

Historic Structures Report Little Cataloochee, North Carolina



Jim Hannah Cabin
Will Messer Barn
Dan Cook Cabin and Apple House

Great Smoky Mountains National Park **1976**

cover: Little Cataloochee Baptist Church from the Southeast,
December 1937. Great Smoky Mountains National Park photo.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
LITTLE CATALOCHEE, NORTH CAROLINA
JIM HANNAH CABIN
WILL MESSER BARN
DAN COOK CABIN AND APPLE HOUSE
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

by

Roy Carroll
Raymond H. Pulley

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FOR
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE

JUNE 1976



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A report containing historical and architectural data on four structures and historical information on the three families who owned them was an ambitious undertaking. Its completion required the cooperative labor of a large number of people.

The authors acknowledge gratefully the contributions of Great Smoky Mountains National Park personnel. It was Edward L. Trout, Park Historian, who had the vision to conceive and initiate the project and the willingness to commit himself and his staff to its completion. His help, his knowledge, his patience, and his encouragement testify to the depth and intensity of his concern for historic preservation. Q. Boyd Evison, Park Superintendent, and Stanley G. Canter, Executive Secretary, saw the value of the project and gave it their approval and support. Tom Kloos, Park Ranger for the Cataloochee sub-district, responded enthusiastically to every request for help and information.

We also recognize the efforts of the Appalachian State University Field Team: Kent R. Cave, Thomas C. Robbins, and Norman Schaich, graduate students in history, rendered invaluable service with the field survey and the historical research; Joel S. Horton, an industrial arts major, did the field sketches and the architectural drawings. Fred Wilson provided the photographic enlargements, and Jewel Bentley helped with the preparation of maps and charts. Brenda Greene typed the manuscript, and Judith P. Pulley and Evelyn Shepherd assisted with editing and proofreading.

Various repositories and agencies in Waynesville, North Carolina, gave us valuable help: Floyd Fisher in the Soil Conservation Service provided aerial photos of the Cataloochee area; Charles Howell, Register of Deeds for Haywood County, and his staff were unfailingly gracious and courteous; as were Laura Woody Loftis and the staff at the Haywood County Library. Special thanks must go to Robert Massie, Vice-President of the Northwestern Bank, who graciously devoted an entire afternoon to getting us started in the right direction.

We are grateful above all, however, to those former Cataloochans, without whose help this report could not have been compiled: Mr. Jarvis Caldwell, Mrs. and Mrs. Mark E. Hannah, Mr. Robert Burgess, Mrs. Flora Messer Morrow, Mrs. and Mrs. Gudger Palmer, Mrs. Beatrice Burgess Sisk, Mr. Carl Woody, and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd W. Woody. They shared a wealth of information with us, and in every conversation they displayed that deep love and appreciation of home and heritage which only exiles can have.



I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA.

The administrative data for this report is to be supplied by the National Park Service.



HISTORICAL DATA

by

Raymond H. Pulley

Map. No. 1.

Little Cataloochee Area, Great Smoky Mountains
National Park.

Scale 1:24000.

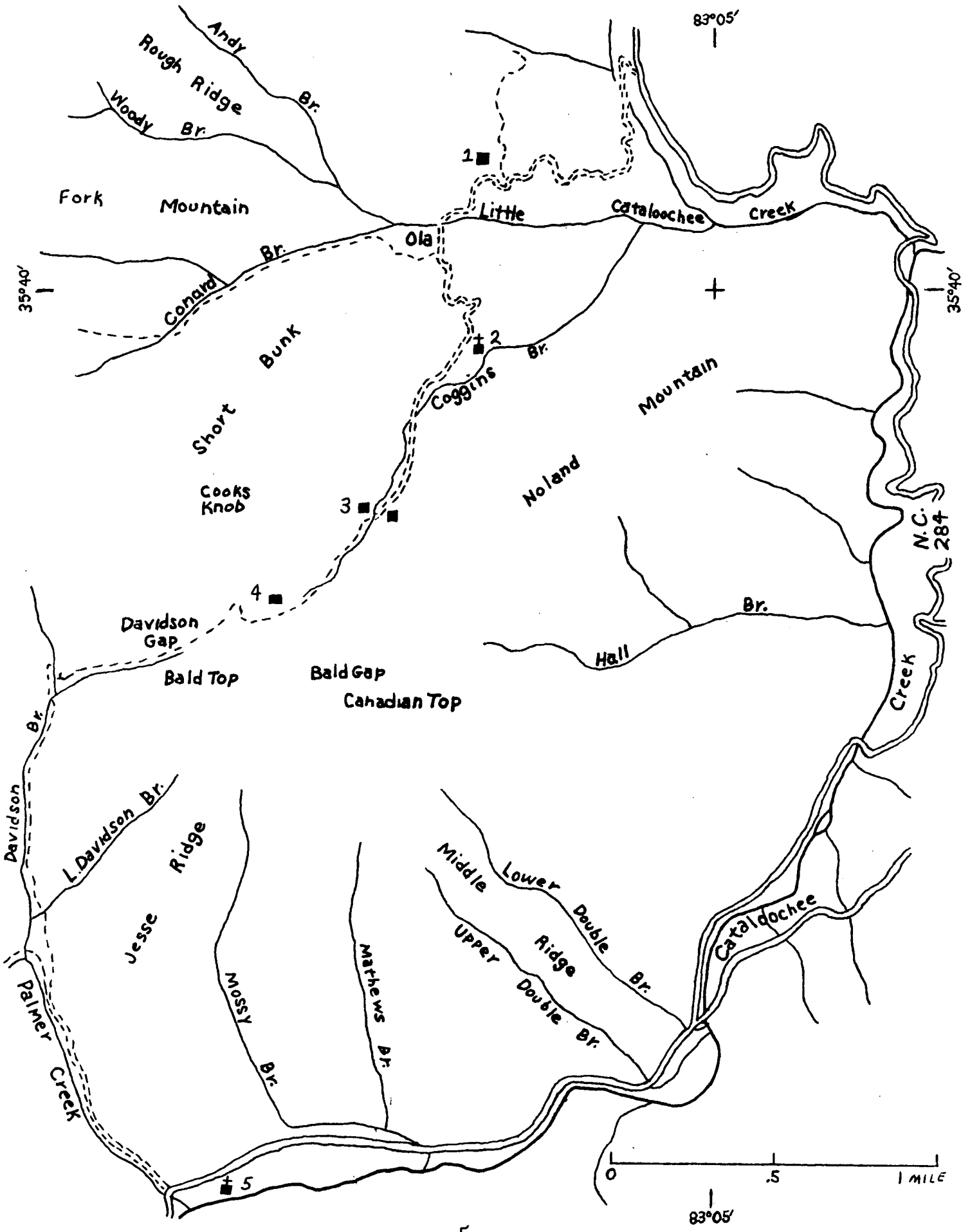
Jim Hannah Cabin: 1.

Little Cataloochee Baptist Church: 2.

Dan Cook Place: 3.

Will Messer Barn: 4.

Palmer's Chapel at Nellie: 5.



Map No. 2.

Plats of James A. Hannah and W. G. B. Messer Tracts
as Surveyed by W. N. Sloan, 1928.

W. G. B. Messer Tracts: 231, 231a, 231b, 231c.

John W. Burgess Tract: 234.

Ola School Lot: 250.

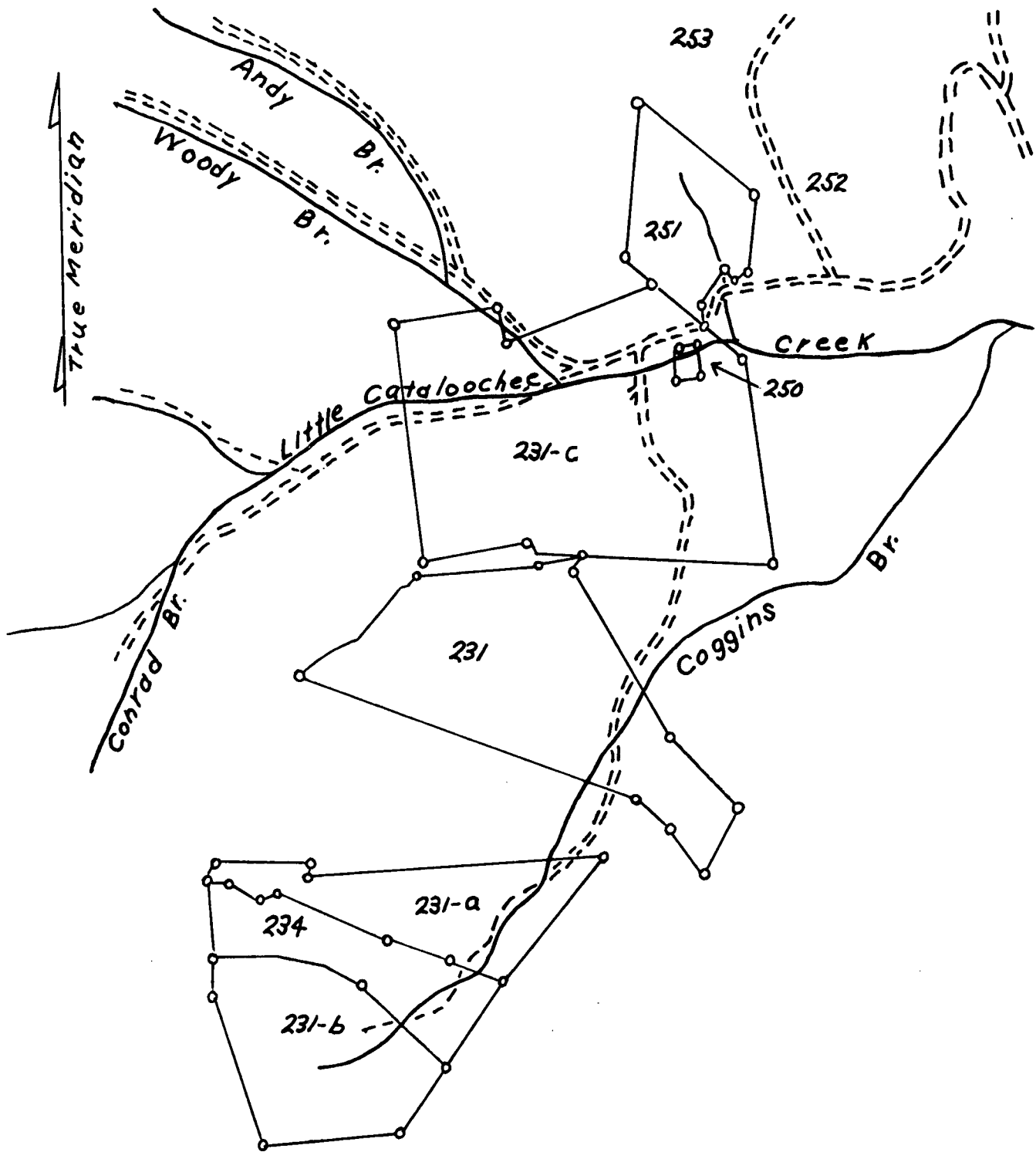
James A. Hannah Tract: 251.

James B. Hannah Tract: 252.

Mack W. Hannah Tract: 253.

Tracts 231a, 231b, and 234 constitute the original
Daniel J. Cook property.

All distances are expressed in chains of 66 feet.



SURVEY OF 1928
 SCALE 1"=20 CHAINS



II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. The Significance of Little Cataloochee

For nearly one hundred years a small community of unusual historic interest known as Little Cataloochee lay nestled in the Great Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina. The first white settlers moved into the area during the 1830's to carve out homesteads on the mountain slopes and meadows watered by Cataloochee creeks. Cabins and barns were built, farm lands were cleared, and within a short time a local economy based upon subsistence agriculture and apple orchards appeared. Life in Little Cataloochee flourished until the 1930's when the descendants of the area's pioneer families were evicted to make way for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

At the height of its development between 1890 and 1920, the Little Cataloochee settlement was inhabited by several extended family groups bearing the names Bennett, Burgess, Cook, Hall, Hannah, Messer, and Woody. Isolated from other populated areas by rugged mountain terrain, the families of Cataloochee formed a close-knit interdependent group. Intermarriage was common, and the families relied upon one another to sustain life and enterprise. After 1890 the linch pin of the Little Cataloochee community was Will Messer. As one of the most substantial landowners in the area, Messer inhabited the most impressive house in the community, cultivated several productive apple orchards, kept a store and a post office, operated a sawmill and a gristmill, supported school and church affairs, and frequently loaned money and tools to his neighbors.

After the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the National Park Service oversaw the removal of most of the houses, barns, and buildings in the area. A few structures identified as having historic significance were left intact. But over the years, owing to neglect and the lack of a consistent preservation policy, the standing structures deteriorated. By 1975 all that remained as a reminder of the Little Cataloochee community was the Jim Hannah cabin, the Will Messer barn, the ruins of the Dan Cook cabin and the Cook place apple house, and the Little Cataloochee Baptist Church. This report will trace the history of the Cook, Hannah, and Messer families, and present a detailed description of the Cook, Hannah, and Messer structures.

Prior to the nationalization of American affairs in the twentieth century under the impact of urbanization and industrialization,

the United States consisted of a series of loosely-connected "island communities."¹ Little Cataloochee was one such "island community." Consequently, historians in increasing numbers are coming to the realization that an examination of life at the community level offers a dramatic new perspective to the American story.² The study of local sources such as family records, oral traditions, and historic structures sheds new light upon basic questions concerning the evolution of characteristic institutions and values. Much can be learned about the fabric of community life, the organization of family affairs, the transmission of cultural values over a period of time, and the adjustment of people to a particular environment. Thus the study of Little Cataloochee and countless similar communities across the country assumes a place of considerable importance in the process of American history. The Cataloochee area is of particular importance since it affords an opportunity to trace the development cycle of a community from birth to death.

B. The Peopling of Little Cataloochee

The Cataloochee area is located in the northwestern portion of Haywood County, and is characterized by mountain slopes that rapidly rise from an elevation of 3000 feet to over 6000 feet. Abundant stands of Appalachian forest trees such as chestnut, oak, hemlock, poplar, and white pine cover the ridges and slopes. Scattered creek bottoms and mountain meadows offer the only arable land in the region, and it was in such places that pioneer settlers established their homes (see Fig. 1). Elsewhere the terrain is rough and unsuitable for agriculture. The region is divided into two distinct areas of settlement--Cataloochee and Little Cataloochee. The former, sometimes referred to locally as Big Cataloochee, follows the course of Cataloochee Creek from Nellie Ridge to the mouth of Little Cataloochee Creek; the latter is situated along Little Cataloochee Creek and its tributaries, especially Coggins Branch, Woody Branch, Andy Branch, Conrad Branch, and Dude Creek. The two Cataloochees are divided by Noland Mountain and are connected by a road that runs through Davidson Gap. This report focuses upon people who settled along Little Cataloochee Creek and Coggins Branch (see Map No. 1).

¹Robert H. Wiebe, The Search for Order, 1877-1920 (New York, 1967), pp. xiii-xiv.

²David J. Russo, Families and Communities: A New View of American History (Nashville, 1974), pp. 1-13.

As early as the 1790's settlements were established in the Haywood area. The county was organized from the western portion of Buncombe County in 1808, with Waynesville as the seat of local government. But owing to the extreme topography, Cataloochee was the last part of Haywood to be populated by white people. During the 1820's Cataloochee meadows near Bunk Mountain and Mt. Sterling were used as summer cattle pasture grounds by settlers living in the lower elevations of Haywood. Drovers and hunters built the first structures in the area.³ After 1834 most of northern Haywood County was owned by Colonel Robert Love, one of the founders of Waynesville. A veteran of the Revolutionary War, Love became involved in the complex web of land speculation in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee during the late 1780's. He frequently acted as an agent for John Gray Blount and other frontier land speculators. In 1824 he served as a member of the survey party that ran the boundary line between North Carolina and Tennessee.⁴ Gradually Love became one of the major property holders in the area, particularly after the collapse of Blount's ventures in the early 1800's.⁵ Love encouraged settlement in the Cataloochee region by allowing individuals to occupy tracts of land under bond for future payment. In some cases his terms for payment extended as long as twenty years.⁶

The first permanent Cataloochee homesteads were established during the 1830's. In 1836 Jimmie Caldwell and his son Levi settled in the area that became known as the Big Cataloochee community; by the 1840's his neighbors included George Palmer and Young Bennett. In 1839 Evan Hannah and his father-in-law, William Noland, migrated from the Fines Creek area of Haywood County. The homesteads established by these families became the heart of the Cataloochee settlements. During the 1850's the sons and daughters of Levi Caldwell, George Palmer, Young Bennett, and Evan Hannah began to migrate north

³John P. Arthur, Western North Carolina: A History from 1730 to 1913 (Raleigh, 1914), pp. 166, 335-36; W. Clark Medford, Land O'the Sky: History - Stories - Sketches (Waynesville, 1965), p. 12; and Robert H. Woody, "Cataloochee Homecoming," South Atlantic Quarterly, XLIX (January 1950), 8-17.

⁴Arthur, Western North Carolina, p. 138; and William C. Allen, The Annals of Haywood County North Carolina (n.p., 1935) pp. 107-13.

⁵See Love vs Wilbourne, 5 Iredell, N. C. Reports, p. 344; and Arthur, Western North Carolina, pp. 131, 137-38.

⁶Land Records, Haywood County, N. C. Courthouse.

and west into Little Cataloochee to establish their own homes. Between 1854 and 1860 homesteads were established on Palmer lands on Davidson Branch, and Daniel J. Cook and Creighton Bennett (Young Bennett's son) settled on adjoining tracts on Coggins Branch to the north of the Palmer lands over Davidson Gap. George L. ("Fate") Palmer, the son of George Palmer, Daniel Cook, and Creighton Bennett all married daughters of Levi Caldwell: Nancy Jane to Palmer, Harriet E. to Cook, and Louisa Matilda to Bennett. In addition, A. J. Vess, who married George Palmer's daughter Ruth, and John Jackson Hannah (Evan's son) moved to sites above the Bennetts on Little Cataloochee Creek. Thus by 1860 the peopling of Little Cataloochee was firmly underway.⁷

The Cataloochee settlements were large enough to organize as a township during the 1850's, and to establish a voting precinct. In 1870 there were 198 inhabitants in the township, and ten years later there were 391.⁹ By 1900 the population had grown to 764 people, occupying 136 dwellings. A majority of the inhabitants were native North Carolinians, but 116 were migrants from Tennessee, with single representatives from Indiana, Colorado, and Canada. Farming and farm laborer were the occupations most frequently listed for Cataloochee householders, but the area also included two dress-makers, one midwife, one grocer, one teamster, and one minister. About one-half of the householders were renters, reflecting a significant amount of tenant farming.¹⁰ Local tradition claims that Cataloochee frequently served as a haven for fugitives from the courts in North Carolina and Tennessee. If true, this factor may

⁷Tombstone Inscriptions, Caldwell Family Cemetery, Cataloochee, N. C., Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Early Marriage Bonds of Haywood County, 1808-1870, North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh; Deed Books, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse; and U. S. manuscript census schedules for Haywood County, N. C., for the years 1840, 1850, and 1860.

⁸Medford, Land O'the Sky, p. 13.

⁹U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census of the U. S., 1910: Population, 3:276.

¹⁰U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Manuscript Census Schedule, Twelfth Census of the U. S., 1900, Haywood County, N. C.

account for a portion of the population listed as renters.¹¹ In 1910, there were 1,251 people living in Cataloochee.¹²

The six-fold increase of the population of Cataloochee between 1870 and 1910 clearly indicates that the area was thriving. In Big Cataloochee, with its broad mountain meadows, farmers prospered by growing hay, corn, cattle, and a little Burley tobacco. After 1910 the economy of Little Cataloochee was stimulated by the introduction of apple orchards. The cattle and apple growers eventually derived substantial incomes furnishing supplies to the large lumbering camps that grew up in the area. At the time of the establishment of the Park, Cataloochee township had five post offices, several churches, and at least four schools.

The movement of people into Cataloochee has two plausible explanations. As an area rich in game such as deer, bear, and wild turkey, hunters naturally gravitated into the region in search of food and furs. A more powerful inducement leading people to permanent settlement in Cataloochee was the availability of cheap land. During the period prior to the Civil War, landholdings were becoming increasingly scarce in North Carolina. As farms in the piedmont area were passed through succeeding generations during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, fathers frequently were unable to provide all of their heirs with an adequate stake in life. Consequently, landless individuals were gradually driven into the more inaccessible regions of the Appalachians in search of a home.

The migration of the Hannah family through western North Carolina during the first half of the nineteenth century illustrates this process of movement. In 1806 Alexander Hannah and his family (along with his neighbor William Noland and family) moved from Wilkes County to a place on Fines Creek in what was to become Haywood County.¹³ In 1829 Alexander's son Evan married William Noland's daughter Elizabeth and established his home near Iron Duff in Haywood, but moved on to Cataloochee in 1839. About 1855 Evan's son John Jackson married Martha Ann Simmons and left his father's homestead in search of a place of his own. When John Jackson Hannah moved into Little Cataloochee in 1857, one of the

¹¹Interview with Floyd Woody, July 23, 1975. Mr. Woody grew up in the Big Cataloochee community and served as a deputy sheriff for several years.

¹²Thirteenth Census of the U. S., 1910: Population, 3:276.

¹³The Cataloochee landmarks Noland Mountain, Noland Branch, and Noland Gap were named for William Noland.

most remote and inaccessible area in the Great Smokies had been settled.¹⁴ Thus it can be said that families like the Hannahs were "pushed" by overcrowding and the partible division of landholdings into places like Cataloochee rather than "pulled" in by the natural magnetism of the area or by some inherent human characteristic.¹⁵

C. Daniel J. Cook and Family

Daniel J. Cook was one of the pioneer settlers in the Little Cataloochee area. Although little reliable information is available concerning his early life, it is known that he was born on April 21, 1831 in eastern Tennessee, probably in the area of Cosby. By the early 1850's he was in western North Carolina, and on July 25, 1854 he married Harriet E. Caldwell (or Colwell). Harriet was born on June 11, 1837, and was the daughter of Levi Caldwell of the Big Cataloochee settlement. About 1856 Daniel and Harriet settled on 100 acres of Love estate land on the upper portion of Coggins Branch. An additional 31 acres were purchased in 1885. The Cooks erected a log house which served as the family home for some fifty years.¹⁶

Dan Cook was primarily known in his community as a talented carpenter and cabinetmaker. He was an expert axman, and it is said that he cut the corners and hewed the logs and puncheons for several

¹⁴Marriage Bond between Evan Hannah and Elizabeth Noland, April 31, 1829, Early Marriage Bonds of Haywood County, 1808-1870, North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh; Deed of Trust between Robert Love and John Jackson Hannah, February 23, 1857, Deed Book Q, p. 91, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse; Deed between James R. Love and John Jackson Hannah, April 9, 1884, Ibid., p. 590; Allen, Annals, pp. 424-27.

¹⁵For a full treatment of this thesis see Kenneth Lockridge, "Land, Population, and the Evolution of New England Society, 1630-1790," Past and Present, XXXIX (1968), 62-80.

¹⁶Allen, Annals, p. 428; Transcript of interview with Lloyd Caldwell, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Archives, p. 30; Marriage Bond between Daniel J. Cook and Harriet Caldwell, July 24, 1854, Early Marriage Bonds of Haywood County, 1808-1870, North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N. C.; Deed between James R. Love Estate and D. J. Cook, October 22, 1877, Deed Book P, p. 5, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse; Deed between James R. Love Estate and D. J. Cook, April [?], 1885, Deed Book T, p. 331, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse.

of the best houses and barns in the area.¹⁷ Cook also made furniture of cherry wood, a material he much admired. Beatrice Burgess Sisk (Cook's granddaughter), who was frequently in the Cook home during her childhood, recalls that Dan made beautiful furniture decorated with intricate carvings. He provided his household with a corner cabinet of cherry adorned with a moon and star motif, as well as other pieces such as a dresser, a spindle bed, and several chairs. He also made most of the shoes worn by the family and, of course, was a subsistence farmer.¹⁸

Harriet Cook was an equally resourceful person. She wove cloth and made clothing, gathered and preserved food, and taught her children how to survive in the mountain environment by organizing food-gathering expeditions.¹⁹ A granddaughter recalls that Harriet Cook was "the sweetest woman you nearly ever knew."²⁰ Dan and Harriet were the parents of at least eight children.²¹

In 1891 Cook provided for the division of his property among three of his children. Rachel (who married Will Messer in 1894) received the homeplace, and promised to care for her father and mother for as long as they lived. Harrison R. and Hester, who

¹⁷Interview with Mark E. Hannah, July 30, 1975. Mr. Hannah grew up in the Little Cataloochee community, and for many years served in the GSMNP as a Park Ranger.

¹⁸Interview with Beatrice Burgess Sisk, September 12, 1975. Mrs. Sisk's mother (Hester Cook Burgess) was Daniel J. Cook's daughter. See Figure 2 of this report.

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Interview with Flora Messer Morrow, November 10, 1975. Mrs. Morrow's mother (Rachel Cook Messer) was Daniel J. Cook's daughter.

²¹The Dan Cook children included: Mary (b. 1856), Sarah (b. 1858), Joseph (b. 1860), Ragan (b. 1863), James (b. 1870), Harrison (b. 1872), Hester (b. 1875), and Rachel (b. 1876). This information was gathered from the manuscript census for Haywood County, N. C. for the years 1870, 1880, and 1900. The 1900 manuscript census states there were ten Cook children, but only eight can be identified from the existing records. Sarah Cook married Samuel Hall. Harrison was better known by his middle name, Riley.

married John Burgess in 1891, established their own households on the remainder of the Cook estate, but in 1895 Harrison R. Cook sold his property to Will and Rachel Messer and subsequently left Little Cataloochee.²² Harriet died of pneumonia on October 25, 1903, and Dan died of cancer on January 17, 1908.²³ Both were buried in the graveyard of the Little Cataloochee Baptist Church. Three of the Cooks' daughters, Hester B. Burgess, Rachel M. Messer, and Sarah, who married Samuel Hall, had eleven children each.

D. Chain of the Title for the Daniel J. Cook Property

According to the 1928 survey conducted for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park by W. N. Sloan, the Daniel J. Cook tracts consisted of 131.49 acres (see Map No. 2). Cook received deeds for his property from the Love estate on October 22, 1877 and April [?], 1885 (Deed Book P, p. 5, and Deed Book T, p. 331, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse).

On April 18, 1891 Daniel Cook divided his property among three of his children. Rachel Cook received 43.38 acres, including the homeplace house, although Daniel and Harriet retained use of the house "so long as either of them lives" (Deed Book 8, p. 163). This property passed to W. G. B. Messer upon his marriage to Rachel Cook in 1894 and remained in his ownership until the establishment of the Park. Messer constructed a large stone and wood apple house on this property about 1915. This portion of the Cook estate is identified as tract 231a in the 1928 Park survey and was taken by the North Carolina Park Commission on January 6, 1930 (Deed Book 81, pp. 83-84).

Hester Cook, who married John Burgess in 1891, received 35.25 acres (Deed Book 6, p. 333), and this property remained in the hands of the Burgess family until the establishment of the Park. This portion of the Cook estate is identified as tract 234 in the 1928 Park survey, and was taken by the North Carolina Park Commission in May 1929 (Deed Book 81, p. 28). Members of the Burgess family continued to occupy this property after 1929 by paying \$50 per year rent to the Park.

Harrison R. Cook received the third portion of the Cook estate, a tract of 52.86 acres (Deed Book 6, p. 331). On December 14, 1895

²²For deed citations, see section D of this report.

²³Flora Morrow Interview, Nov. 10, 1975; Tombstone Inscriptions, Little Cataloochee Baptist Church Cemetery, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

he sold his land to W. G. B. and Rachel Messer for the sum of \$350 (Deed Book 7, p. 301). This tract remained in Messer's ownership until the establishment of the Park and is identified as tract 231b. This, along with the other Messer property, was taken by the N. C. Park Commission on January 6, 1930 (Deed Book 81, pp. 83-84).

E. John Jackson Hannah and Family

Sometime during 1855 John Jackson Hannah left his father's place in Big Cataloochee to establish his own home on Little Cataloochee Creek. About the same time he married Martha Ann Simmons. Martha Ann was the daughter of Abe Simmons from Tennessee and Polly Jones, a native of Ireland.²⁴ This union produced 11 children.²⁵ Although a number of the children eventually left the homeplace, the Hannahs played a vital role in the development of the Little Cataloochee community down to the time of the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Two sons, James A. and Mack W., are of particular note, and Mack's son, Mark Hannah, served for a number of years as Ranger for the Cataloochee portion of the Park (see Figs. 4-5).

John Jackson Hannah established himself in a small cabin located on a site south of the existing Little Cataloochee road. Between 1857 and 1864 on high ground slightly north of the Little Cataloochee road he raised the log house that is one of the subjects of this report. Dan Cook probably helped hew logs and puncheons for the house.²⁶ In 1857 Hannah secured a bond for title to 100 acres of land valued at \$400 from the James R. Love estate. This obligation was retired on April 9, 1884. John Jackson's son Mack took title to land on the same day. The 1857

²⁴Death Certificate for Martha Ann Hannah, January 10, 1920, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse.

²⁵The children include Andrew Thomas (1857-1901), Mack W. (1859-1942), Mandy M. (1860-1863), Jane (b. 1860-62?), Margaret (b. 1864), Julia (b. 1855 or 1860?), Judie E. (1864-1937), Mila (b. 1874), A. Rhodeman (b. 1870), James A. (1871-1946), and William J. (b. 1868). This information was gathered from the manuscript census for Haywood County, N. C. for the years 1870, 1880, and 1900, and from the Hannah Family Cemetery in Little Cataloochee.

²⁶Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975. Mr. Hannah states that his father (Mack Hannah) recalled that the cabin was built when he was 5 years old. This would place the year of construction in 1864. Also see Hiram C. Wilburn, "The One-Room Log Cabin," Asheville Citizen-Democrat, 12 April 1953, sec. B, p. 7.

tract was divided between father and son, with Mack purchasing an adjacent tract as well.²⁷ Mack Hannah eventually developed one of the most productive apple orchards in Little Cataloochee.

John Jackson and Martha Hannah lived by subsistence farming. Hannah was a staunch Republican. His grandson, Mark, was named for the Ohio Republican senator of the same name, and during his childhood was known as "Senator." In his later years, John enjoyed sitting on a favorite spot on the porch so he could exchange "Republican news" with fellow partisans passing along the road below his home.²⁸ John and Martha were buried in the Hannah family cemetery in Little Cataloochee. The tombstones indicate that John Jackson was born on July 28, 1831, and died October 14, 1909; Martha Ann was born on August 20, 1833, and died January 10, 1920.²⁹

In 1893 John Jackson transferred his land, including the home-place, to James A. Hannah under the condition that the son "does take good care of the said John Hannah and wife M. A. Hannah [during] their life time."³⁰

James A. Hannah was born on June 22, 1871, and earned a living "by doing a little farming and working around for others, his specialty was cutting timber for sawmills."³¹ He was an expert at searching out bee trees and had the ability to course bees into hives for the purpose of producing honey.³² Hannah also frequently rented a portion of his land to other farmers in the area.³³ He

²⁷Deed of Trust between James R. Love Estate and John J. Hannah, February 2, 1857, Deed Book Q, p. 91; Deed between James R. Love Estate and John J. Hannah, April 9, 1884, Deed Book Q, p. 590; Deed between James R. Love Estate and Mack W. Hannah, April 9, 1884, Deed Book S, p. 270, all in Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse.

²⁸Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

²⁹Hannah Family Cemetery, Little Cataloochee, N. C., Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

³⁰Deed between James A. Hannah and John J. Hannah, September 23, 1893, Deed Book 5, p. 491, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse.

³¹Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

³²Woody, "Cataloochee Homecoming," p. 13.

³³Beatrice Sisk Interview, September 12, 1975.

served for many years as the local justice of the peace and regularly taught a Sunday school class at the Little Cataloochee Baptist Church. He carried the mail between Big and Little Cataloochee for many years. James was a large man, slightly over six feet tall, and for many years he was affectionately called "Uncle Jim" by everyone in the community.³⁴

James married Margaret Melissa Coggins on December 24, 1893. Melissa was born about 1877 and was the daughter of David Coggins (1845-1916) of Cosby, Tennessee.³⁵ This union produced 5 children.³⁶ Melissa was a self-reliant woman who tended the milch cow, the chickens, and bee gums that were kept in the yard around the house. She enjoyed leading the singing at the church and is said to have possessed an alto voice that could "make the hair raise on your head."³⁷

On October 25, 1924, James A. sold his property to his older brother William J. Hannah for \$1000, a transaction arranged to provide James with some needed funds and to keep the property in the family.³⁸ James and Melissa retained a lifetime right to the use of the property.³⁹ William had left Cataloochee as a young man and had secured an education at Wake Forest College and the University of North Carolina law school. After service as a Captain in the U. S. Army during the Spanish-American War, he settled in Waynesville to practice law. He bought and sold several pieces of property in the Cataloochee area, and he frequently loaned money to people in the area.⁴⁰ James and Melissa remained

³⁴Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975; Woody, "Cataloochee Homecoming," p. 13.

³⁵Coggins was an in-law who resided in the George Bennett household. Coggins Branch bears his name and he is buried in the cemetery at the Little Cataloochee Baptist Church.

³⁶The James A. Hannah children were: twins John M. and Milia E. (1895-1901), Laura (b. 1896), Roy (b. 1897), and Albert (b. 1898). All are now deceased. Mark Hannah Interviews, July 30, 1975 and September 12, 1975.

³⁷Floyd Woody Interview, Sept. 12, 1975.

³⁸Mark Hannah Interview, April 29, 1976.

³⁹Deed between James A. and William J. Hannah, October 25, 1924, Deed Book 67, p. 533, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse.

⁴⁰Land Records, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse; and Allen, Annals, pp. 429-30.

at the homeplace until 1935, when the property was finally taken by the North Carolina Park Commission. At that time they moved to a home at Dellwood in Haywood County.⁴¹ James died on August 25, 1946 and was buried in the family's Little Cataloochee cemetery; Melissa died sometime during the 1940's and her place of burial is unknown.⁴²

When the state of North Carolina began to acquire property for the establishment of the Park, the Hannahs and several of their neighbors refused to give up their land and the matter was settled in court. The case was tried June 23-29, 1931, in Buncombe County Superior Court in Asheville. Various friendly witnesses testified that the James A. Hannah place contained "good productive land when cultivated," and possessed "a right smart little [apple] orchard" growing on "good, warm, rich land." A witness for the state, however, stated that the place was rather neglected: the "buildings poor, land grown up, and the wood land cut over." The cabin was valued at \$250.⁴³ As a result of the suit, the original \$1,260 offered for the property was raised to a final purchase price of \$1,650.⁴⁴

The Hannah family group, in terms of land holdings and size of family, composed one of the largest extended families in Little Cataloochee. They were active in community and church affairs and frequently came to the aid of their neighbors in time of trial. Elizabeth Noland Hannah (John Jackson's mother) served the community for many years as a midwife (or granny woman). And the men of the family could always be relied upon to participate in house raisings.

At the time of the establishment of the Park, the original Hannah property in Little Cataloochee was occupied by three of John Jackson's descendants: James A. (son), Mack W. (son), and

⁴¹Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

⁴²Hannah Family Cemetery, Little Cataloochee, N. C., Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

⁴³Transcript of State of North Carolina, Petitioners, vs. D. J. Caldwell, et.al. and John Heilman, et.al., 3 vols., in GSMNP Archives, Gatlinburg, Tenn. See I, 147-49, and III, 493.

⁴⁴Albert H. Blake, comp., North Carolina Park Commission Complete Report submitted to Governor Clyde R. Hoey, December 31, 1939 (Raleigh, N. C., 1939), p. 20.

James B. (grandson). The Mack Hannah farm with its well-tended orchard was the best developed of the family's holdings. As further land division became impractical, many members of the family moved out of the area to seek a place in life elsewhere. Those who left, however, remained in close contact with family and friends. William J. (son), after establishing himself as a successful lawyer in Waynesville, frequently attended to family affairs in Little Cataloochee and contributed to the community by donating a fine bell to the Little Cataloochee Baptist Church. The identification of the Hannahs with the area continued after the establishment of the Park through the long service of Mark Hannah (grandson) as a Ranger. Moreover, Hannah family members still attend the annual reunion of the Little Cataloochee Baptist Church held during the month of June.⁴⁵

F. Chain of Title for the John Jackson Hannah Property

John Jackson Hannah acquired a deed of trust from the James R. Love estate on February 23, 1857 for "one hundred acres of land, to include the improvements where on he is now living," and promised to pay \$400 for the property (Deed Book Q, p. 91, Haywood County, N. C. Courthouse). The debt was retired on April 9, 1884, and Hannah received a deed of title to his land (Deed Book Q, p. 590). Also on April 9, 1884, a portion of the original John Jackson Hannah tract (about 50 acres) was acquired by his son Mack W. Hannah, and this, along with other property Mack acquired from the James R. Love estate (April 9, 1884, Deed Book S, p. 270), is identified as tract 253 in the 1928 Park survey and consisted of 152.06 acres.

On September 29, 1893 John Jackson Hannah gave his land and homeplace house "as a free gift" to his son James A. on condition that the son "does take good care of said John Hannah and wife M. A. Hannah during their life time" (Deed Book 5, p. 491). In 1907 James A. donated a small parcel of land to the county Board of Education, but this property was returned to Hannah on July 5, 1927 (Deed Book 75, p. 203). On August 10, 1920 James A. sold 5 acres "more or less" to James B. Hannah (a nephew) for \$100 (Deed Book 55, p. 597). This 5-acre plot became a part of the James B. Hannah property that was acquired by the Park in 1930, and is identified as tract 252 (51.54 acres) in the 1928 survey.

On October 25, 1924 James A. sold the homeplace of 50 acres "more or less" to his older brother William J. Hannah for \$1000.

⁴⁵Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

James A. retained "the right to live upon the same and use the same for farming purposes and use such wood and timber as may be necessary for firewood and to keep up the fences and buildings...." (Deed Book 67, p. 533). This property is identified as tract 251 in the 1928 Park survey and consisted of 34.44 acres, and was taken by the North Carolina Park Commission in 1930 (see Map No. 2). However, under an arrangement with the Park, James A. and Melissa Hannah continued to live on this property until sometime during 1935.

G. William (Will) G. B. Messer and Family

At the time of the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, William G. B. Messer was by far the most prominent member of the Little Cataloochee Community. He owned the most property, operated several service businesses, and was a leader in educational and church affairs. Through marriage, his family ties extended into the Dan Cook family, the John Jackson Hannah family, and other family groups in the area. As a man of considerable native talent and curiosity, he brought many innovations to the community. His remarkable energy and leadership qualities seem to have infused the entire community. After his passing, Will Messer was remembered as a man who was constantly in motion tending his crops, building something, or tinkering to find a solution to some problem that was on his mind.

Will Messer's ancestors appeared in Haywood County during the first half of the nineteenth century. His grandfather, Daniel A., lived in the Fines Creek area. His parents, Elijah M. (1844-1936) and Christina M. (1847-1883), bought Love estate land and moved into Cataloochee during the 1870's.⁴⁶ Surviving residents of the area remember Elijah as someone who had "always been there." He apparently loved books and had enough interest in the "outside world" to maintain a subscription to the Atlanta Constitution and other newspapers. The elder Messer was an expert axman, cornerman, and stonemason, and had a reputation as one of the best fiddle players in the region.⁴⁷ Will certainly inherited his father's alertness and curiosity.

Will Messer was born on April 28, 1870, and became a part of the Little Cataloochee community on February 11, 1894 when he married Dan Cook's daughter Rachel (see Fig. 6). Will and Rachel

⁴⁶U. S. manuscript census schedules for Haywood County, N. C., for the years 1850 and 1870, and Palmer Family Cemetery, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

⁴⁷Interviews with Gudger Palmer and Jarvis Caldwell, April 29, 1976.

moved in with the bride's parents, and the Messers' first child, Flora, was born in the Cook house.⁴⁸ The couple became the parents of eleven children, ten girls and one boy.⁴⁹ Will took great pride in his large family, and frequently liked to boast that he had "ten daughters and everyone of them's got a brother."⁵⁰ The marriage of his daughters into the Hannah and Palmer families extended Will's connections throughout the Cataloochee settlements (see Fig. 7).

Will and Rachel built their own log home on the upper portion of the Cook estate which they purchased from her brother Harrison R. on December 14, 1895 for \$350. The house had one of the finest stone chimneys to be seen in the area (see Fig. 8). Messer added a barn, an apple house, and a spring house to this property. The apple house was later removed and reconstructed by Park personnel at the Oconaluftee Pioneer Farmstead near Cherokee, N. C. Dan Cook continued to occupy the old homeplace until his death in 1908. From Cook's passing until the establishment of the Park, the old homeplace was occupied by tenants employed by Will Messer.⁵¹

Messer moved his family again sometime after 1905, when he purchased a 100-acre tract on Little Cataloochee Creek from J. C. Correll. This property was previously owned by A. J. Vess, one of the pioneer settlers in Little Cataloochee, and adjoined the southern boundary of the John Jackson Hannah estate.⁵² The Messers occupied a house that had been built by Correll until a new dwelling

⁴⁸Flora Morrow Interview, Nov. 10, 1975.

⁴⁹The Messer children included: Flora (b. 1895), Loretta (1897-1920), Eva (b. 1899), William M. (1902-52), Ollie (1904-20), Viola (b. 1904), Verda (b. 1909), Eula (?), Vera (b. 1914), Rowena (b. 1917), and Viena (1917-18). Loretta and Ollie died within days of each other in a flu epidemic that swept Cataloochee in 1920. U. S. manuscript census for Haywood County, N. C. for the year 1900; Interview with Verda Messer Hannah, July 29, 1975; and Tombstone Inscriptions, Little Cataloochee Baptist Church Cemetery, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

⁵⁰Flora Morrow Interview, Nov. 10, 1975.

⁵¹Deed between H. R. Cook and W. G. B. & Rachel Messer, December 14, 1895, Deed Book 7, p. 301, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse; Flora Morrow Interview, Nov. 10, 1975; and Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

⁵²Deed between J. C. Correll and W. G. B. Messer, November 1, 1905, Deed Book 23, p. 267, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse.

was completed about 1910. The new house was the largest and finest structure in Little Cataloochee. It contained eleven rooms, had hot and cold water, and was illuminated by an acetylene lighting system. On this portion of his property Will developed several barns and mills, a general store and post office (Correll's old house), a blacksmith shop, and several other structures. The post office was given the name Ola, after the Messers' daughter Viola.⁵³ The house and all of the other structures were later removed by the Park Service, and are therefore not a part of the technical portion of this report (see Figs. 9-11).

The construction of Messer's "big house" on Little Cataloochee Creek marked his arrival as the most prosperous and industrious citizen in the community. Between 1894 and 1915 he acquired several houses and some 340 acres of the best land in the area. He farmed, raising subsistence crops, corn and perhaps some tobacco, as well as cattle, hogs, sheep, and horses. With the aid of his family and tenant labor, he developed three highly productive apple orchards, established a furnishing store and post office for the community, and installed a sawmill, a canemill, and a gristmill. Messer operated his gristmill on Saturdays. He charged one gallon of corn out of eight ground as his toll. The toll corn was then frequently sold to renters and tenants in the area.⁵⁴

Messer eventually became something of a businessman and banker. He acquired a store and other property in Newport, Tennessee, and he frequently loaned money-at-interest and made deed-of-trust arrangements with his neighbors. He established a cattle scale and a small stockyard near the old Cook homeplace. He charged 5¢ to 10¢ per head to weigh cattle, and he purchased stock which he marketed in Tennessee and at various lumbering camps in the area. Finally, Messer was an undertaker (of sorts), since he made and sold most of the coffins used in the area. He saved the finest lumber that he collected for coffins, and Rachel sewed the linings. A coffin normally sold for seven dollars but was provided without charge to impoverished neighbors.⁵⁵

Will Messer was a true jack-of-all-trades who could "make anything he wanted out of iron or wood."⁵⁶ A niece recalls that he

⁵³Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

⁵⁴Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975; and Floyd Woody Interview, July 23, 1975.

⁵⁵Land Records, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse; Flora Morrow Interview, Nov. 10, 1975; and Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

⁵⁶Carl Woody Interview, September 12, 1975. Mr. Woody was born in the Cataloochee area, and presently lives in the Little East Fork community near Canton, N. C.

was a "well-read, very intelligent, money-making man," and that "everything he touched turned to money."⁵⁷ Messer's inventiveness was constantly challenged by the rugged mountain environment, but he worked incessantly to improve his surroundings. At the time of the construction of his "big house" on Little Cataloochee Creek, he devised a cutting machine to speed up the process of making shingles for the roof. Dissatisfied with the unreliable nature of water power, he bought a steam engine to run his sawmill and a gasoline engine to turn his gristmill.⁵⁸ A neighbor recalls that Messer could cut a thousand feet of lumber a day by himself.⁵⁹ And he owned the first touring car and pickup truck to appear in Little Cataloochee.⁶⁰ In other words, Messer was a willing participant in the adoption of the many technological and mechanical changes that transformed American life during the early twentieth century.

Even though he was a shrewd businessman, Messer's drive to make money was tempered by the needs of his community. He is said to have been "helpful, generous, and honest." He extended credit in his store, often carrying a neighbor's account for as long as twelve months. He accepted eggs and honey in trade for coffee, sugar, salt, and other needed "store-bought" supplies.⁶¹ Children frequently earned money by bringing in harvests of nuts and berries. Messer also contributed his time and money to the building and maintenance of the Little Cataloochee Baptist Church, and he and his neighbors frequently made contributions to pay the salary of the community's school teacher. Messer was a supporter of the Republican party, but politics played only a minor role in the affairs of Little Cataloochee.⁶²

Apples were the real source of Will Messer's prosperity. Indeed, the introduction of apple growing into the area around the turn of the century transformed the economic and social framework of Little Cataloochee. After the development of the orchards,

⁵⁷ Beatrice Sisk Interview, Sept. 12, 1975.

⁵⁸ Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

⁵⁹ Carl Woody Interview, Sept. 12, 1975.

⁶⁰ Flora Morrow Interview, Nov. 10, 1975.

⁶¹ Carl Woody Interview, Sept. 12, 1975.

⁶² Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975, and Beatrice Sisk Interview, Sept. 12, 1975.

the area ceased to be an isolated backwoods subsistence farming community with few ties to the outside world. The income derived from apples permitted the growers to purchase manufactured goods in Newport and Cosby, Tennessee, in Waynesville on the North Carolina side, and from mail order houses such as Sears and Roebuck. In addition, the money flowing through the community led to an improvement of educational and religious facilities. Thus at the time of the establishment of the Park, Little Cataloochee was not the stereotypical stagnant mountaineer settlement, but a vital and growing community.

Apple growing for commercial purposes was introduced into the Coggins Branch - Little Cataloochee Creek area by Will Messer and his neighbors, John Burgess and Mack Hannah. Messer and Burgess were brothers-in-law, and Hannah, of course, was a close friend and father of Messer's son-in-law, Mark Hannah. The growers acquired many of their apple trees from the Stark Brothers Nurseries in Missouri. Species grown included the Stark Red Delicious, Stark Golden Delicious, Winesaps, Staymans, Jonathans, and the Black Hoover (which did not sell after the onslaught of the Great Depression). About 1915 Messer constructed an unusually large stone and wood apple house on a site across the road from the original Dan Cook homeplace. This structure played a considerable role in the collection and storage of apples produced by the rapidly expanding orchards in the community.⁶³

During the harvest season running from about September 15 through early November, apples were gathered and graded in bins and barrels inside the storage houses. The entire community participated. The wives and small children were kept busy cooking food and feeding the extra hands that were brought in to help collect the crop. In addition, meals had to be prepared for the buyers and teamsters who came into the area to load apples. During the winter and spring, Messer and the other growers sold apples for 50¢ to \$1.50 per bushel in markets in Tennessee and to the lumbering camps at Crestmont, Sunburst, and Mt. Sterling. A portion of the crop was probably turned into brandy, since a neighbor named Braz Whaley possessed a distiller's license.⁶⁴

⁶³Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975; Floyd Woody Interview, July 23, 1975; and Beatrice Sisk Interview, Sept. 12, 1975.

⁶⁴Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975, and Floyd Woody Interview, July 23, 1975.

At the time of the establishment of the Park, Messer stated that his apple crop brought in between \$500 and \$3000 per year, with \$2000 being the average.⁶⁵ The Burgess orchard produced about 1800 bushels per year.⁶⁶ Additional income was earned by selling supplies to the area's lumbering camps. Large amounts of butter, vegetables, meat, cider, honey, and syrup were needed to feed the hands working in the camps.⁶⁷

Surviving members of the Little Cataloochee community recall that the Messers enjoyed a close and productive family life. Rachel Messer managed her large household in an efficient manner and maintained a reputation as an unexcelled cook. A daughter stated that Will and Rachel wanted their children to be "the best dressed and best taken care of, of any children in the community." At Christmas and at Easter Will insisted that his family be provided with new clothing. The marriage of the Messer's oldest daughter Flora to Charles Morrow in 1916 was turned into an occasion long remembered by area residents (see Fig. 12). "Everyone was invited," and a chef was brought in from Knoxville to prepare the wedding feast. After the reception, the bride and groom were taken to Waynesville for the honeymoon in a hired four-horse surrey.⁶⁸

The Messer family worked hard, but ordinary tasks were often turned into social occasions. House-building was undertaken as a community project, accompanied by a large feed for all concerned. At harvest time corn-shucking parties were organized and bashful girls secretly hoped a boyfriend would discover the prized "red ear" which was rewarded with a kiss. Courting couples often enjoyed going possum-hunting at night, chaperoned by older married friends. And children learned necessary tasks by being taken on expeditions to search for nuts, berries, and wild bee trees.⁶⁹ Flora Messer Morrow recalls that "we [children] did our share of the work," but

⁶⁵ Transcript of State of N. C., Petitioners, vs D. J. Caldwell, et.al., and John Heilman, et.al., vol. I, passim. Messer offered testimony concerning the Hannah family property at the trial.

⁶⁶ Beatrice Sisk Interview, Sept. 12, 1975.

⁶⁷ Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

⁶⁸ Flora Morrow Interview, Nov. 10, 1975.

⁶⁹ Beatrice Sisk Interview, Sept. 12, 1975, and Flora Morrow Interview, Nov. 11, 1975.

"we was considered good livers."⁷⁰ Mark Hannah states that children "didn't get too small to work at Mr. Messer's house."⁷¹

The way of life known by the Messers and the other families residing along Coggins Branch and Little Cataloochee Creek was brought to an abrupt end during the late 1920's and early 1930's by the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Will Messer accepted the \$35,405 offered to him for his property in a condemnation settlement.⁷² With more than a touch of bitterness, Messer declared that he had the best place in Cataloochee, but received no "more than half the value." "I have tried it out," he stated, "and find I couldn't buy that sort of place for double the money. With fences and grass and everything, I was robbed out of \$35,000 clear dollars." Messer accepted the Commission's offer because he did not want to go to court and "take a chance with a picked jury [since] you never can tell who anybody is going to marry or what a jury will do."⁷³

Between 1930 and 1934 Messer gradually moved his family and household to Caldwell County, North Carolina. He purchased 1208 acres of land in Happy Valley in the Patterson community. A portion of his new property had once been owned by the Revolutionary War hero, General William Lenoir.⁷⁴ For the remainder of his life Messer continued to farm and operate a general store. Upon leaving Little Cataloochee, Messer removed his tools and machinery to his new home, but the "big house" was dismantled, sold, and used in the construction of three houses outside of the park area.⁷⁵

Characteristically, Messer died at work. On December 4, 1946, he was found dead in a corn crib where he had been preparing feed for his cows.⁷⁶ His widow, Rachel, died on August 4, 1964. Will

⁷⁰Flora Morrow Interview, Nov. 10, 1975.

⁷¹Mark Hannah Interview, Sept. 12, 1975.

⁷²Blake, North Carolina Park Commission Complete Report, p. 20.

⁷³Transcript of State of N. C., Petitioners, vs D. J. Caldwell, et.al., and John Heilman, et.al., vol. I, passim.

⁷⁴Messer purchased his property in Caldwell County on March 31, 1930. See Deed Book 144, pp. 568-70, and Deed Book 148, p. 22, Caldwell County, N. C., Courthouse.

⁷⁵Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

⁷⁶Beatrice Sisk Interview, Sept. 12, 1975.

and Rachel Messer were buried in the cemetery of the Piney Grove Baptist Church near the Patterson community. Their epitaph reads: "We shall meet again."⁷⁷

Today the site that was once occupied by Messer's "big house" is marked by a large hemlock tree which Will planted in his yard years ago. The National Park Service leased the Messer orchards to Mark Hannah for a number of years after 1930, and for this reason the apple house on the Dan Cook place and the barn on the "upper place" were allowed to stand as reminders of what had passed in Little Cataloochee.⁷⁸

H. Chain of Title for the William (Will) G. B. Messer Property

At the time of the establishment of the Park, the Will Messer property in Little Cataloochee consisted of 343.32 acres of land identified as tracts 231, 231a, 231b, and 231c in the 1928 survey (see Map No. 2). Messer accepted \$35,405 for his holdings from the North Carolina Park Commission on January 6, 1930 (Deed Book 81, pp. 83-84, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse). This settlement included value of land, buildings, and improvements.

The Cook cabin and the commercial apple house were located on tract 231a (43.38 acres), and the Will Messer barn on the "upper place" is located on tract 231b (52.86 acres). Will and Rachel Messer acquired these parcels of land from the Cook family as outlined in the Dan Cook chain of title (see Section D above).

Beyond the former Cook tracts, Will and Rachel Messer owned 247.09 acres of additional holdings in Little Cataloochee identified as tracts 231 and 231c in the Park survey. The "big house" at Ola was located on tract 231c. Messer acquired most of the Ola property, described at the time of purchase as 123.5 acres "more or less," from J. C. Correll on November 1, 1905, for \$1300 (Deed Book 23, p. 26), and the remainder, described as 50 acres "more or less," for something over \$456.42 from the Love estate trustees on July 1, 1912, after Correll had apparently defaulted on a bond, (Deed Book 35, p. 525); Correll had obtained the holdings from L. A. Hopkins about 1884 (Deed Book 35, p. 525); Hopkins acquired the land from A. J. Vess for \$94 "as balance of account on settlement" on September 20, 1870 (Deed Book K, p. 391); Vess purchased the property from the Love estate on January 3, 1853 for \$200 (Deed Book I, p. 229).

⁷⁷Tombstone Inscriptions, Piney Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Caldwell County, N. C.

⁷⁸Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

Messer bought tract 231, described at the time of purchase as 103.5 acres "more or less," from Andy C. Bennett on October 20, 1915, for \$2410 (Deed Book 78, p. 43); Bennett acquired the property from the Love estate on May 28, 1872, for \$200 (Deed Book K, p. 437). All of the structures located on tracts 231 and 231c were removed by Park Service personnel sometime after 1935.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1.

Coggins Branch looking southwest from
Little Cataloochee Baptist Church, August 1938.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

Figure 2.

Hester Cook Burgess, daughter of Daniel J.
and Harriet Cook, date unknown.

Courtesy of Beatrice Sisk.



Figure 3.

Samuel and Sarah Cook Hall, date unknown.

Courtesy of Beatrice Sisk.

Figure 4.

James A. and Melissa Hannah,
October 1935.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

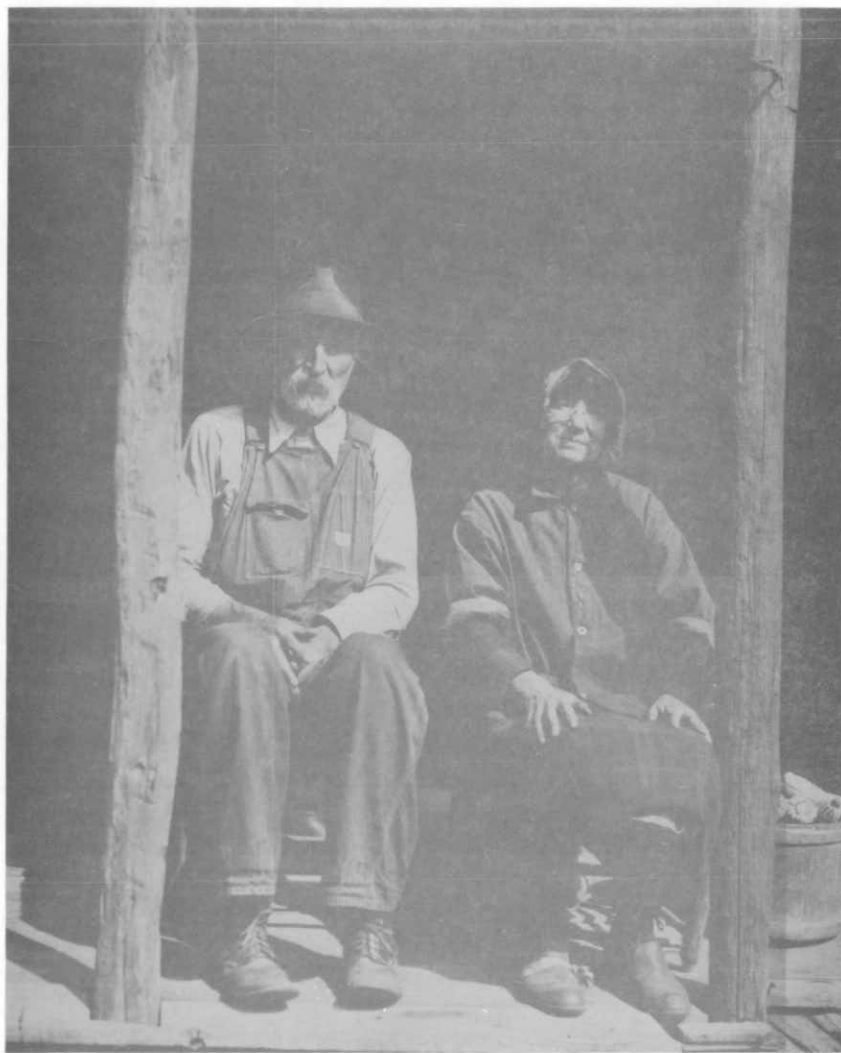


Figure 5.

Mack W. Hannah, son of James A.
and Melissa, October 1935.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

Figure 6.

William G. B. and Rachel Cook Messer,
date unknown.

Courtesy of Mark and Verda Hannah.



Figure 7.

Ollie, Verda, and Viola Messer,
daughters of Will and Rachel,
date unknown.

Courtesy of Beatrice Sisk.

Figure 8.

Log House on Will Messer Upper Place,
from the northwest, June 1935.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.



Figure 9.

The Big House built by Will Messer
at Ola, date unknown.

Courtesy of Beatrice Sisk.

Figure 10.

Will Messer Store at Ola, from the
southeast, December 1937.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.



Figure 11.

Will Messer's largest barn at Ola,
from the southwest, December 1937.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

Figure 12.

Charles and Flora Messer Morrow,
July 1915.

Courtesy of Beatrice Sisk.





APPENDICES



APPENDIX A

MARRIAGE BOND FOR EVAN HANNAH AND ELIZABETH NOLAND

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we Evan Hannah and David Carver
are jointly and severally held and firmly bound unto John Owen Esq.
Governor, and his successors in office, for the time being, in the
sum of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS: to the payment of which well and
truely to be made and done, we bind ourselves and each of us our
heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally, firmly
by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated the 31st day
[sic] of April A. D. 1829.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the
above bounden Evan Hannah hath the day of the date hereof, applied
for and obtained a license to intermarry with Elizabeth Noland NOW
if there be no lawful impediment to obstruct said marriage, then
the above obligation to be void and of none effect, or otherwise
to remain in full force and virtue.

attest

(signed) Rob. Deaver

(his mark) Evan Hannah /seal/
(his mark) David Carver /seal/

Early Marriage Bonds of Haywood County, 1808-1870, North Carolina
Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N. C.



APPENDIX B

MARRIAGE BOND AND LICENSE
FOR
DANIEL J. COOK AND HARRIET E. COLWELL

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Haywood County.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we Daniel J. Cook and James Williamson in the State aforesaid, are held and firmly bound to the State of North Carolina, in the just and full sum of FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS, current money of the State, to the which payment well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators. Sealed with our seals and dated this 24th day of July A. D., 1854.

THE CONDITION OF THE OBLIGATION is such, That whereas, the above bounden Daniel J. Cook hath made application for a License for Marriage, to be celebrated between him and Harriet E. Colwell of the county aforesaid: Nor in case it shall appear, hereafter, that there is any lawful cause to obstruct said marriage, the above obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

SIGNED, AND DELIVERED
IN PRESENCE OF

(signed) George Williamson

(signed) Danl. J. Cook /seal/
(signed) James Williamson /seal/

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

Haywood County.

TO ANY REGULAR MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL, HAVING THE CARE OF SOULS, OF WHATEVER DENOMINATION - OR TO ANY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OF SAID COUNTY:

YOU, or either of you, are hereby LICENSED AND AUTHORIZED to celebrate and solemnize the RITES OF MATRIMONY between Daniel J. Cook and Harriet E. Colwell join them together as MAN AND WIFE.

WITNESS, William M Rhea Clerk of Haywood County Court, at the 24th day of July A. D., 1854.

(signed) Wm M Rhea, Clk.

Early Marriage Bonds, Haywood County, 1808-1870, North Carolina
Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N. C.



APPENDIX C

DEED OF TRUST BETWEEN J. R. LOVE AND JOHN J. HANNAH

Know all men by these presents that I, J. R. Love, surviving partner of R. Love decd am held and firmly bound unto John J. Hannah in the final sum of Four hundred dollars, void on condition that the above bounden Love doth make, or cause to be made, a good and sufficient deed of conveyance for one hundred acres of land, to include the improvement whereon he is now living to be run in an oblong, the long way a north course. The deed to be made as soon as the above named John J. Hannah shall well & truly pay or cause to be paid the full & just sum of two hundred dollars agreeable to two notes of hand, by him this day given to secure the payment of that sum. Then the above obligation to be void or otherwise to remain in full force and value given under my hand and seal this 23d day of February 1857.

wit
S. J. Hagan

J. R. Love /seal/
Surviving partner of
R. Love decd

Deed Book Q, p. 91, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse.



APPENDIX D

Deed between Love Estate and Daniel J. Cook

Know all men by these presents, that whereas, James R. Love, deced, was seized of large tracts of land, commonly called "Speculation Land" lying and being in the Counties of Yancy, Madison, Buncombe, Haywood and Jackson; and whereas the said James R. Love made and published a last will and testament in writing, and appointed William H. Thomas, Robert G. A. Love, William L. Hilliard and Samuel L. Love, Executors who qualified and took upon them-selves the execution thereof; and whereas the said James R. Love sold many tracts of said land to different persons and authorized and empowered his said executors to continue the sales of said land and to make titles, Now therefore, We, William H. Thomas, Robert G. A. Love, William L. Hilliard and Samuel L. Love, Executors as aforesaid, in consideration of the premises and in further consideration of the sum of Two hundred dollars, in hand paid - D. J. Cook, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey onto the said D. J. Cook, and his heirs, the following tract of land, lying and being in the County of Haywood on both sides of Coggins Branch waters of Little Cattaloochee, and bounded as follows: Beginning at a dogwood, Matilda Bennett's South boundary line, and then running South thirty two West One hundred and seventy five poles to a chestnut - Then South Eighty six West Seventy two - to a stake in Mary Palmer's North boundary line, then North nineteen West thirty two poles to hickorey in said Palmer line, then North fifteen East one hundred and eighteen poles to a stake in said Bennett's line near said Bennett beginning corner, then North Eighty six East one hundred & fifty one poles to the Beginning - containing one hundred Acres more or less, Reserving the mineral Interest with mining privaleges.

To have and to hold the aforesaid tract of land, with the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto the said D. J. Cook, and his heirs, to his and their only use and behoof forever. And the said William H. Thomas, Robert G. A. Love, William L. Hilliard and Samuel L. Love, Executors as aforesaid, covenant to and with the said D. J. Cook and his heirs, that they are authorized to sell the aforesaid tract of land, and will warrant and defend the same against the demands of all persons claiming by, through, or under the said James R. Love.

In testimony whereof the said William H. Thomas, Robert G. A. Love, William L. Hilliard and Samuel L. Love, Executors as aforesaid, have hereunto set their hands and seals, This 22nd day of October, A. D. 1877.

Witness
P. W. Edwards

Samuel L. Love /seal/
R. G. A. Love /seal/
W. L. Hilliard /seal/

Deed Book P, p. 5, Haywood County, N. C., Courthouse.



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National Park. Haywood County, N. C.

Hannah Family Cemetery. Cataloochee, Great Smoky Mountains
National Park. Haywood County, N. C.

Hannah Family Cemetery. Little Cataloochee, Great Smoky
Mountains National Park. Haywood County, N. C.

Little Cataloochee Baptist Church Cemetery. Great Smoky
Mountains National Park. Haywood County, N. C.

Palmer Family Cemetery. Cataloochee, Great Smoky Mountains
National Park. Haywood County, N. C.

Piney Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. Caldwell County, N. C.

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September 12, 1975. Mr. Burgess is the son of John W.
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Harriet E. Cook.

Caldwell, Jarvis. Waynesville, North Carolina. Interview,
April 29, 1976.

Hannah, Mark E. Maggie Valley, North Carolina. Interviews,
July 30, September 12, 1975, and April 29, 1976.
Mr. Hannah is the son of Mack W. and Fannie Hoyle Hannah,
the grandson of John J. and Martha Ann Hannah, and the
son-in-law of W. G. B. and Rachel M. Messer.

Hannah, Verda Messer (Mrs. Mark W.). Maggie Valley, North Carolina.
Interviews, July 29, September 12, 1975. Mrs. Hannah is
the daughter of W. G. B. and Rachel M. Messer and the
granddaughter of Daniel J. and Harriet E. Cook.

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Daniel J. and Harriet E. Cook.

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Interview, September 12, 1975. Mrs. Sisk is the daughter
of John W. and Hester B. Burgess and the granddaughter of
Daniel J. and Harriet E. Cook.

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July 30, and September 12, 1975.

ARCHITECTURAL DATA

by

Roy Carroll



III. ARCHITECTURAL DATA

A. EXISTING CONDITIONS OF THE JIM HANNAH CABIN: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Jim Hannah Cabin stands in a clearing on a gentle slope 220 feet north of a dirt park road. The cabin, which faces southwest, is reached by a footpath or trail.

The yard was once enclosed by a rail fence. In the south corner of the front yard were bee gums. Beyond the fence to the northwest was a vegetable garden and to the southwest was an orchard which once contained what was widely acclaimed to be the world's largest apple tree. To the north, west, and south were three cultivated fields. To the east of the cabin is a small stream flowing south. Just beyond was another rail fence which ran parallel to the stream for a short distance and then crossed it and the footpath leading from the road. At that point (136 feet from the road) there was a footlog, and a slip-gap for entrance.

The only outbuildings, other than privies whose location is unknown, were a spring house 135 feet northeast and a corn crib with shed 185 feet north of the cabin.

Today those outbuildings are gone. So, too, are the fences, with the exception of a few posts where the footpath entered the yard. The garden, orchard, and fields are now wooded.

The log house is roughly rectangular in plan, 22 feet $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 17 feet 11 inches by 22 feet 1 inch by 17 feet 8 inches. It is a one story structure with a full loft. The peak is + 19 feet above the grade line. A brick chimney on the northwest side extended an unknown height above that.

It is representative of the better type of log structures found in Haywood County, North Carolina. The house was built by John Jackson Hannah between 1857 and 1864, using native stone and timber which were abundant in the area--hemlock, poplar, chestnut, locust, and tizwood.

Later modifications, around the turn of the century, included replacement of the original split-board windows with glazed sashes, the nailing of weatherboarding on the exterior to cover the chinks, and the addition of a frame or boxed ell on the northeast (back) side. The ell served as a kitchen and consisted of one room and a porch facing southeast. The addition was razed by GSMNP personnel in 1948. At the same time, the original shingles and laths were replaced by modern sheathing and roll roofing.

The structure is one of the few remaining log houses illustrative of the social, cultural, and economic history of the region. It has two distinguishing features: the puncheon flooring, which is in excellent condition, and some of which is 29 inches wide; and the chimney of hand-made brick, which was rare in this area.

The house has fallen into disrepair and the fabric is deteriorating. Immediate attention should be given to repair of the roof, replacement of rotting and missing porch posts, repair or replacement of the sills which are rotting at the northwest corners, and recovery and storage of the chimney brick. The northwest side of the house, where the chimney and fireplace have been removed, is its most vulnerable point. Deer come regularly to rub themselves against the badly decayed logs on either side of the opening, and there is real danger of collapse as a result of the pressure exerted. Braces need to be installed. There is also danger of vandalism. Stabilization needs to be undertaken as soon as possible.

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS: EXTERIOR OF HANNAH CABIN

1. Foundations

The southeast end of the cabin rests on three natural stone pillars laid dry. They are 28 inches high, with no evidence of settling, although some of the stones have split recently under pressure.

The corners of the northwest end rest on flat stones placed on grade.

At the south corner of the front porch there is a stone pillar with some stones out of place. There was also a stone, now missing, which supported the front porch sill at its mid-point.

Grading by Park Service personnel to remove the collapsed chimney and washed soil has lowered the grade from 12 to 17 inches on the northwest and northeast sides of the cabin.

2. Wall Construction

The walls are smooth, hand-hewn poplar logs, with chamfer notches at the corners. Average thickness is 5 3/4 inches. The first story consists of 5 logs with the 5th log serving as the plate for the ceiling joists. The loft consists of 2 logs and a plate.

There was no chinking except in the southwest (front) wall where adzed pieces of wood were inserted between the logs (see

Fig. 1). Oak battens, 9 to 12 inches wide, 1 inch thick, and of varying lengths, were installed later to cover exterior chinks on the northwest, northeast, and southwest walls.

The gables are constructed of five hewn vertical support beams, 2 feet 8 inches on center, and covered by rived hemlock siding, $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 inches by 1 inch. The siding is badly weathered and some pieces are missing.

The condition of the southwest wall is good. The logs, 11 to 19 inches to face, are sound. There has been some settling, however, due to the deterioration of the northwest end of the sill (see Fig. 2).

The southeast wall is also in good condition. With the exception of the first log, where deterioration is evident from the inside, the logs, $9\frac{1}{2}$ to $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches to face, are sound (see Figs. 3-4).

The northeast (rear) wall is in fair condition. Most of the logs, $9\frac{1}{4}$ to 16 inches to face, are sound, but the first log to the south of the doorway is deteriorating, and the first and second logs to the north of the doorway are badly decayed and need to be replaced. The northwest corner has settled due to the rotting of the sill, which also needs to be replaced (see Figs. 5-6).

The northwest wall is in very bad condition. Few of the logs, $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 17 inches to face, are sound. Logs 1, 2, and 4 to the north (left) of the chimney opening and logs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 to the south (right) of the chimney opening are all badly decayed and need to be replaced. This wall should be braced immediately (see Figs. 7-8).

3. Front Porch

The hewn locust sill where the porch joined the cabin, three posts, and the beams are all that remain of the original porch. The front sill, the hewn joists, and the puncheon flooring are missing, and the present rafters and lintel were installed by GSMNP personnel in 1948.

The original porch measured 22 feet 3 inches by 6 feet. The four posts were hewn locust, 5 inches by 5 inches. One stood at each end of the porch, and two stood at the center, 3 feet 4 inches apart. Three of those posts remain, but they need to be replaced due to the rotting of the bottom ends. The pine posts, 4 inches by 4 inches, put up by Park Service personnel are in even worse condition. There is presently no post at the south corner. New posts to support the porch roof are needed now.

The lintel, 4 inches by 4 inches, and the hewn beams, 5 inches by 5 inches, are in good condition. The beams rest in notches on the plate log (log 5) of the front wall. The present rafters, 2 inches by 8 inches, are in good condition, with the exception of the northwest end rafter which needs to be replaced.

4. Roof

The original gable roof was of hand-split oak shingles, 6 to 8 inches wide and 24 inches long, laid board fashion, 20 inches to the weather. The laths were hand hewn, 3 to 4 inches wide and 2 inches thick, irregularly spaced + 8 inches apart.

The present modern sheathing and roll roofing were installed in 1948, and the roofing needs to be replaced. The roof is leaking on the back slope, and water damage to a few rafters and to the loft flooring is apparent.

5. Structural System

The framing consists in its entirety of hand hewn timber.

The first floor joists ran the width of the building with their ends resting on the sills. The joists were round logs, 9½ inches in diameter, hewn flat on top and lapped or notched on the underside at each end. There was originally one in the center of the cabin and one just inside the first log on the southeast end. There was a third one toward the northwest end, perhaps in front of the hearth, but its exact location cannot be determined. Only one of the first floor joists remains. It runs from front door opening to back door opening. It is decayed badly at the northeast end.

The ceiling joists are poplar, hewn almost perfect, 4 inches by 6 inches, and 2 feet 4 inches on center. Their ends rest in notches on the plates (log 5) in the front and rear walls. They are in excellent condition.

The roof framing consists of rafters, windbeams, and plates. The rafters are tizwood ("silverbell") poles, 4 to 5 inches in diameter, 12 feet 2 inches in length, hewn flat on top, and spaced 2 feet on center. Their lower ends are pinned to the plates with locust pegs.

The plates on the front and rear walls are hewn locust, 7 inches by 7 inches, running the length of the cabin with an overhang of 11 inches on the northwest end and 6 inches on the southeast end.

The four-inch hewn windbeams or rafter ties, 8 feet in length, are placed 3 feet 6 inches below the peak of the roof.

6. Exterior Doors

The front door opening is 3 feet 2 inches by 5 feet 11 inches. The frame, once fastened to the logs with locust pegs, and the casing are missing. The door, which opened inward, is 3 feet 1½ inches by 5 feet 8 inches. It is of hand-dressed boards and is still there, though not in place, and is in good condition (see Fig. 9).

The rear door opening is 3 feet 1 inch by 5 feet 11 inches. The frame, 1 inch by 6 inches, is still in place at the top and on the sides, but the bottom edges are decayed. The door casing, 1 inch by 5 inches, is still in place at the top and on the northwest side. The door itself, 2 feet 11 inches by 5 feet 11 inches, is stored in the loft and is in good condition.

7. Windows

There are two windows in the northwest wall of the cabin, one on each side of the chimney opening. The window between the chimney and the front wall is a 6 lights over 6 lights double-hung sash, 2 feet 3 inches by 3 feet 9 inches. The trim is ½ inch by 7 inches. Most of the panes are missing, and the frame and sash are in poor condition and need to be replaced.

The window between the chimney and the rear wall is a 6 light, single sash, 2 feet by 2 feet 4 inches. The trim is ½ inch by 7 inches on one side and ½ inch by 4 inches on the other. The trim above and below the window is missing (see Fig. 10).

In the southeast gable there is a removable board window, 2 feet 6 inches by 1 foot 4 inches, for ventilation (see Figs. 3 and 11).

8. Chimney

One of the distinguishing features, the chimney on the northwest side, is no longer in place. It collapsed sometime after 1950, and Park Service personnel subsequently used the debris to fill in a depression some 30 feet to the rear of the house. In so doing, the grade where the chimney stood was lowered by 17 inches or more, removing any evidence as to the nature and depth of its foundation. The bricks, some of which are visible, should be recovered and stored.

Historic photographs show that the bricks were laid in a running bond, seven and one half bricks to the course, and extended outward from the wall some 22 inches. The chimney was 4 feet 11 inches wide at the base and 3 feet 1 inch at the top (see Fig. 12).

The bricks, measuring 7 inches by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, were handmade, burnt in the field above the house. The mud was mixed by tramping with the feet, then packed into sanded molds, and then turned out on a flat surface. A fire was built inside a kiln made out of the bricks to be burnt. It took seven days to burn one kiln. The outside bricks which did not burn completely were used to build a smaller kiln and were then fired a second time.¹

C. EXISTING CONDITIONS: INTERIOR OF HANNAH CABIN

1. First Floor

The first floor consists of one room which served originally as kitchen, dining, and living area, and at times as bedroom, too. It measures 21 feet 5 inches along the front wall, 21 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches on the rear wall, and 16 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches at each end.

Opening onto this room were both first-floor exterior door entrances, stairs to the loft, a closet under the stair landing, two windows, and the fireplace.

The chinks in the walls are ceiled with rived hemlock boards. The walls were covered with pages from magazines and newspaper for decoration and insulation. The ceiling joists are exposed (see Fig. 13).

The poplar puncheon flooring is another distinguished feature. The puncheons are 4 to 5 inches thick, and some are 29 inches wide. Although the floor joists are no longer in place, the flooring has been stored in the loft and is exceptionally well-preserved.

The fireplace, mantel, and hearth have disappeared, but historic photographs reveal a fireplace 1 foot 6 inches deep with an opening 3 feet 4 inches wide. It was spanned by a brick arch,

¹Charles S. Grossman, Field Notebook, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Archives.

2 feet 11 inches high at the mid-point. The stone hearth was approximately 6 feet 2 inches by 1 foot 6 inches (see Fig. 14).

The trim framing the windows varies from 5 to 7 inches by 1 inch. There is no trim around the doors.

In the north corner of the room was an open string, long L stairway, which had a landing 2 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 7 inches. Each run was supported by two stringers. The bottom run had six 8-inch risers and the top run had three 8-inch risers. The treads were 12 inches by 31 inches by 1 inch. There were posts on the fourth and fifth treads to support the loft floor. The bottom run of the stairs is stored in the loft and is in excellent condition.

There was a closet under the stairs. The door, which measures 2 feet 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 4 feet 4 inches, is of hand-dressed boards and is also stored in the loft and is in good condition.

2. Loft

The full loft measures the same as the main floor and served as sleeping area.

The walls are ceiled in the same manner as those below. The roof structural system is exposed.

The flooring is hand-dressed poplar. Some of it has deteriorated due to water damage where the roof has leaked.

There is a removable board window in the southeast gable.

D. EXISTING CONDITIONS: KITCHEN ELL

The kitchen ell was originally a frame dwelling south of the park road, near the banks of the creek. It was occupied by Jim and Melissa Hannah before they moved into the present cabin. It was connected to the log house at an unknown date, probably around the turn of the century, and was razed by Park personnel in 1948 (see Figs. 15-16).

Historic photographs, interviews with surviving family members, and careful examination of the existing fabric yield the following information:

1. Exterior

The ell consisted of a kitchen, approximately 16 feet by 14 feet 5 inches, and a porch, approximately 16 feet by 7 feet 2 inches,

which faced southeast.

a. Framing and Wall Construction: The framing consisted of hewn members. The siding was sawmill lumber.

b. Roof: The roof was of hand-split shingles laid in board fashion. The peak of the ell joined the cabin roof at a point some 4 feet below the peak of the house.

c. Chimney: There was a stone chimney on the northeast (back) side of the kitchen.

d. Doors: There was a door providing entry into the kitchen from the porch. The rear door of the main cabin provided direct entry to the kitchen.

e. Windows: There were two windows in the kitchen. Each was a 6 over 6 double-hung glazed sash, 2 feet 4 inches by 3 feet 9 inches. One was in the northwest wall, a few feet to the rear of the log house, and the other was in the northeast wall between the chimney and the north corner. Those windows are stored in the loft. Most panes are missing but the sashes are in good condition.

2. Interior

There were shelves to the left as one entered the kitchen from the cabin. There was a wood-burning stove in one corner for cooking. The stove pipe connected to a flue in the chimney. There was also a small fireplace.

E. EXISTING CONDITIONS OF THE DAN COOK CABIN: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Cook Cabin, in a clearing on level ground, was located 72 feet from Davidson Gap Road, 0.6 mile south of Little Cataloochee Baptist Church.

It was the earliest and finest log house erected in the Little Cataloochee area. It was built by Daniel Cook between 1856 and 1860, using native woods, locust, poplar, hemlock, and chestnut, and native stone. The quality of the workmanship was testimony to his skill as hewer and carpenter.

The house stood until early spring of 1975 when it collapsed from the ravages of neglect, vandals, and the weather. The information contained in this report comes from a study of historic photographs, interviews, and careful examination and measurement of the component parts prior to their being sorted and stored by GSMNP personnel.

To the north of the house were open fields. To the south, on both sides of Coggins Branch, were open fields and apple orchards. The high ground to the west and east was pasture and woodland. Some scattered apple trees remain around the home site. All the rest is now wooded.

A springhouse, constructed of hewn timbers covered by 1 inch by 4 inch rived chestnut strips in criss-cross lattice fashion, stood 80 feet to the northwest of the house. Some pieces of it remain. A small apple house, none of which remains, stood about 90 feet to the southwest of the house and some 30 feet west of the road.

Another stone and lumber apple house, the largest in the region and architecturally and economically one of the most interesting and significant structures in the region, stood 166 feet to the southeast of the house (see detailed description below).

A log barn, built by Will Messer in 1905, stood 154 feet southwest of the large apple house. The barn was described in 1935 as: two cribs 13 feet by 13 feet, length 36 feet, with a driveway between cribs. The loft had a 7 feet 6 inch overhang on each side. Four posts on each side of the barn supported the loft. The wall logs were hewn poplar and oak, and the plates and posts were locust. The height to the eaves was + 13 feet. There were six logs to a height of 7 feet for the cribs, and 5 logs to a height of 6 feet for the loft. The loft had a rived board floor. There was a shed on the south end. There were troughs in the crib. The driveway between the cribs was ceiled with vertical rived boards in front and horizontal rived boards in back. The roof was² gone, but the rest of the barn was in good condition at that time. The structure has since been dismantled and has disappeared, and only a few scattered timbers remain.

About 22 feet in front of the barn (northeast) is a depression in the ground which measures 12 feet by 16 feet where cattle scales were erected by Will Messer shortly after the barn was built. The scales, an important addition to the Little Cataloochee economy, have disappeared.³

The Dan Cook Cabin, facing southeast, was roughly rectangular in plan, 21 feet 4 inches across the front, 21 feet 10 inches in

²Charles S. Grossman, Field Notebook, GSMNP Archives.

³Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

the rear, and 17 feet 7 inches on the sides. It was a one-story structure, with a full loft. The peak was + 17 feet 10 inches above grade. A stone chimney extended 1 foot above that.

A porch ran the length of the front, northeast, and back sides of the house. A portion of the back porch was enclosed for a kitchen area at an unknown later date. Sometime after 1950 the porches were razed by GSMNP personnel, but some scattered pieces remained in 1975 (see Figs. 17-19).

When the house collapsed in 1975 some key timbers, especially plates and joists, and much of the flooring was broken. All the re-usable parts, including 25 of the logs, have been marked and stored by Park personnel.

The Cook farm, which was perhaps the earliest permanent settlement in Little Cataloochee, is in a beautiful setting and constitutes an ideal spot for the restoration of a farm complex.

F. EXISTING CONDITIONS: EXTERIOR OF COOK CABIN

1. Foundations

The corners on the southwest end of the house rested on flat stones laid on grade. The corners of the northeast end of the house and porch rested on piers of natural stone laid dry. They averaged 1 foot 1 inch in height.

2. Wall Construction

The walls were constructed of poplar logs, 12 to 18 inches to face and 5 3/4 inches thick, hewn smooth, with chamfer notches at the corners. There were eight logs and a plate in the front and rear and nine logs on either end.

The southeast (front) wall was in poor condition just prior to its collapse. The sill on the south corner of the house had deteriorated and settling was pronounced. The first three logs had rotted badly (see Fig. 20).

The northeast wall was comparatively sound. The bottom log on that side was flat on top and square notched with the front and rear sills. It was broken when the cabin collapsed (see Fig. 21).

The northwest (rear) wall was in fair condition. The most serious damage was to the plate log which was notched to support the ceiling joists (see Fig. 22).

The most serious damage to the southwest end of the cabin was to the window and chimney framing.

The gables were constructed of hewn vertical beams. The center ones, supporting the end rafters, were 6 inches by 7 inches by 5 feet 8 inches. The vertical supports were covered by rived chestnut siding of random width. That on the southwest gable was + 10 inches by 1 inch, and that on the northeast gable was + 8 inches by 1 inch. Much of the siding, which had weathered badly, was damaged in the collapse, and none of it remains.

3. Porch

The porch ran the full length of the front, northeast, and rear sides of the house. It extended 6 feet to the front, 7 feet to the northeast side, and 10 feet 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the rear. The floor was of poplar puncheons. One hewn locust floor joist for the rear porch measured 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 8 inches by 10 feet 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It was lapped or notched on the underside to rest on the sills.

The north portion of the rear porch, measuring 15 feet in length was enclosed with vertical siding, + 10 inches by 1 inch, and served as kitchen.

Details of the porch rafters and beams are unknown, except that the beams rested in notches on the plate log which supported the ceiling joists, and the hewn porch lintel on the front and side was supported by chamfered posts. The posts, one at each end of the front porch, two at its midpoint, and one on the northeast side, were 6 inches by 6 inches at top and bottom, 4 inches by 4 inches at the center, and approximately 6 feet in length. They were notched into the lintel.

4. Roof

The original shingle roof and laths were replaced in the 1920's by modern sheathing and hand-split oak shingles. The shingles for the cabin and rear porch were 6 to 8 inches by 24 inches, laid board fashion, + 16 inches to the weather. Photos indicate the other porch roof was laid in similar fashion, + 17 inches to the weather in the front, and + 20 inches to the weather on the northeast end.

The rear porch roof was a continuation of the main roof. The other porch roof was attached to the cabin wall a few feet below the eave of the main roof.

5. Structural System

The framing system consists entirely of hewn timbers.

The first floor joists were poplar logs, + 9 inches in diameter, hewn flat on top, and lapped or notched on the underside to rest on the sills. The front sill was 8 inches high by 13 inches wide, and the rear sill was 8 inches high and 7 inches wide. The exact spacing and number of floor joists could not be determined, but there was one at the northeast end and one at the center.

The ceiling joists supporting the loft floor were poplar, hewn to remarkable precision, 4 inches by 5 inches, resting in notches on the plate logs in the front and rear walls, and spaced + 2 feet 4 inches on center. Most were broken.

The roof framing consists of rafters, windbeams, and plates. The rafters were poles, 4 to 5 inches in diameter, 9 feet 4 inches in length, hewn slightly flat on top, and spaced 2 feet 5 inches on center. Their lower ends were pinned to the plates with locust pegs.

The plates on the front and rear walls were hewn locust, running the length of the house with an overhang of 8 inches on the northeast side and 2 feet on the southwest side.

The windbeams, 3 inches by 1 inch, were fastened to the side of the rafters with locust pegs, and were placed approximately 4 feet below the peak of the roof.

6. Exterior Doors

The front door opening was 2 feet 8 inches by 5 feet 10 inches. The door, of hand-dressed timber, is in good condition, but the frame is gone. The casing measured 1 inch by 5 inches.

The rear door opening was 3 feet by 5 feet 6 inches. The door and frame are missing.

7. Windows

There were two windows in the northwest wall of the cabin, one on each side of the chimney. The window between the chimney and the front corner was a 6 over 6 double-hung sash, approximately 2 feet by 3 feet. The window to the left or rear of the chimney was a 6 over 6 double-hung sash. The frame measured 3 feet by 3 feet 9 inches.

There was a small window opening, 19 inches square, with 1 inch framing, in the center of the northeast wall, but there is no evidence of any sash. There may have been a split-board shutter or panel to cover the opening in cold weather.

Photos indicate a double-hung sash in the rear wall of the kitchen addition, but dimensions cannot be determined.

None of the sashes or frames was salvageable.

8. Chimney

The chimney on the southwest side was of native stone. The bonding material could not be determined. Study of historic photographs indicates that the chimney was approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ feet wide at the base and 2 feet wide at the top. It extended \pm 2 feet 1 inch from the cabin wall and extended 1 foot above the peak of the roof.

G. EXISTING CONDITIONS: INTERIOR OF COOK CABIN

1. First Floor

The first floor consisted of one room which served originally as kitchen, dining, and living area, and at times as bedroom. It measured 20 feet $\frac{1}{4}$ inches along the front wall, 20 feet 10 inches on the rear, and 16 feet 7 inches at each end.

Opening onto this room were both first-floor exterior door entrances, stairs to the loft, three windows, and the fireplace.

The chinks in the walls were ceiled with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 5 inches rived boards. The walls were covered with pages from magazines and newspapers for decoration and insulation. The ceiling joists were exposed.

The flooring was poplar puncheons, almost half-logs, \pm 10 inches thick, and of random width. Much of the flooring is still in good condition and has been stored.

The fireplace and hearth were stone but the appearance and dimensions cannot be determined.

The trim framing the windows and doors could not be located.

In the south corner of the room, to the left as one entered the front door, was an open string, long L stairway, which had a landing 3 feet by 3 feet. Each run was supported by two stringers. The bottom run had six 9-inch risers, and the top run had two

9-inch risers. The treads were 11 inches by 36 inches by 1 inch. The stringers and a few of the treads are still in good condition (see Fig. 23).

2. Loft

The full loft measured the same as the main floor and served as a sleeping area.

The walls were ceiled as below. The roof structural system was exposed.

The flooring was lapped, sawmill lumber, apparently installed in the 1920's. None of it remains. The nature of the original flooring is not known, but was probably rived boards.

H. EXISTING CONDITIONS: KITCHEN

A frame kitchen, approximately 15 feet by 10 feet 2½ inches, was created at an unknown time by enclosing a portion of the rear porch with + 10 inches by 1 inch vertical siding. There was a double-hung window in the rear wall. There was a wood burning stove and a stove pipe, but no chimney.

Entry into the kitchen was from the open portion of the back porch. There was no direct access from the main room.

The kitchen was razed sometime after 1950, and no photographs other than two showing a remnant of the wall have been found (see Figs. 18 and 20).

I. EXISTING CONDITIONS OF THE DAN COOK PLACE APPLE HOUSE: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Dan Cook Apple House was a part of the Cook farm complex which stretched north and south on both sides of Coggins Branch. The ruins of the structure stand in a clearing 82 feet southeast of Davidson Gap Road, one-half mile south of Little Cataloochee Baptist Church.

The apple house was built into the side of a hill. To the rear was a split-rail fence running north and south, and just beyond that was a trail which led to Nellie Post Office on Big Cataloochee. The general setting in relation to the Cook Cabin and outbuildings is described above.

The two-story stone and lumber structure faced northwest, its four corners at the cardinal points of the compass. It was

rectangular in plan, 26 feet 8 inches by 32 feet 8 inches, and the peak of the roof was 21 feet 10 inches above grade (see Fig. 24).

The name used to denote the building in Park records is a misnomer, because it was actually erected by W. G. B. (Will) Messer about 1915, some seven years after the death of his father-in-law, Daniel Cook.

The apple house occupied a place of central importance in the economic history of the region. Apples had become the major cash crop by 1914, and Will Messer did more to develop that industry than any other man. He designed this building for commercial purposes, to store and ship the 2500 or more bushels of apples produced annually in his extensive orchards. Those apples were shipped to markets as far away as Charlotte and Gastonia, North Carolina, Greenville, South Carolina, and Knoxville, Tennessee.

Three features distinguished the structure architecturally: its size, the thickness of its stone walls, and the manner in which the upper story was insulated.

Some time after 1950, the upper story of the apple house was removed and sold, leaving the timbers and stone walls exposed to the weather. The joists and sills have decayed so badly that they are no longer useable. The mortar has crumbled and portions of the stone walls have caved in. The window sashes and doors have all disappeared.

The information contained in this report comes from a study of historic photographs, interviews, and examination and measurement of the remains. All dimensions of the second story and roof are approximate.

J. EXISTING CONDITIONS: EXTERIOR OF APPLE HOUSE

1. Foundations

Preliminary, limited archaeological examination indicates that the structure rests on stone spread footings, 4 feet wide and 1 foot deep.

2. Wall Construction

The walls of the first floor are of worked native stone and are 6 feet 4 inches by 2 feet 5 inches. This exceptional (perhaps unique) thickness was for purposes of insulation. Much of the original mortar has washed away. As a consequence, the north corner has crumbled, and here and there on the interior stones have become dislodged (see Figs. 25-27).

Historic photographs reveal that the second-story walls were of chestnut siding, 1 inch by 10 inches. An interview with the last man to use the structure revealed that a 6-inch space between the exterior and interior walls was filled with sawdust for insulation.

The gable walls were chestnut siding, 1 inch by 6 inches.

3. Roof

The original gable roof was hand-split oak shingles, laid in 12 courses board fashion, + 18 inches to the weather. The eaves were 2 feet on each side.

4. Structural System

Hewn chestnut sills, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 32 feet 5 inches long, rested on top of the stone walls on the northeast and southwest walls. The ceiling joists (sleepers for the second floor) were also hewn chestnut, $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 inches by 7 inches, and + 2 feet 6 inches on center. They ran the width of the building and were hewn flat on top and bottom and lap-jointed to fit flush with the top of the sill. Most of these timbers are still in place, but none is sound (see Fig. 28).

The roof framing consisted of rafters, windbeams, and plates, but the dimensions and materials are not known.

5. Exterior Doors

The front (northwest) door opening is 3 feet 4 inches by 6 feet 4 inches. The board and batten door, which was approximately 3 feet by 6 feet 6 inches, the frame, and the casing are missing.

There was also a board and batten door on the front of the second floor, which was reached by a moveable ladder. Historic photographs indicate that the door on the upper level was 3 feet 4 inches by 6 feet 8 inches.

The rear door opening which provided direct entry into the second story was approximately 6 feet by 6 feet.

6. Windows

There are six window openings in the first floor walls: two on the northeast, two on the northwest, and two on the southwest. Four of the openings are 4 feet wide on the interior side and narrow to 2 feet 5 inches at the exterior. The other two, on either side of

the north corner of the building, are 2 feet 5 inches wide at both the interior and exterior edges. All of the openings are 4 feet high. The framing is missing, but earlier photographs indicate that the windows were 6 over 6 double-hung sashes, approximately 2 feet 3 inches by 3 feet 9 inches. There were also board covers which were placed over the windows in cold weather.

Directly beneath each of the front windows and below and 1 foot 7 inches to the right of the west (front) window on the southwest wall, were vents, 5 inches by 5 inches, framed by 1 inch by 6 inch lumber.

There were two windows on the front of the second story, one on either side of the door. Photographs show that they were 6-light, single, moveable sashes which swung open horizontally for ventilation. They were approximately 2 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 3 inches. The casing appears to be 1 inch by 6 inch boards (see Fig. 24).

K. EXISTING CONDITIONS: INTERIOR OF APPLE HOUSE

1. First Floor

The first floor consisted of one room used for grading and packing, and for storage of those varieties of apples which would keep during the winter and be sold later. It measures 21 feet 10 inches by 27 feet 10 inches.

Opening onto this room were the first-floor exterior door entrance, six windows, and three small vents. There was no direct access from this floor to the floor above.

The ceiling joists were exposed.

Inside the front door was an area, approximately 8 feet by 16 feet, for grading and barreling the apples. Running the length of the northeast and southwest walls, and extending into the room some 3 feet, were storage bins with sawdust in the bottoms. In the center of the room was another storage area, approximately 9 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 6 inches, separated from the rear wall and the side bins by aisles 3 feet wide. All of the bins were approximately 3 feet 6 inches deep. The sides of the bins were little sawmill strips about 1 inch thick and spaced about 2 inches apart to allow for circulation of the air (see Fig. 29).⁴

⁴Mark Hannah Interview, July 30, 1975.

2. Second Floor

The second floor consisted of one room also used for grading and packing and for storing those apples which would not keep during the winter and had to be shipped early. It measured 25 feet 6 inches by 31 feet 6 inches.

Opening onto this room were both second-floor exterior door entrances, and two windows.

The interior walls were 1 inch by 8 inch sawmill lumber nailed to studs, 2 inches by 6 inches. The ceiling joists were exposed.

Along the northeast and southwest walls and on either side of the front door were storage bins similar to the ones on the first floor.

Nothing is known of the interior trim around the windows and doors.

L. EXISTING CONDITIONS OF THE WILL MESSER BARN: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Will Messer Barn stands on a gentle, heavily-wooded slope 195 feet north of the Davidson Gap Trail, one quarter of a mile south of the Dan Cook Cabin. A footpath leads from the trail to the south side of the barn.

The barn was once surrounded by open fields and pasture (see Fig. 30). Twenty-one feet south of the southwest corner of the barn is a stone fence (4 feet wide) which runs westward up the hill. Extending eastward down the hill was a rail fence which had a slip-gap entrance at a point opposite the southeast corner of the barn. The stone fence is still intact, but only a few posts of the rail fence remain.

The barn was one of the outbuildings of a farm complex erected by W. G. B. (Will) Messer between 1895 and 1905. A one and one-half story log house, built in 1898, stood 200 feet east of the barn and 140 feet north of Davidson Gap Trail. The house, which faced south, was of hewn ash and poplar logs and was described in 1935 as: 24 feet by 16 feet with 7 foot porches running the length of the house in front and rear. There was a kitchen on the east end of the back porch and an exceptionally fine stone chimney on the west side of the house. There were 5 logs for the first story, and 4 logs for the second. The joists, rafters, and

sheathing were hewn timbers (see Fig. 31). The house was dismantled at an unknown date thereafter, and only a few scattered timbers remain.

Across the trail, some 190 feet south of the house, was a springhouse. No trace of it remains.

A two-story, log and stone, apple house, 20 feet 3 inches by 15 feet 10 inches, stood 134 feet south of the barn and 93 feet northwest of the point where the footpath from the barn joins Davidson Gap Trail (see Fig. 32). That apple house was removed and restored by Park Service personnel and is now a part of the Pioneer Farmstead at Oconaluftee. Only the ruins of the stone foundation remain at the original site.

The barn is rectangular in plan, 40 feet 6 inches by 30 feet 4 inches. The peak is + 28 feet 4 inches above the grade line.

The log and lumber structure is representative of the larger barns in the area and is the sole remaining one in Little Cataloochee. It was built of native stone and timber (chestnut, hemlock, poplar, locust, and oak) around the turn of the century, but the hewn logs for the walls of the stall portion came from an older structure. The nature and location of that earlier structure are not known, but "Conard," the name of an earlier family who lived north of the Messer farm, is written on one of the logs.

The barn has two distinguishing features: the gable-on-hip roof, which is unusual for the area, and a unique handmade wooden-spring latch on the door of the center stall.

The barn has fallen into disrepair and the fabric is deteriorating rapidly. The shingles have rotted, and the roof is leaking badly. The laths are in poor condition. Immediate attention should be given to repair of the roof to prevent further deterioration. There is already extensive rotting of the loft floor as a result of water damage. The chestnut siding is badly weathered, much of it has been removed and some that remains is so warped as to be unuseable. Some of the logs need to be replaced. Except for some signs of decay on the ends of a few timbers, the structural framing is still sound. Stabilization needs to be undertaken as soon as possible.

M. EXISTING CONDITIONS: EXTERIOR OF MESSER BARN

1. Foundations

The west end of the barn rests on four posts, two of which are 6 inches, and two of which are 7 inches, in diameter. The west

wall of the loft rests on four posts, each 9 inches in diameter. The southeast corner rests on a post 8 inches in diameter. The northeast (log) portion rests on a foundation of natural stone laid dry. It runs the entire length of the log wall on the east and extends inward 6 feet on either end. The stone foundation is 2 feet 6 inches high at its south end and 2 feet 11 inches at its north end.

The posts and the stone foundation are in good condition, and there is no evidence of settling.

2. Wall Construction

On the ground level, the southeast stall had walls of vertical planking, irregular in length and width, split and trimmed with a broad axe. Only a few random pieces remain.

The walls of the other two stalls are of logs. The north and south walls of that portion of the barn each consist of a round chestnut log as sill, five hewn poplar logs (5 inches thick and 10 inches to 13 inches on face) with chamfer notches at the corners, and a sixth log which is hewn square. The ends of the sixth logs rest in square notches on the sixth logs of the east and west walls (see Figs. 33-34).

The fifth log in the south wall is chamfer notched on the bottom and square notched on top. The ends of the sixth (top) logs in the east and west walls rest in the square notches.

Each of the east and west walls has six logs: a round chestnut log at the bottom, which is round notched over the sills, four hewn logs, 5 inches thick and 10 to 14 inches on face, and a sixth or top log, which is hewn square (8 inches by 8 inches) and square notched on the ends. Above the sixth log is a square hewn plate which runs north and south the entire width of the loft and supports the joists for the loft floor. The hewn logs on the east wall are hemlock; those on the west wall are poplar (see Figs. 35-36).

The east wall is in poor condition. The first, second, and third logs have decayed and need to be replaced.

Only the round log at the bottom of the west wall needs to be replaced.

There was no chinking, but a few oak battens, 1 inch thick and of varying lengths and widths were placed on the exterior of the west wall and the interior of the north wall in the northeast stall.

The horizontal, lapped chestnut siding on the loft walls is sawmill lumber, 1 inch thick and 6 to 14 inches wide. With the exception of the west wall which separates the loft from the driveway, the walls are in poor condition. Much of the siding is missing, and some of it is warped and badly weathered.

The gables are covered by 1 inch by 6 inches chestnut siding with an open space for ventilation at the top.

3. Roof

The roof is of hand-split oak shingles, 6 to 8 inches wide and 24 inches long, laid board fashion, + 19 inches to the weather. There were 13 courses on the north and south slopes and 9 courses on the east and west slopes. The laths, 2 inches by 6 inches, or 2 inches by 8 inches, are randomly spaced + 20 inches apart.

The shingles and the lathing need to be replaced.

4. Structural System

The framing consists of poles, hewn timbers, and sawmill lumber.

There are neither floors nor floor joists on the ground level. The partition between the northeast stall and the center stall has a small round locust log at the bottom. Its east end rests on top of the bottom log of the exterior wall, and its west end is notched to rest on the bottom log of the interior wall.

The eleven joists which support the loft floor run east and west. Nine of them run the entire length of the loft, but two of them (one over the northeast stall, and one over the southeast stall) are divided at the plate over the west wall of the stall portion. The shorter, or eastern, segments in those two instances rest on blocks on top of the plate at the point where they join the longer segments. The joists are randomly spaced, 2 feet 1 inch to 3 feet 9 inches on center. Most of them are round logs, 7 inches in diameter, and hewn flat on top and bottom. Three of them, however, are square timbers. The ends of the joists rest on top of the plates. With two exceptions, they are in excellent condition. The outer joist on the south side of the loft is decaying at its mid-point, and the shorter segment of the ninth joist (counting from south to north) is badly decayed on the east end. They both need to be replaced.

The wall framing on the loft level consists of studs and braces. The studs, randomly spaced, 4 feet to 6 feet on center,

are hewn timbers, round poles, or 2 inches by 8 inches sawmill lumber. The braces, of varying lengths, are hewn timbers, or 2 inches by 5 inches lumber (see Fig. 37). The top plate of the west wall, which separates the loft from the driveway, is a round log, hewn flat on top and bottom and notched at each end to fit over the outer wall plates. Running north and south across the center of the loft there was a similar log, the south end of which has rotted and is now resting on the floor.

The roof framing consists of rafters and plates (see Fig. 38). The rafters, 2 inches by 6 inches, 20 feet in length, are spaced 2 feet 8 inches on center. The hip ridge poles are round poles, 6 inches to 8 inches in diameter, and 12 feet in length. The lower ends of the rafters are nailed to the plates.

The outer plates are hewn locust, 7 inches by 7 inches square, running the length and width of the barn and lap notched at the four corners.

5. Exterior Doors

There are two doors to the log stalls on the ground level. The door opening into the center stall is 2 feet 11 inches by 5 feet 3 inches. The door, which opens outward, is 2 feet 10 inches by 4 feet 9 inches. It is a board and batten door with handmade gudgeon and pintle hinges and a unique wooden latch with a wooden spring. The door is in good condition, and the spring latch works perfectly (see Figs. 39-41).

The door opening into the northeast stall is 3 feet 5 inches by 5 feet 3 inches. The board and batten door, which opens outward, is 3 feet 6 inches by 5 feet $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. It has steel hinges and a wooden latch and is in good condition.

The door opening into the loft from the driveway is 5 feet $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by 8 feet wide. The door, which slides southward, is 6 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 8 feet 2 inches. It is in good condition (see Fig. 42).

N. EXISTING CONDITIONS: INTERIOR OF MESSER BARN

1. Ground Level

On the west end is a driveway, 10 feet 4 inches wide and 30 feet 4 inches long, which runs through the barn north and south. It is partially enclosed on the outer side (west side) by random pieces of hewn chestnut siding nailed to the support post. There is a slip-gap at the north end. None of the rails has survived,

and the posts and supports are in poor condition and should be replaced. The door into the loft is at the center point of the driveway, but there is no evidence of any ramp or ladder from the ground to the loft door opening.

On the east end, there were three stalls, one of which (on the southeast corner) was enclosed with vertical siding, most of which is now missing. Most of the vertical planking which separated the stall from the open shelter area beneath the loft is also gone. There was apparently an opening in that partition, but there is no evidence of a door. That stall measures 9 feet 5 inches by 10 feet 3 inches. There was once a feed trough and a hay rack mounted on the north wall, i. e., the log partition between that stall and the center stall, but they are missing.

The center stall measures 10 feet 3 inches by 9 feet 4 inches. Opening onto this stall is a door leading from the open shelter area beneath the loft, a grain chute, 4 inches by 4 inches, made of 1 inch boards and extending downward from the loft to the feed trough, and an opening (5 feet 3 inches by 10 inches) in the loft floor through which hay was dropped (see Fig. 44). To the right of the door, mounted on the west wall is a feed trough, 5 feet 8 inches long, 14 inches wide, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. It was constructed of 1 inch by 10 to 12 inches lumber. The front of it is broken and the north end is missing. The hay rack above it is missing, and needs to be replaced.

The center stall is separated from the southeast stall by a wall of hewn poplar logs and is separated from the northeast stall by a partition of diagonal log braces and horizontal pieces of scrap lumber.

The northeast stall measures 10 feet 3 inches by 9 feet 7 inches. Opening onto this stall is a door leading from the open shelter area beneath the loft, a grain chute, 4 inches by 4 inches, made of 1 inch boards and extending downward from the loft to the feed trough, and an opening (6 feet by 11 inches) in the loft floor through which hay was dropped. To the left of the door and mounted on the west wall is a feed trough, 5 feet 4 inches long, 18 inches wide, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. Above it is a hay rack. Both the trough and the rack are in good condition (see Fig. 45).

2. Loft

The loft measures 30 feet 2 inches by 30 feet 4 inches.

Opening onto the loft is the door entrance from the driveway and vents at the top of each gable. The vent openings are 1 foot 8 inches high and 4 feet wide at the base.

The wall and roof framing is exposed.

The pine and poplar flooring of random widths, 1 inch by 4 inches to 10 inches, is nailed to the joists. Much of it has rotted and all of it needs to be replaced (see Fig. 43).

There are some racks in the loft, which consist of horizontal pieces of scrap lumber nailed to randomly spaced vertical poles that extend from the floor to the rafters.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1.

Exterior of the Jim Hannah Cabin, December 1937.
This photo shows the adzed chinking in the front
wall.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

Figure 2.

Northwest end of the sill, front of Hannah
Cabin, August 1975. Photo shows the
deterioration of the sill.



Figure 3.

Southeast elevation of Hannah Cabin,
April 1975.

Figure 4.

Southwest corner, interior of Hannah Cabin,
August 1975. The first floor joist rested
on the front sill in the opening to the
right of the center of the photo.

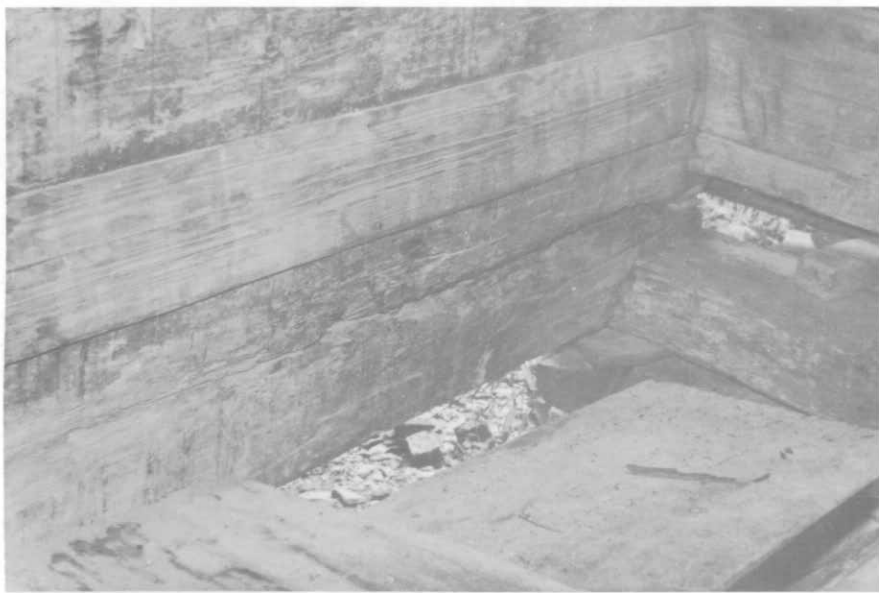


Figure 5.

Northwest (rear) elevation of the Hannah Cabin, August 1975. This photo and the one below show the deterioration of the sill.

Figure 6.

Northwest end of rear sill of Hannah Cabin, August 1975. This photo also shows the deterioration of logs 1 and 2.



Figure 7.

Northwest elevation of Hannah Cabin,
from the rear, August 1975.

Figure 8.

Northwest elevation of Hannah Cabin,
from the front, August 1975.



Figure 9.

Front door of Hannah Cabin, August 1975.

Figure 10.

Windows on northwest side of Hannah Cabin,
August 1975.

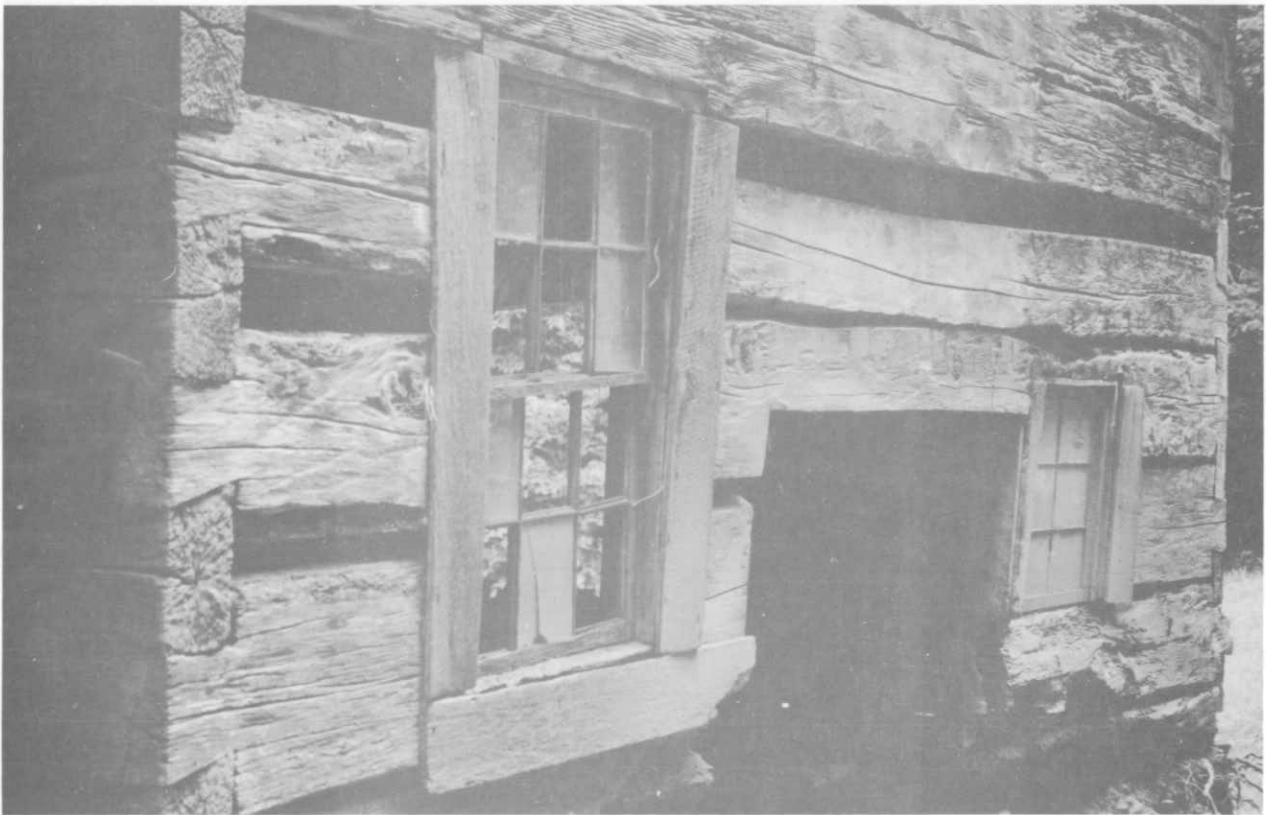


Figure 11.

Interior of loft of Hannah Cabin,
August 1975. This photo shows the
removable board window in the south-
east gable (upper right hand corner),
and the rived hemlock over the chinks.

Figure 12.

Chimney of Hannah Cabin, ca. 1948.
This photo is among the Hiram C. Wilburn
Papers in the Haywood County Library.



Figure 13.

Interior, southwest wall, Hannah Cabin,
August 1975. This photo shows the hewn
ceiling joists and the rived hemlock
over the chinks.

Figure 14.

Interior of Hannah Cabin, December 1937.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

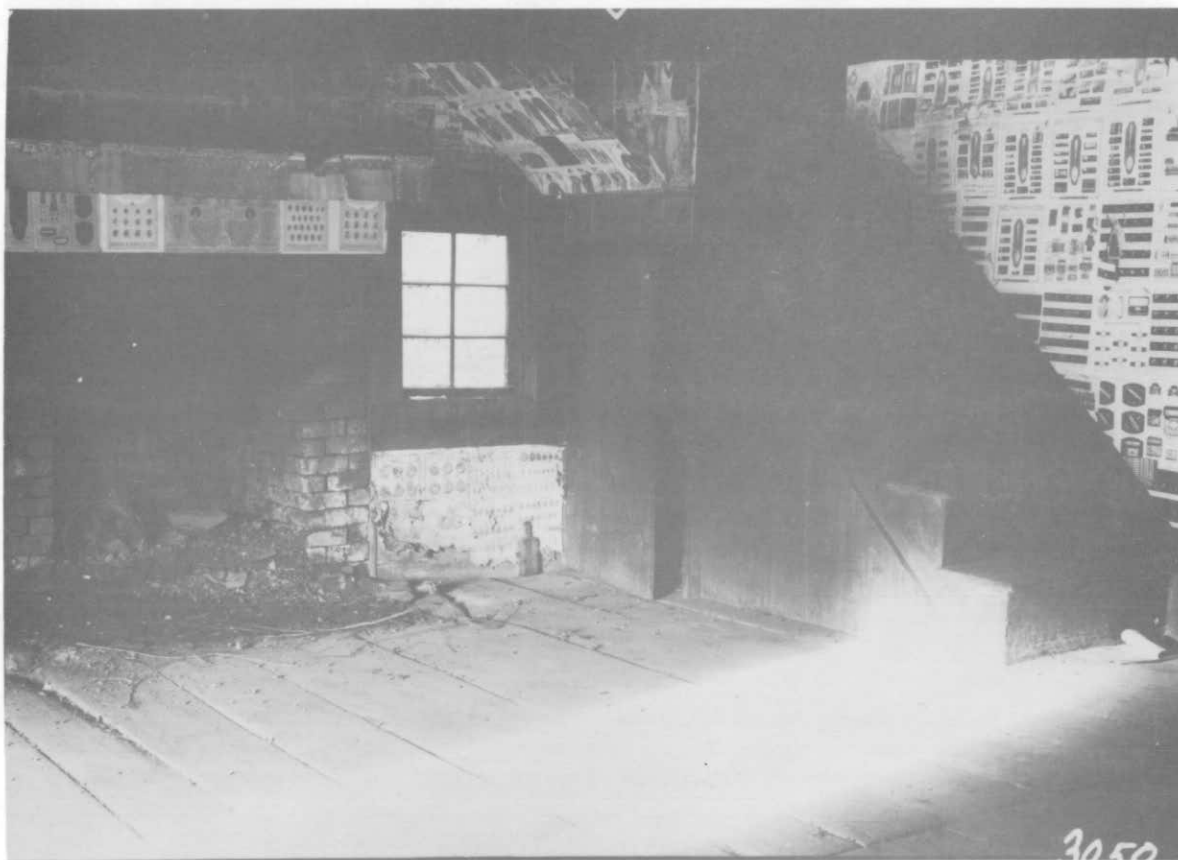


Figure 15.

Southeast elevation of Hannah Cabin,
December 1937. This photo shows the
kitchen ell on the rear of the house.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

Figure 16.

Hannah Cabin, from the northeast, 1948.
This photo, showing the cabin after the
kitchen ell had been razed, is among the
Wilburn Papers in the Haywood County Library.



Figure 17.

Exterior of Dan Cook Cabin, December 1937.
This photo also shows the springhouse to
the rear.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

Figure 18.

Exterior of Cook Cabin, June 1935.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.



Figure 19.

Exterior of Cook Cabin, June 1935.
This photo shows the stone chimney
and the rear window on the southwest
wall.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

Figure 20.

Southeast elevation of Cook Cabin,
February 1975. This is the last photo
taken of the cabin prior to its collapse.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.



Figure 21.

Northeast side of Cook Cabin, August 1975.
This photo shows the bottom log on the
northeast wall, square-notched and hewn
flat. It is broken at the center.

Figure 22.

Northwest side (rear) of the Cook Cabin,
August 1975. This photo shows the plate
log notched to hold the ceiling joists.
It was the only log on the rear wall that
was broken when the cabin collapsed.

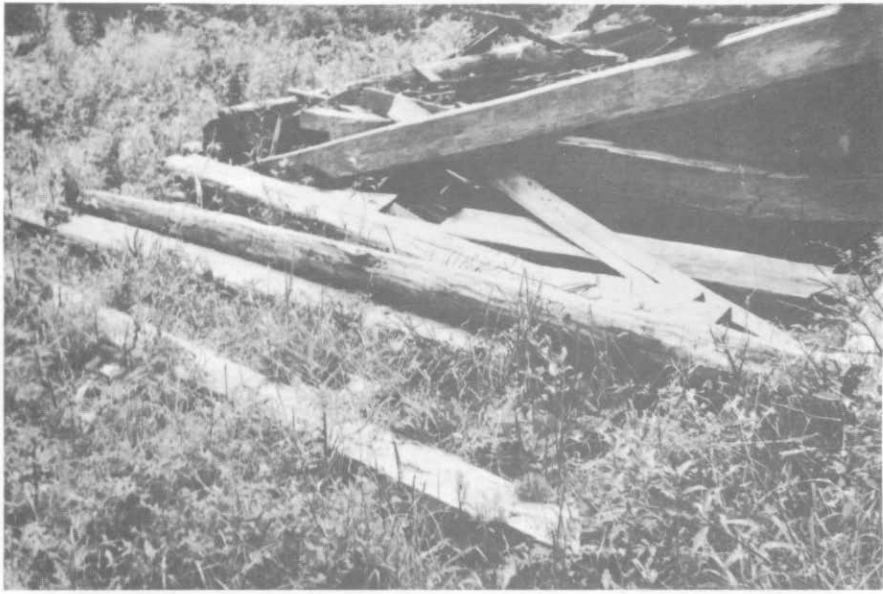


Figure 23.

Cook Cabin, from the northeast, August 1975.
This photo shows the stairs which were located
in the southwest corner on the ground floor.
It also shows the deterioration on the inside
of the front wall logs.

Figure 24.

Cook Place Apple House, from the west,
December 1937. This photo shows the upper
story still intact.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

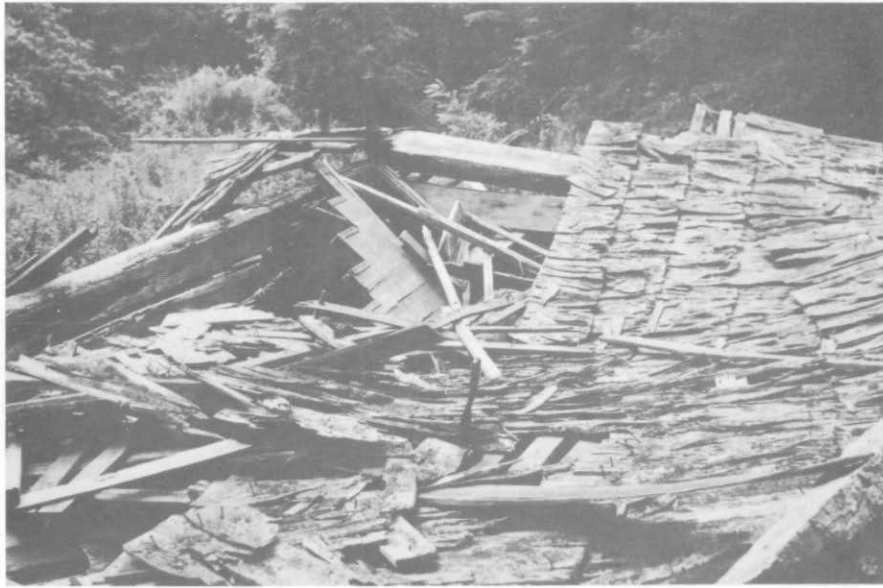


Figure 25.

Cook Place Apple House ruins, from the west,
April 1975.

Figure 26.

Cook Place Apple House ruins, from the north,
August 1975. This photo shows the collapsed
north corner, now covered by dirt and forest
litter.

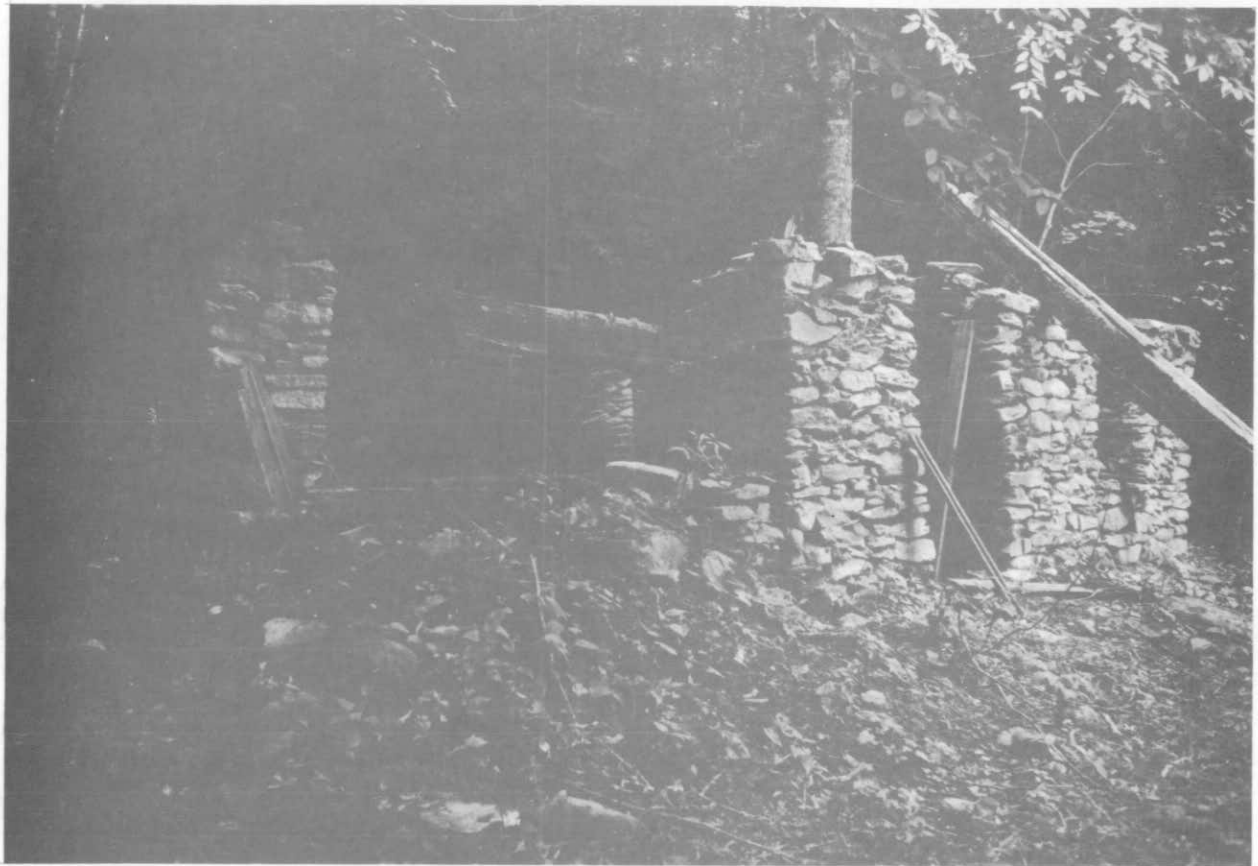


Figure 27.

Interior of Cook Place Apple House, northeast wall, August 1975. This photo shows crumbled portions of the wall and some fallen joists.

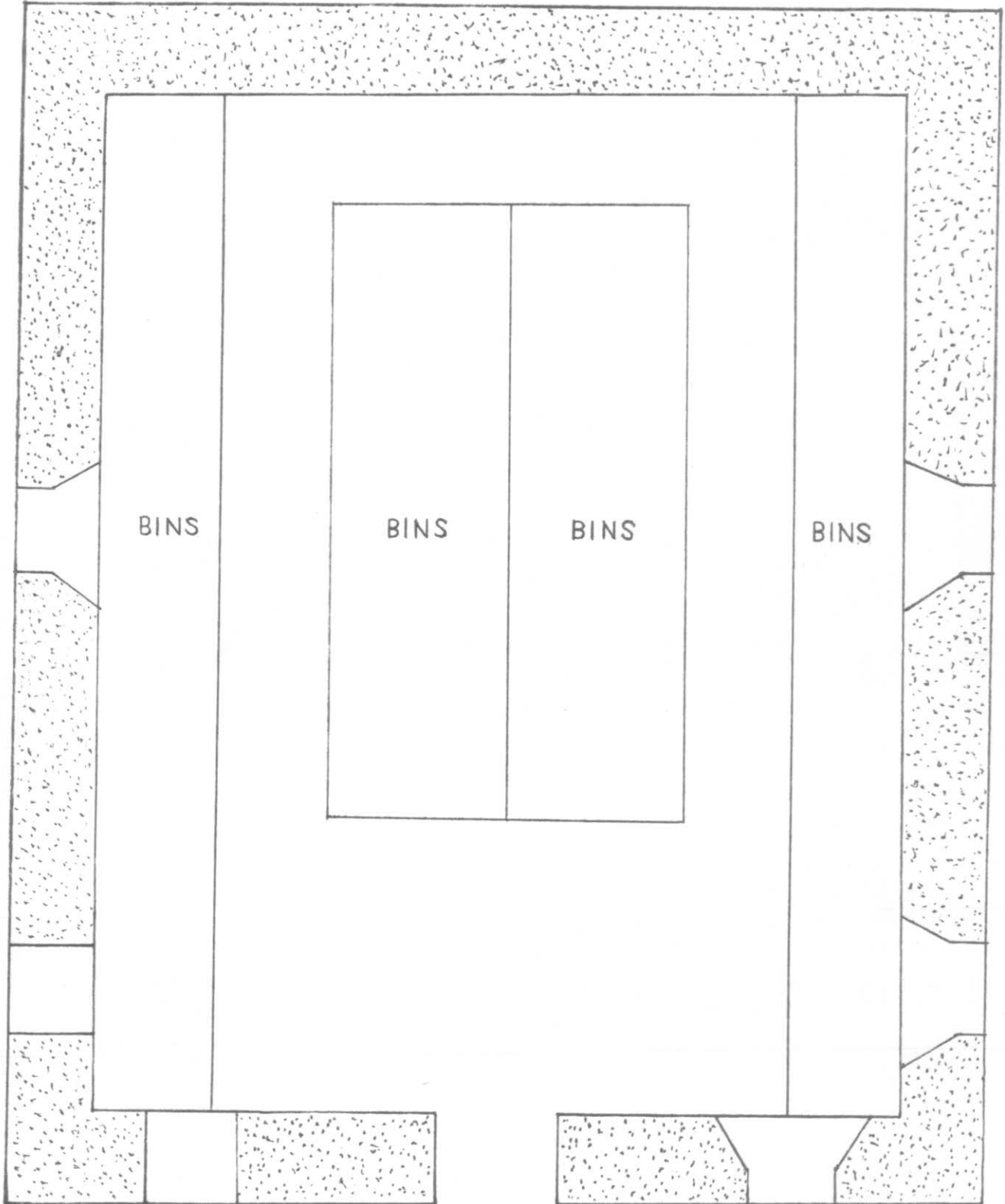
Figure 28.

Ruins of Cook Place Apple House, from the southwest, April 1975. This photo shows the joists which once supported the floor of the upper story. The sill along the top of the southwest wall is missing.



Figure 29.

Ground floor of the Cook Place Apple House as described by Mark E. Hannah in an interview, July 30, 1975. The space in front of the center bins was for sorting and barreling of the apples for shipment.



FRONT

Figure 30.

Exterior of Will Messer Barn Upper Place,
December 1937.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

Figure 31.

Exterior of log house on Will Messer Upper
Place, June 1935. This photo shows the
fine stone chimney on the west side of the
house.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.



Figure 32.

Exterior of apple house on Will Messer
Upper Place, ca. 1952. The upper portion
is now at the Pioneer Farmstead at Oconaluftee.
The stone foundation is in ruins.

G. S. M. N. P. Photo.

Figure 33.

North wall, log portion of Messer Barn,
August 1975.



Figure 34.

Southwest corner, log portion of Messer Barn, August 1975. This photo shows the west and south walls of the center stall on the ground floor.

Figure 35.

Southwest corner, log portion of Messer Barn, August 1975. This photo shows both the chamfer notches and the square-notching at the top of the walls.

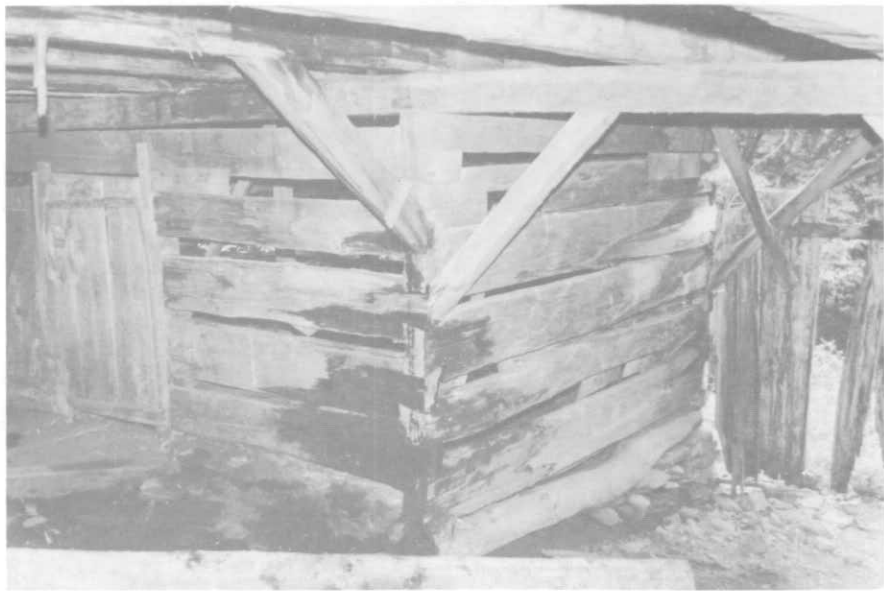


Figure 36.

East wall, log portion of Messer Barn,
August 1975. This photo shows the
deterioration of the first, second, and
third logs.

Figure 37.

Northeast corner, interior of loft, Messer
Barn, August 1975. This photo shows the
framing and the randomly-spaced racks.

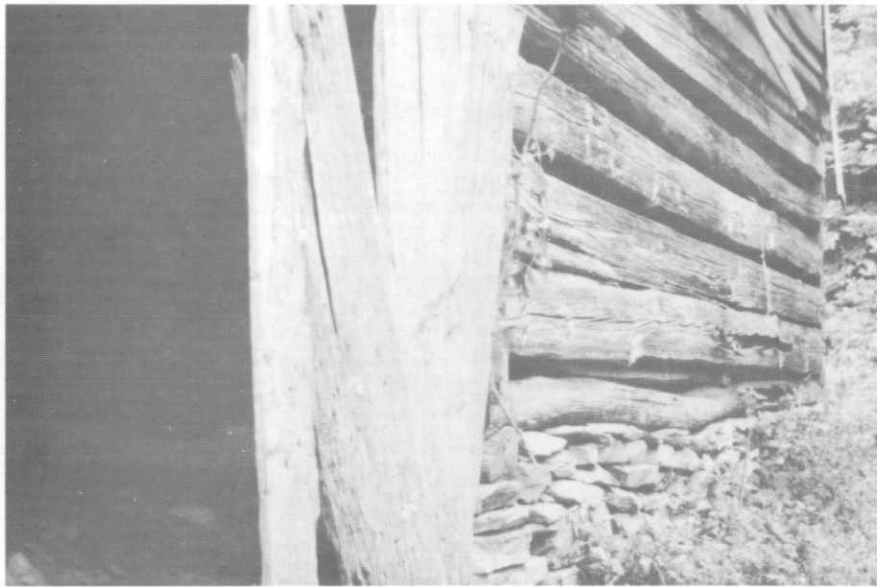


Figure 38.

Rafters, Messer Barn, August 1975.

Figure 39.

Doors to north (left) and center (right)
stalls, ground floor, Messer Barn,
August 1975.

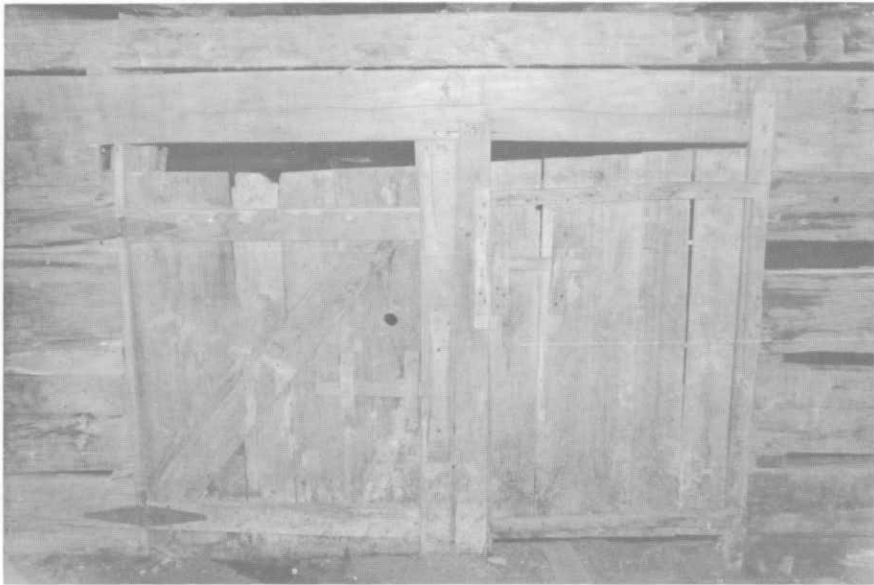


Figure 40.

Wooden-spring latch, door of center stall, Messer Barn, September 1975. This unique wooden-spring still works perfectly.

Figure 41.

Wooden gudgeon-and-pintle, at top of door on center stall, Messer Barn, September 1975.

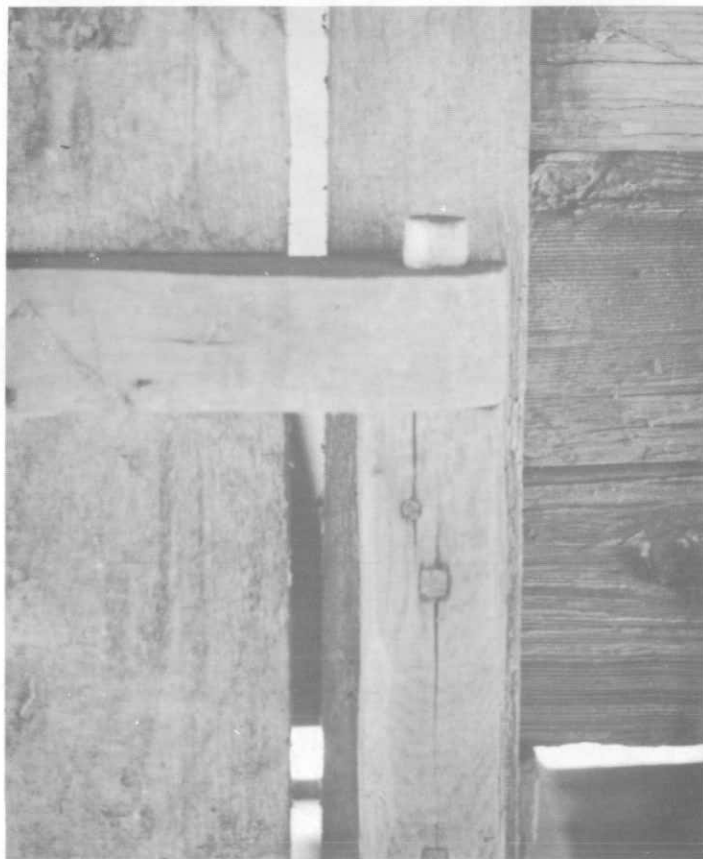
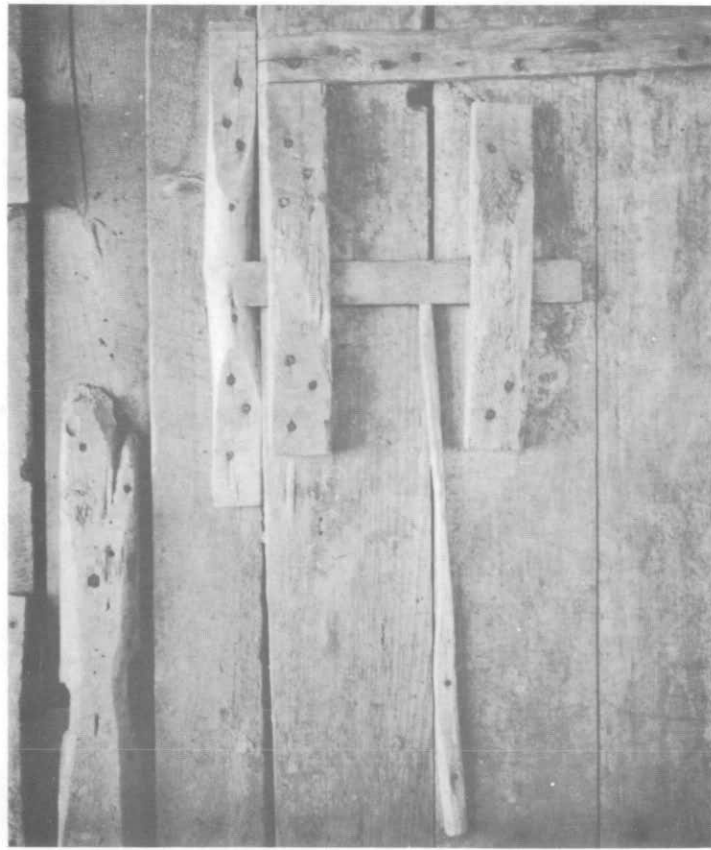


Figure 42.

Door into loft, Messer Barn, August 1975.

Figure 43.

Loft floor, Messer Barn, August 1975.
This photo shows the rotting which has
resulted from water damage.



Figure 44.

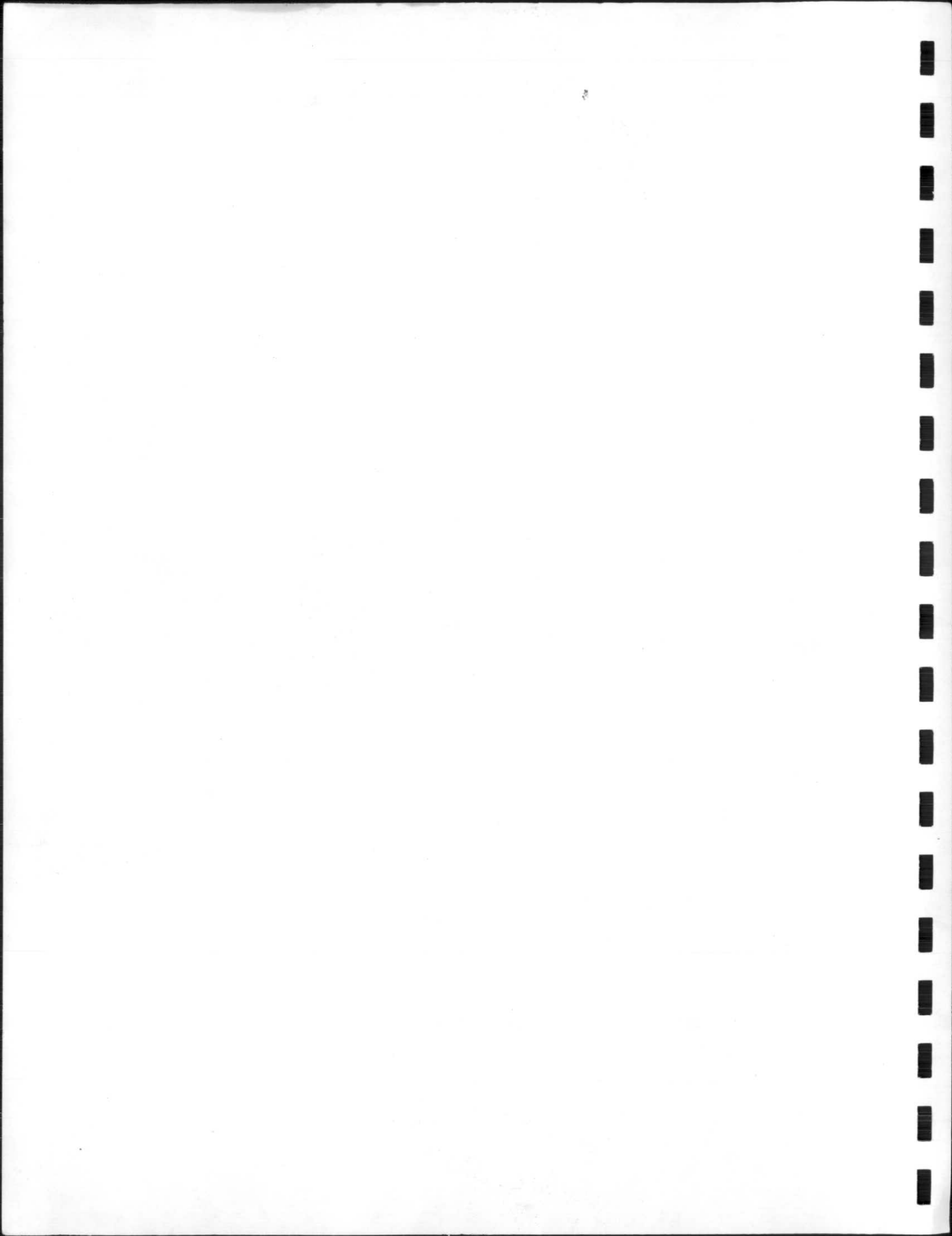
Grain chute, seen from loft, Messer Barn,
August 1975. Hay was dropped through the
larger opening.

Figure 45.

Hay rack, interior of north stall, Messer
Barn, August 1975. This photo shows the
split boards placed over the chinks in
the north and west walls.





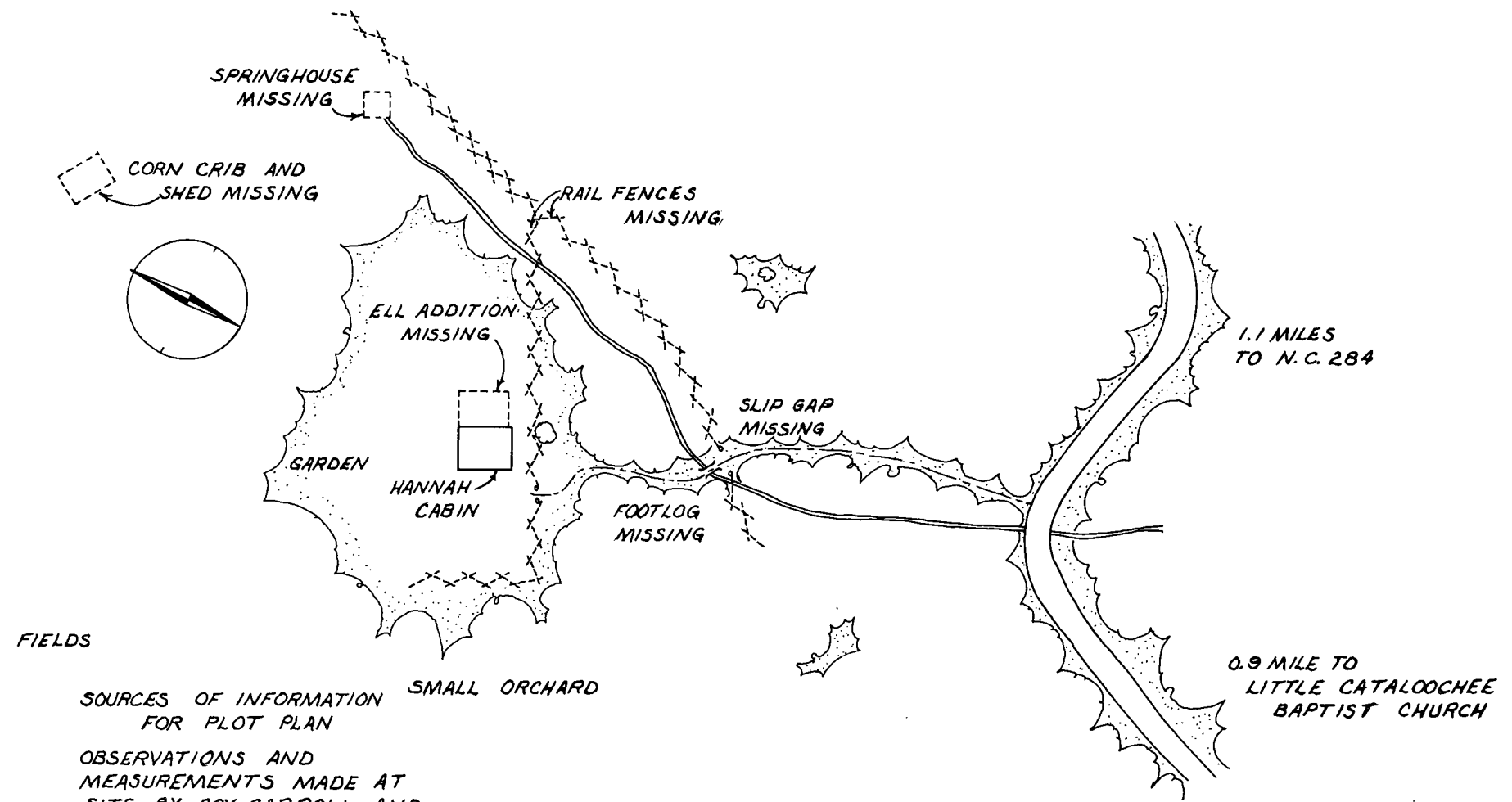


MEASURED DRAWINGS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

OF THE

JIM HANNAH CABIN
WILL MESSER BARN
COOK CABIN AND APPLE HOUSE

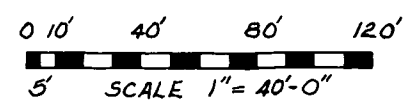
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SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR PLOT PLAN

OBSERVATIONS AND MEASUREMENTS MADE AT SITE BY ROY CARROLL AND NORMAN SCHAICH --- AUGUST 8, 1975.

PLOT PLAN



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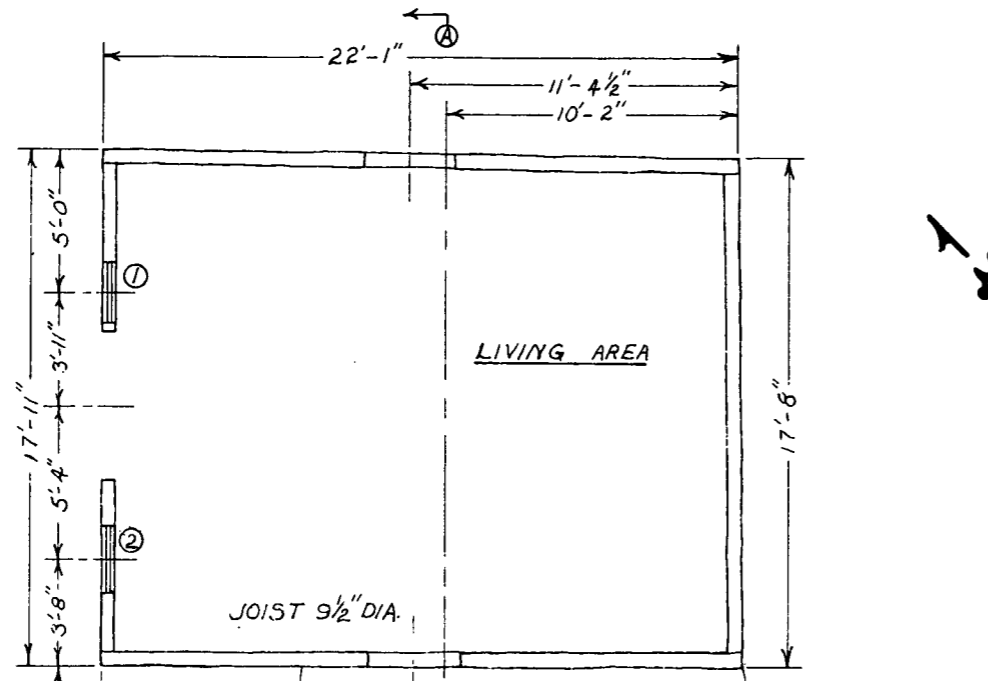
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JIM HANNAH CABIN
 LITTLE CATALOCHEE - GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK - HAYWOOD CO., NORTH CAROLINA

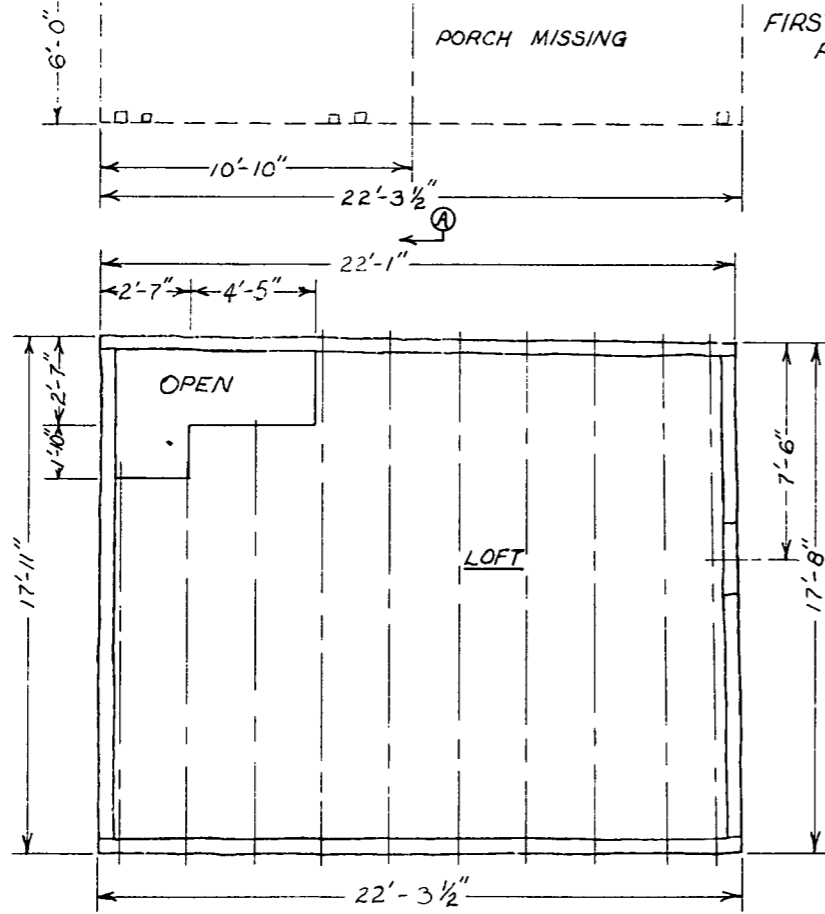
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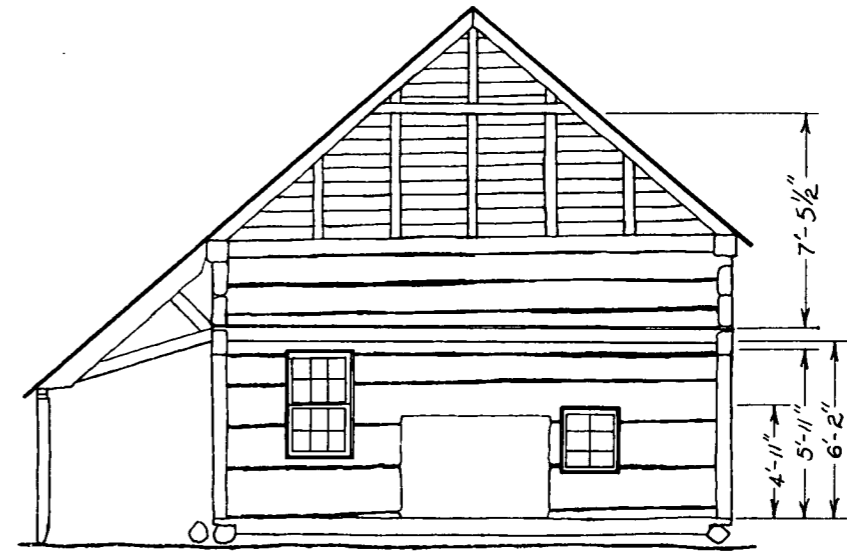
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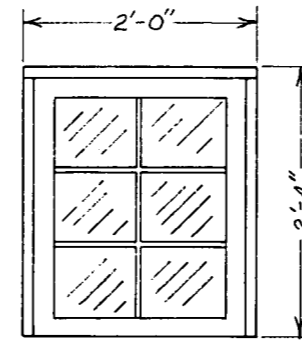
FIRST FLOOR PLAN 8/8/75



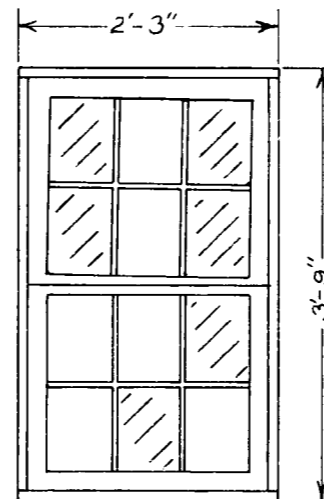
LOFT FLOOR PLAN 8/8/75



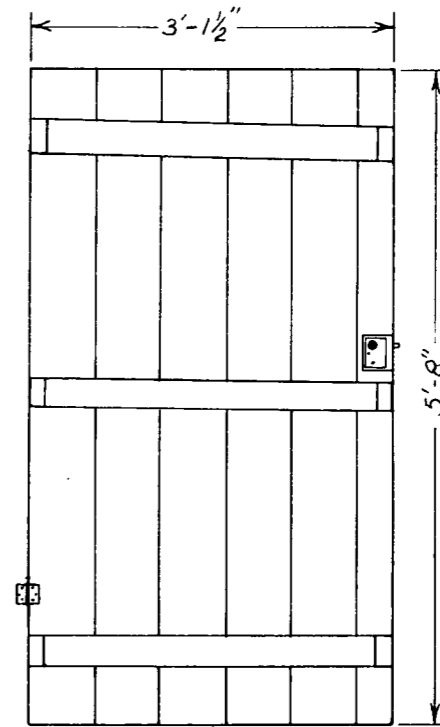
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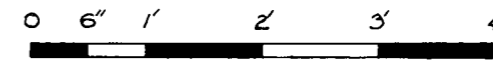
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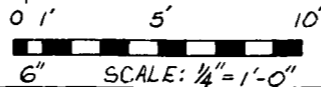
WINDOW 2



FRONT DOOR



SCALE: 1"=1'-0"



SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

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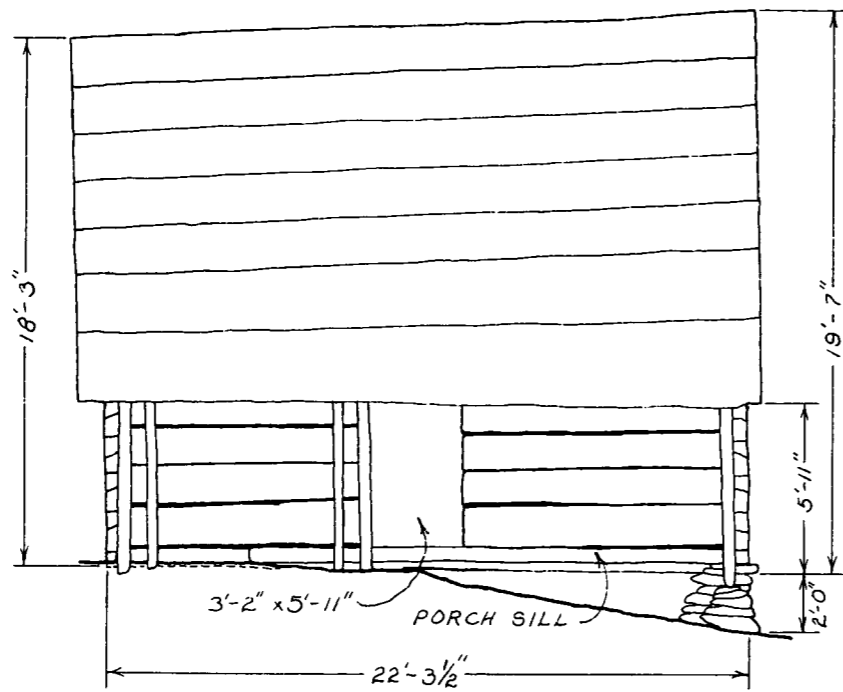
NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
JIM HANNAH CABIN

LITTLE CATALOOCHEE - GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK - HAYWOOD CO., NORTH CAROLINA

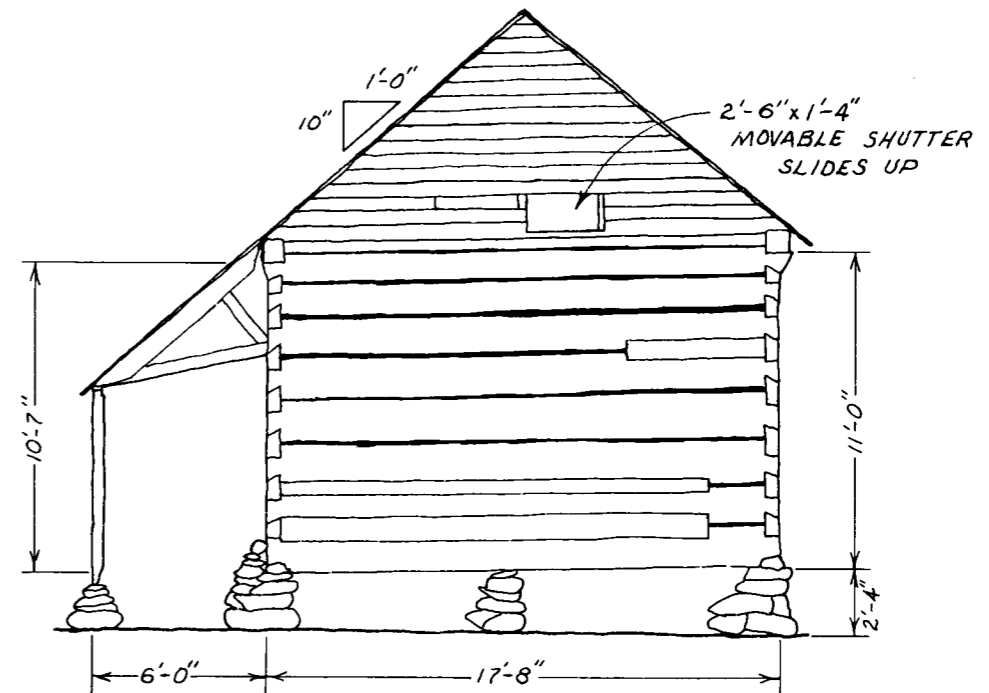
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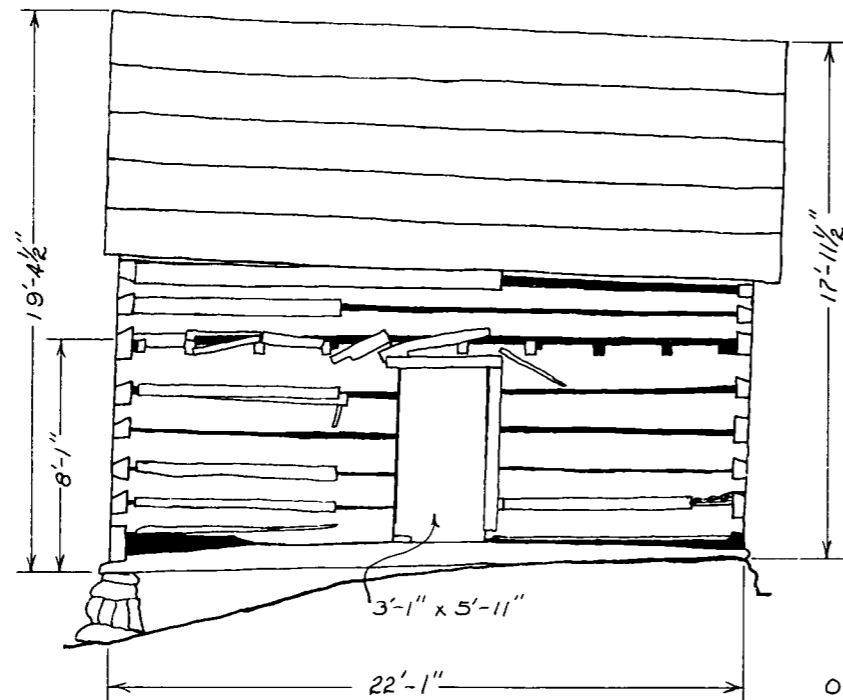
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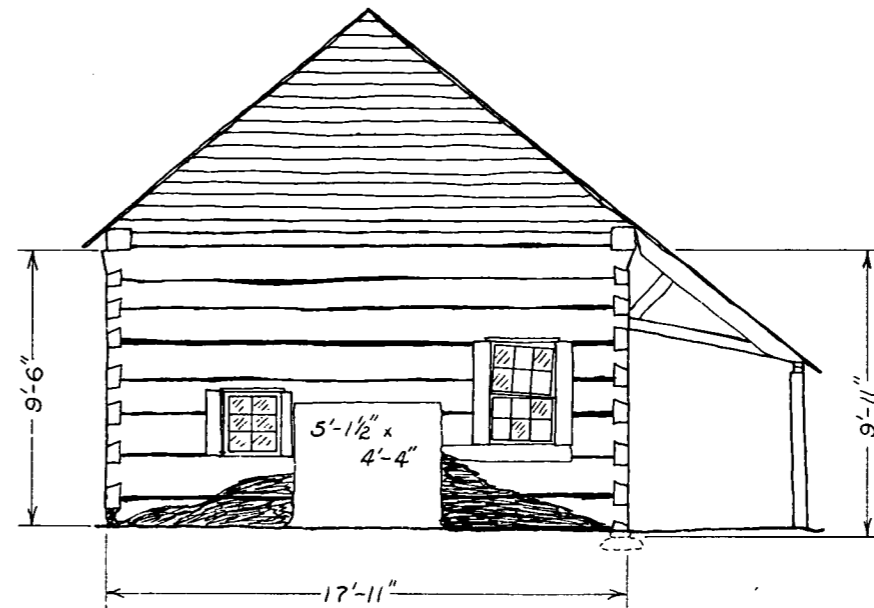
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION 8/8/75



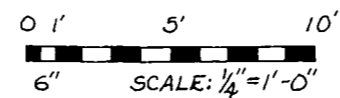
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION 8/8/75



NORTHEAST ELEVATION 8/8/75



NORTHWEST ELEVATION 8/8/75



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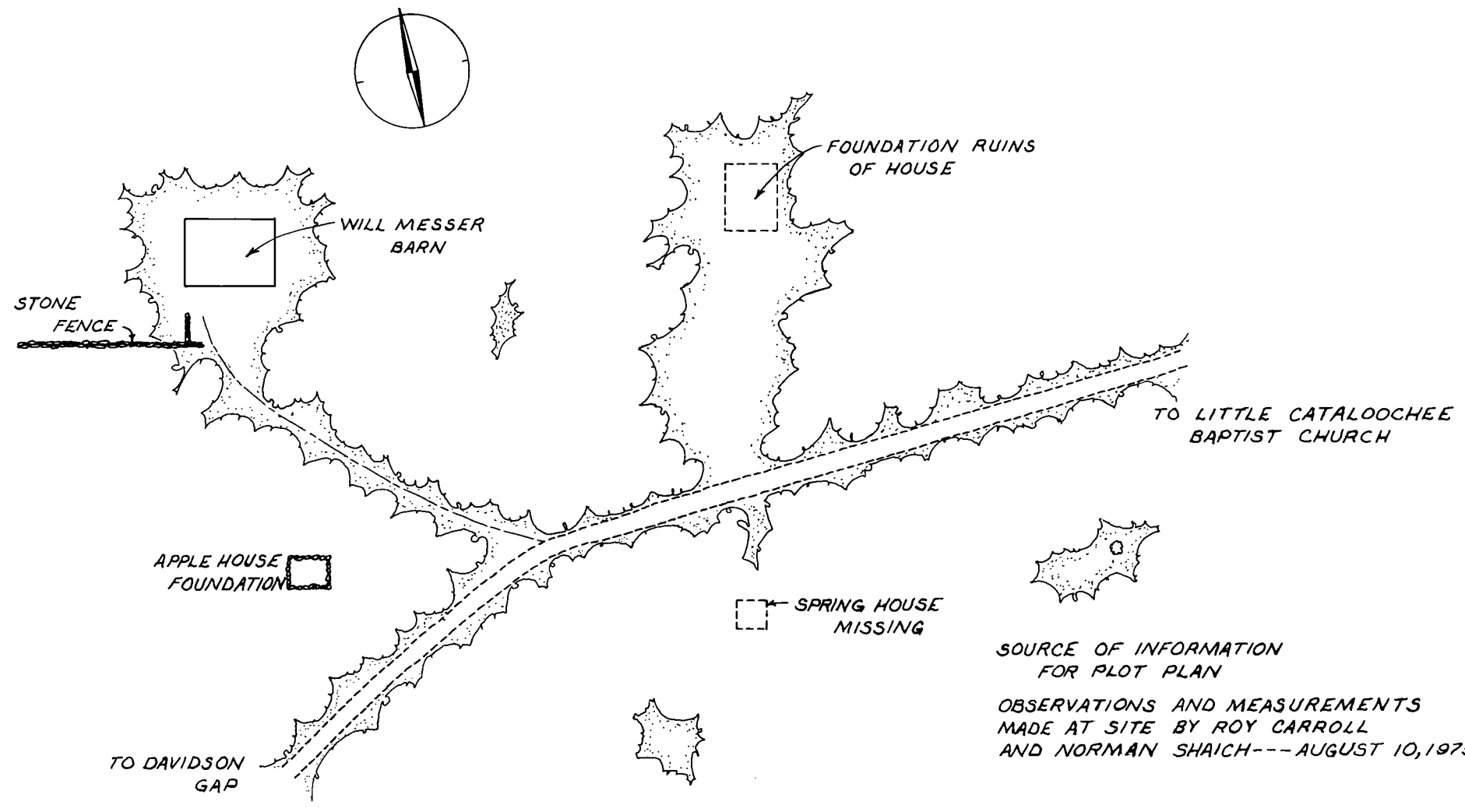
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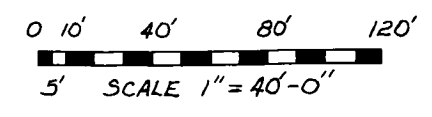
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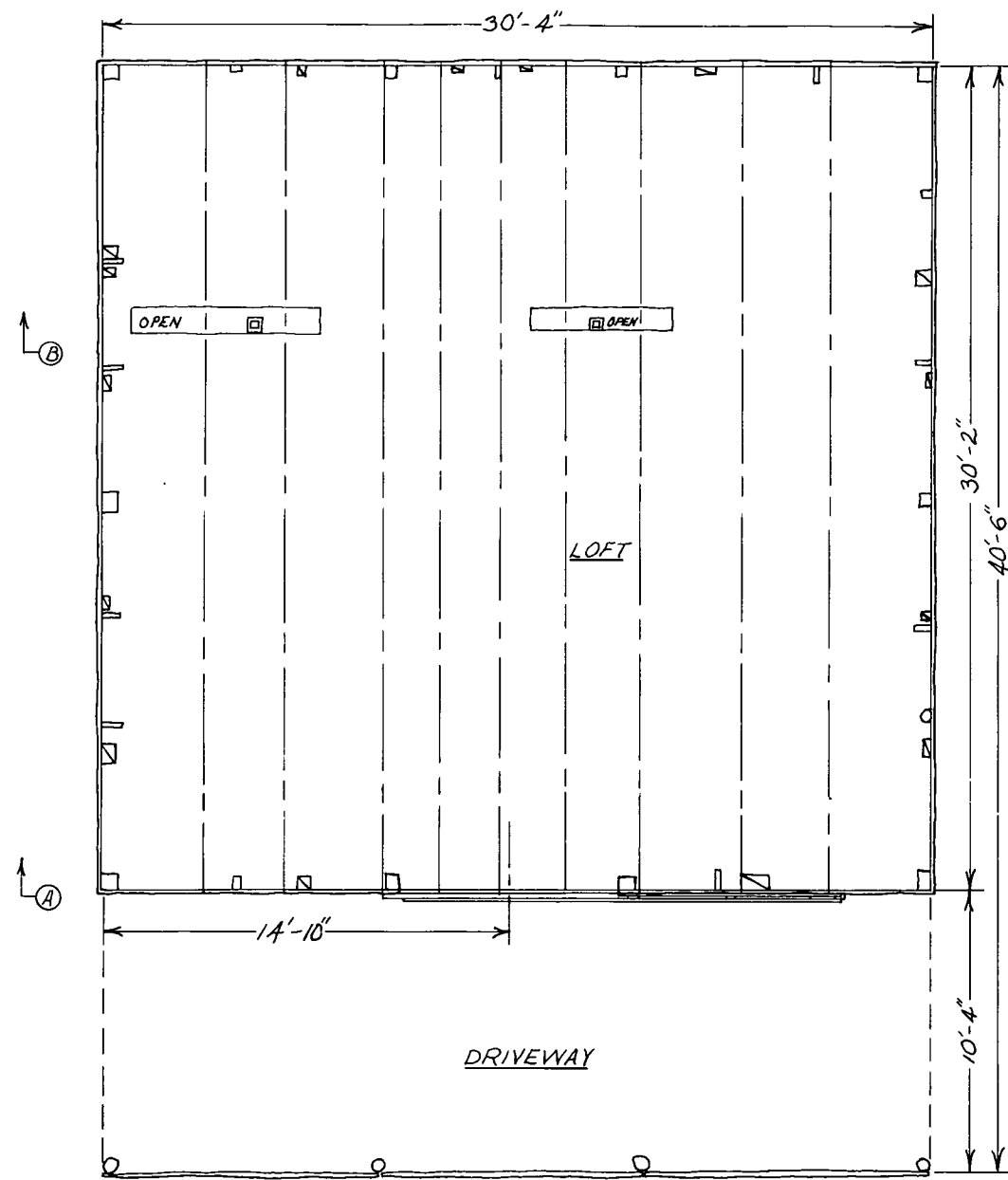
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PLOT PLAN

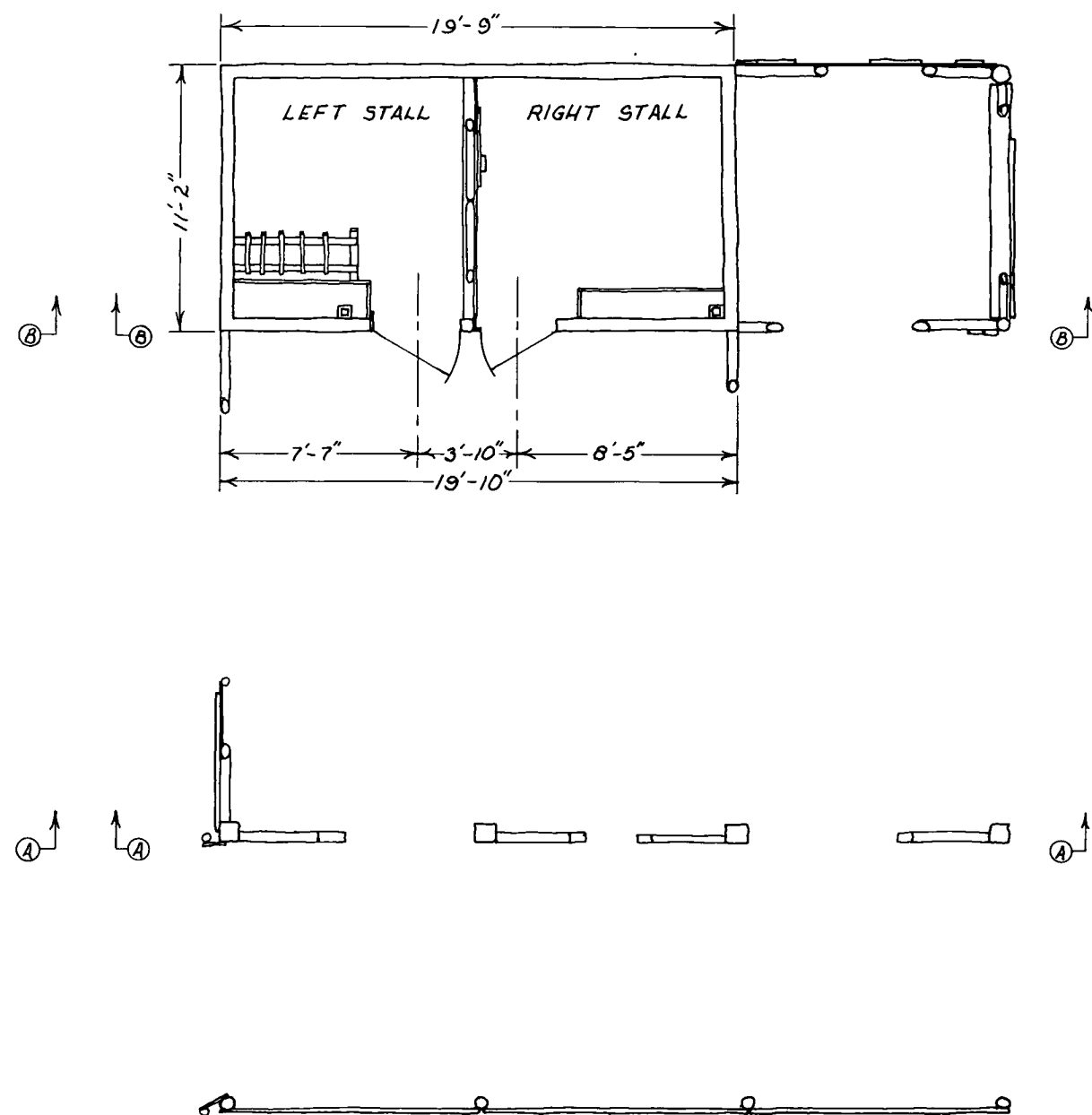


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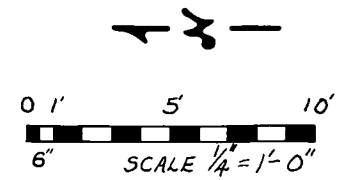
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 ▣ - DIAGONAL MEMBERS



LOFT FLOOR PLAN 8/10/75



GROUND FLOOR PLAN 8/10/75

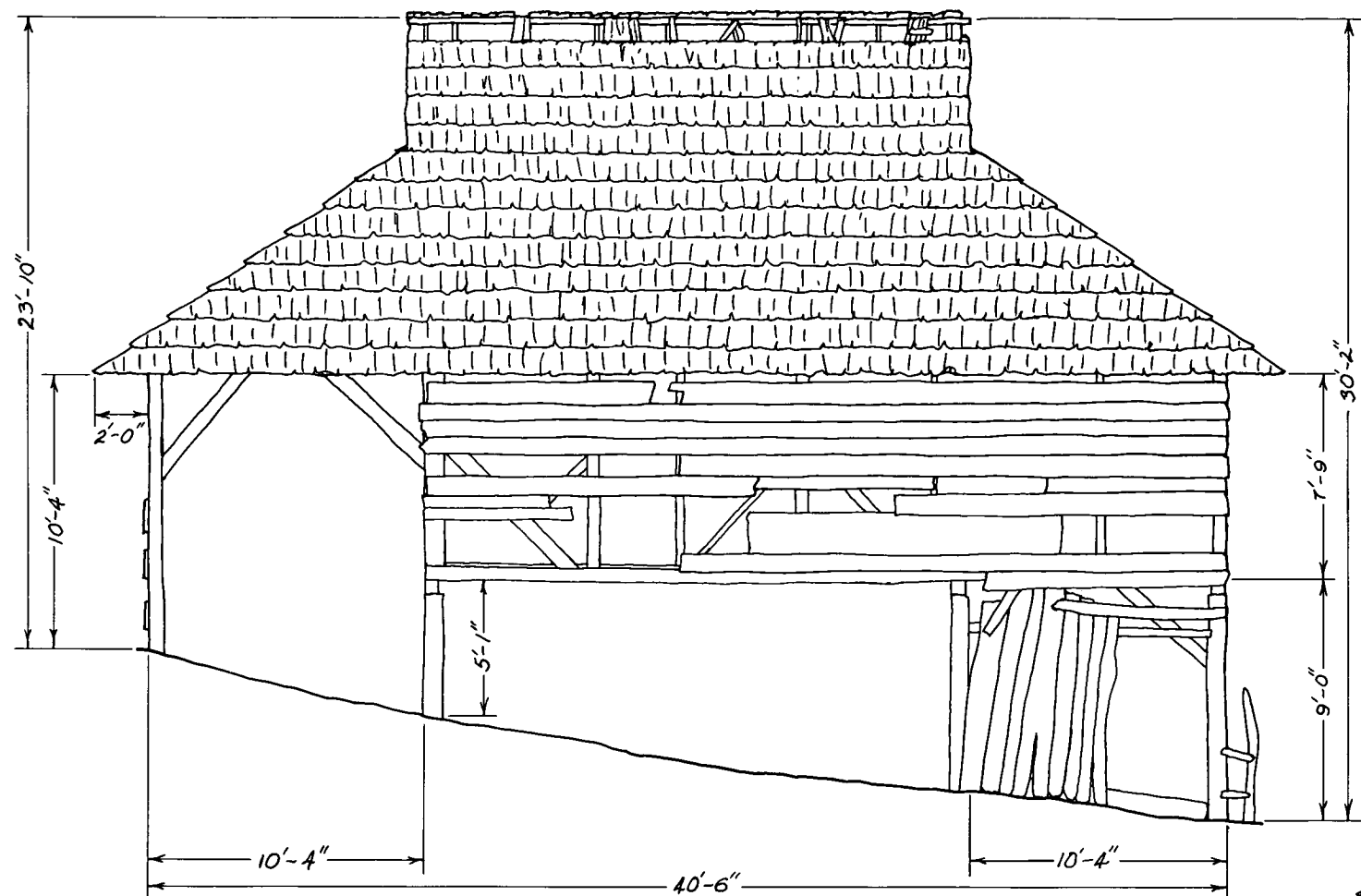


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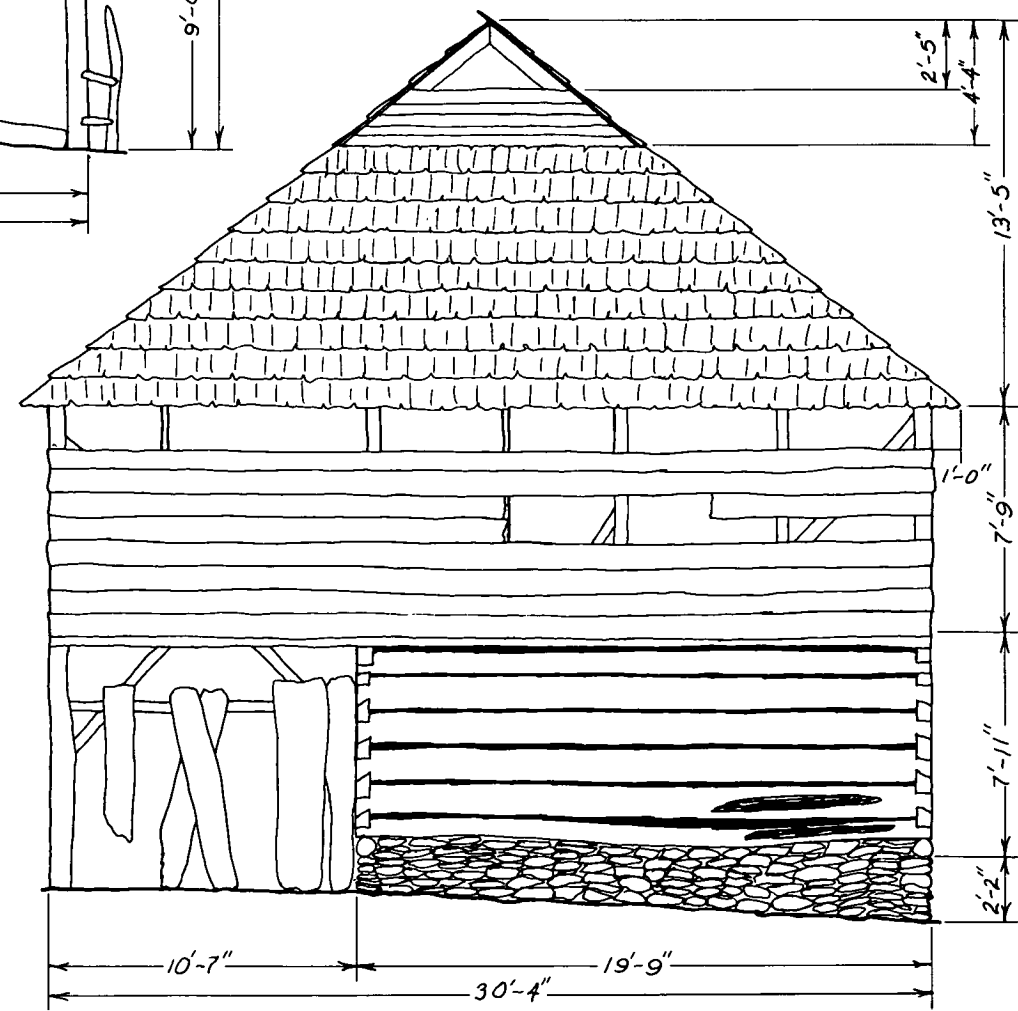
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WILL MESSER BARN (UPPER PLACE)
 LITTLE CATALOOCHEE · GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK · HAYWOOD CO., NORTH CAROLINA

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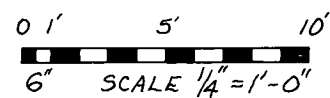
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EAST ELEVATION 8/9/75



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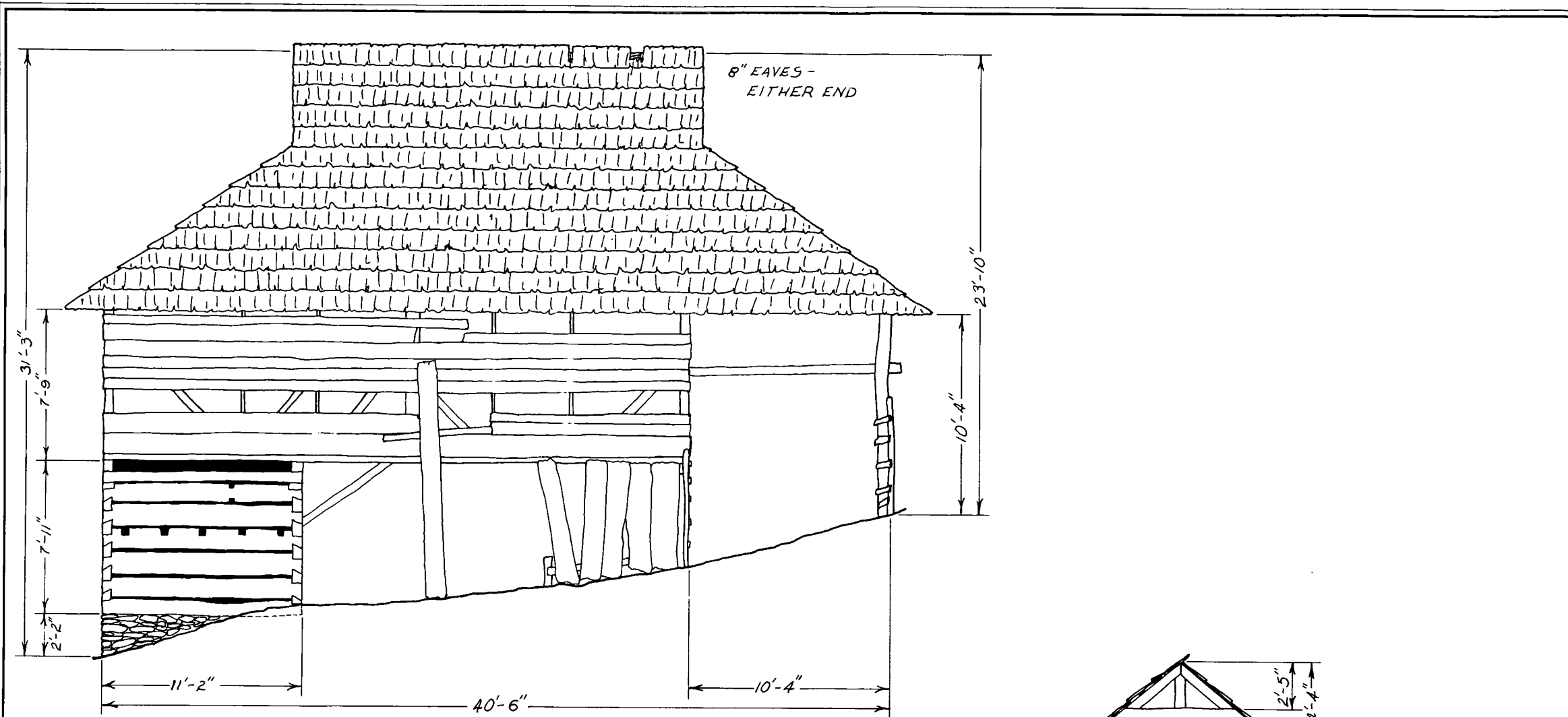
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LITTLE CATALOOCHEE · GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK · HAYWOOD CO., NORTH CAROLINA

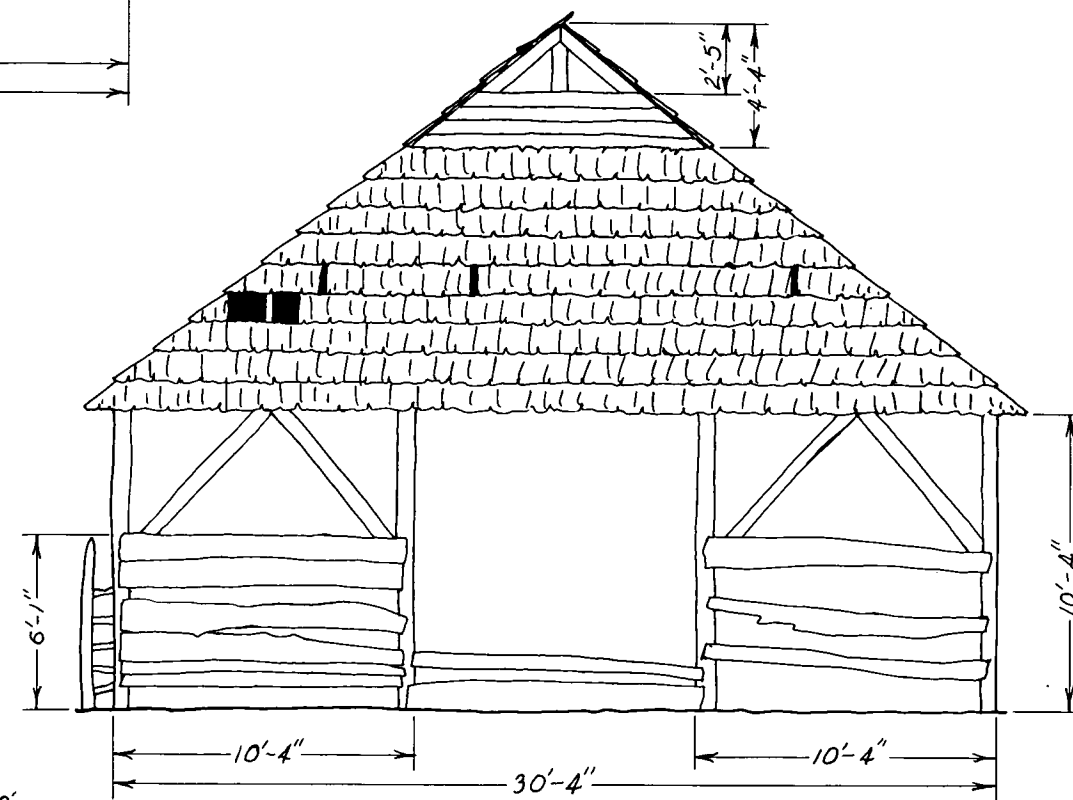
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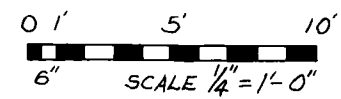
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NORTH ELEVATION 8/9/75



WEST ELEVATION 8/9/75



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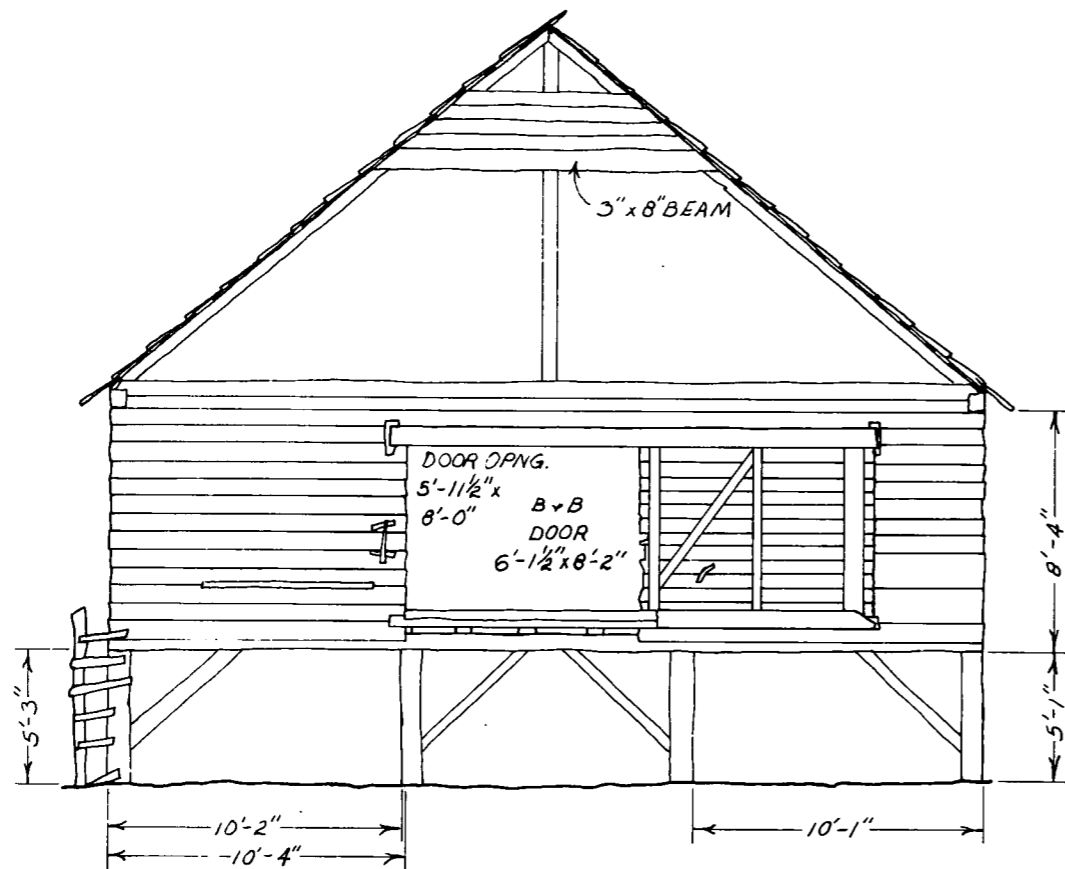
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 LITTLE CATALOOCHEE · GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK · HAYWOOD CO., NORTH CAROLINA

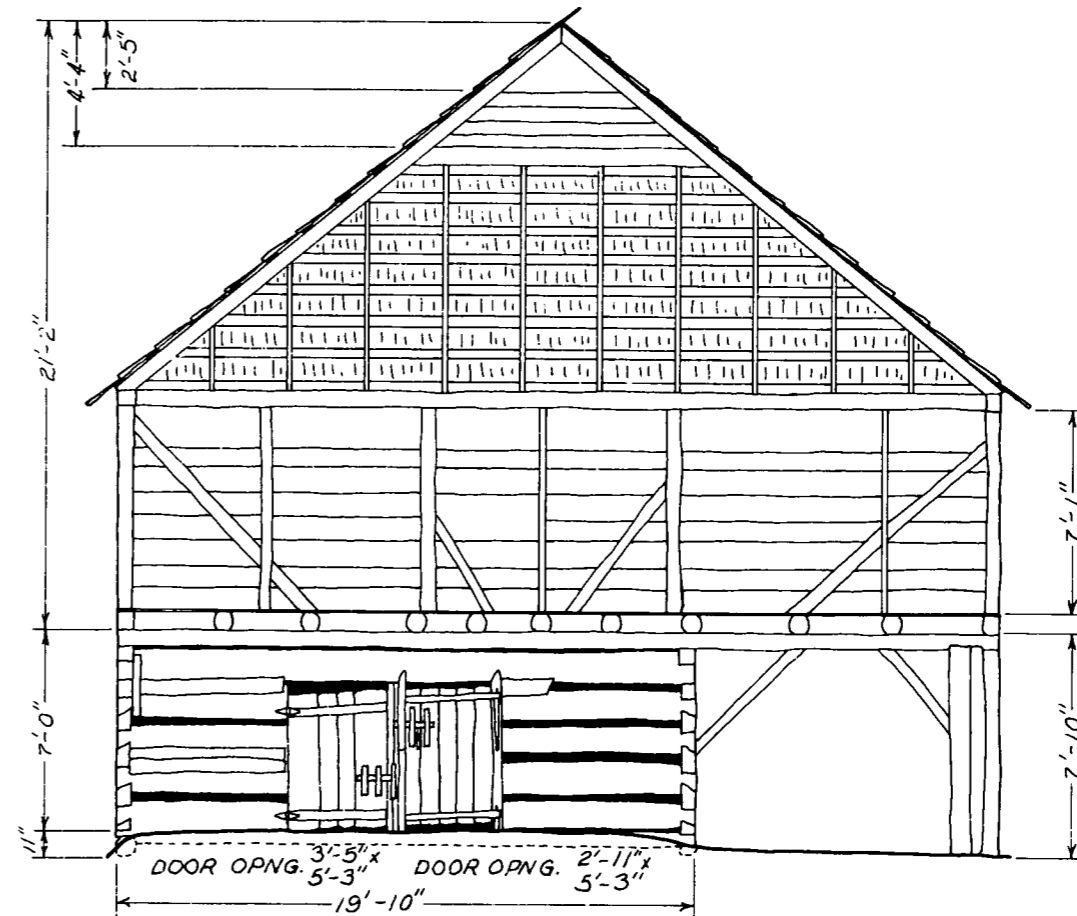
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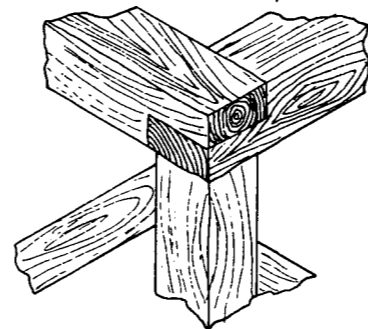
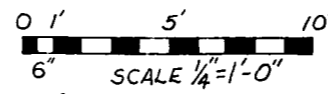
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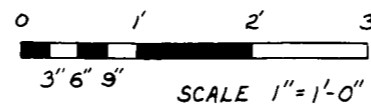
SECTION A 8/10/75



SECTION B 8/10/75



TOP PLATE CORNER
LAP JOINT
(NORTHEAST CORNER)



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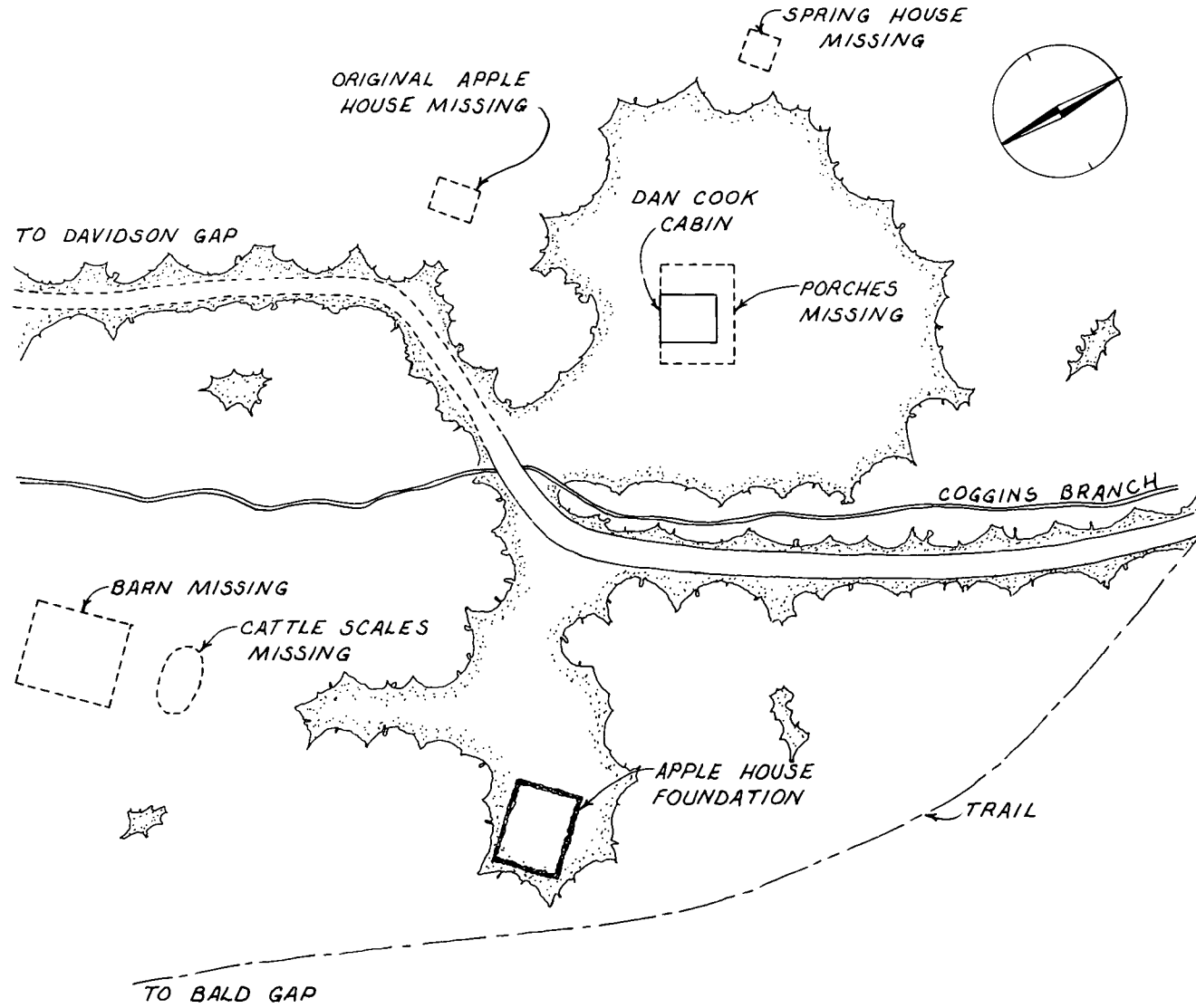
NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
WILL MESSER BARN (UPPER PLACE)

LITTLE CATALOOCHEE · GREAT SMÖKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK · HAYWOOD CO., NORTH CAROLINA

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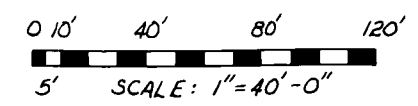
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PLOT PLAN



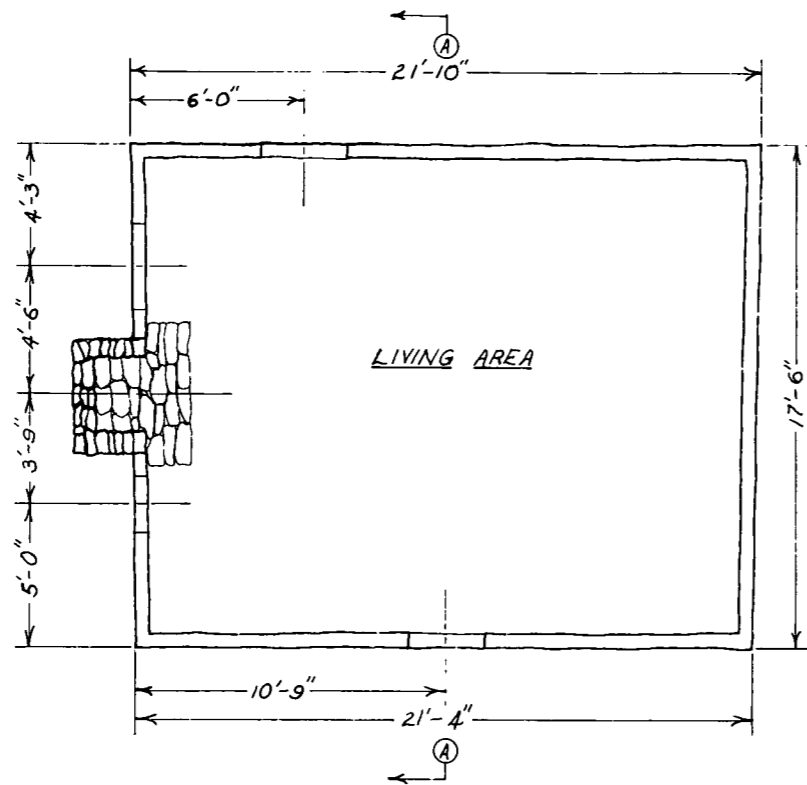
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NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
DAN COOK CABIN AND APPLE HOUSE
LITTLE CATALOCHEE - GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK - HAYWOOD CO., NORTH CAROLINA

SURVEY NO.

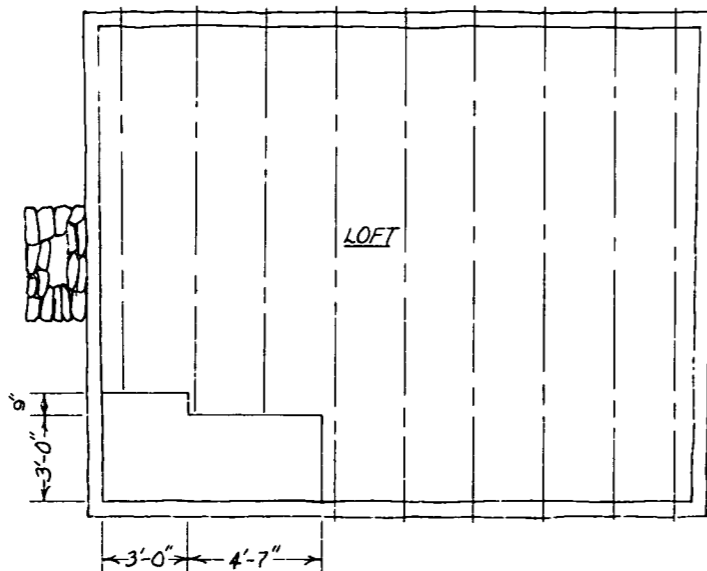
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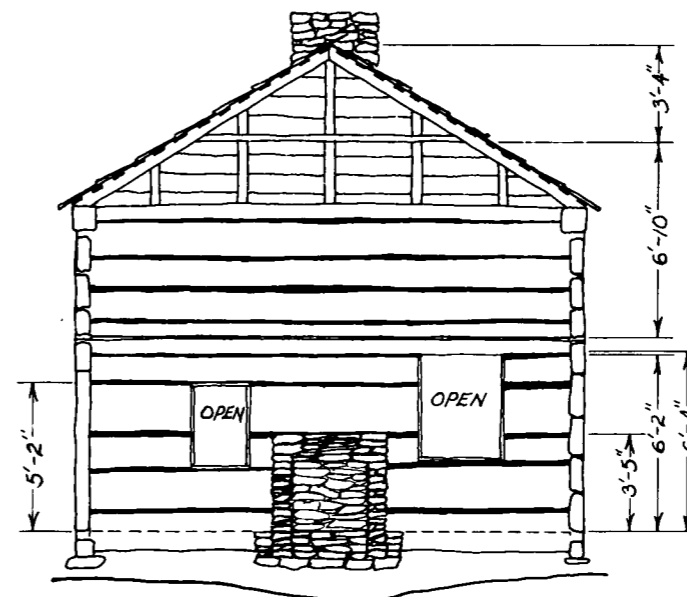


FIRST FLOOR PLAN 8/10/75

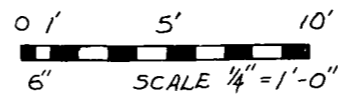
JOISTS 2'-5" ± O.C.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN 8/10/75



SECTION A 8/10/75



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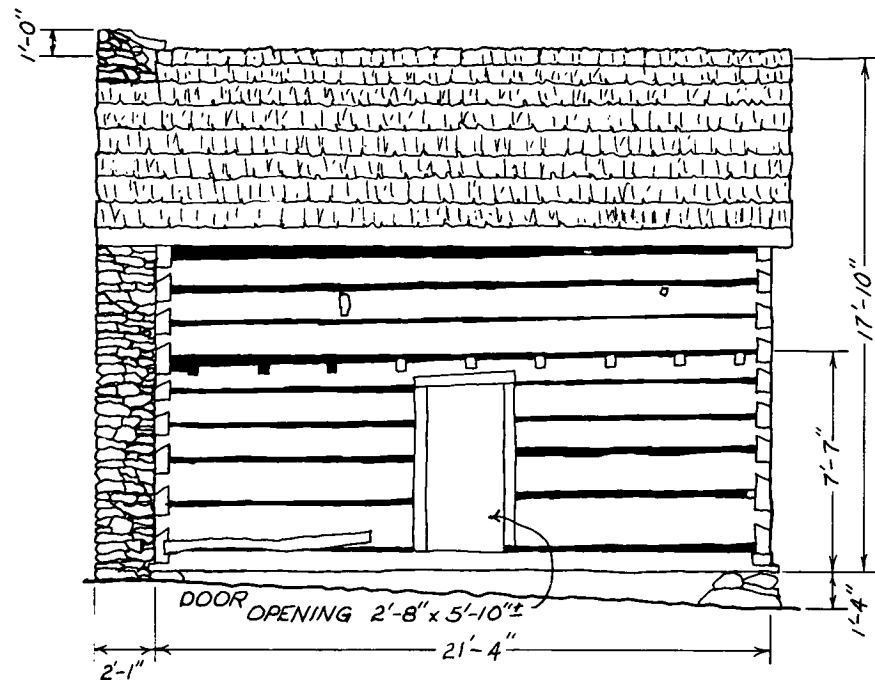
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DAN COOK CABIN

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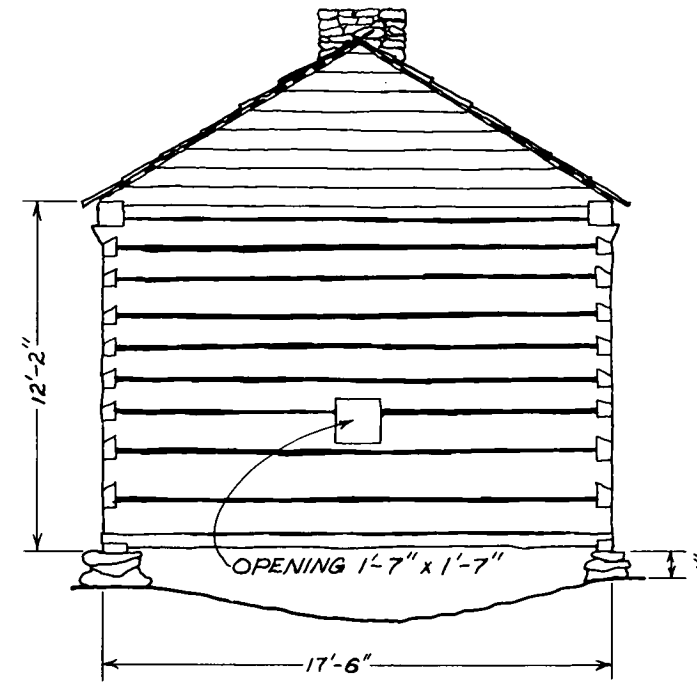
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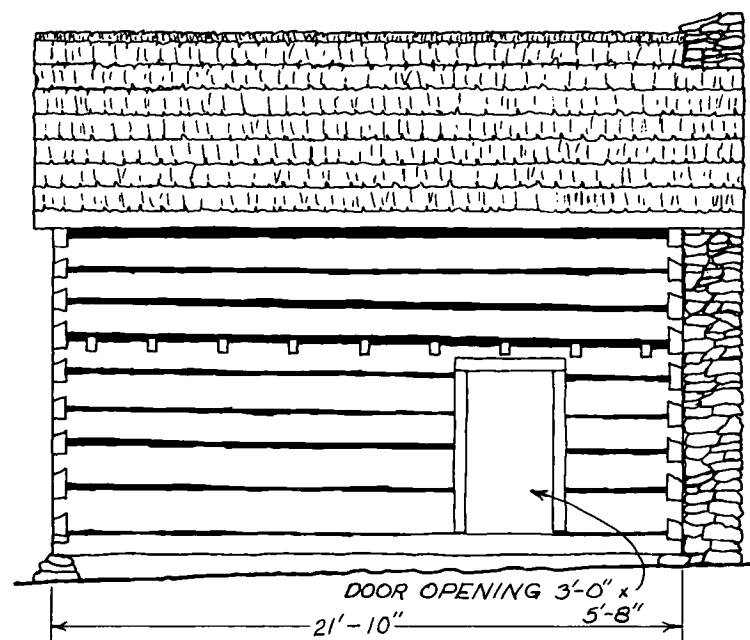
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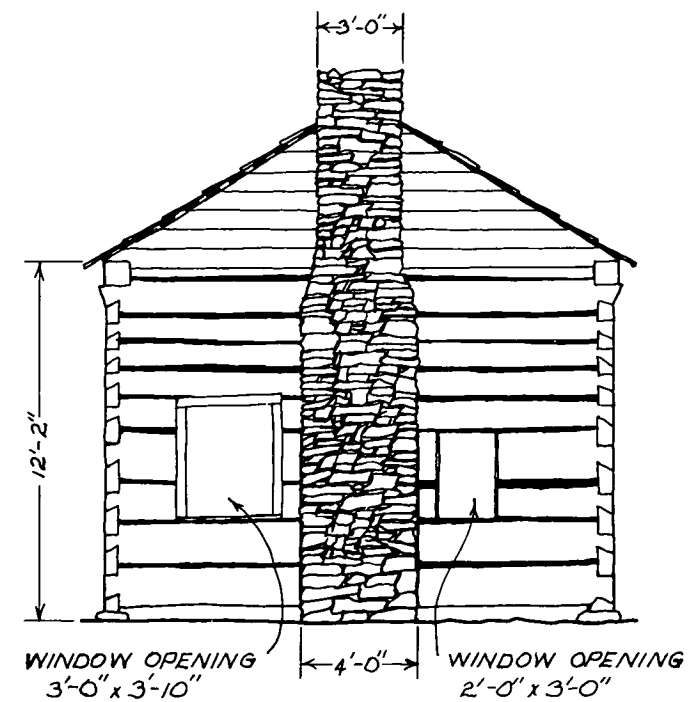
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
8/10/75



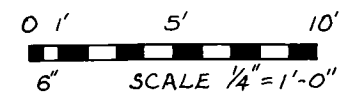
NORTHEAST ELEVATION
8/10/75



NORTHWEST ELEVATION
8/10/75



SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
8/10/75



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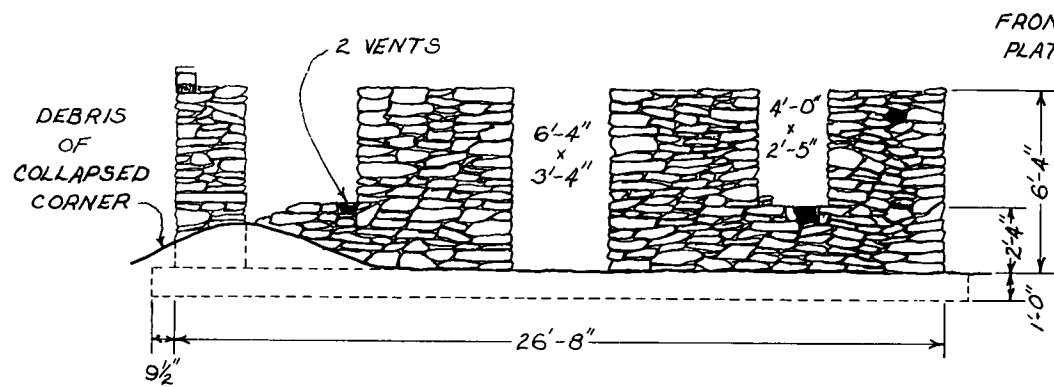
NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
DAN COOK CABIN

LITTLE CATALOOCHEE · GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK · HAYWOOD CO., NORTH CAROLINA

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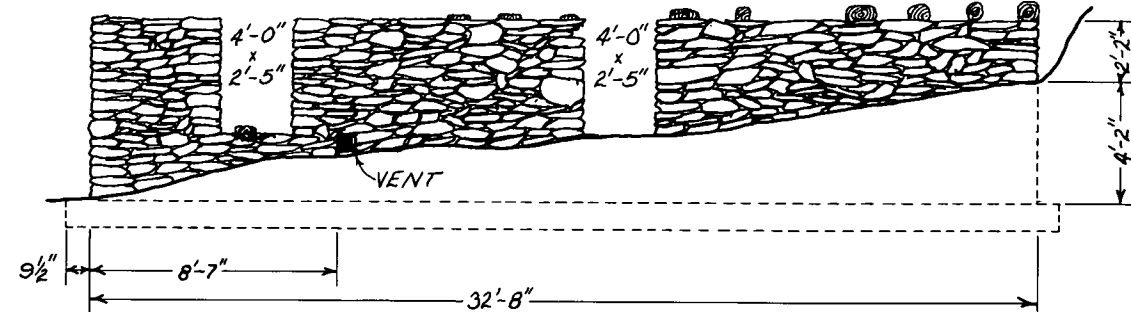
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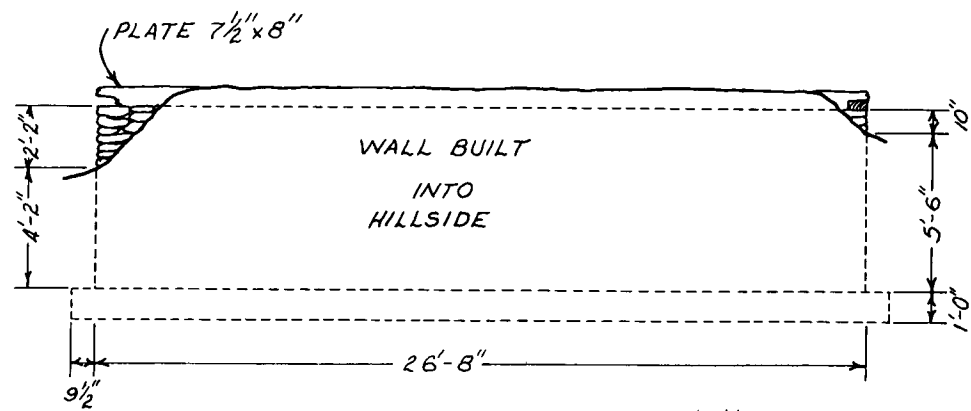


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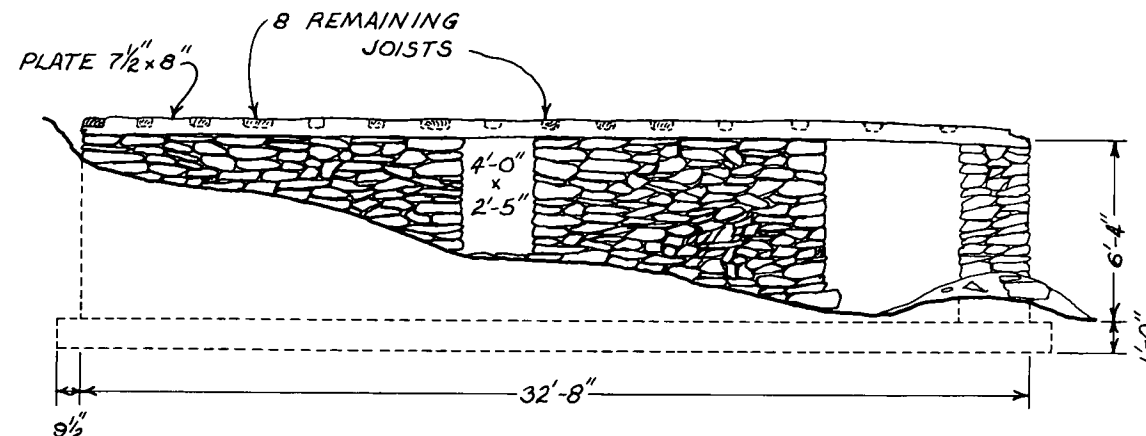
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PLATES MISSING



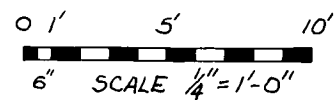
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION 8/9/75



SOUTHEAST ELEVATION 8/9/75



NORTHEAST ELEVATION 8/9/75



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NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

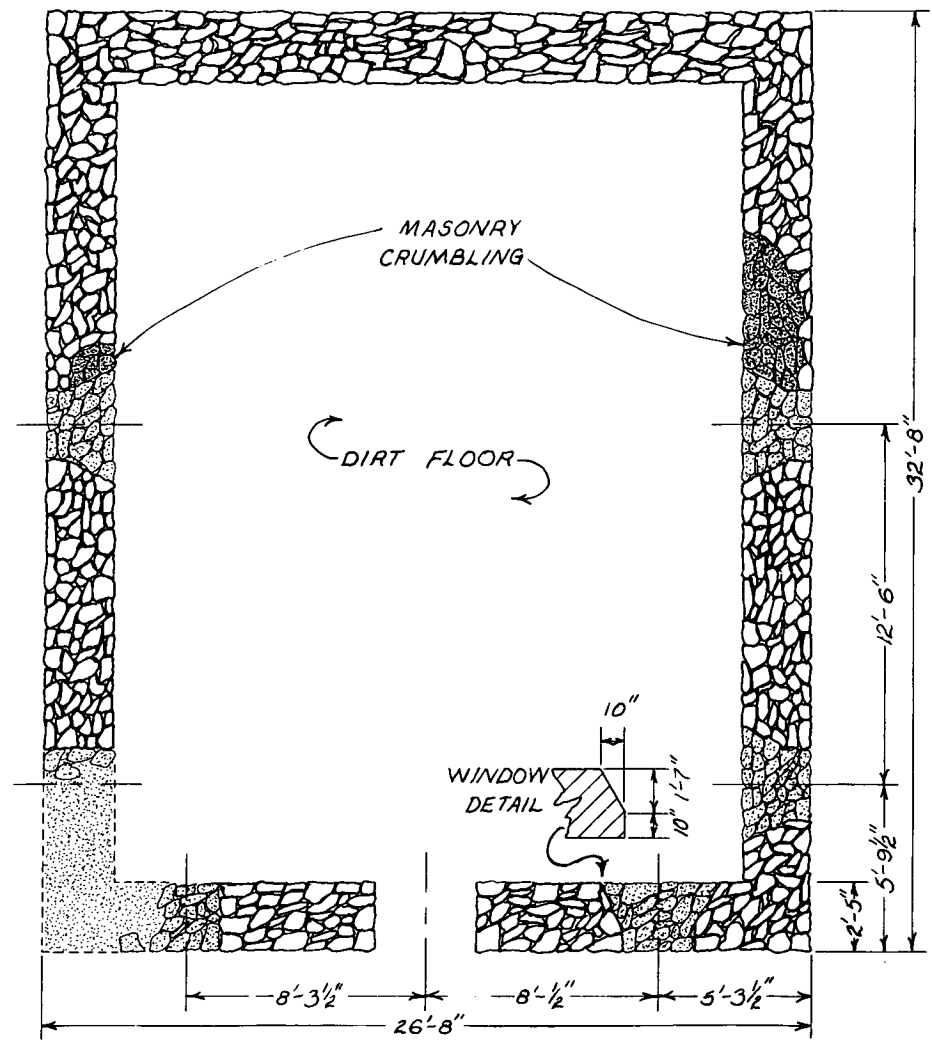
DAN COOK APPLE HOUSE

LITTLE CATALOOCHEE - GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK - HAYWOOD CO., NORTH CAROLINA

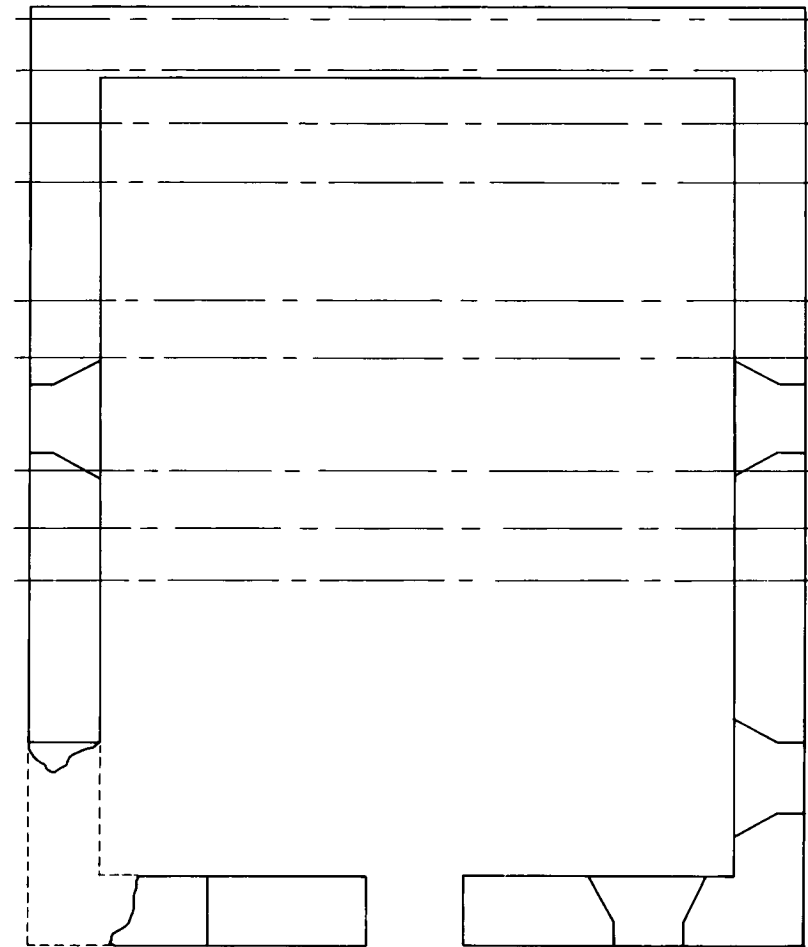
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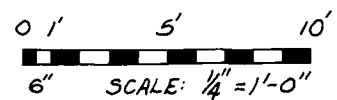
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GROUND FLOOR PLAN 8/9/75



JOIST PLACEMENT 8/9/75



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DAN COOK APPLE HOUSE

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