NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received DEC 21 1987
date entered JAN 21 1988

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic George Salmon House

and or common C. Douglas Wilson Farm

2. Location

street & number 894 Highway 414, 1.8 miles west of U. S. Hwy. 25 on S. C. Hwy. 414 N/A not for publication

city, town Travelers Rest X vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Greenville code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. John N. Walker

street & number P. O. Box 848

city, town Greenville X vicinity of state S. C. 29602

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Mesne Conveyance

street & number Room 200, Greenville County Courthouse, E. North Street

city, town Greenville state S. C. 29601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1987 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state S. C. 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	___ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	_X_ moved date 1984
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George Salmon House is located near the North Saluda River in northern Greenville County, fifteen miles from the city of Greenville. The undeveloped tract surrounding the house is known locally as the C. Douglas Wilson Farm, including property on both sides of the river and the wide expanse of bottomland formed by the junction of the river with several small streams. Research into early land grants and physical evidence indicate George Salmon built the initial log house around 1784, and may have been responsible for enlarging the loft area into a second story. A two-story brace and tenon extension transformed the log house into a plantation plain style house in the mid-nineteenth century. A kitchen wing was added to the rear in the late nineteenth century. In 1984 the house was moved approximately 100 feet and pivoted 90 degrees from an easterly direction to a northerly direction. At this time a substantial addition was added to the kitchen wing. Both the late nineteenth century and 1984 additions were constructed in the same style as the mid-nineteenth century house, and were accomplished with minimal compromise of its integrity. A general rehabilitation of the house was performed in 1984 as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The subject house consists of two stories, a gable roof, exterior end chimneys, wood siding, widely and irregularly spaced windows and shed roof porches. Exterior materials include: contoured composition roof, pine siding attached with cut nails, brick chimneys, brick foundations and brick porch piers. The front porch is open; the back porch is partially enclosed with siding. An offset near the front door and offsets near the double hip chimney reveal externally the limits of the log house contained within. The position of the second story windows, with three centered over the log structure, lends evidence of a two-stage extension of the original log house. The floor plan consists of two rooms on each floor separated by a central hall. The kitchen wing consists of one room, and is attached to the eastern end of the house. The 1984 addition is a story and a half, and is joined to the eastern side of the kitchen wing by a connector. It contains two rooms and a bath downstairs, with one room overhead. (See floor plans and elevations.)

Interior, First Story:

The west room reveals three log walls of hewn chestnut and oak. The ceiling consists of 12-13" pine boards supported by 3 1/2" x 6 1/2" beaded rafters, inserted into pine logs at each end. In the northwestern corner the location of the loft stairway is visible. The fireplace measures 5' in width. During the 1984 rehabilitation sheetrock and underlying horizontal boards were removed, exposing the

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	X exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates ca. 1784, ca. 1850 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George Salmon House is significant in its association with one of Greenville County's earliest settlers, a surveyor instrumental in the division of Cherokee land for settlement and in establishment of a portion of the South Carolina/North Carolina state boundary.(1) Salmon is credited with the Greenville District survey used by Robert Mills in his 1825 Atlas of the State of South Carolina.(2) Research into early grants suggests Salmon built the initial log part of the house as early as 1784. The house overlooks the wide bottom land fields located along a prominent bend in the North Saluda River, which were once part of his 3,000-acre holding.(3) The two-story plantation plain style house integrates the log house and brace and tenon extension, and displays highly decorative interior detail which is significant for upper Greenville County. Although the house has been moved, it was re-positioned within the limits of its 2.6 acre site. It is still openly visible from S. C. Highway 414, but a safe distance from impending highway widening. The undeveloped expanse of property surrounding the house provides an integrity of setting which should be weighed in considering the impact of its relocation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

George Salmon (1754-1837) was one of several prominent settlers who witnessed deeds transferring land from the Cherokee Nation to George Pearis and ultimately to Richard Pearis in 1773. This tract included much of what is now Greenville County.(4) Having sided with the Tories, Pearis was forced out of the region after the Revolution, and a land office was established in Pendleton to issue warrants for the acquisition of parcels formerly held by the Cherokee. Colonel John Thomas was appointed commissioner of locations,(5) and George Salmon became a deputy surveyor, performing hundreds of surveys pursuant to the warrants issued by the commissioner.(6) Elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives, Salmon represented Greenville District from 1791-1794, and again from 1816-1817. While in the House, he served on the committees on privileges and elections, religion, and internal improvements.(7) In 1815 Salmon was chosen as South Carolina's representative in an effort to resolve a boundary dispute with North Carolina, which resulted in establishment of the state line extending from Spartanburg County to the Chattooga River.(8) Salmon was selected by Governor Andrew Pickens, Jr. in 1817 to perform a survey of Greenville District according to action taken by the state legislature.(9) In 1825 the survey was incorporated into the Atlas of South Carolina, published by Robert Mills.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See accompanying continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.6

Quadrangle name Slater, S.C. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	362940	3877720	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the George Salmon House nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying survey, which is drawn at a scale of 1 inch equalling 50 feet, and includes the house and associated outbuildings.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Newton Walker — Edited by staff of State Historic Preservation Office

organization N/A **date** 5/20/87

street & number P.O. Box 848 **telephone** (803) 271-2980

city or town Greenville **state** S.C. 29602

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state _X_ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary W. Edmonds

title Mary W. Edmonds, Acting Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 12/11/87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register **date** 1-21-88

for **Keeper of the National Register**

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

chinked logs. The ornate chimney breast was physically incompatible with the exposed logs, and was moved to the east room. Sheetrock and ceiling boards were removed, revealing the original beams and the location of the early stairway. Two cabin doorways and one window opening were visible. These were paneled with old lumber, but their definition was preserved. Chinking was repaired, but some was left intact. A pine floor was installed over the more recent maple floor. All logs and beams were left intact.

The central hall contains a stairway and displays a newel post and bannister with turned ballasters of inconsistent diameter. Sidelights and panels are located at front and rear doors. The walls and ceilings consist of pine boards, and the floor is maple. The central hall was left intact in 1984, including doors and brass hinges. New rim locks were added.

The east room displays the chimney breast removed from the west room. Physical evidence suggests it was installed in the west room at the time the logs were covered with boards. It was installed in the east room where it was compatible with the existing walls. Sheetrock was removed from the ceiling of this room, along with ceiling boards which were damaged during some previous wiring of the house, exposing the hewn beams. Sheetrock was preserved on all walls except one, where horizontal wall boards were exposed. Wrought door hinges are visible, imbedded in the door frame leading to the kitchen wing.

Kitchen addition:

Beaded ceiling and pine floors were exposed by removal of sheetrock, plywood, and vinyl, and were restored in place. Original pegged window sashes were preserved. Cabinets from the 1960's were removed and replaced with chestnut cabinets.

Interior Second Story:

The second story west room was basically unchanged during the 1984 rehabilitation. Walls consist of sheetrock with wainscoting. Two early windows are preserved here, similar to kitchen windows. A small chimney breast in poor condition was removed from the first story east room, and is displayed here. Floors are of oak.

The second story central hall contains rather primitive pickets and railings in contrast to those of the first story hall. The junctions of these railings display considerable craftsmanship. Original boards are exposed on walls and ceiling exhibiting hand

planing. The front and rear windows contain pegged sashes as described earlier. Floors are oak.

The east room was left basically intact, consisting of sheetrock with wallpaper, and wainscoting. The bath/closet area was reworked within the existing walls. Floors are oak.

Summary:

Prior to the 1984 rehabilitation, virtually all interior ceilings and walls were covered with sheetrock, first story pine floors were covered with maple or vinyl, and second story pine floors were covered with oak. Original wall boards and flooring were not exposed at every location because of the air penetration this would allow. The only trim, hardware, or doors removed were recent additions - within the last 30 years. Seven sets of the earliest generation of window sashes were restored and left in place. Other windows dating from the 1950s were replaced with insulated glass sashes. Although the 1984 addition is substantial, it was connected to an addition, the kitchen wing. This permitted the removal of a recent porch enclosure which covered one set of sidelights at the rear doorway of the central hall. The addition is distanced from the earliest parts of the house, and does not interfere with the entry of light and air into the house.

The purpose of moving the house was to achieve greater distance from South Carolina Highway 414. The log section of the house was previously located 50' from the road center line. Aside from the obvious nuisance this presented, the steeply-cut road bank destroyed the essence of the gently sloping rise upon which the house was situated, and imparted a precipitous effect. Moving the house required reconstruction of the chimneys according to the original profile. The elevation of the house was kept constant as measured by transit, and all outbuildings were preserved. Many of the perimeter foundation stones, especially under the porches, had been removed at some earlier time when cement block underpinning had been added. Consequently brick was used for the foundation, and brick piers were used for the front porch. The balance of the house was moved in its entirety, including porches, with only minor repairs to exterior siding, soffits, gables, and trim. The exterior modifications were limited to removal of plywood from the front porch ceiling to expose original ceiling board, removal of the bath/closet area on the rear porch, and removal of a 1960s side porch and furnace room from the kitchen wing.

Surroundings:

The house commands an unrestricted view of the North Saluda River Valley and the Blue Ridge Mountains along the North Carolina/South Carolina Border. Approximately 1,200 acres of undeveloped land in one holding surround the site. Few houses are visible, the nearest of which is a small clapboard farmhouse constructed in similar style to the subject house. Four contributing outbuildings share the 2.6 acre tract with the George Salmon House: Two multipurpose hay, grain, and equipment storage buildings, one small chicken coop (all early 20th century) and a smokehouse (mid-to-late 19th century). The smokehouse is the most significant, possessing gables, soffits, and returns similar to those of the house.

Anne K. McCuen of Greenville has researched extensively the relationship between George Salmon, the subject property, and a grave near the house bearing a DAR marker inscribed with his name. The following discussion is based on that research.

George Salmon obtained a warrant(10) from the commissioner of locations to survey for his acquisition 640 acres on May 21, 1784, the day Col. John Thomas began issuing such warrants.(11) The plat dates the survey as performed on May 22. This 640-acre tract was located along the North Saluda River and includes the site of the existing house and cemetery. The deed describes the location as "well known by the name of Useties Camp", apparently a Cherokee settlement.(12) Generally these grants required the grantee to "settle" the tract within two years to obtain clear title.(13) Assuming Salmon intended to comply with this requirement, he would have constructed a house on the property within this time period. The following April 18, Salmon surveyed 340 acres of adjoining land for his wife, Elizabeth Young, whom he had wed on March 10, 1785.(14)

Salmon accumulated over 5,000 acres by 1794. Some 2,000 acres were in six locations noncontiguous with his initial holding, which grew to 3,415. He sold most of these other tracts by 1805. He continued to hold property along the South Tyger River until 1829, and according to one deed he lived there for some indefinite period of time prior to 1813. But his acreage along the South Tyger was substantially smaller than his North Saluda Tract, and other documents indicate he resided on this primary tract in his latter years. Portions of the North Saluda Tract were sold as well, but the site for the existing house and 1,826 acres were not sold until 1836, when Salmon was forced to sell at auction to satisfy judgements held by Jeremiah Cleveland. Salmon's son Ezekial purchased the tract at this Sheriff's sale. One year and eight days following the auction, George Salmon died, and within two years Ezekial Salmon sold the property to Col. Robert Cox, reserving one-half acre where his "father is interred". Most of the Salmon family, including Ezekial and George's widow then moved to Versailles, Missouri, where some descendants reside today.(15)

The house embodies early construction methods including hewn log construction and brace and tenon framing. Equally interesting is the union of these two methods, and the manner in which a central hall was accomplished within the walls of the log section. The structure symbolizes the struggle to advance from a dwelling hewn of indigenous materials to one representative of greater affluence, as displayed in the rather ornate mantel. If not purely representative of any one style or period, it genuinely manifests the transitions between

several, and only because the site and initial structure were worthy of preservation and improvement. The location of the house within the initial Salmon tract of 640 acres and its orientation to the prime cropland (which the boundary was apparently drawn to appropriate) reflect the careful selection of a homestead. Architect John W. Califf, Jr. of Columbia has entered the following analysis:

> The house is a fine example of the evolutionary dwelling which began as a frontier log cabin and developed with the surrounding countryside into a comfortable farm house of a type often called plantation plain style. Found at Middleburg near Charleston as early as 1688 (still standing), this vernacular house style spread all over the state with many versions and details well into the 20th century.
>
> The relatively high walls of the original cabin as shown by the setback in the corner boards seem to indicate that it was a story and a half structure in the beginning with stairs leading up to a loft space through the opening where outline still shows. Whether the full second story was added to the log structure before, or as a part of, the latter linear addition probably never will be known.
>
> Quality of workmanship in the log construction like the dovetailing and finishing of the logs would classify this as a first rate residence in the Up Country of that day. This feeling is reflected even stronger in the highly-decorated chimney breast with the rows of rectangular panels and fanciful carving - a country carpenter's remembrance of urban elegance. Similar work is found at pre-Revolutionary Walnut Grove in Spartanburg County and Thorntree in Williamsburg County, and it is significant that such artistry was found in upper Greenville County that early.
>
> The two-story brace and tenon addition to the left of the original structure transformed the dwelling's appearance to that of the typical up-country plantation plain style house. Its gable roof, exterior end chimneys, wood siding, widely and irregularly spaced windows and shed roof porches all are features of this style as is the floor plan with

two rooms on each floor separated by a central hall. The rather deep overhangs at the eaves and particularly at the gable ends and returns seem to place this construction in the 1840s or 50s when influences of the Italianate style began to show even in the countryside.

Col. Robert Cox purchased from Ezekial Salmon 1000 acres in a deed recorded June 23, 1839.(16) This included a portion of the 640 acres originally laid out unto George Salmon in 1784, and on which is located the house. Col. Robert Cox's family owned this property at least until 1875, when his descendent, N. Green Cox's estate was divided among the latter's heirs.(17) It is presumed from architectural evidence and appearance that the Salmon House achieved its present size and form ca. 1850, when Col. Cox and/or his family were in residence there.

The Cox family descendents are said to have owned or controlled the property or a portion of it well into the 1930s.(18)

The house and surrounding farm land were purchased by C. Douglas Wilson, the present owner's grandfather, in about 1950.(19)

Notes

(1) Historical Commission of South Carolina, comp., Bulletins of the Historical Commission of South Carolina, vol. 10: The Boundary Line Between North Carolina and South Carolina by A. S. Salley (Columbia: The State Co., 1929) pp. 35-37.

(2) Gene Waddell, "Robert Mills, Cartographer", an introduction to Mills' Atlas of the State of South Carolina by S. Emmett Lucas, comp. (Easley, S. C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980), pp. 1-3.

(3) Composite map of lands owned by George and Ezekial Salmon, compiled by Anne K. McCuen.

(4) Mrs. Beverly Thomson Whitmire, "Richard Pearis, Bold Pioneer", in The Proceedings and Papers of the Greenville County Historical Society 1962-1964, Albert N. Sanders, ed. S. C.: The Greenville County Historical Society, 1965), pp. 82-85.

(5) Choice McCoin, Greenville County: A Pictorial History (Virginia Beach, VA.: The Donning Company, 1983), pp. 11-12.

(6) Interview with Anne K. McCuen, Greenville, S. C., March 1986.

(7) N. Louise Bailey, ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives vol. IV 1791-1815 (Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1984). pp. 504-505.

(8) Whitmire, Richard Pearis, pp. 82-85.

(9) Waddell, Introduction to Mills Atlas, pp. 1-3.

(10) Plat Book A, p. 50, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville County Courthouse, Greenville, S. C.

(11) McCoin, Greenville County, p. 12.

(12) Interview with Anne K. McCuen, Greenville, S. C., March 1986. The location of the house can be derived by comparing the plats with the USGS survey, and by using a plat of unknown age and origin which was used in an 1875 division of the property among heirs of N. Green Cox.

(13) Thomas Cooper, ed., The Statutes at Large of South Carolina (Columbia S. C.: A. S. Johnston, 1838), p. 593.

(14) Interview with Anne K. McCuen.

(15) Ibid.; Greenville (S.C.) Mountaineer, 28 December 1849; Deed Book T, pp. 83-84, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville County Courthouse, Greenville, S. C.

(16) Deed Book T, pp. 83-84, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville County Courthouse, Greenville, S. C.

(17) Apt. 38, File 27, Estate Papers of N. G. Cox, Probate Court, Greenville County Courthouse, Greenville, S. C.

(18) Telephone interview with John N. Walker, Greenville, S. C., 3 November 1987.

(19) Ibid.

Bibliography

Primary Sources:

Greenville Mountaineer (Greenville, S. C.), 28 Dec. 1849.

Greenville, S. C. Greenville County Courthouse. Register of Mesne Conveyance. Deeds and Commissioner of Locations Plat Books.

Probate Apt. 38, File 27, Estate of N. G. Cox, 1875. Greenville County Courthouse.

Published Materials:

Bailey, N. Louise, ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives vol. IV 1791-1815. Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1984.

Cooper, Thomas. The Statutes at Large of South Carolina. Columbia, S. C.: A. S. Johnston, 1838.

Historical Commission of South Carolina, comp. Bulletins of the Historical Commission of South Carolina, vol. 10: The Boundary Line Between North Carolina and South Carolina, by A. S. Salley. Columbia: The State Co., 1929.

Marsh, Blanche. Robert Mills: Architect in South Carolina Columbia: R. L. Bryan Co., 1970.

McCoin, Choice. Greenville County: A Pictorial History. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company, 1983.

Moss, Bobby Gilmer. Roster of S. C. Patriots in the American Revolution. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983.

Whitmire, Mrs. Beverly Thomson. "Richard Pearis, Bold Pioneer". The Proceedings and Papers of the Greenville County Historical Society 1962-1964. Albert N. Sanders, ed. Greenville, S. C.: The Greenville County Historical Society, 1965.

Waddell, Gene. "Robert Mills, Cartographer" an introduction to Mills' Atlas of the State of South Carolina by S. Emmett Lucas, comp. Easley, S. C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980.

Interviews:

McCuen, Anne K. Greenville, S. C. Interview, March 1986.

Walker, John N. Greenville, S. C. Telephone interview, 3 November 1987.

The following information is the same for each photograph:

George Salmon House
Greenville Co., S.C.
John N. Walker September 1986
201 E. North Street
Greenville, SC

1. Facade (North elevation)
2. Northwest oblique
3. Northeast oblique
4. West elevation
5. South elevation
6. Southwestern corner. Note offset where top of log structure is located.
7. 1984 addition
8. Rear door - first story central hall
9. First story, west room. Note fingerprints in original chinking.
10. First story, east room. Chimney Breast.
11. First story, east room. Chimney Breast.
12. First story, east room. Chimney Breast.
13. First story, east room. Chimney Breast.
14. Second story - central hall
15. Small chimney breast - second story, west room.
16. Cutaway section on rear porch revealing corner of log house.
17. Smokehouse
18. View to northwest

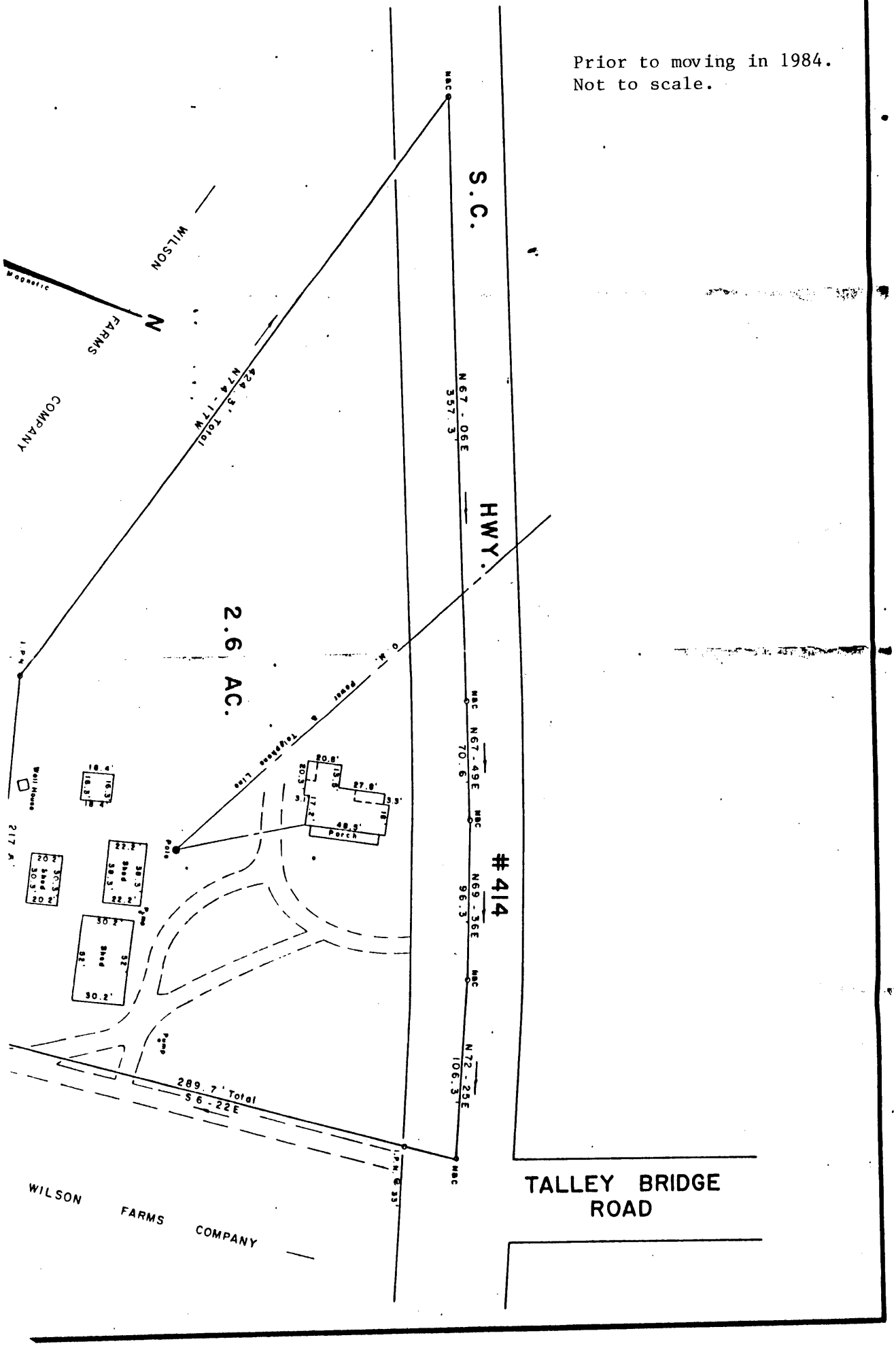
19. View to northeast

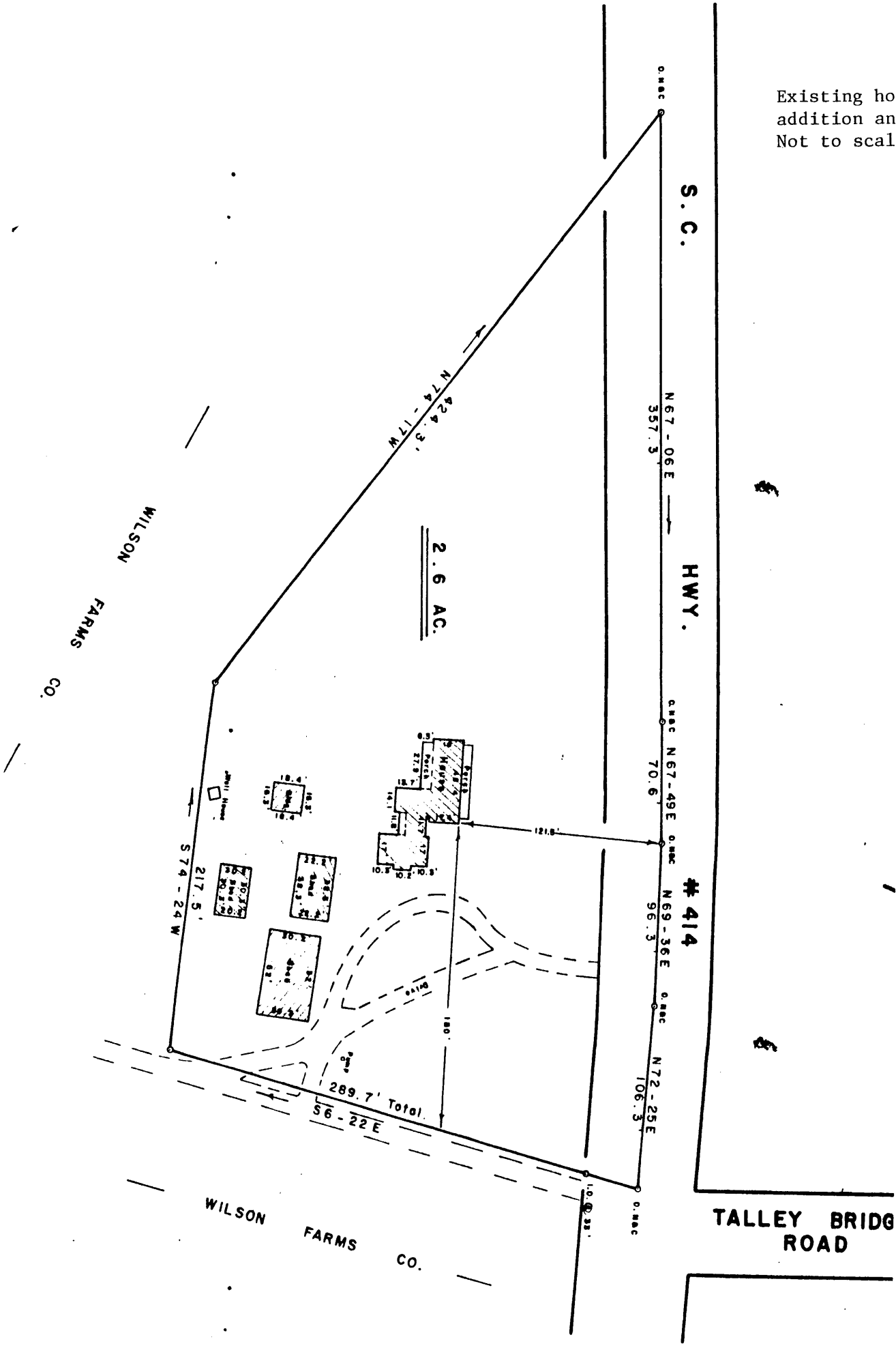
20. View of house setting from northwest

21. View of house from northwest

22. View to north

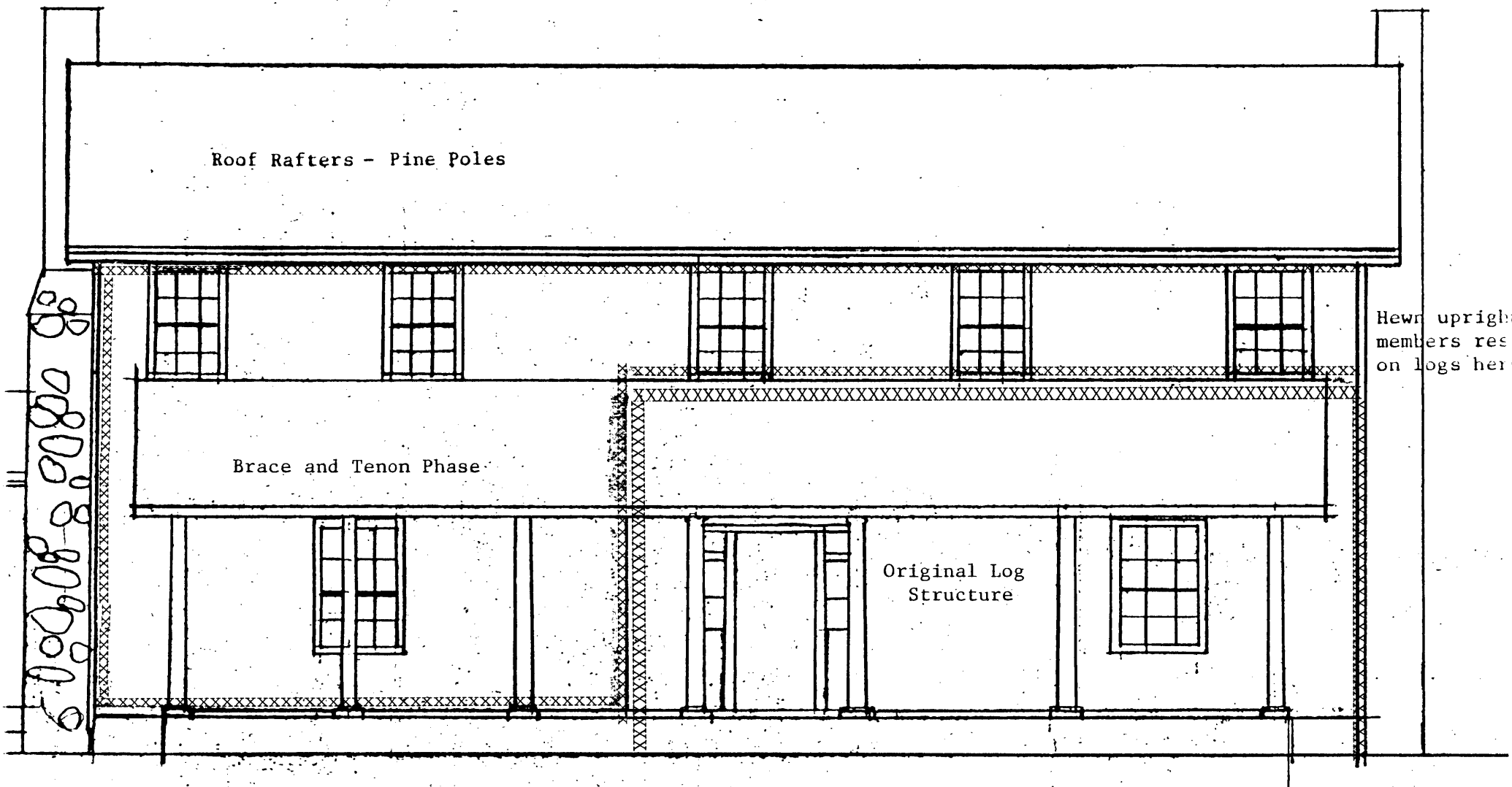
Prior to moving in 1984.
Not to scale.





Existing house, including addition and outbuildings. Not to scale.

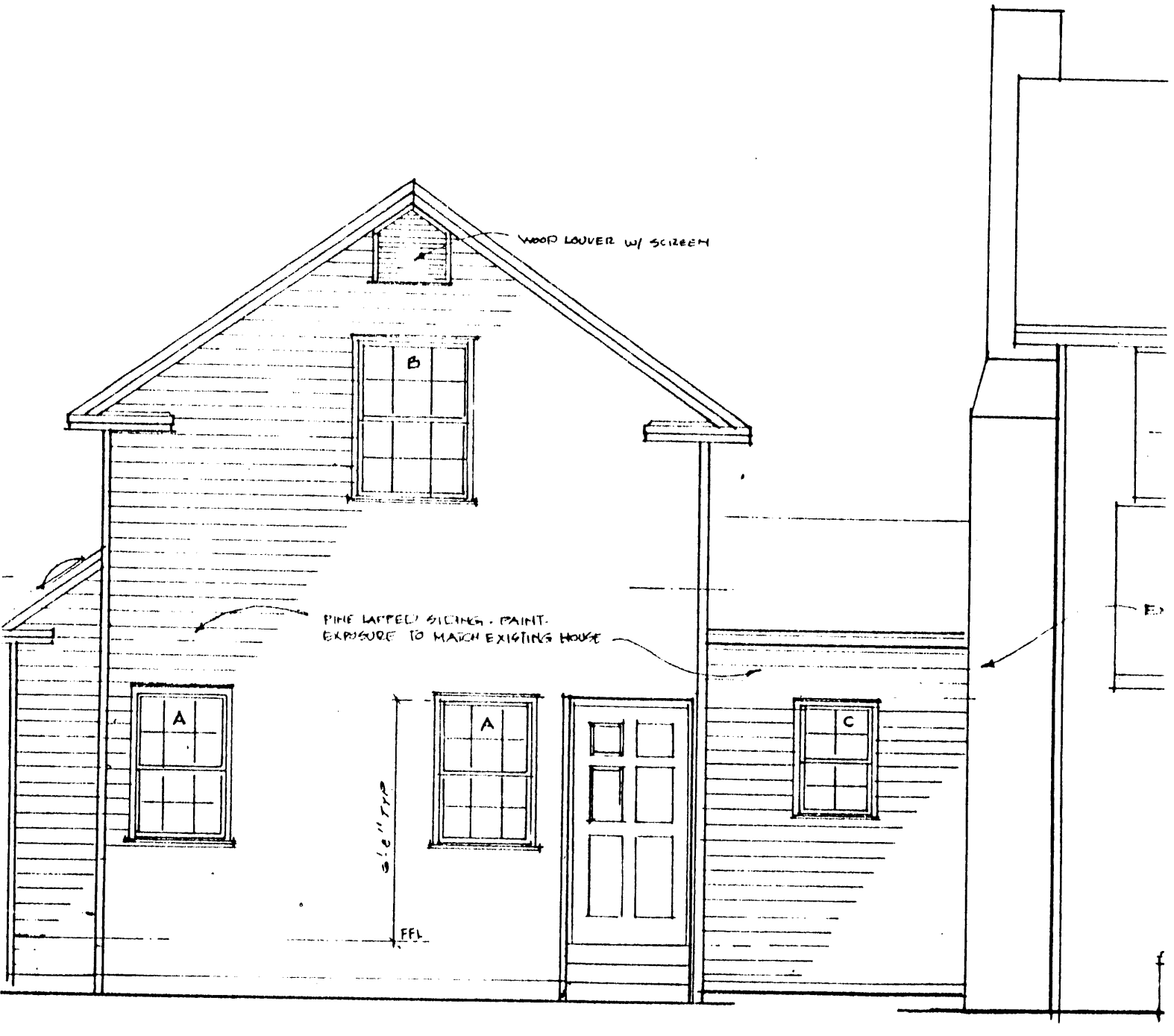
Not to scale



GEORGE SALMON HOUSE (Greenville County):
Original log structure= X
Brace and tenon construction= x
Porches apparently are more recent than brace and tenon phase, as indicated by narrow beaded ceiling board

Front Elevation

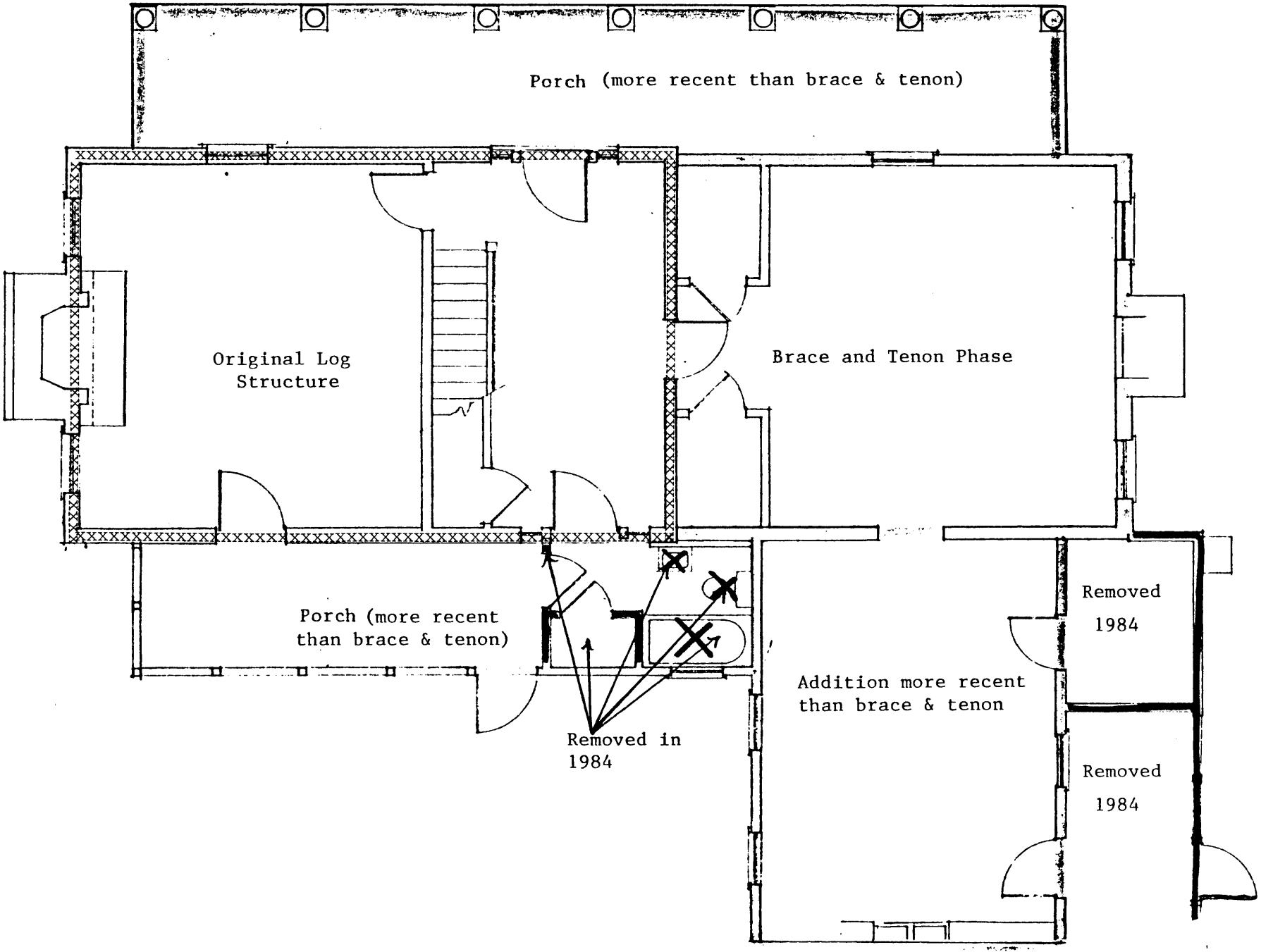
1984 Addition



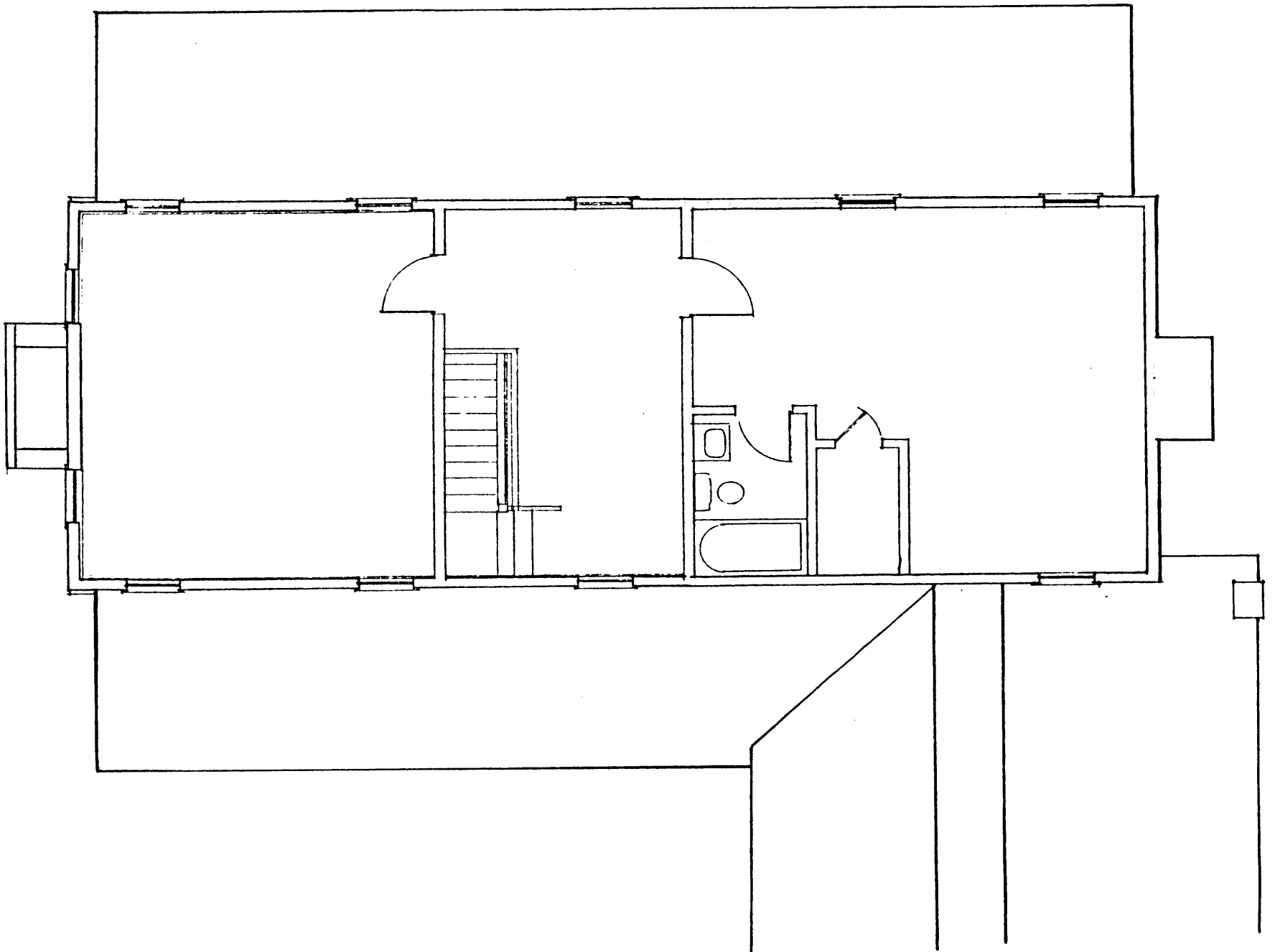
NIT ELEVATION

GEORGE SALMON HOUSE (Greenville County) - First Floor (Not to Scale)

Log structure - (28' x 18') = x
Brace and tenon phase
Porches and main rear addition later than brace and tenon phase
Sections removed in 1984 rehabilitation



GEORGE SALMON HOUSE (Greenville County):

Second Floor (Not to scale)

Brace and tenon construction