



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

August 2, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband, Architectural Historian klhusband@ncdot.gov
NCDOT/EAU/Historic Architecture Group

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley 
Environmental Review Coordinator

RE: Historic Structures Survey Report, Replace bridge # 60 on SR 2822 (Robinson Church Road) over UT to Reed Creek, BP10.R039.1. Mecklenburg County, ER 22-1534

Thank you for your May 19, 2022, email transmitting the Historic Structures Survey Report (HSSR) for the above-referenced undertaking. We apologize for the delay in the comments offered below.

After reviewing the HSSR, we do not concur that the Albert Wallace Log House (MK3724) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. While extant log houses may be rare in Mecklenburg County, the Albert Wallace Log House has undergone significant alterations including additions and a notable loss of historic materials, workmanship, and design. It also does not retain integrity of association, setting, or feeling because the surrounding land has been subdivided and developed or grown up with woods. Thus, it does not retain the architectural integrity necessary to convey its significance as a mid-nineteenth century log house later used as a tenant house.

The report compares the Albert Wallace Log House to the Oehler Log House (MK1311), which was added to the State Study List in 1989 and determined eligible for the National Register in 1990. However, the photograph and description presented in this report do not match the house recorded in the 1990 determination of eligibility and documented in 1989 as MK1311. It appears that the investigator may have mistaken a different log house, also owned by an Oehler family, for the Oehler Log House recorded by the Historic Preservation Office as MK1311. Please compare the house presented as the Oehler Log House on page 31 of the HSSR with the house presented in the evaluation beginning on page 25 of the 1990 report (https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/PDFs/ER_90-8401.pdf) and to today's streetview of MK1311.

We would note that the property is a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Designated Landmark, owned by the Historic Landmarks Commission. Thus, a Certificate of Appropriateness may be required for the undertaking.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT
Jack Thomson, C-MHLC

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jack.thomson@mecknc.gov



Received: 05/27/2022
State Historic Preservation Office

DUE 06/20/22
ER-22-1534



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

May 19, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: BP10-R039, Replace Bridge No. 60 on SR 2822 (Robinson Church Road)
over UT to Reed Creek, Mecklenburg County

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey Report, survey site database, and additional materials for the above referenced project for your review and comment per 36CRF.800. Please contact me by phone (919-707-6075) or email (klhusband@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT
Replace Bridge No. 60 on SR 2822 (Robinson Church Road) over UT to Reed
Creek, Mecklenburg County

WBS No. BP10.R039.1
PA No. 21-11-0026

Prepared For:
Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Prepared By:
Environmental Corporation of America, Inc. (ECA)
1375 Union Hill Industrial Court
Alpharetta, GA 30004

Laurel L. Bartlett, PhD, Principal Architectural Historian

April 2022

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT
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Alpharetta, GA 30004

Laurel L. Bartlett, PhD, Principal Investigator

April 2022



Laurel L. Bartlett, PhD, Principal Architectural Historian
Environmental Corporation of America, Inc. (ECA)

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architectural Resources Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Environmental Corporation of America, Inc. (ECA) prepared this report in February 2022 in support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) proposed replacement of Bridge No. 60 on SR 2822 (Robinson Church Road) over UT to Reed Creek in Mecklenburg County (WBS No. BP10.R039.1; PA No. 21-11-0026). NCDOT conducted a preliminary investigation that identified one resource over fifty years of age that warrants further evaluation, the *Albert Wallace Log House* (MK 3724), within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). NCDOT requested that ECA document and evaluate the resource for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to include a written report that presents photographs of the component buildings, structures, and landscapes, architectural and historical contexts, evaluations of National Register eligibility including comparisons to similar properties in the region, and, if appropriate, carefully delineated and justified National Register boundaries. This study complies with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, other state and federal regulations, and NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (HPO) *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina*.

As a result of its analysis, ECA recommends that the *Albert Wallace Log House* (MK 3724) is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A. The following table identified the resource requiring evaluation and summarizes the recommendations regarding its eligibility.

Table 1. Architectural Evaluation Report for the Albert Wallace Log House

Resource Name	NC SHPO Survey No.	Address	Construction Date	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation
Albert Wallace Log House	MK 3724	9425 Robinson Church Road	Ca. 1850-1870	Eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A

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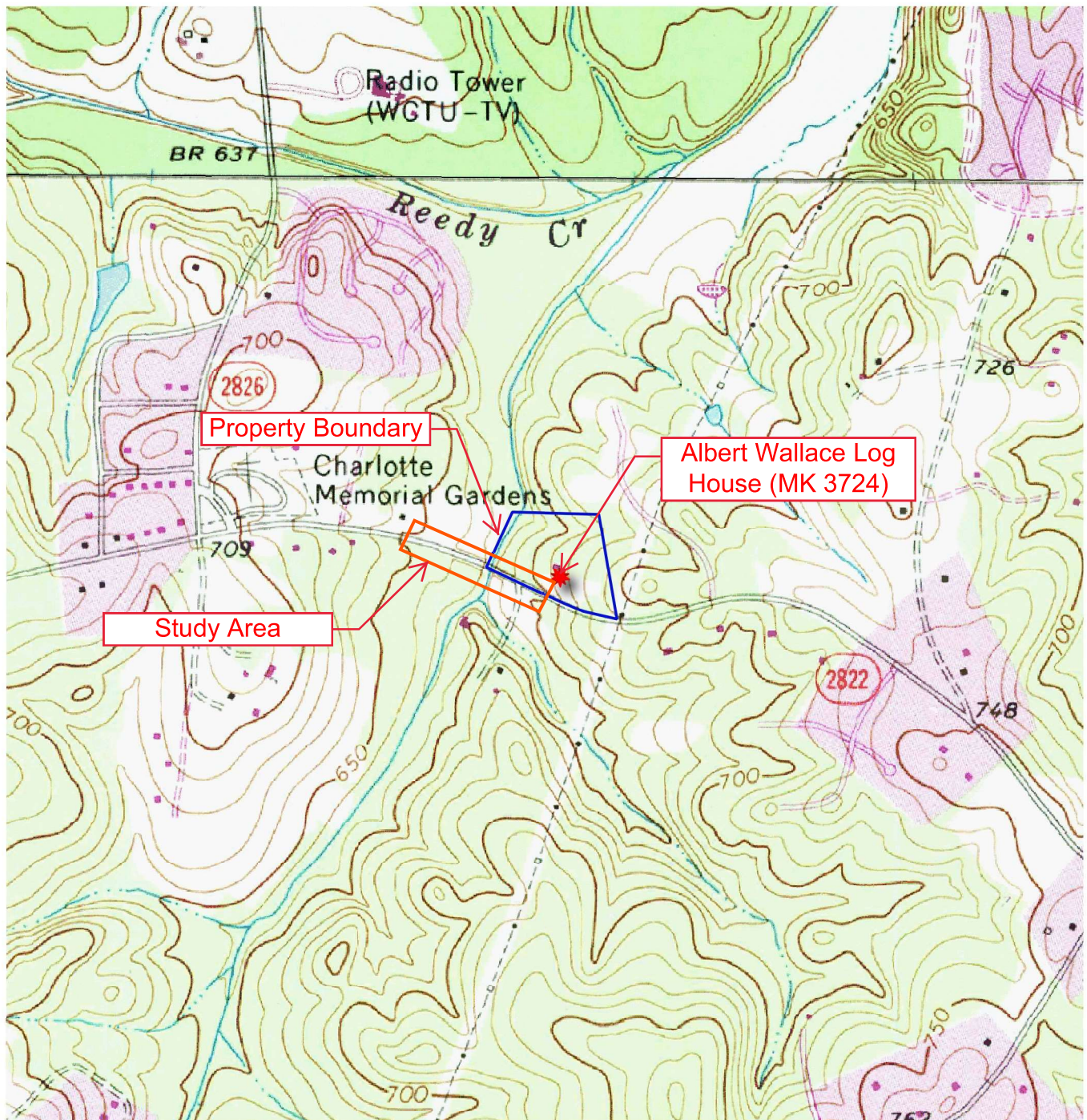
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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Environmental Corporation of America, Inc. (ECA) prepared this report in April 2022 in support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) proposed replacement of Bridge No. 60 on Sr 2822 (Robinson Church Road) over UT to Reed Creek in Mecklenburg County (WBS No. BP10.R039.1; PA No. 21-11-0026). NCDOT conducted a preliminary investigation that identified one resource over fifty years of age that warrants further evaluation, the *Albert Wallace Log House* (MK 3724), within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). NCDOT requested that ECA document and evaluate the resource for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to include a written report that presents photographs of the component buildings, structures, and landscapes, architectural and historical contexts, evaluations of National Register eligibility including comparisons to similar properties in the region, and, if appropriate, carefully delineated and justified National Register boundaries. The study limits for the Historic Structure Survey Report were bound by the extents of the *Albert Wallace Log House* (MK 3724) property parcel.

This study complies with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, other state and federal regulations, and NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (HPO) *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina*. Based on the results of the Historic Structure Survey, ECA recommends that the *Albert Wallace Log House* (MK 3734) is eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The Principal Investigator for this survey exceeds the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (48 CFR 44716). The architectural survey fieldwork was performed by the Principal Investigator, Laurel L. Bartlett, PhD on January 26, 2022. Dr. Bartlett completed background research, met with the property owner, wrote the report, and conducted the assessment. Dina M. Bazzill, MA, Vice President of Cultural Resources, reviewed this assessment. Available records were reviewed from the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, the Mecklenburg County Probate Court, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, the Mecklenburg Public Library and Special Collections, the North Carolina State Archives, the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, genealogical research, census records, GIS maps, historic plat maps, and online historic records. Historic photographs of the Albert Wallace included in this report were used with permission of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission as the original source. The Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room was temporarily closed to in person research due to relocation.



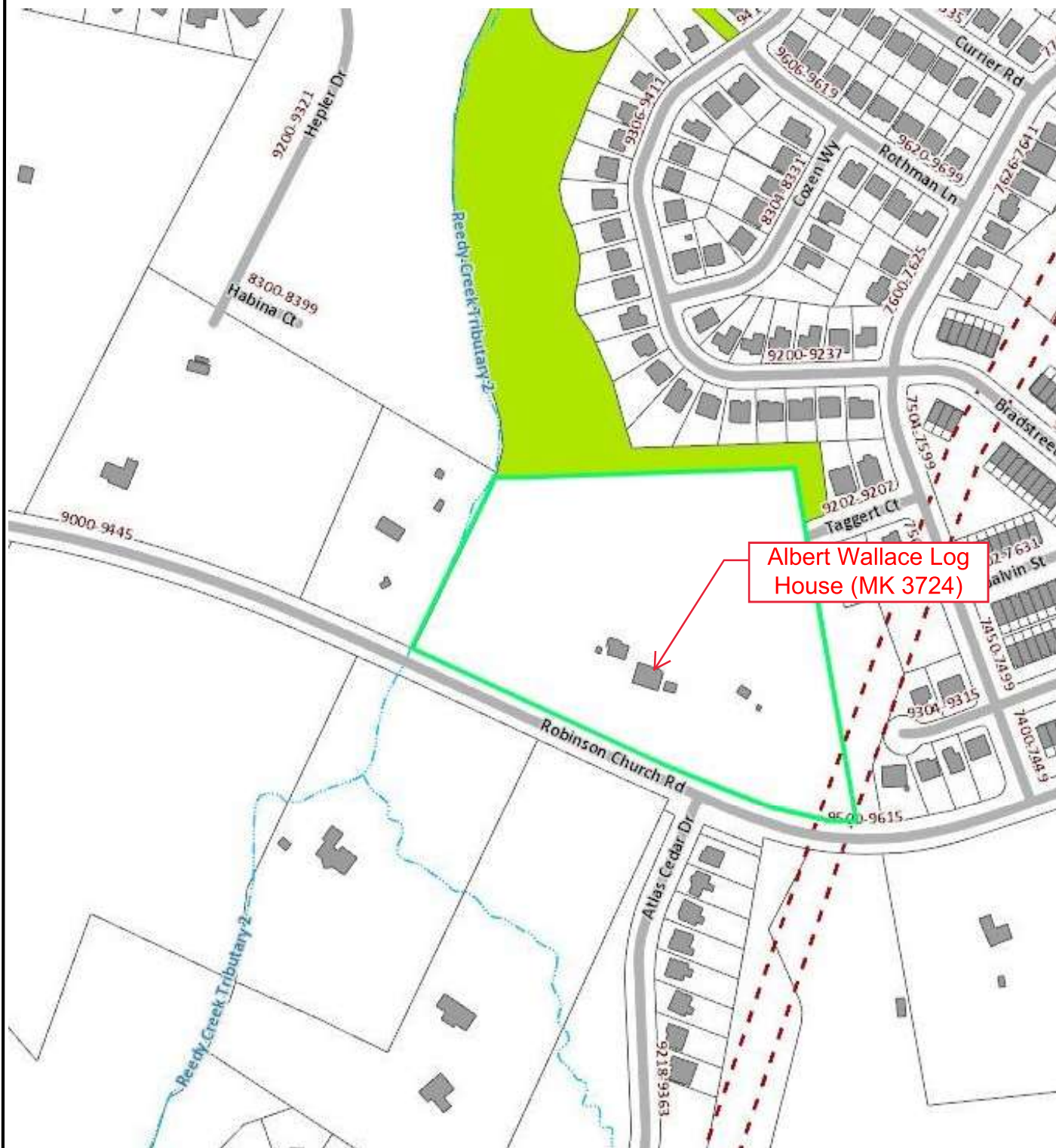
Source: USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map 7.5 Minute Series, *Mint Hill, NC*. (1993, revised 1996) and *Harrisburg, NC* (1993, revised 1996).



ALBERT WALLACE LOG HOUSE
9425 Robinson Church Road
Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, NC

Figure 1: Site Location Map - Topographic Quadrangle Map





Source: 1990 Google Earth Aerial Photography



ALBERT WALLACE LOG HOUSE
9425 Robinson Church Road
Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, NC

Figure 2: Resource Location - Mecklenburg County Parcel Map



Architectural Survey Methods

The architectural survey for this project utilized standard procedures meeting the NCDOT *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* to locate and record the historic property. The field survey inventoried existing buildings, structures, and other aspects of the built environment within the project area. The location of each structure was recorded and plotted on aerial photographs and topographic maps. All identified historic resources were photographed with a digital camera to capture the building façade, architectural and/or construction details, condition, and property setting.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

The Albert Wallace Log House is located at 9425 Robinson Church Road on the eastern edge of the City of Charlotte in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The Albert Wallace Log house fronts Robinson Church Road and is situated on a 9.67-acre property adjacent to a tributary of Reedy Creek to the west and Deluca Drive to the east. Located outside of the city core, the area surrounding the property was primarily rural throughout most of the twentieth century and has been subject to the encroachment of suburban development in the latter part of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Created in 1762, Mecklenburg County was named in honor of the German homeland of King George III's wife Charlotte.¹ The county crossroads center later became officially incorporated as Charlotte, then known as Charlotte Town, the county seat of Mecklenburg County in 1768. Mecklenburg County experienced a small period of growth following the American Revolution but boomed after the discovery of gold at the turn of the nineteenth century. Settlers and prospectors came quickly to the area hoping to take advantage of this growing prosperity. Gold mining led to the development of the first location of the US Mint in Charlotte. As such, the city expanded rapidly between 1800 and 1850 due increases in wealth, supplanted by a growing cotton industry. At one time there were thirty cotton plantations in Mecklenburg County, though the area was not as prolific of a production area as regions in the deep south. However, it was the gold-based economy that was largely responsible for the changes and development in Charlotte during this period.²



Figure 3. Map of North Carolina Counties with Project Area Highlighted. Source: University of North Carolina Libraries.

¹ Johnathan Martin, "Mecklenburg County (1762)," <https://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/mecklenburg-county-1762/> (Access February 2022) and James H. Williams, "The Formation of Mecklenburg County," <https://charlottomuseum.org/the-formation-of-mecklenburg-county/> (Accessed February 2022).

² Mecklenburg County Government, "Mecklenburg County – Regional History." <https://www.mecknc.gov/Pages/RegionalHistory.aspx> (Accessed February 2022).

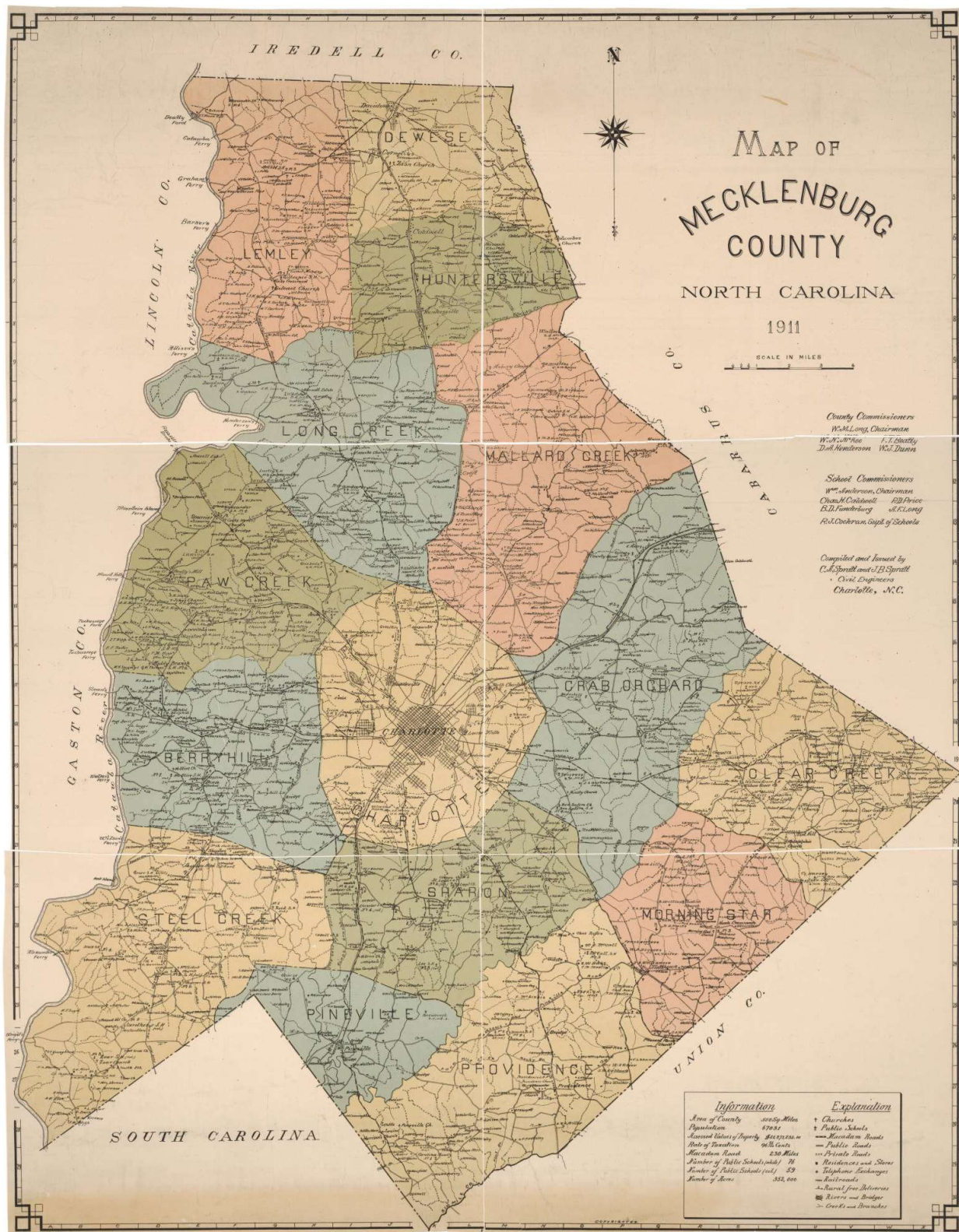


Figure 4. 1911 CA and JB Spratt Map of Mecklenburg County. Source: University or North Carolina Libraries.

Although, roads to Greensboro and Columbia were established and the city had grown with the wealth of the gold rush, Mecklenburg County remained comparatively rural up to the Civil War with numerous cotton plantations and cotton mills surrounding the city (see Figure 4). The first railroad arrived in Charlotte in 1852, but by 1861 there were four major railroads running through Charlotte. The plantation agriculture and the wealth created by the gold rush had put Charlotte and Mecklenburg County on the map as an important industrial area connecting cotton distribution to major cities in the United States. The industrial efforts and important location for connections to other areas made Charlotte and Mecklenburg County important to the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Like its time during the Revolutionary War, Mecklenburg County saw little fighting during the Civil War. The area was part of the Confederacy and served an important role in helping to protect Confederate Naval ordinances when they were threatened in storage in Norfolk, Virginia and as a repository for State Department Records.³

As with much of the American south in the post-Civil War period, cotton production and the industry itself was hit hard. Mecklenburg County would not prosper under the weight of cotton in the reconstruction era as it had done in the antebellum period and instead focused its efforts on the processing of cotton products rather than production itself.⁴ The reopening of gold mining efforts in the post-war era spurred post-war growth in Mecklenburg County. Post-war construction efforts shaped the city of Charlotte, and an increasing number of banks were constructed and opened in the city. The population of the city doubled from 1860 to 1870.⁵

Following the Civil War, Mecklenburg County was divided into fifteen townships in 1868.⁶ The current project area is located in what was known as Crab Orchard or Township Number Seven (see figure 5). Crab Orchard Township is located to the east Charlotte's main city center. This area was rural and contained several large plantation estates and small family farms. Without a labor force, many of these plantations were obsolete after the Civil War. Prior to the Civil War, 40% of Mecklenburg County's population were slaves.⁷ After the end of the war, many of the smaller structures located on plantations were either demolished or inhabited by formerly enslaved persons who represented a large portion of the population in the reconstruction era.

³ J.D. Lewis, "Mecklenburg County, North Carolina," https://www.carolana.com/NC/Counties/mecklenburg_county_nc.html (Accessed February 2022).

⁴ J.D. Lewis, "Mecklenburg County, North Carolina."

⁵ Mecklenburg County Government, "Mecklenburg County – Regional History."

⁶ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library, "The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Story," <https://www.cmstory.org/exhibits/hornets-nest-book-two/mecklenburg-towns-and-villages>, (Accessed February 2022).

⁷ Stewart Gray and Paula Stathakis, *African American Resources in Mecklenburg County*, (Raleigh, NC: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources), September 2002.

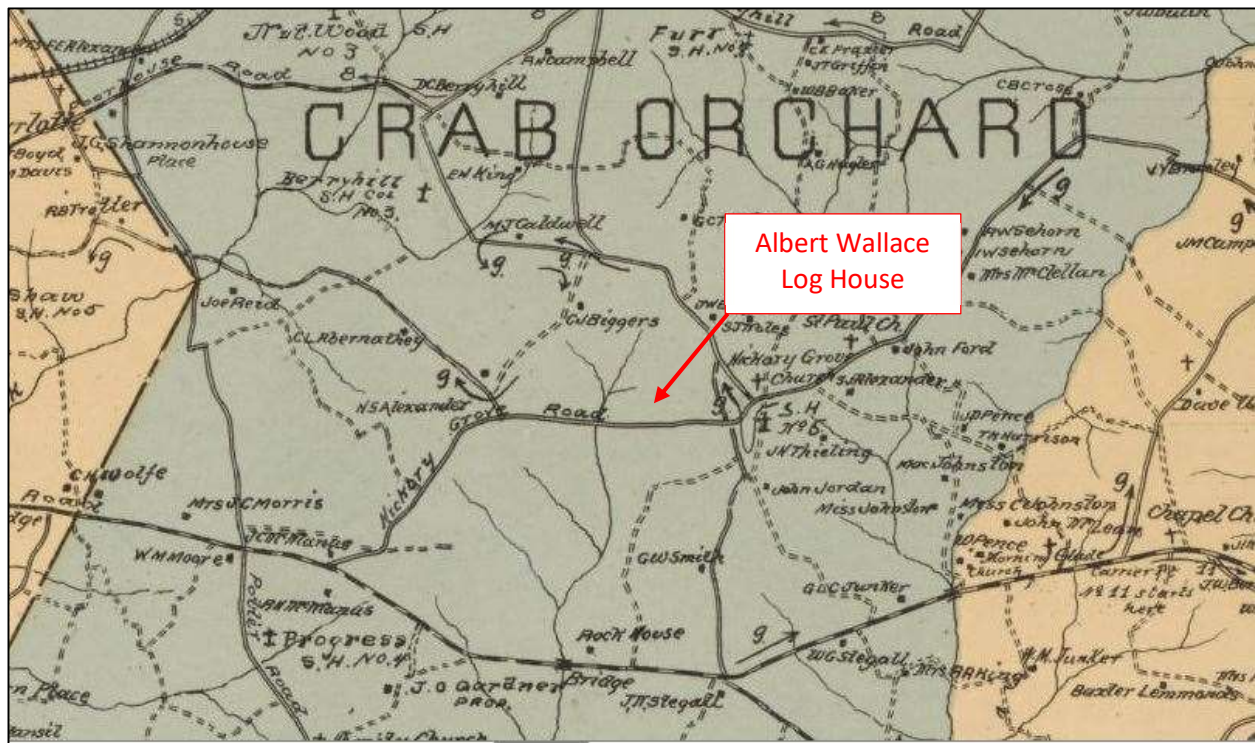


Figure 5. 1911 CA and JB Spratt Map of Mecklenburg County Showing Crab Orchard Township. Source: University of North Carolina Libraries.

By the end of the nineteenth century and turn of the twentieth century, western North Carolina was still predominately rural, and there was still a need for labor to continue the agricultural production in the county and across the south. In the wake of the Reconstruction-era, many landowners turned to sharecropping and tenant farming. Sharecropping was a process by which former enslaved persons and poor white farmers served as tenant farmers or sharecroppers on former plantation lands; although many individuals in organizations such as the Freedmen's Bureau advocated against the system.⁸ Individuals were given housing and the resources to farm small sections of land and in return would provide a portion of the profits from agricultural production to the landowner. In turn this helped some of the plantations get out of their Post-War debt by not having to pay workers until a crop was harvested.⁹

Mecklenburg County especially profited from the sharecropping and tenant farming system. More than 35% of farms in Mecklenburg County were part of a sharecropping system by 1890.¹⁰ Tenant farmers who rented the land had more control over decisions on farming and paid rent for the home they occupied. Sharecroppers made their payments based on a percentage of the crops that were harvested and had the decisions on what to plant and harvest made for them by

⁸ Edward Royce, *The Origins of Sharecropping*, Temple University Press: Philadelphia, 1993.

⁹ "Sharecropping," Fall 1998, *Tar Heel Junior Historian* 38, no. 1 (Fall 1998), <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/u/?p249901coll22,63752> (Accessed February 2022).

¹⁰ "Sharecropped Farms, 1890," North Carolina History Online, <https://www.ncpedia.org/media/map/sharecropped-farms-1890>, (Accessed February 2022).

the landowner themselves. Examples of sharecropper or tenant housing structures were prolific marks on the landscape in the post war era, but few examples of the architecture remain. This is largely in part to the buildings' original functions as ancillary or secondary structures on farms or plantations and the little preservation efforts given to vernacular structures. A survey of *Historic and Architectural Resources in Rural Mecklenburg County, North Carolina* in 1990 identified ten single-pen log houses, similar to the Albert Wallace Log House.¹¹ Many of which were used for sharecropping or tenant farming activities but are no longer extant.

Sharecropping declined in the aftermath of the Great Depression with President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Efforts that offered more opportunities for employment. The increase in mechanized farming methods and harvesting equipment also, in part, led to the decline of sharecropping and tenant farming. Additionally, New Deal programs, such as those directed by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration offered compensation to farmers to grow less crops. This helped to control inflation, but also lessened the need for sharecroppers and tenant farmers to work the land.¹²



Figure 6. North Carolina Sharecroppers in the early Twentieth Century.
Source: North Carolina State Archives.

The early twentieth century also saw growth for Mecklenburg County in other areas. During WWI, the United States Army established Camp Greene, named for Nathanael Greene, in Charlotte as a training facility and the population increased to over 100,000 by 1930. The Great Depression struck Charlotte and Mecklenburg County similarly to other cities and counties across the United States. Many residents left their small farms and businesses to work in textile mills. However, several depression-era and New Deal efforts, including an influx of \$440 million dollars to the state of North Carolina, helped Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Although New Deal efforts in North Carolina helped to improve conditions including benefits like industrial wages for white Americans, the positive effects on sharecroppers, who were disproportionately African American, and women who faced lower wages and cuts in programs as well were much less significant.

¹¹ Richard Mattson and William Huffman, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Rural Mecklenburg County, North Carolina*, (Washington DC: National Park Service), 1990.

¹² Douglas Carl Abrams, "New Deal," <https://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/new-deal/> (Accessed February 2022).



Figure 7. Example of a sharecropper or tenant housing in Mecklenburg County, Ca. 1900.
Source: W.H. Bill Sumner, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library.

Mecklenburg County later experienced post-WWII era growth following the continuation of depression era projects. While the city of Charlotte grew, with the addition of Morris Field Air Base, Charlotte Douglas International Airport, municipal services like Gymnasiums and Parks, the construction of the Charlotte Memorial Hospital, and educational facilities such as Charlotte College, Mecklenburg County remained relatively rural throughout most of the twentieth century despite those additions. The 1950 census shows Charlotte with a small population of 100,899 with 151,826 people in Mecklenburg County as a whole. Suburban development increased through the latter half of the twentieth century, with the addition of housing developments, shopping centers, and the influx of people to the Charlotte metropolitan area as it grew to become the second largest financial center in the United States.¹³

¹³ "Charlotte Regains its Place as No. 2 US Banking Center," *Charlotte Observer* (Charlotte, NC), November 16, 2018.

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

Albert Wallace Log House

NC SHPO Survey No: MK 3724, Local Landmark

9425 Robinson Church Road, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Parcel ID: 11102105

Date(s) of Construction: ca. 1850-1860, additions ca. 1956

Recommendation: NRHP Eligible under Criterion A

Architectural Description

The Albert Wallace House (MK 3734) is located at 9425 Robinson Church Road in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (Figure 8). The building is situated near the center of the southern boundary on a 9.67-acre trapezoidal-shaped parcel. The parcel is bound by Robinson Church Road to the south, a tributary of Reedy Creek to the west, and a modern housing development along its north and east borders with the nearest street being Deluca Drive.



Figure 8. Albert Wallace Log House, South Façade.

The property contains the Albert Wallace House and five outbuildings (see Figure 9). The outbuildings include one shed that likely dates to the early-twentieth century and four late-twentieth century storage sheds. Much of the parcel is primarily wooded, and the Albert Wallace House and its outbuildings are situated atop a small hill on the property with a single driveway located to the east of the main structure (see Figure 10). A small area to the east of the house that adjoins the eastern boundary of the parcel has been cleared for agricultural use and three of the four late-twentieth century storage sheds are located within this area that also includes a small, fenced garden. The wooded area to the north and east contains landscape irregularities that suggest previous pathways, roads, and access points for structures or landscape features that are no longer extant.



Figure 9. Albert Wallace Log House Site Plan.



Figure 10. Overview of the Wallace Property from the southwest corner, facing northeast.

The Albert Wallace House is a one-and-a-half story combination wood-framed and concrete masonry building set on a continuous concrete foundation with a side-gabled roof clad in asphalt shingles. The main massing and historic core of the building consists of a one-and-a-half-story, single-pen log cabin. Single-pen structures were one-room buildings, joined by a simple gable roof. Often featuring single, exterior-set brick chimneys, they were a dominate housing form throughout much of the American Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and portions of the Midwest. Often structures would be enlarged to include a second pen or room to create double-pen structures as residential and family needs changed. The current iteration of the log cabin is still one-room deep, but subsequent single-story, modern additions have been added to the western and northern facades giving the structure an overall irregular plan.

The original wooden frame of the log house is covered with vinyl siding. The building is generally square in plan and is set on a replacement concrete foundation. The original foundation was likely one of brick or stone piers. An exterior set, brick chimney is attached to the current western façade. The exterior portion of which is now covered by an addition from the 1950s. Historic aerial imagery from 1956 and photographs of the structure from 1949 show the Albert Wallace log house as more of a front-facing gable structure with its primary facade and entry facing southeast toward a driveway that has since been modified. During its restoration the property was rotated 75-90 degrees, moved slightly to the east on the property, and placed on a modern foundation.



Figure 11. Albert Wallace Log House c. 1949. (Original source unknown. Image used with permission of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmark Commission).



Figure 12. South Facade of Albert Wallace Log House with Additions.



Figure 13. Original Single-Pen Section of the Albert Wallace Log House (South Façade).

The house would have likely had exposed wood framing, as seen in the 1949 photograph or potentially weatherboard siding. Images from 1950 after restoration on the cabin had begun show that replacement lap siding was added to the primary or current south façade. That siding has since been replaced with mid-twentieth century vinyl siding and non-operational decorative shutters giving the building an overall Colonial Revival aesthetic. An open, front-gable entry porch has been added to southern façade as well. A shed roof addition to the north or rear façade of the building was added likely some time during the early twentieth century. The addition, including its window location, is present in the current iteration of the property as seen in Figure 14.

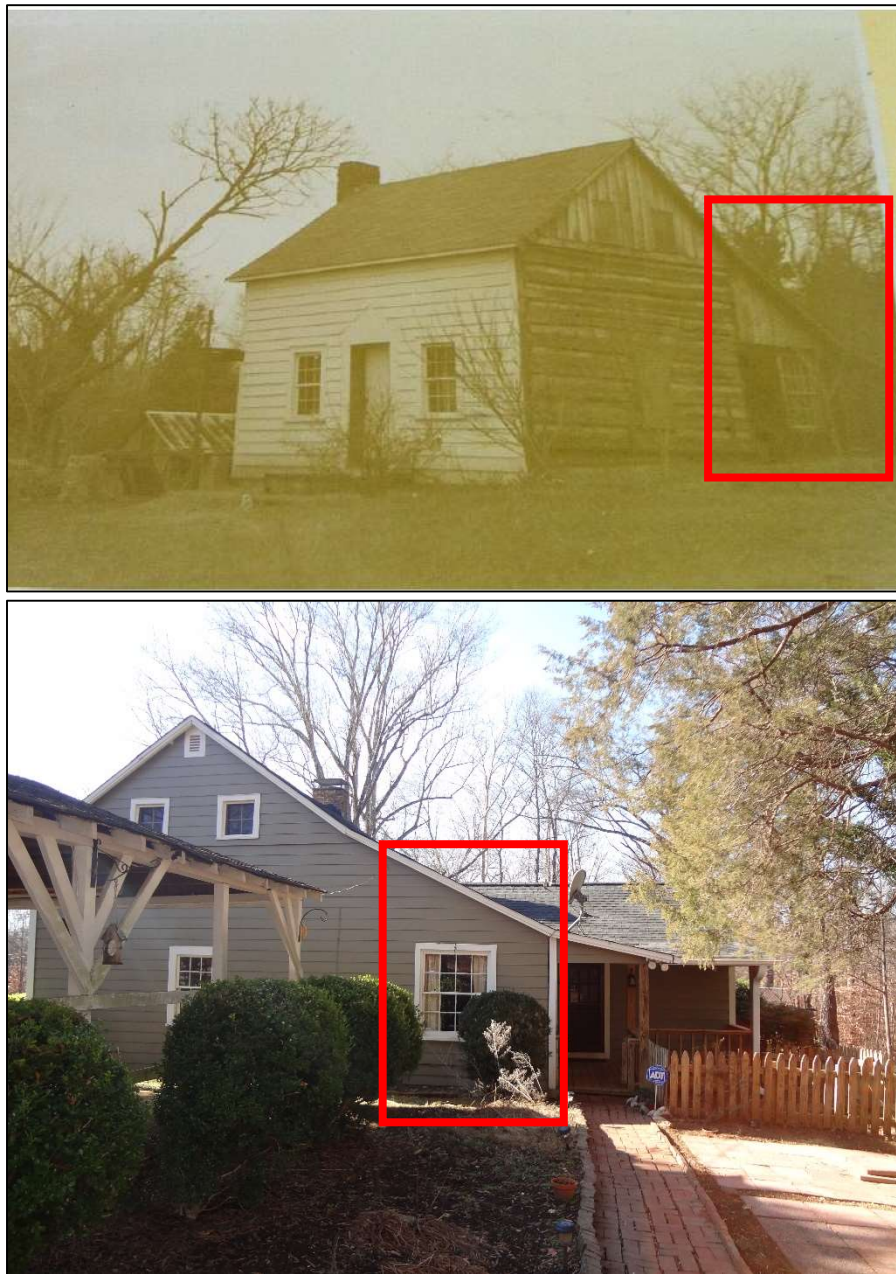


Figure 14. Top – 1950 Photograph of the Albert Wallace House during original restoration. (Original source unknown. Image used with permission of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmark Commission). Bottom – 2022 Photograph of the east façade showing the shed roof addition highlighted.

The primary or southern façade showcases the 1950s additions to the original structure (see Figure 15). The additions were constructed during the same period in the 1950s and are positioned in a way so that each section descends from the subsequent section as the building slopes away from the main house due to changes in the ground level. This gives the building the appearance of three small houses joined together. The centermost addition features a side-gable roof and is attached directly to the western façade of the log cabin and encapsulates the original chimney functioning as an additional living room or dining space. The addition features a bay window with sixteen fixed lights in the center and two-over-two, double-hung wood-sash windows on the diagonal sides of the bay. The window is flanked with faux, decorative shutters.



Figure 15. Overview of the additions to the Albert Wallace House from the southwestern corner.

The western most addition is also constructed of concrete masonry units (CMU) or concrete block and covered with a side-gabled roof. Decorative boxed eaves and louvered gable end vents highlight the addition. Functioning as a bedroom, the addition features six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows on both its south and western façade. This, westernmost addition functions as an additional bedroom and has a small bathroom built into its northwest corner. A faux chimney is attached to the western façade of the addition. While the chimney rises through the western gable end, physical investigation confirmed that it serves only a decorative purpose as no flue or



Figure 16. Overview of the additions in 1956 to the Albert Wallace House from the southwestern corner. (Original source unknown. Image used with permission of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmark Commission).

ventilation connection is present and there is no existing firebox on the interior wall. Although, the attic space was not accessible during the field investigation, it is possible that the chimney may serve some purpose as additional ventilation for the attic beyond the louvered vents in the gable end.

The western façade highlights a shed roof addition that is attached to the north façade. This shed roof addition contains an L-shaped screened porch supported by wooden posts. The outline of the 1956 addition is present against the secondary addition of the enclosed porch. A subbasement is located below the western addition and based on the conjunction of the foundation walls it appears that the addition to the north façade that contains a kitchen and utility room was likely added during the same period.



Figure 17. Western façade of the Albert Wallace Log House.

Access to the subbasement is through the floor of the enclosed porch via a ladder. The subbasement was not accessible during the field investigation. However, the subbasement provided access to the 1950s additions, but not the original log structure.



Figure 18. Subbasement access beneath the northwestern porch access point.

The northern façade of the building features several replacement six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows placed in an asymmetrical fashion among the additions. The front-gable roof of the north addition intersects with the side-gable and shed roof of the original structure and the kitchen addition forming an irregular, intersecting roofline clad with asphalt shingles. This north addition is set on a continuous brick foundation, different from the concrete block found on the western additions.



Figure 19. View of the north façade from the northeast corner.

A secondary entry is located on the northeast corner of the structure and provides access to an interior hallway. The entry is sheltered beneath a shed roof porch attached to the north addition at its northeast corner. The porch features square, wooden posts with square balusters and a railing. Like the other facades, the exterior is covered with replacement vinyl siding, however faux shutters are absent on the north façade. Additionally, a two-car, detached carport is located adjacent to the east façade of the structure. A brick-lined walkway provides access from the carport to the house, while an unfinished picket fence separates the northeast corner of the yard adjacent to the porch.



Figure 20. View of the northeast corner of the structure showing the original single-pen, the shed roof addition and the addition attached to the north façade.

The interior of the original single-pen structure has been substantially altered. Most of the original elements, including windows, fireplace, wall coverings, and ceiling have been replaced. A fireplace is centered on the western wall, flanked by two, six-over-six, double-hung, windows that now provide light into the adjacent dining room. Portions of the brick within the firebox appear to be original, but the mantel and mantel tree are likely mid-twentieth century replacements. The flooring is replacement tongue and groove pine floors and the replacement flooring for the loft is visible via the exposed framing along the first-floor ceiling. The log structure is covered by tongue and groove wall paneling; however, the original ceiling joists are exposed and show evidence of being hand-hewn timbers. A pair of French doors on the northern wall provide access to an adjacent hallway and the north and western additions to the building.



Figure 21. Representative photographs of the first-floor interior of the original log structure. Top left: looking northwest; top right: looking north; bottom right; looking northeast; and bottom left: looking east.

A straight-run staircase is located in the southeastern corner of the room (see Figure 21) providing access to a loft space above. Notching in the hewn ceiling timbers in the southeastern corner suggest potential a ladder or some other access point existed at one time to access the loft space (see Figure 22). The joists may have also been notched out to allow access for a woodstove instead as several area of charred timber were present. The upper half-story was likely a loft space and has been remodeled into a modern bedroom and bathroom. Electricity and plumbing were likely added during the remodel in the 1950s as asbestos electrical wire covering exposed along the ceiling joists dating to the period of initial renovation was present.



Figure 22. Representative photographs of interior alterations to the original log structure. Top left: loft space with replacement tongue and groove finishes; top right: hand hewn adze marks on ceiling joists; bottom right: replacement mantel; and bottom left: exposed notching on ceiling joists.

In addition to the bedroom and bathroom added to the loft space of the original cabin, the additions to the north and west of the historic core contain two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a dining room, a library or study, a kitchen, and a central hallway. The kitchen retains most of its finishes dating between the 1950s and 1960s including its solid pine cabinets and period appliances. The dining room is adjacent to the western wall of the historic core. A faux fireplace mantel had been attached to the exterior of the original chimney and the paneled wall surfaces match those found within the single-pen's interior. The additions were completed and styled in the Colonial Revival fashion which would have been highly prevalent during the major period of renovation in the 1950s.¹⁴



Figure 23. Examples of interior rooms within the mid-twentieth century additions. Top left: kitchen; top right: central dining room; bottom right: northwest library; and bottom left: southwestern bedroom.

¹⁴ Virginia McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Knopf, 2015) and Leland Roth, *American Architecture: A History*, (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2012).

Secondary Buildings

One contributing secondary building is located on the property. Located to the northwest of the main structure is an outbuilding likely used as a shed or small barn. The building is a one-story, rectangular plan structure set on a foundation that is a combination of wood and stone piers. The building is covered by a front-gabled roof clad with metal sheathing. The exterior cladding is a combination of vertical wood siding and weatherboard. A shed roof addition, likely for the storage of farm equipment is attached to the building's western façade. The building is in poor condition and exhibits some evidence of structural collapse along the northern façade.

Based on its architecture, the structure likely dates to the early twentieth-century. While it does not appear to be a structure associated with the original Wallace Plantation based on its estimated period of construction, it does fall within the proposed period of significance for the Wallace Log House and should be considered a contributing structure.



Figure 24. South façade of contributing shed, facing north.



Figure 25. View of the interior of the western addition to the outbuilding, facing north.

Non-Contributing Buildings

Four non-contributing buildings are located on the parcel. These structures were late twentieth century additions and include a greenhouse, two storage sheds, and a barn storage building. The structures are one-story, wood framed outbuilding and do not date to the period of significance for the property and are not associated with the original function and design of the primary structure.



Figure 26. Non-contributing outbuildings. Top left: greenhouse; top right: storage shed; bottom left: storage shed; and bottom right: barn.

Historic Background

The first landowners of the Albert Wallace Log House (MK 3724) were the Wallace Family. The property was originally held by Matthew Wallace, the father of Albert Wallace, the property's namesake. The son of Matthew and Jean Wallace, Matthew Wallace was born in 1777 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The Wallace Family were well-known in Mecklenburg County and census records show Matthew as a resident in 1790. By 1800, Matthew was 23 and obtained the first of eleven land grants in the county.¹⁵ The land where the property now sits was obtained via a land grant to Wallace as part of a series of 11 separate land grants between 1800 and 1842 with Mecklenburg County.¹⁶ Along with the grants and subsequent purchases, Wallace obtained several hundred acres of property in the county. In 1850, Wallace resided near the area of Sardis, North Carolina, an area now to the south of Charlotte, likely along one of his plantation holdings. By the time of his death on September 21, 1851, Wallace's will indicates extensive land holdings including several plantation and multiple enslaved persons.¹⁷ In 1850, the Wallace family was identified as one of seventeen families in Mecklenburg County who owned over 30 slaves.¹⁸ Wallace is buried in Sardis Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.



Figure 27. Matthew Wallace Gravestone.

Upon his death, Wallace left his holdings to his various sons. To his son Albert Wallace he left what was referred to as the "stone" house tract, the Mill tract, all the associated machinery and farm operations, several other tracts of land along Mallard Creek, and the area where the current log house is located.¹⁹ Along with the land bequeathed to them, Matthew also left his sons several enslaved persons. The list of names is provided in the will and specifically in regard to

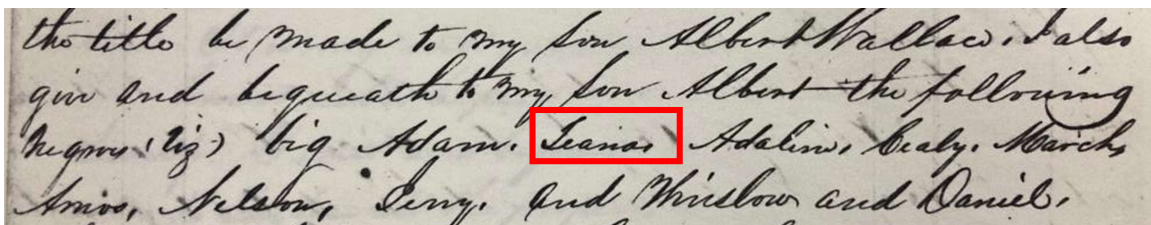


Figure 28. An excerpt from Matthew Wallace's will indicates enslaved persons left to his son Albert, including possibly "Teana" who later resided on the property. Source: Mecklenburg County Court of Wills and Estates.

¹⁵ North Carolina, US. Land Grant Files, 1693-1960, "Matthew Wallace," https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60621/?name=matthew_wallace&count=50&residence=_mecklenburg-north+carolina-usa_1978 (Accessed February 2022).

¹⁶ North Carolina Land Grants, "Matthew Wallace," <https://nclandgrants.com>, (Accessed February 2022).

¹⁷ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "Will Book I; Page 246," (Mecklenburg County, North Carolina).

¹⁸ Mattson and Huffman, *Historic and Architectural Resources*.

¹⁹ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "Will Book I; Page 246."

Albert, Matthew bequeathed several individuals including a woman named “Teana” later possibly spelled Tena who, through first-hand accounts, resided in the log house after emancipation.²⁰ Matthew Wallace estate records from 1851 also indicate he willed chattle property (enslaved individuals) to his wife Catherine Wallace and also included four tracts of land.

Albert Wallace was born on January 29, 1817 in Mecklenburg County, NC. Albert married three times and had nine children. Sources indicate that he lived in the old stone house willed to him by his father with his first wife Caroline (Figure 29).²¹ The marriage was short-lived as Caroline petitioned for divorce in 1856 claiming adulterous behavior, abuse, and drinking.²² She was granted a divorce in 1856 and \$500 a year in support.

Census records from 1860 report Albert Wallace residing in the eastern division of Mecklenburg County and list his occupation as a farmer (often equivalent for plantation owner during this period).²³ His holdings included what was once a 750 acre plantation.²⁴ Shortly after his divorce, Albert joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War and was part of Company I, 37th NC Infantry on Oct 22m 1861.²⁵ During the Civil War Albert married Cornelia Cross and sold the stone house. Having returned from duty in the Confederate army, 1870 census records indicate he was living in



Figure 29. Albert and Caroline Wallace. Source: Ancestry.com <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/161613648/person/302339980474/media/78648a62-2ae9-49b3-8af6-1d2eb6d47b86>

²⁰Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, “Will Book I: Page 246,” and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, “Survey and Research Report on the Albert Wallace Log House,” <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Wallace-Log-House-SR-1.pdf> (Accessed January 2022).

²¹ Danyne Romine, “Stone House Ruins Tell a Tale of Early Charlotte,” *Charlotte Observer* (Charlotte, NC), March 22, 1981.

²² Romine, “Stone House Ruins,” and Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, “Book 3; Page 706.”

²³ United States Census, “1860 U.S. Census,” (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).

²⁴ *Charlotte Democrat*, (Charlotte, NC), August 23, 1856, January 3, 1860 and Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, Book 3: Page 706.

²⁵ Ancestry, U.S., *Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865*, (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc), 2009.

Crab Orchard, which was presumably on the plantation left to him by his father.²⁶ By 1880, Albert was residing near Clear Creek in Mecklenburg County.

Reported to have lived a life of ill-repute combined with a heavy drinking habit, Albert Wallace died tragically after being thrown from a wagon and breaking his neck on October 6, 1882. The *Charlotte Observer* remarked upon his death that he was known in county as “Prince Albert.”²⁷ Albert Wallace was reported by the *Charlotte Observer* to have owned a large amount of real estate and slaves and was a wealthy man because of such prior to the Civil War. He is buried in Philadelphia Church Cemetery, Mint Hill, North Carolina.

Matthew Albert Wallace, Albert’s son (August 20, 1855-1896), sold this portion of the plantation in 1879 to Robert W. McCombs. It appears that Matthew was already a trustee of the estate prior to his father’s death. The property that was sold sat adjacent to the White Oak Plantation, also along Hickory Grove Road/Robinson Church Road (Figure 31). White Oak was an adjacent planation owned by William Johnston and was part of the large plantation character of

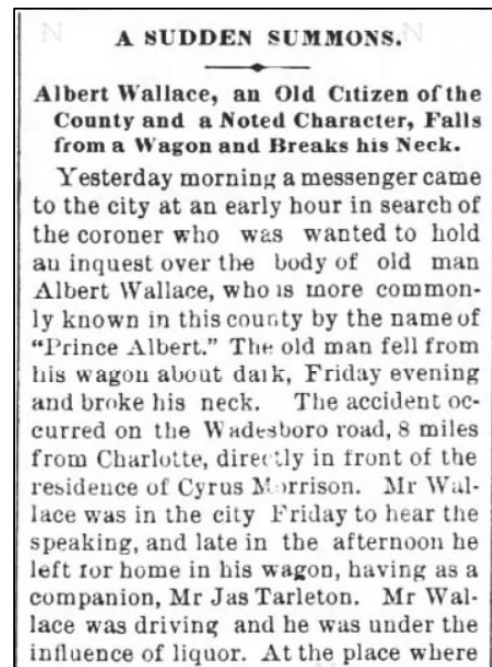


Figure 30. Report of Matthew Wallace’s death. Source: *Charlotte Observer*, October 8, 1882.

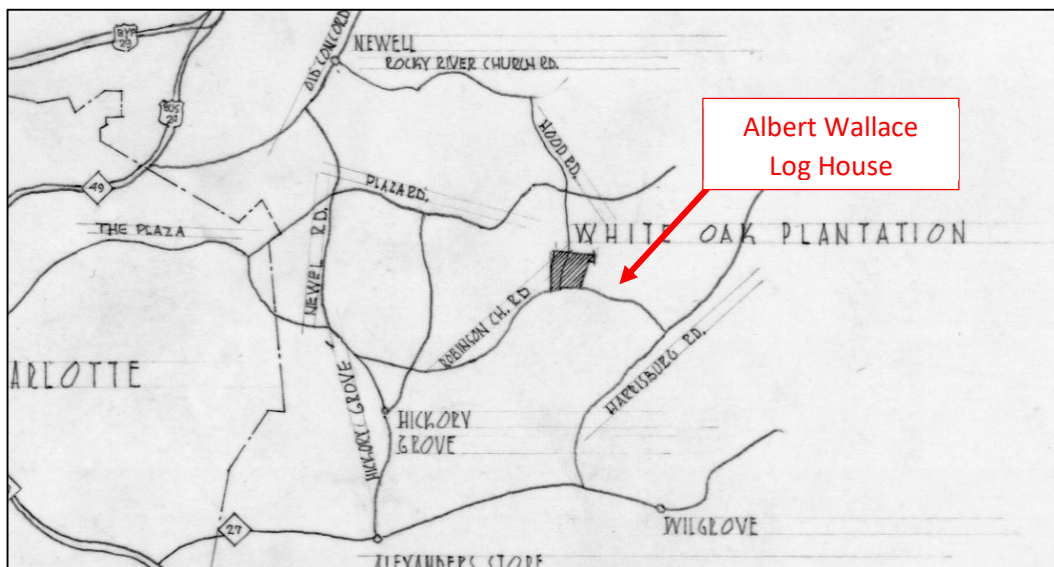


Figure 31. Location of White Oak Plantation in Proximity to the Project Area. Source: Special Collections Research Center at NC State University Library.

²⁶ United States Census, “1870 U.S. Census,” (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).

²⁷ “A Sudden Summons,” *Charlotte Observer* (Charlotte, NC), Oct 8, 1882.

Crab Orchard during the middle nineteenth century.²⁸ Portions of Albert's holdings were also sold to his daughter Mary W. Johnstone, whose mother was Caroline Reid Wallace.²⁹ Mary W. Johnston was married to Alfred Johnston. She was born June 8, 1850 and died May 26, 1933. Mary was reported to also have lived in the township of Crab Orchard in Mecklenburg County.

According to research from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, Tena or Teana Wallace was enslaved by Matthew and subsequently Albert Wallace and was not an owner of the Albert Wallace house, but likely resided in the single-pen cabin following emancipation.³⁰ Limited with few avenues for work, many formerly enslaved individuals often resided in former plantation ancillary structures working as tenant farmers or sharecroppers after the Civil War. Although, this information cannot be confirmed about Tena and her husband, based on the historic context for the area and the period combined with available census records, it is likely that this was the case. Little information is available about her life, but census records from 1880 indicate she was born about 1833 and resided in the Crab Orchard Township. She was married to Jerry Wallace in 1855 and had seven children. Census records from 1900 indicate her living in the Crab Orchard Suburb, the area where the current log house stands and working as a housekeeper with her husband listed as a farmer. 1910 census records report her as being 79 years old with several grandchildren residing with her in her Crab Orchard residence.³¹

During the likely residence of Tena and her family on the property, an approximately fifty-year gap separates the chain of title between 1872 and 1923 when the property was transferred from Robert McComb to Harvey E. McCombs, Sr. The property was sold for 12,000 dollars, but it was paid for by Harvey E. McComb Senior's share in his father's estate. The land was described as that, "lying and being in Crab Orchard Township, adjoining the lands of DM McComb and CB Cross. Containing 285 acres, known as Lot 1 of the R.W. McComb Property."³² Robert McComb was also a prominent plantation owner and slave holder in Mecklenburg County who married Margaret Jane Young in 1858.³³ While not as prolific as the Wallace family, he was reported to have owned at least 11 slaves in 1830.³⁴

The property was transferred to H.E. McComb Jr on November 20, 1923. H.E. McComb Jr. was born on March 5, 1899, the son of Robert McComb and Margaret Jane Young. It is unknown if H.E. McComb Jr ever resided on the property, although he is recorded as a resident of Crab

²⁸ C. Greer Suttlemyre and Division of Archives and History, "White Oak Planation (William Johnston House), (Washington DC: National Park Service), 1990.

²⁹ North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, "North Carolina Death Certificates," Microfilm S.123. Rolls 19-242, 280, 313-682, 1040-1297. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

³⁰ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks, *Albert Wallace House*, n.p.

³¹ United States Census, "Tena Wallace, 1910 U.S. Census," (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).

³² Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "Book 7; Page 859."

³³ Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, U.S., Index to Marriage Bonds, 1741-1868* [database on-line]. (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc), 2000.

³⁴ United States Census, "1830 U.S. Census," (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).

Orchard. During his ownership, H.E. registered for the draft in both WWI and WWII.³⁵ During WWI, McComb enrolled at North Carolina State College as a private (see Figure 32). According to WWII draft registration records, at the age of 42 McComb was a farmer living in Crab Orchard Township on Route 8 in Mecklenburg, North Carolina. Before McComb's death, he sold the property to George L. Davenport on March 16, 1949.³⁶



Figure 32. H.E. McComb Jr's class photograph at the North Carolina State College in 1919.

When George L. Davenport acquired the property from H.E. McComb, he is likely the first confirmed resident of the property in the twentieth century. George Davenport and his wife Lillian completed the restoration and additions to the log cabin.³⁷ They added additional bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen, and several porches. In 1982, the property was purchased by William Thomas Kelly, III and Dixie Wynn Kelley from Lillian R. Davenport, the widow of George L. Davenport.³⁸ The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission purchased the property and the Albert Wallace Log House in October of 2019 as part of their stewardship of historic properties via their historic preservation revolving fund.

³⁵ United States War Department, "Draft Records" https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/16280702:6482?tid=&pid=&queryId=f720451954f821c7a574dcd0037c4e33&_phsrc=ocb315&_phstart=successSource (Accessed February 2022).

³⁶ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "Book 1364; Page 439," and NC Death Certificate Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, U.S., Death Certificates, 1909-1976* [database on-line], (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc), 2007.

³⁷ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks, *Albert Wallace House*, n.p.

³⁸ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "Book 4600; Page 970."

Table 2. Albert Wallace Log House Chain of Title

Grantor	Grantee	Date	Deed Book/Page	Additional Notes
William Thomas Kelly III and Dixie Wynn Kelly	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission	10/18/2019	33923/612	N/A
Lillian R. Davenport (Widow of George L. Davenport)	William Thomas Kelly III and Dixie Wynn Kelly	11/29/1982	4600/970	N/A
H.E. McComb (AKA Harvey E. McComb Jr.) – A widower	George L. Davenport	3/16/1949	1364/439	9.67-acre parcel was part of an original 285-acre tract. Sold for \$100.
H.E. McComb, a widower	Harvey E. McComb Jr.	11/20/1923	520/386	Sold for 12,000 and containing 285 acres.
Robert W. McCombs	H.E. McComb Sr.	Record Not Available	Record Not Available	
A Wallace (Estate) and William McCombs (TR) et al Trustee of A Wallace	Robert W. McCombs	5/15/1872	7/859	3183/4 A Reedy Creek
Matthew Wallace	Albert Wallace	1852	Will Book I/246	2,210 318.75 acres

National Register Evaluation

Integrity Assessment

In addition to being significant under the National Register criteria listed above, a resource must also retain its historic integrity. Integrity is the ability of the historic resource to display its historic significance as evidenced by the survival of characteristics of historic fabric that existed during its period of significance. To determine if a property retains the physical characteristics corresponding to its historic context, the NRHP has identified seven aspects of integrity: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Albert Wallace Log House (MK3724) occupies its location on the Wallace Property, although it has been moved slightly to the east. However, the Albert Wallace House itself retains integrity of setting and location having been developed as part of the Matthew Wallace Plantation in the early to mid-eighteenth century and remaining on the original property. However, less than ten acres of the original 285-acre Wallace Plantation remain. The property contains no other features associated with an antebellum plantation including structures such as the main house, workshops, secondary dwellings, and other ancillary structures. Additionally, the property is surrounded by modern infill and residential development to the north and east and no longer serves as a plantation or farmstead. As such, the property lacks integrity of feeling and association. Lastly, the mid-twentieth century additions to the single-pen cabin have altered the historic core and shape, resulting in diminished integrity of the design, materials, and workmanship of the subject building.

Criterion A

According to the National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* resources eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A must be “associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.”³⁹ Based on the historic context, plantation agriculture, especially cotton harvesting, was of particular importance to Mecklenburg County and played a pivotal role in the economic growth and development of Mecklenburg during the eighteenth-century. Additionally, tenant farming and the practice of sharecropping shaped the American south and lives of recently emancipated slaves in the decades following the Civil War. The Albert Wallace Log House is important as a record of the plantation system in Mecklenburg County. Few structures or even landscape features of this agricultural system remain within the county that share an association with this time period. For example, White Oak Plantation, the closest plantation to the Albert Wallace House, features similar ancillary buildings that are no longer extant.⁴⁰ The slave cabins at White Oak Plantation shared a similar single-pen, log-framed construction with a gable roof

³⁹ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

⁴⁰ Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, “White Oak,” <http://landmarkscommission.org/2016/10/14/white-oak/> (Accessed February 2022).

and exterior set chimney. Modest examples of vernacular and utilitarian housing, many of these structures did not survive and fell into disrepair.

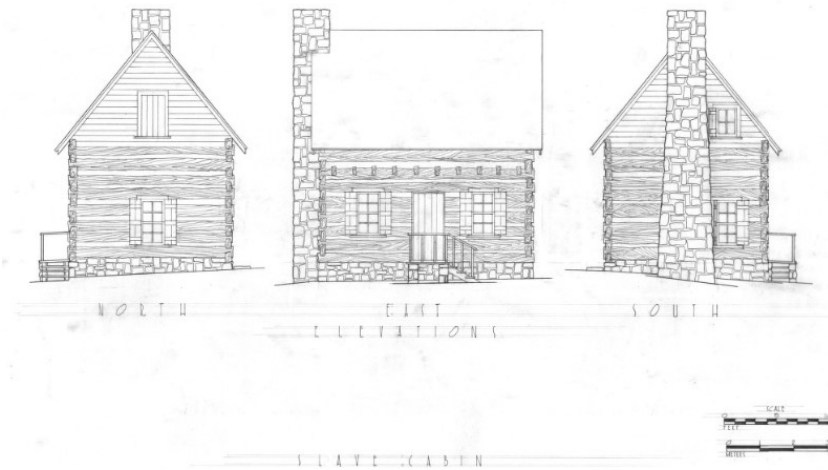


Figure 33. Elevation drawings of a slave cabin at White Oak Plantation.
Source: Library of Congress.

Additionally, a survey of *Historic and Architectural Resources in Rural Mecklenburg County, North Carolina* in 1990 identified ten single-pen log houses, similar to the Albert Wallace Log House.⁴¹ Many of which were used for sharecropping or tenant farming activities but are no longer extant. While several examples of two-story, single-pen structures exist, examples of one-and-a-half-story structures, like the Wallace House, are rare in Mecklenburg County. One such example of these surviving extant structures, comparable in basic form and construction to the Albert Wallace House, is the Oehler Log House (MK1311) which was constructed to the north of the Wallace House along Mallard Creek (Figure 34). Like the Albert Wallace House, the Oehler House started as a single-pen structure but was added on to during the twentieth century. The wood frame of the structure is covered by mid-twentieth century materials and subsequent additions give the structure the architectural appearance a mid-century Ranch rather than a single-pen cabin. According to the *Environmental Impact Statement*



Figure 34. Oehler Log House. Source: Charlotte Magazine.
<https://www.charlottemagazine.com/last-land-on-485-the-oehler-family-farm/>

⁴¹ Mattson and Huffman, *Historic and Architectural Resources*.

for the North Charlotte Outer Loop conducted in 1992 by the NC DOT, the Oehler Log House was recommended eligible for NRHP-listing as a representation of mid-nineteenth century agricultural practices and was likely constructed in the 1850s or 1860s, similar to the Albert Wallace House.⁴²

Another similar structure, though no longer extant, is the McIntyre House. Documented via the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1933, the structure shared a similar design to the Albert Wallace House with hand hewn logs forming a single-pen structure. The side-gable roof and exterior set chimney are typical elements of single-pen architecture during the nineteenth century. The building was demolished in the 1940s.



Figure 35. McIntyre Log House, Mecklenburg County. Sources: Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress.

As few examples exist of the ancillary structures that connect plantation agriculture and sharecropping efforts exist in Mecklenburg County, the Albert Wallace Log house serves as a record of these activities particularly in Crab Orchard Township. As such, the Albert Wallace Log House is recommended eligible under Criterion A in the areas of agriculture, community planning and development, and African American heritage. Many of the features associated with an antebellum plantation are no longer extant including structures such as the main house, workshops, secondary dwellings, and other ancillary structures. However, the Albert Wallace House itself retains integrity of setting and location, having been developed as part of the Matthew Wallace Plantation in the early to mid-eighteenth century and remaining on the original property. The house and its property represent a tangible connection to the plantation agriculture system in Mecklenburg County. Its period of significance is recommended as 1850-

⁴² North Carolina Department of Transportation, *Environmental Impact Statement for the North Charlotte Outer Loop*, (Raleigh, NC: NC DOT), 1992.

1950 during its use as a secondary plantation dwelling and its likely occupation during the period of tenant or sharecropping practices in Mecklenburg County.

Criterion B

For a resource to be eligible under Criterion B it must be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. The property was owned by the Wallace Family during the nineteenth-century and the Wallaces were a wealthy family in antebellum Mecklenburg County due to their large slave and land holdings, particularly Matthew and Albert Wallace. While the Wallace family was a prominent family in the Mecklenburg area, mere association alone does not qualify for NRHP eligibility. There is no evidence that Matthew or Albert resided at the plantation on Robinson Church Road. Albert is associated with living in the stone house left to him by his father for a period of time before moving elsewhere in the post-Civil War era. As Matthew was the catalyst for the family's wealth and property holdings, his main residence would be more historically significant than a secondary residential structure of this type.

In addition, for a property to be significant for its association with a person that individual must have lived there during the time period when they achieved significance and there must be documented association with the property. The property should also be the best reflection of the significance of the individual. Additionally, NRHP criteria state that a "person must be individually significant within a historic context" and that a structure is "not eligible if it was owned or used by a person who is a member of an identifiable profession or social or ethnic group" (NPS, 1990; revised 1997). Although Matthew Wallace achieved wealth through his landholdings, there is little evidence to his role in the overall development of the Charlotte area and, in particular, Mecklenburg County as a prominent citizen. Simply because Matthew Wallace was a wealthy landowner does not necessarily translate into significance in the field of business and agricultural development. There is insufficient information and perspective to determine whether those activities and contributions were historically important. As such, the Albert Wallace Log House is not recommended eligible under Criterion B because it lacks association with any person(s) significant in history.

Criterion C

Resources that are eligible for NRHP-listing under Criterion C are those that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic value, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. In addition to being significant under the National Register criteria, a resource must also retain its historic integrity. Integrity is the ability of the historic resource to display its historic significance as evidenced by the survival of characteristics of historic fabric that existed during its period of significance. Since integrity is based on a property's significance within a specific historic context, an evaluation of a property's integrity can only occur after historic significance has been established. To determine if a

property retains the physical characteristics corresponding to its historic context, the NRHP has identified seven aspects of integrity: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Log building traditions were brought by immigrant and European settlers who migrated to Mecklenburg County and parts of the United States in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This building tradition carried over into modest vernacular structures present on rural plantations and farms as well. These log houses were often practical buildings with little ornamentation or decoration. However, vernacular resources can still be eligible for NRHP-listing even if they are commonplace examples of architectural construction.⁴³ The Albert Wallace Log House is reflective of these early building traditions in Mecklenburg County and represents one of the few extant examples left.

However, the building has been substantially altered and as such is not an intact, excellent example of a single-pen log design. The middle-twentieth century modifications to the building have resulted in the removal of most of the historic fabric of the structure. Furthermore, these changes are more reflective of Colonial Revival Architecture and not representative of the building's period of significance. The modifications are reflective of an era of the 1930s through 1950s where many municipalities and individual property owners across the country were emulating the provincial architecture of Colonial Williamsburg by recreating revival and faux examples of early colonial architecture. Late eighteenth-century examples of Georgian and Federal architecture that were replicated in the early to mid-twentieth century often were poor examples, lacking symmetry, proper proportions, and inauthentic construction materials. While some survive as relatively intact examples from this revival era, the Albert Wallace is not one of those preeminent or early examples of revival architecture and thus the physical alterations represent a false sense of history. The structure's modifications date to the later period when the style was dominant for the design of public and residential buildings in the United States. Multiple mid-twentieth century additions, including the alteration of the historic core give the building a false sense of history. The additions have also altered the historic core and shape, changing the design, materials, and workmanship of the subject building's integrity. As such, the building is not observed to be architecturally significant and not recommended eligible under Criterion C.

Criterion D

Lastly, the Albert Wallace House is not recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D. The building is not significant under Criterion D because it lacks the potential to yield further information of historical importance.

⁴³ Thomas Carter and Elizabeth Collins Cromley, *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture: A Guide to the Study of Ordinary Buildings and Landscapes*, Vernacular Architecture Series, edited by Diane Shaw (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2005).

NRHP Proposed Boundaries and Map

The recommended NRHP boundary for the Albert Wallace Log House is defined by its current 9.67-acre parcel limits. The NRHP and parcel boundary is bound by Robinson Church Road to the south, a tributary of Reedy Creek to the west, and a modern housing development along its north and east borders with the nearest street being Deluca Drive. According to the National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin #21: Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*, use is an important consideration and may include open spaces that were integral to the properties historic use.⁴⁴ As the significance for the Albert Wallace Log House resides in its association with plantation agricultural history and within the context for sharecropping and tenant housing, it is recommended that the boundaries encompass the remaining portion of the historic parcel.

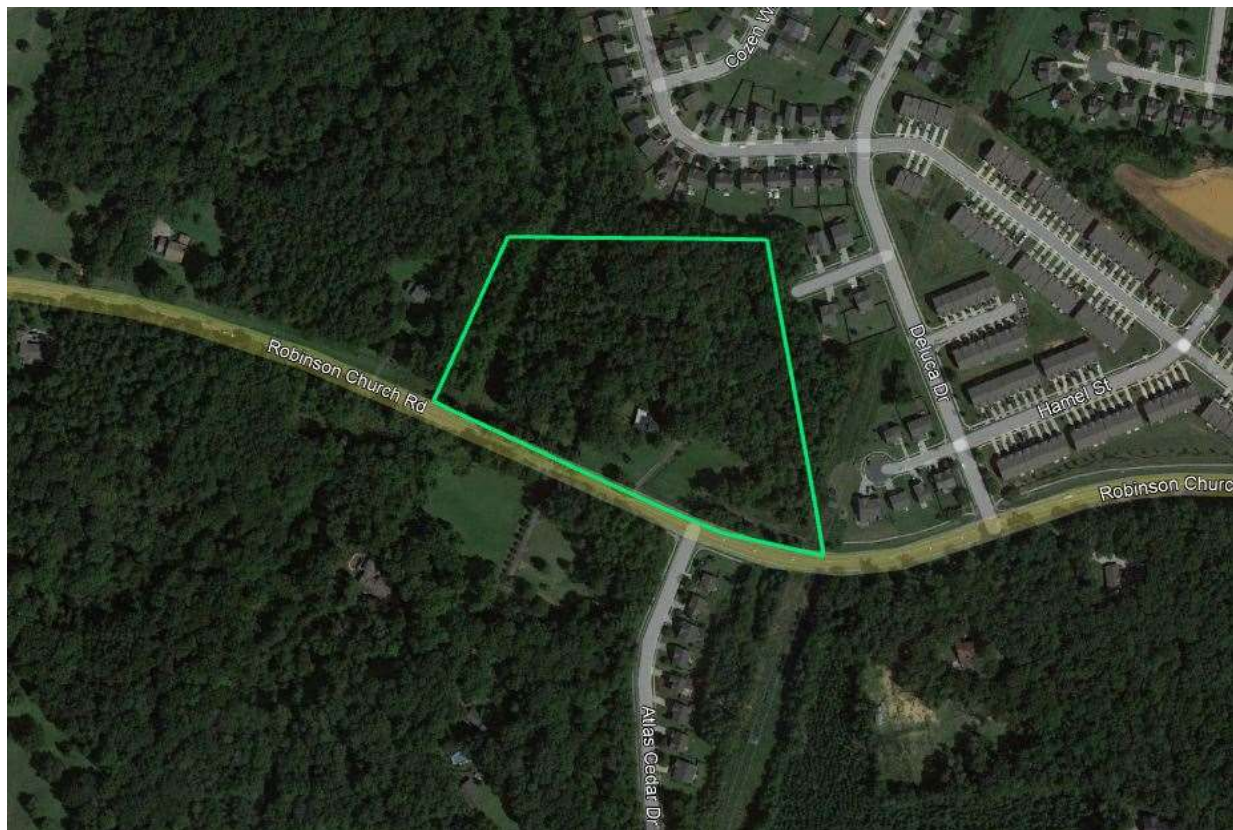


Figure 36. Proposed NRHP Boundary for the Albert Wallace Log House.

⁴⁴ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin #21: Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*.

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