extends the width of the façade.

A one-and-a-half story ell extends off the west elevation of the main block, and the gable roof of the ell is punctuated a brick interior chimney. Attached to the ell is a c.1950 carport with a side-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The carport has been remodeled and is currently used as a den. The north elevation of the ell features a one-story shed roof porch supported by square wood posts that appears to be replacements; earlier photos show a slightly different roof support post. A wood paneled door and a one-over-one double-hung sash replacement window are also located on the north elevation of the ell.

Located between the north elevation of the ell and the west elevation of the main block sits a one-story, irregular-course stone addition capped by a shed roof clad in asphalt shingles. The

addition, which according to a family member was the first indoor bathroom from the mid-twentieth century, has a four-light casement window on the north elevation as well as the west elevation. It is now used for storage. On the wood frame portion of the ell, which connects the stone addition to the house, is an entry door and window.

The interior center-hall plan has been modified by the removal of a wall between the southern rooms, making the living room and dining room one open space. A fireplace was added in the 1980s to this expanded room. A portion of the west wall at the end of the center hall was removed to connect the stone addition to the house, creating a small room between the ell, addition, and main block. Material changes to the walls, ceilings, and floors occurred in the 1980s and 1990s, and include new beaded board in the dining room and rough-sawn woodwork in the living room. Access to the second floor was not granted.



John A. Plott House, looking northwest.



John A. Plott House, south elevation.



John A. Plott House, north elevation.



North room on the first floor, looking northeast.



Aerial View of Plott House and outbuildings, looking north.
Bing Maps Birds Eye View

North of the main house is a one-story stone springhouse capped by a gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The spring is accessed by a board and batten door on the south elevation, and a four-over-one sash window is located on the east elevation. Steps lead down to the spring in the interior of the structure.

A one-story log shed with a front-gable roof clad in standing seam metal is directly south of the springhouse. The structure is built with reused materials and features half-dovetail joints. The cut nails used in the structure date the building to the nineteenth century; this coincides with the ownership of the land by Henry Plott, who had a cabin on the site based on local and family history.



Log Shed and Stone Springhouse, looking west.



Entrance to Springhouse on south elevation.



Log shed, looking north.



Detail of log shed, south elevation.

A one-story frame shed clad in vertical boards and capped by a front-gable, standing seam metal roof is located west of the house. The interior is accessed by a batten door located in the center of the east façade. The north portion of the structure is open, with the roof supported by round log posts.

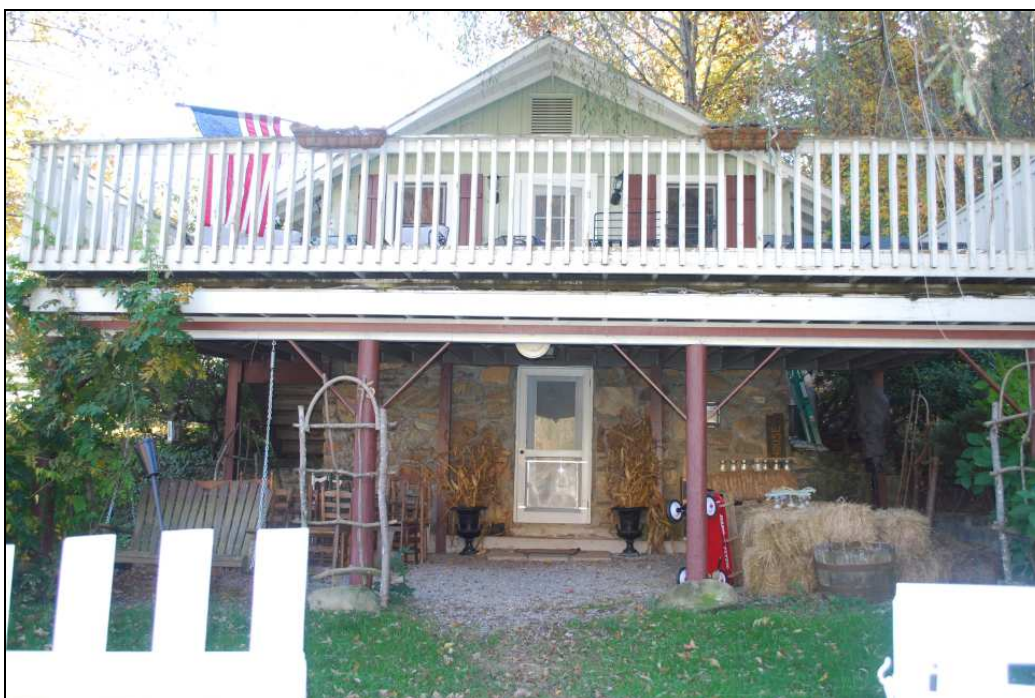


Frame shed west of house.

A one-story banked apple barn is further west of the main house, beyond the frame shed. Built c. 1910, the half-story banked stone basement is original. The wood-frame ground story, with board and batten siding and front-gable roof clad in standing seam metal, was added in the 1990s when it was converted to a residence. A bathroom was also added to this level.



Apple Barn, looking northwest.



Apple Barn, looking south.

Stone is original, the upper portion and porch were added in the 1990s.

A one-story, three-bay corncrib with a front-gable, standing seam metal roof is northwest of the house across the one-lane drive. The middle bay of the east façade contains a batten door framed by horizontal wood slats. Large rectangular openings flank the entrance bay. Horizontal wood slats, visible in the central portion of the structure in the 1983 survey photos of the property, were removed in the 2000s. The west elevation is clad in weatherboard siding and contains one small four-light window.

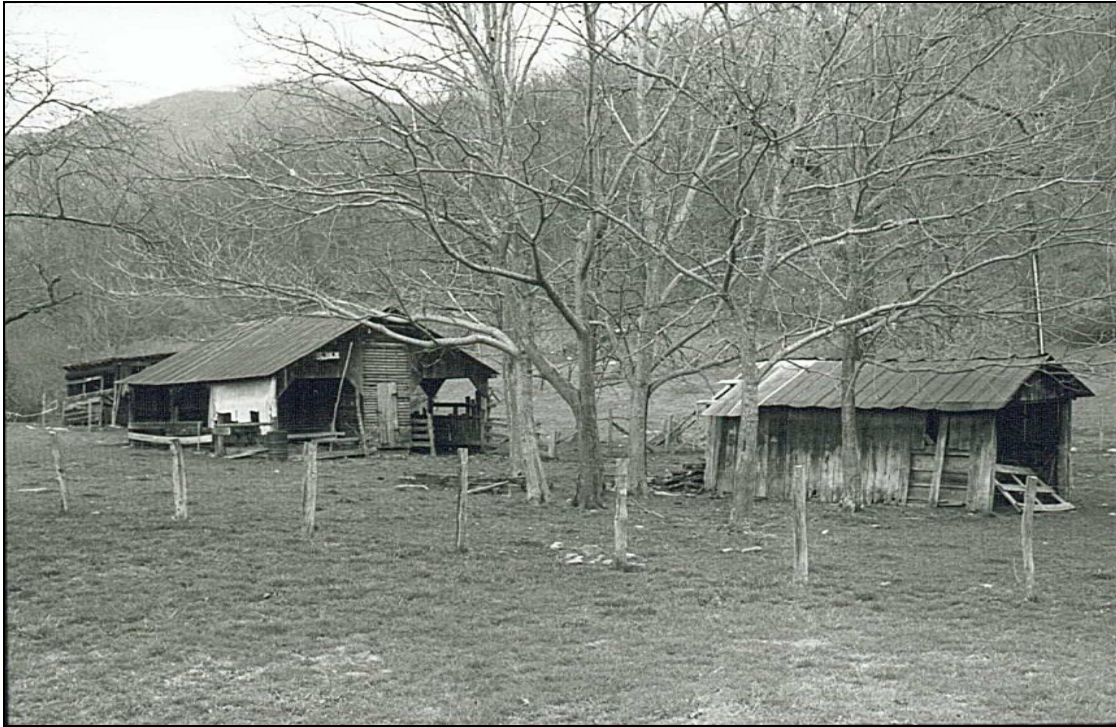
A one-and-a-half story, three-bay frame barn with a front-gable standing seam metal roof is north of the main house and across Plott Creek. A batten door is flanked by two large rectangular openings on the south façade.



Corncrib, looking north.



Corncrib, looking west.



Corn Crib in 1983. Two frame sheds, one in front of the corn crib and one behind, are no longer standing.
J. Randall Cotton, Survey file photo, 1983.



Two-story frame barn, looking northwest.
Plott Creek runs in front of this structure.

History

The John A. Plott house was built on the site of the original Plott Homestead, which dates to the ownership of the land by Henry Plott in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Henry Plott moved to this area of Haywood County after receiving a state land grant in the late eighteenth century on Richland & Dick's Creek (now Plotts Creek), which he expanded to 1,700 acres.¹ The one-story log shed north of the main house is said to date to when Henry Plott lived on the property, and was moved to its present location when the current house was built in the late nineteenth century. Other members of the Plott family moved to the valley over the decades, and eventually the family owned almost the entire valley from the head of Plott Creek to Hazelwood.²

Henry Plott had eleven children, many who relocated to the other side of the mountain in Maggie Valley along U.S. 19.³ John T. Plott, his seventh son who was born in 1813, stayed in what is now known as Plott Valley. John T. had four children, including Montraville Plott who was born in 1850.⁴ Montraville also stayed in the valley and had several children, two of which were John A. Plott and Henry Vaughn "Von" Plott.

The John A. Plott House and outbuildings were built sometime in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, and have been attributed to both Montraville and his son John A. Plott. It appears both men owned the land on which the house was built in the late nineteenth century. Montraville Plott had lived (and died) in a house east of the John A. Plott House on Plott Creek Road, and it is unlikely that the John A. Plott House was also built by him or for him. Family history speculates that John A. Plott built the house at the end of the nineteenth century, but ran into legal trouble and moved to Kansas. He then moved back to the John A. Plott House around 1920 when the issues were corrected.⁵

John A. Plott lived in the house from the 1920s until his death in 1959. He lived with his wife Harriet (and later on, second wife Nora), son George E. Plott (Little George), and daughter Grace. John A. Plott grew corn, grain, vegetables, and apple orchards on the land. In addition to raising Plott hounds (described in the following section), he raised horses, cattle, and sheep.⁶

Little George was killed in 1944 during World War II, and when John A. Plott passed in 1959, Grace Plott inherited the property. She then made several changes to the house which included adding plumbing, electricity, and bathrooms in the 1960s. It was at this time she also added the carport to the south elevation which was enclosed later on. Grace eventually sold the house to pay inheritance taxes.

The land was divided and a housing community built to the west of the main house in the 1980s and 1990s. The apple barn was converted into a guest house in the 1990s, and changes to the

¹ Bob Plott, *The Story of the Plott Hound: Strike and Stay* (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2007), 27.

² Bob Plott, email to Kate Husband on November 8, 2012.

³ Several other Plott houses are HPO Survey Sites within Maggie Valley.

⁴ Plott, *The Story of the Plott Hound: Strike and Stay*, 39.

⁵ Bob Plott, email to Kate Husband on November 8, 2012.

⁶ Ibid.

main house, including the replacement of the windows and removal of interior wall between living and dining room, occurred around this time.

The John A. Plott House is currently owned by the Haas family, who live in the main house and uses the grounds as an event space. In the early 2000s the corn crib was altered by removing the center portion.

Plott Hounds

The history of the Plott hound is tied to the John A. Plott House, as it was one of the sites the Plott hound was bred and popularized within North Carolina and eventually the nation. Although many Plott family members raised the hounds over the years as hunting dogs, certain breeding characteristics followed specific family members' experimentations. Other men outside of the family are also attributed with popularizing the breed; however the influences on the modern day Plott hound can be traced back to Henry Plott, Montraville Plott, and eventually John A. Plott, son Little George, and brother Henry Vaughn "Von" Plott.

The Plott hound breed goes back to the mid-eighteenth century when Johannes "George" Plott immigrated to North Carolina in the 1750s from Germany. He brought with him five wild boar hunting dogs. One of George's sons, Henry Plott, received his father's pack and continued to raise and breed dogs for hunting when he moved to Haywood County (then Buncombe) around 1800. Henry passed his dogs to his son John T. Plott, who in turn passed his hounds to Montraville Plott. Montraville is credited with refining the breed for temperament and performance in the late nineteenth century, and with popularizing the breed in western North Carolina. Montraville was devoted to keeping a pure line; very rarely were the dogs crossed with outside breeds. Although he was strict in breeding, he was known to give dogs away literally by the sack full to people in the area and as far away as Georgia.⁷ The hunting ability and temperament of Montraville's dogs made the Plott hound popular with mountain families.

Two of his sons, John A. Plott and Henry Vaughn "Von" Plott continued to breed the dogs in the early twentieth century. John A. Plott moved to Kansas in the early 1900s, but returned to the valley and the John A. Plott House around 1920. John A. Plott, his son Little George, and Von Plott are credited with popularizing the breed nationwide with hunters leading up to and during World War II.⁸ John A. and Von are also known as two of the members of the "Big Five" of Plott hound breeders in the mid-twentieth century; however every pack owned by these men differed slightly due to their breeding. For example, Von was known to have more "hound-like" dogs when compared to John A. Plott's dogs.

⁷ Plott, *The Story of the Plott Hound: Strike and Stay*, 42.

⁸ *Ibid*, 82.



John A. Plott with Plott's Mack, sired by Smithdeal's Blue Joe, at the John A. Plott House.
Where John is standing is where the one-story stone addition is now located.
Photo Courtesy of Bob Plott.



Little George in front of the log shed at the John A. Plott House, late 1920s.
Photo Courtesy of Bob Plott.

John A. Plott raised and bred his dogs at the John A. Plott House in the early to mid-twentieth century. The Plott hounds were housed in individual dog houses along the house side of the creek, near where the one-lane road now runs. The dogs were chained to an overhead wire or to a post in the ground which allowed the dogs to freely drink from Plott Creek.⁹ His son, Little George, also lived in the house until his death in 1944, and was known as one of the most avid Plott hunters of the early twentieth century.¹⁰



John A. Plott and his second wife, Nora Edwards Plott, early 1940s.

John A. Plott House in background.

Photo Courtesy of Bob Plott.

The Plott hound began to gain attention as a result of John A. Plott's experimentation with the breed and the resulting dog's hunting abilities on national bear hunts. John A. bred his Plott hounds with dogs owned by Rolan Owens. Owens owned dogs that were the product of Montraville's 1884 experimentations of breeding Plott hounds to leopard hounds; Montraville was not satisfied with the crossing and gave the dogs to Owens. The breeding done by John A. Plott produced seven pups, four of which were leopard brindles. John A. and Little George kept three of the dogs; two were known as John Plott's Lep and Smithdeal's Blue Joe. These two dogs would go on to greatly impact the bloodlines of the modern day Plott hound.¹¹

⁹ Bob Plott, email to Kate Husband on November 8, 2012

¹⁰ Dale Brandenburger. "Plott Hound History," Plottdogs.com, originally published January 1983.

¹¹ Plott, *The Story of the Plott Hound: Strike and Stay*, 80.



John A. Plott (left) and Ed Lambert on the John A. Plott House property, late 1930s.
Smithdeal's Blue Joe and John Plott's Lep are the third and fourth dogs from the left.
Photo Courtesy of Bob Plott.



Licut. George E. Plott and his favorite dog, Joe

Little George with a Plott hound inside the John A. Plott House. North room of the main block.
Milwaukee Journal, February 27, 1941.

Little George sold part of his father's pack of dogs in the mid-1940s to Hack Smithdeal, a businessman and bearhunter that prized the Plott hound. After receiving the dogs, Smithdeal mated Smithdeal's Blue Joe, which produced a litter that included two dogs named John Plott's Mack and Smithdeal's Nigger. Smithdeal's Nigger excelled on a bear hunt in Michigan in 1946, which caught national attention.¹² There was a push by many Plott hound owners to have the breed formally recognized, and in that same year the breed was registered with the United Kennel Club. Plott hounds were soon valued nationwide and raised and bred by many hunters throughout the country.

Although many families and packs of Plott hounds were raised over the years, many with their own specific traits, the Plott hound line bred by the Plott Family was the driving force behind the breed's popularity. Due to its North Carolina history, the Plott hound became the official state dog in 1989 and is one of four dogs known to be of American origin.¹³ The Plott hound also has the distinction as the only breed that originated from North Carolina. The breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 2006, and in 2009, a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker was placed on Plott Creek Road (SR 1173) to commemorate the Plott hound and the breed's development in the Plott Valley.



Plott hounds at the John A. Plott House, December 1938.

The house, log shed, and spring house are all extant.

NC State Archives.

¹² Plott, *The Story of the Plott Hound: Strike and Stay*, 109.

¹³ Dave Tabler, "The Hound That Made the Plott Name a Legend," *Appalachian History*, January 26 2011. <http://www.appalachianhistory.net/2011/01/the-hound-that-made-the-plot-name-a-legend.html>

National Register Evaluation

The John A. Plott House retains historic integrity related to the development of the Plott hound by the Plott family in the early to mid-twentieth century. The John A. Plott House and related outbuildings retain high integrity of setting, location, association, and feeling. Integrity of design has been slightly compromised by the loss of some frame outbuildings. Integrity of materials and workmanship has been compromised by replacement of windows, siding, and interior elements of the main house and the apple barn.

The John A. Plott House is **eligible** for National Register listing under Criterion A, as it is associated with the development and rise in popularity of the Plott hound, the only dog breed known to have originated in North Carolina. The John A. Plott House and its associated outbuildings are a significant and intact property associated with breeding Plott hounds, especially the lineage produced by John A. Plott and his son Little George. Although the size of the property has diminished over time and the dog houses are no longer extant, the complex retains a high level of integrity in the setting, location, and feeling on the remaining acreage. The John A. Plott House is identifiable as the site where the dogs were bred and raised by John A. Plott and Little George.

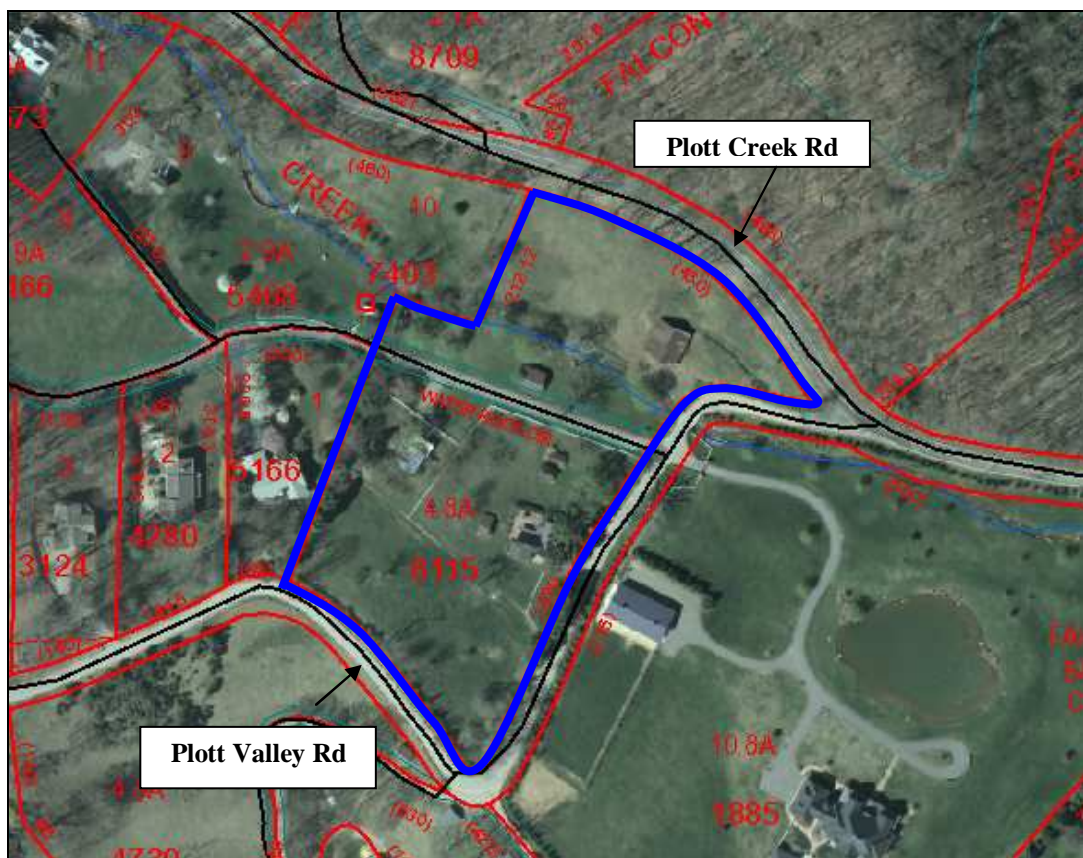
The John A. Plott House is **eligible** for National Register listing under Criterion B for its association with the Plott family, whose local influence led to the creek, valley, and mountain range receiving the family name. The Plotts, including John A. Plott and Little George, were influential in the breeding and popularity of Plott hounds, and the John A. Plott House is significant for its association with their specific development of the Plott hound bloodline.

The John A. Plott House is **not eligible** for National Register listing under Criterion C for Design/Construction, as the main house has undergone many alterations that compromise its historic integrity. The two-story frame I-House was a common building form in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the John A. Plott House is not an architecturally significant or intact example of the type. The loss of original features, such as six-over-six sash windows, siding, roof materials, and porch elements, and alterations to the center hall plan and loss of interior finishes, compromise the integrity of the house. This lack of integrity makes this house unable to meet architectural standards for the National Register.

The John A. Plott House is **not eligible** under Criterion D for Information Potential. It is not likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register Boundary for the John A. Plott House follows the current tax parcel lines (7695-72-8115), which contain 4.8 acres. The National Register boundary follows the right-of-way, or the maintained limits if no recorded right-of-way exists, along Plott Valley Road to the south and east, Plott Creek Road to the north, and the adjoining parcel lines to the west.



Proposed National Register Boundary for the John A. Plott House.

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