

I. General information

1. Common and Historical Property Names

– Mount Vernon

2. Physical Address or Location –

12930 Cool Springs Rd., Cleveland, NC 27013

3. Tax Parcel Identification Number (PIN) – 731 010

4. Current Owner(s) Name(s) – Trust for Carleen H. Current with Richard C. Current lifetime rights, Anthony E. Current, Richard L. Current, John C. Current (Anthony, Richard L., and John are 3 of the trustees for the above-mentioned trust)

5. Current Owner(s) Mailing Address(es) – use mailing address of Richard C. Current which is 1353 Brushy Mt. Rd., Wilkesboro, NC 28697

6. Appraised Value of the Property - \$203,766 (see most recent tax info from county GIS attached to this application)

II. Abstract

1. Response taken from the application for National Register of Historic Places (see attached copy):

Mt. Vernon, a handsome Federal plantation house set in the rolling landscape of Scotch-Irish Township in Rowan County, was built about 1822 for Jacob Krider. A prominent planter and leader in western Rowan County, Krider was active in the political and social community of Salisbury and a founder of the Western Carolinian. He moved to Mt. Vernon in the early 1820's. Designated a post office in 1822, Mt. Vernon quickly emerged as a social center for Third Creek Church community as well as a local trading and commercial center. Krider continued the operation of the mill established there by his father-in-law Daniel Wood and opened a general merchandise store. The house he built is well-detailed and handsomely built structure distinguished by its striking double chimney with a linking pent. It remained the Krider family seat until the death of the builder's son Charles C. Krider in 1891 after which it was sold to Emory N. Teague in 1892. Teague and his brothers operated the milling operations at Mt. Vernon in association with their brother-in-law, Richard C. Current. The Teagues' interests in the Mt. Vernon estate, together with the milling operations were eventually acquired by Current whose heirs continue to own and occupy Mt. Vernon, the best preserved of Rowan County's Federal plantation seats.

This property is listed along with adjoining mill property in the Nation Register of Historic Places and it is the desire of the Current Family for this property to be recognized locally by the state and county as a Historic Landmark.

2. Only the exteriors of the main house (the original Krider home), the smokehouse and the 1900 circa barn all in Tax Parcel 731 010 are to be designated. Descriptions and significance of the proposed properties are addressed in the National Register of Historic Places documentation that is included in this report. The smokehouse and the barn are to be included in the designation as they are representative of accessory structures that would have been present on a property of the main house type.

The parcel that contains the mill property is not included in this application. The designated land is one acre.

**Rowan County Historic designation will include: Main House, Smokehouse, Barn and one acre of land that surrounds the buildings as stated.

III. Historic Background

1.. Response taken from the application for National Register of Historic Places (all footnote references are in the original document):

Mount Vernon, called “Rowan’s Showpiece” by one historian, was built near present day Woodleaf, NC by Jacob Krider around 1822.¹ The handsome two story with attic Federal plantation house, one of a group erected in Rowan County in the early 1820’s, is the most architecturally significant and best preserved of these seats. Krider was a native of Pennsylvania, the son of Barnabas Krider. Born August 17, 1788, he was in his teens when his family moved to Salisbury sometime shortly after 1800.² Rowan County, formed in 1753 was a busy, important county in antebellum North Carolina. It was the most populous county in the state in 1800. Salisbury was the leading city in the western part of the state and the focal point for western political interests.³

Krider first made his mark on Rowan County during the War of 1812 when he captained a militia unit sent west to fight the Creek Indians. Although the unit arrived too late to take part in hostilities, the leadership shown by Krider made him something of a local hero.⁴ He returned to Salisbury and founded a periodical, the North Carolina Magazine, Political, Historical, and Miscellaneous in the summer of 1813. Although the publication failed within a year, it was important as one of the first periodicals in the state, and certainly the first in the western part of the state.⁵ More successful was the west, and one of the state’s most influential newspapers.⁶ It was a staunchly Democratic newspaper, which lent its support to western interests, both political and economic, supported John Calhoun in his bids for the presidency, and supported South Carolina in its nullification controversy with Andrew Jackson.⁷ Krider joined a Presbyterian church in Salisbury in 1816 and was instrumental in founding Salisbury’s first fire company in 1817.⁸

Krider gave up his interest in the Western Carolinian to Philo White in 1821, but continued to contribute to the paper. He moved to the country on land purchased from Robert Bunton is

1821, and built Mt. Vernon in the fertile western portion of Rowan County.⁹ By this time he had a family, having married Sarah Wood in 1815 and becoming part of a well-established western Rowan family.¹⁰ When her father Daniel Wood died in 1829 he left her “my grist mills and saw mills” and 45 acres “on which the mills now stand.”¹¹ This property was adjacent to the land on which the Kriders lived and Jacob Krider continued the milling operation begun by his father-in-law.

Jacob Krider thus spent the middle part of the nineteenth century as a prosperous farmer, miller, and also merchant, as a general store was established on the property. Mt. Vernon also served as a post office for much of the century.¹² Census records for 1850 reveal that Krider grew 1500 bushels of corn, 500 bushels of oats, and owned a substantial amount of livestock. He owned 24 slaves in that year.¹³ In 1860 he owned 640 acres, 300 of which were under cultivation. His farm was valued at \$13,000 and grew large amounts of corn, oats, wheat, and tobacco. He also owned 24 slaves in that year.¹⁴ Census records also reveal that magnitude of his mill operations. In 1850 he had \$1000 in capital invested in his mills, and produced 600 pounds of flour valued at \$600.¹⁵ By 1860 he had \$2,000 invested in the mills, which produced almost \$8,000 worth of produce.¹⁶ Krider’s mill was typical of many Rowan mills in that is served as a neighborhood mill, rather than as a county wide mill.

Krider was a highly respected member of his community. After moving from Salisbury he became an active member of the Third Creek Presbyterian Church, one of Rowan County's oldest and most distinguished churches. In 1833 he contributed the large sum of \$100.00 to the fund to build a new brick church for the congregation. He was also chairman of the building committee for the structure which was completed in 1835 and continues to serve as the meeting house of the congregation. Krider became an elder in the church in 1842 and remained one until his death on 17 October 1874 at the age of 86.¹⁷ The Carolina Watchman eulogized him as a man "Highly respected by all who knew him and dearly loved by his intimate friends and neighbors."¹⁸

Krider's will left his property to his wife, with it reverting to their son Charles C. Krider upon her death.¹⁹ Sarah Wood Krider died in 1880. When Charles C. Krider, sheriff of Rowan County from 1880-1890, died intestate in 1891 the property was divided. A Superior Court administrator sold a lot of 49 acres containing the house and mill property of the Mt. Vernon plantation to Emory N. Teague (1867-1904) in 1892.²⁰ A bachelor, Teague resided at Mt. Vernon and was appointed post master for the Mt. Vernon Post Office in 1898. He served as postmaster until 29 February 1904 when the post office was discontinued and Rural Free Delivery was initiated. After 1892, certain interests in the milling operations were acquired by Teague's brothers Dr. Rufus J. Teague (1864-1920) and William C. Teague (-1896). In 1898 the house and mill property was sold by the Teagues to Richard Carmi Current, the Teagues' brother-in-law.²¹ While the Teagues retained an interest in the milling operations Current continued to operate the mill as the Mt. Vernon Roller Flouring Mill, a part of the family's concern, Teague Brothers and Current. Current eventually acquired the undivided interest in the concern from Dr. Teague, the last surviving of the brothers, in an unrecorded transaction. Current continued to operate the mill profitable until 1919 when it was sold to J. W. Coon for \$6,000.00.²²

Richard Carmi Current was born 22 August 1859 in Iredell County, the son of Andrew Jackson and Jane Renshaw Current. He was educated at Rock Hill Academy in Rowan County and at Trap Hill Academy in Wilkes County.²³ In 1896 while in Statesville, employed at J. C. Steele and Sons, he married Flora Teague of Forsyth County. Current also served Rowan County politically, serving as a magistrate, a County Commissioner, and a Justice of the Peace. He died in 1938.²⁴ Coon operated the mill until the late 1950s under the name of the Mt. Vernon Flour Mill. In the early 1960s the mill property was purchased by Ruth C. Current, a daughter of Richard Current then living at Mt. Vernon with her sister, Jeanette Current. She died in 1967. On 27 January 1967 the long abandoned mill building fell down.²⁵ The house, Mt. Vernon, continues to be the residence of Miss Jeanette Current, the last surviving of Richard Current's children. This ends the segment of the response taken from the application for National Register of Historic Places.

Richard Clarke Current and wife, Carleen Hefner Current obtained all interests of the heirs of Richard Carmi Current except that of Jeanette Current which was given to her great nephew Anthony E Current. Jeanette also gave her share of her sister's (Ruth Current) share to her great nephews Richard L Current and John C Current.

2 As stated in the application for National Register of Historic Places the house was built in circa 1822.

3. Currents added to the original house in circa 1920s the dining room and kitchen. Before then there existed an additional building to the south east of the original house that served as the kitchen. Another addition took place in circa 1930s when a den, several bedrooms and bath were added to and above the 1920s addition. The present barn, smokehouse, wood shed, battery shed were added by the Currents and exact dates are unknown. There was a corn crib and tool shed that were lost to fire.

IV. Assessment

1. As stated in the application for National Register of Historic Places, Mt Vernon is significant for architecture category 3, because it is the best preserved and most intact of Rowan County's Federal plantation seats. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Federal style in western North Carolina. Distinguished by its well executed brickwork on the double pent chimney and exterior woodwork. The smokehouse and the barn are to be included in the designation as they are representative of accessory structures that would have been present on a property of the main house type.

d. There is no known archaeological potential on the property.

2. Response taken from the application for National Register of Historic Places:

Mount Vernon, pleasantly sited in a rich farming area of northwest Rowan County, is amply shaded by large old trees. This Federal style house was once an early post office and Mount Vernon was the name of the post office. Standing tall and solid-looking, the two-story, three-bay weather boarded frame house has a full length, one-story shed porch. Although the porch posts are replacements, the porch has several features which appear original: flush siding beneath the porch and on each end of the porch roof, and the molded rake board of the shed roof. The molded cornice and baseboard on the porch give an elegant touch. The central entrance door has six flat panels with applied moldings surmounted by a three light transom. The doors and windows have simple two part molded frames; the windows at the first level contain nine-over-six sash and those at the window second level, six over nine. Fixed louvered, blinds occur at both levels. A molded box cornice carries across the front and rear of the house, underlining a rather steeply pitched gable roof covered with standing seam metal. Finely molded rake boards embellish the two-bay gable ends.

The northwest gable end features the most interesting of the exterior features: a pair of single shoulder chimneys joined above the level of the first floor fire opening by a brick pent. The brick is laid in one-to-seven common bond. Windows flank the double chimney at both levels, and one window occurs between the chimney stacks to light the northwest end of the attic. The other gable end has only a one single shoulder chimney in the same bond as the double one. This chimney is flanked by windows at each level, including the attic. Most of the rear of the house is covered by a much later, story-and-a-half addition which leaves only the second-story outer windows of the main block exposed; they have been shortened by almost half to accommodate the roofline of the addition.

Most of the remaining farm outbuildings which complement the residence were constructed during the farm's ownership by the Current family. The log outbuildings known to have been constructed for Jacob Krider had long before fallen into disrepair. The smokehouse the oldest of the present group of outbuildings and located some yards northwest of the house, is a rectangular one story log construction building covered with weatherboards and a gable roof. A door is set near the center of its southeast elevation. Frame shed additions, also sheathed with weatherboard were constructed on the southwest and northeast gable ends in this century.

By 1898, when Richard Current acquired Mt. Vernon, Jacob Krider's great log barn had become unusable. Shortly thereafter he replaced it with the present barn, a large frame structure covered with a high gable roof, located south of the residence. A central passage carries through the building providing access to the stables and other spaces on either side. It is covered with weatherboards as are the later frame outbuildings which are said to have been constructed about 1917. Four of these are arranged in an L-shaped formation northeast of the barn and southeast of the house. The lighthouse, located in the corner of the "L", is a small frame gable roof building erected to house the Delco electrical apparatus; a door is set on its southwest gable end. The crib, located some yards due southeast, is comprised of two pens flanking a central passage with entrances on the southwest ends of the pens; it is also covered with a gable roof. The gear house, set a few feet due southeast of the crib and slightly smaller than the crib, is also covered with a gable roof and has a door on its southwest elevation. A frame shed addition has been made to its

southeast gable end. The woodhouse, located northeast of the lighthouse and the fourth building in this group of 1917 structures, is a rectangular one story frame building covered with a shed roof. It has a large lattice covered opening on its northwest elevation and a shed on its southwest end.

The springhouse, situated east of the house, is a small gable roof frame building with overlapping weatherboards around the lower half of the building and spaced slats around the upper portion of the elevations. An opening on the southeast elevation provides access to the spring.

This ends the segment of the response taken from the application for National Register of Historic Places. Please note that the crib and the gear house were lost to fire. Also the woodhouse has had its flooring replaced and the lattice covered opening has been replaced with weatherboards and double door. Also, the smokehouse has had its flooring and flooring substructure replaced. The roofing for the entire house has been replaced with new standing seam metal roofing.

3. No known archaeological features are present at the current time.

However, the Mt Vernon home site was once an early post office and Mount Vernon was the name of the post office.

4. A complete and thorough evaluation of the property's integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association, fully accounting for all alterations and changes to the property, including those which detract from or do not contribute to the property's significance.

The Mt Vernon property retains integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials and feeling. None of the changes that were detailed in Assessment have distracted from the historical significance of the property. Mt. Vernon is significant as a Rowan County Historical Landmark under the category of architecture because it is one of the oldest if not the oldest wooden federal style plantation houses in Rowan County.

Please see response in #2 above. The northwest gable end features the most interesting of the exterior features: a pair of single shoulder chimneys joined above the level of the first floor fire opening by a brick pent. The brick is laid in one-to-seven common bond.

5. A justification of the proposed boundaries of the designation.

The current proposed boundaries exist because it was defined as belonging to all the Current heirs of Richard Carmi Current at his passing and has been maintained as such through the lifetime of his children, the last of which was Jeanette Current. The property is now owned by those who plan on keeping the property in its historical setting. The Rowan County historic

designation will include the exteriors of the main house, the smokehouse and the barn. One acre of land that surrounds the buildings will also be included.

V. Supporting documentation

1. Digital photographs that clearly show the overall property in its current condition

Please see the following pictures attached.

House view from the northeast Barn view from northeast

House view from the northwest

House view from the south

House view from the southwest

Smokehouse view from the north

Smokehouse view from the south

Smokehouse view from the west

Springhouse view from the southwest

Battery Shed view from the southeast

Wood shed and battery shed view from northwest

Wood shed view from southeast

Barn view from northeast

Barn view from south

Barn view from southeast

Barn view from West

2.

Please see the attached files that shows the overall dimensions of house and out buildings on the parcel of land to be considered.

3. A site plan (preferably but not necessarily drawn to scale) showing:

a. the property's location

- b. location of primary structures
- c. location of all outbuildings and appurtenant features (e.g., a well)
- d. major landscape and hardscape features such as large, ancient trees, driveways, and walkways
- e. the boundaries of the proposed designation.

Please see the attached site plan (Google aerial modified to show buildings)

- 4. Plat or tax map, including the tax appraised value of the property.

This file is attached along with a print of the tax information for Tax Map Parcel 731 010.

- 5. Any other information the local governing board deems necessary.

VI. Bibliography/Source Citations

Footnotes and Bibliography taken from the application for National Register of Historic Places (see attached copy):

FOOTNOTES

¹James Brawley, Old Rowan: Views and Sketches (Salisbury, Rowan Printing Company, 1954), 2.

²John Kerr Fleming, Historic Third Creek Church (Raleigh: Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina, 1967), 95-96, hereinafter cited as Fleming, Third Creek Church.

³James Brawley, The Rowan Story: 1753-1953. (Salisbury, Rowan Printing Company, 1953), pp. 15, 105-106, 115, hereinafter cited as Brawley, The Rowan Story.

⁴Jethro Rumble, A History of Rowan County (Salisbury, J. J. Bruner, 1881), 249; Fleming, Third Creek Church, 50.

⁵Guion Griffis Johnson, Ante-Bellum North Carolina: A Social History (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1937), 794. Krider had a partner in this venture, a Mr. Cowper.

⁶Brawley, The Rowan Story, 110-112; Western Carolinian, June 13, 1820.

⁷George Washington Paschal, A History of Printing in North Carolina (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1946), 31; Daniel Miles McFarland, "North Carolina Newspapers, Editors, and Journalistic Politics, 1815-1835," North Carolina Historical Review, XXX (July, 1953), 406.

⁸Fleming, Third Creek Church, 96; Brawley, The Rowan Story, 310.

⁹Rowan County Deed Book 27, p. 529. This transaction encompassed 170 acres and cost Krider \$340.

¹⁰Fleming, Third Creek Church, 96. Krider and his wife had children. Three of these children, Alberta, Daniel W. (1825-1882), and William H. became physicians, while Barnabas Scott Krider (1829-1865) became a Presbyterian minister.

¹¹Rowan County Will Book H, p. 464. Krider also inherited land from his father, including several valuable lots in the town of Salisbury. Rowan County Deed Book H, p. 192.

¹²Brawley, The Rowan Story, 110, 377.

¹³Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; Rowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.

¹⁴Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Rowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.

¹⁵Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Rowan County, North Carolina, Industrial Schedule.

¹⁶Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Rowan County, North Carolina, Industrial Schedule.

¹⁷Fleming, Third Creek Church. 51, 95-96. Krider is buried in the Third Creek Church Cemetery.

¹⁸Salisbury Carolina Watchman, October 22, 1874.

¹⁹Rowan County Will Book 1, p. 265.

²⁰Rowan County Deed Book 15, p. 569. Teague purchased two tracts. The first one contained 49 acres and cost Teague \$1,655. In this plot was the "part of the old Krider homestead containing the mill and dwelling." The second lot adjoined the first and cost \$727.

²¹Rowan County Deed Book 8.3, p. 120; The Salisbury Post, Bicentennial Edition, 1976.

²²Rowan County Deed Book 150, p. 119.

²³Jeanette Current, Unpublished biographical sketch of Richard Current; Salisbury Post, Bicentennial Edition; Levi Branson (ed.), North Carolina Business Directory, 1896 (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1896), 547; Rowan County Deed Book 312, p. 94.

²⁴Salisbury Post, Bicentennial Edition.

²⁵Letter from Jeanette Current to Davyd Foard Hood, March 16, 1979.

Bibliography

Brawley, James. The Rowan Story: 1753-1953. Salisbury: Rowan Printing Company, 1953.

Carolina Watchman (Salisbury). October 22, 1874.

Current, Jeanette. Unpublished biographical sketch of Richard C. Current.

Current, Jeanette. Letter to Davyd Foard Hood, March 16, 1979. Letter in files of Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

Fleming, John Kerr. Historic Third Creek Presbyterian Church. Raleigh: Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina, 1967.

Johnson, Guion Griffis. Ante-Bellum North Carolina: A Social History. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1937.

McFarland, Daniel Miles. "North Carolina Newspapers, Editors, and Journalistic Politics, 1815-1835." North Carolina Historical Review. XXX, July, 1953.

Paschal, George Washington. A History of Printing in North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1946.

Rowan County Records. Deed Books and Will Books. Microfilm copy. Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History.

Rumple, Jethro. A History of Rowan County. Salisbury: J. J. Bruner, 1881.

Salisbury Post. Bicentennial Edition, 1976.

United States Census Office. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Rowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Industrial Schedule, Slave Schedule; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Rowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Industrial Schedule, Slave Schedule. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History.

Western Carolinian (Salisbury). June 13, 1820.

Local Government Program Attn: Local Landmarks Reports North Carolina State Historic
Preservation Office 4617 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-461

Photographs of the site



House view from the south.



House view from the North West



House view from the North East



House view from the South West



Barn view from the South East



Barn view from the South



Barn view from the North East



Barn view from the North



Smoke house from the south



Smoke house view from the North



Smoke house view from the West



Battery Shed

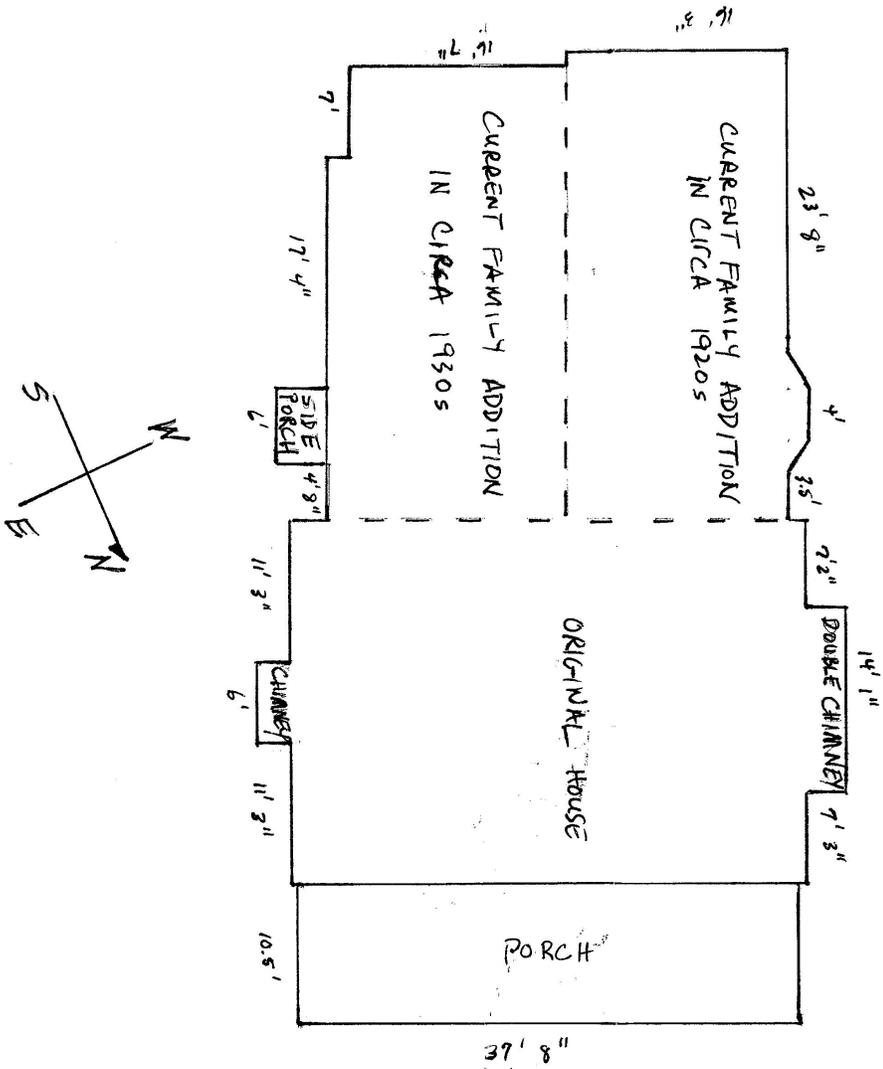


Wood Shed from the South East

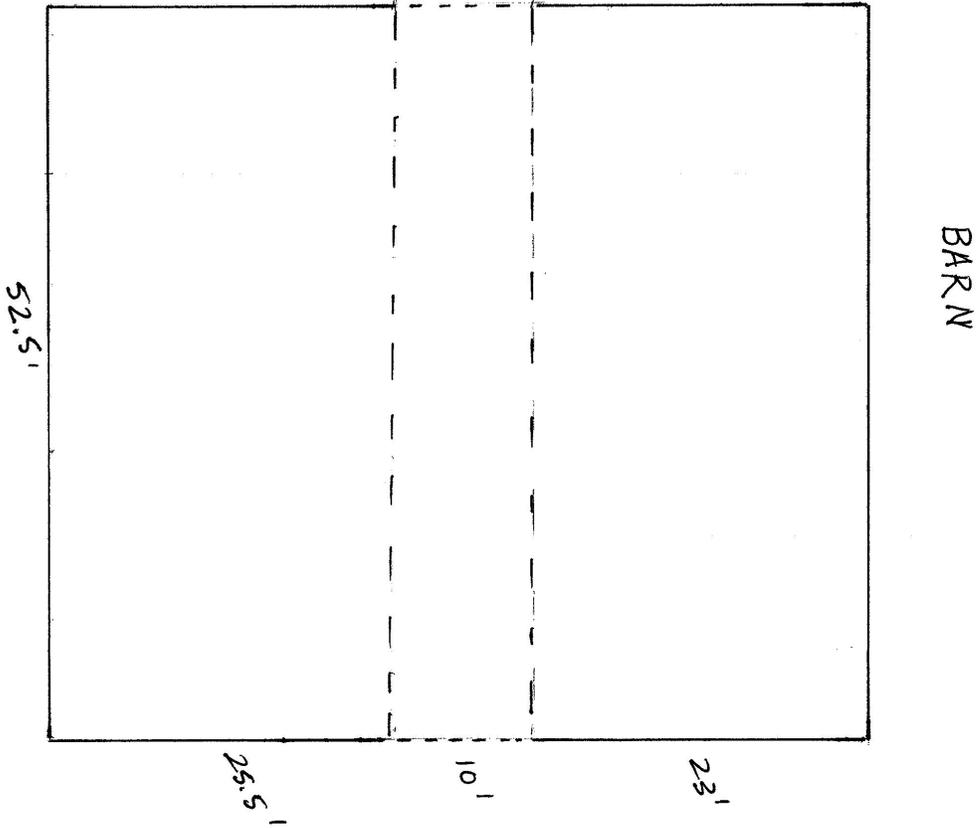


Wood Shed from the North West

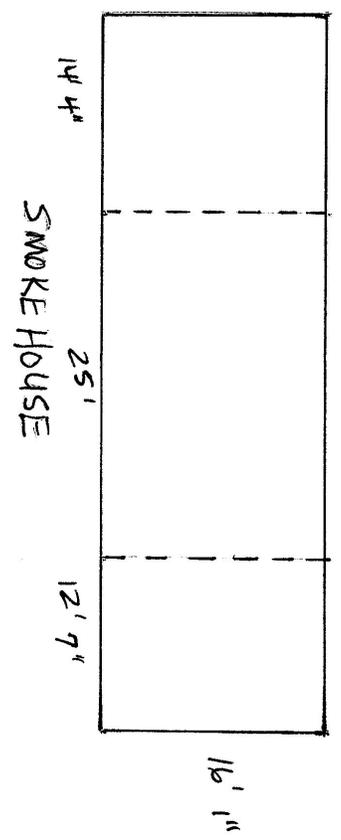
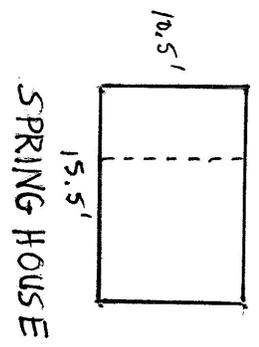
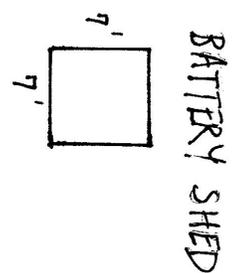
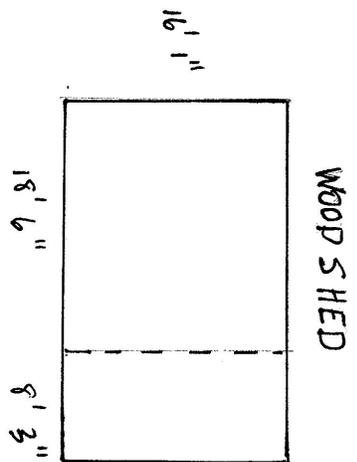
Dimensions of Buildings



House dimensions



Barn dimensions



Other out building dimensions

Site Plan



- 1 - House
- 2 - Smokehouse
- 3 - Barn
- 4 - Springhouse
- 5 - Woodshed
- 6 - Battery Shed

Tax Map

