

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
**Office of Archives and History**  
**Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House**

Hendersonville, Henderson County HN1982 Listed 04/02/2024

Nomination by Sybil H. Argintar, Southeastern Preservation Services

Photographs by Sybil H. Argintar, April 2023



Front of house, view west.



Southeast corner of house, view northwest.

Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House  
Name of Property  
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

Henderson, North Carolina  
County and State

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House

Other names/site number: Brightwater

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 105 Turley Falls Road

City or town: Hendersonville State: NC County: Henderson

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

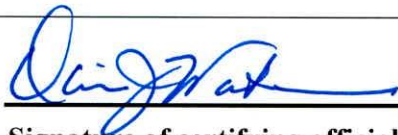
I hereby certify that this x nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide    x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

    A     B    x C     D



Feb 22, 2024

Signature of certifying official/Title: State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/> <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

District

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Site

Structure

Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register -0-

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

BUNGALOW/CRAFTSMAN

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs built their home around 1923 near Horse Shoe, North Carolina. The house served not only as a residence but also as the center of operations for the family's farm operations, Brightwater Farm, and as the office for Brightwater, Childs' summer resort development on his land to the north of the house. Local builder Ervin J. Anders and stonemason Lee Dewey Wright constructed the Bungalow/Craftsman style house. The landscape surrounding the house includes numerous several-hundred-year-old evergreen and deciduous trees, along with stone pathways and a patio, likely also constructed by Wright. The nominated tract of approximately 2.62 acres is bordered by Turley Falls Road on the east, Brevard Road on the north, and a newer subdivision and farmland to the west and south, respectively. The land currently associated with the house is a portion of the acreage purchased by Childs in 1922. The house sits on a gentle hill, at the southwest corner of a lot located at the intersection of Turley Falls Road and Brevard Road in Hendersonville, North Carolina. The house sits at the highest point of the property, at the southwest corner of the lot. The entrance to the house is by way of a gravel driveway framed by two stone pillars with gently rounded stone caps. The circular gravel drive begins at the entrance and winds around to the front (east side) of the house, with grassy lawn to the north and east sides. The house and the stone landscaping are contributing resources on the property.

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## Narrative Description

### **Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House. Contributing building. ca. 1923**

Set on a hill, the east-facing Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House is a one-story, stone Bungalow/Craftsman house with a metal-tile-covered gabled roof with deep soffits. The house follows an H plan with a central side-gable section flanked by gable-front wings. The rusty orange color of the metal roof tiles mimic terra cotta. Around 1984, an addition expanded the house at the southwest corner.

The Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House was completed ca. 1923 on land that Childs purchased in 1922.<sup>1</sup> There does not appear to have been an architect involved in the design, but Ervin J. Anders and Lee Dewey Wright, both of Hendersonville, served as builder and stonemason, respectively. Wright was the son of James Robert Wright and brother to three highly regarded stonemasons in Brevard. Hendersonville Lumber Company and Rigby-Morrow Company provided lumber and materials, Pace Heating & Plumbing Company completed the plumbing, T. C. Whisnant & Son did the electrical work and King Hardware Company supplied the hardware.<sup>2</sup> A ca. 1941 insurance report notes that the house was “one and a half story...having an ordinary wood joisted roof covered with metal . . . the interior finish of first floor is of double wood joist floor with oak wearing surfaces . . . sidewalls and partition walls are of rock lath and plaster, while the living room and dining room have a paneled wainscot and a beamed ceiling . . . basement floor is concrete on earth, and is otherwise unfinished...building is lighted by electricity and heated by hot water supplied from boiler located in basement...the first floor consists of four bedrooms, two plain baths and lavatory, living room, dining room, office, and kitchen equipped with a coal range and an electric range . . .”<sup>3</sup>

The house’s stonework features randomly laid coursing, detailed outlining of stones with a grapevine mortar, stone arches and stone chimneys. The overall massing of the house is a long linear form from north to south, with the primary roof being side-gable, with cross-gables at the north and south ends that create front-gables on the east and west elevations. A projecting flat roof sunroom is centered on the north elevation. The sunroom is supported at the basement level by arches between pilasters. Original windows throughout are wooden, multi-light casements arranged as single windows or in groups of two or six finished with a multi-light transom.

### *Exterior*

The front or east elevation of the house is comprised of the recessed side-gable main body framed by front-gable wings on either end. Gable ends display half-timbering with stucco between the timbers. Wide rounded stone steps lead up to the entry, which is centered on the main block. The Colonial Revival entrance composition references Colonial Revival design with

<sup>1</sup>Henderson County Deed Book 119, p. 213; Plat Book 1, p. 17.

<sup>2</sup>“New Henderson County Homes”, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 11, 1938.

<sup>3</sup>Insurance papers from the collection of Martha Childs Pryor, granddaughter of Samuel J. Childs.

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strap hinges on a multi-light-over-v-board front door, a fanlight and multi-light sidelights. Original windows flank the entrance, and a gable-front stoop with an arched ceiling shelters the front door.

Projecting front-facing gable wings bookend the central block. The southern gable-front wing features a grouping of six casements topped with a transom. The north gable-front wing houses two pairs of casement windows with transoms. The north sunroom's east elevation is stepped back from the north gable's front plane. The sloping front yard reveals the basement level toward the north end of the house.

The north elevation is a full two levels, the main level and the basement. Two arched openings are located on the first level, divided by a stone pilaster that extends to the roofline, with bands of windows on either side of this pilaster on the second level. The arches here open into a basement-level patio sheltered by the sunroom above. A multi-light-over-v-board triple door and two single multi-light-over-v-board doors are located in the north elevation under the sunroom at the basement level.

The west or rear elevation consists of the main body of the house recessed between two gabled wings. On the rear elevation, the projecting gabled wings are wider than those on the front of the house, creating a smaller central block on which a chimney is centered. The stonework of the single-shoulder, concrete-capped chimney is notable in that large stones are placed at the bottom, gradually becoming smaller up the height of the chimney. To the north side of the chimney is a multi-light-over-panel door, and on the south side there is a fixed multi-light window. There is a smaller interior stone chimney just to the north of the main chimney, serving as the original furnace vent, also with a concrete cap. A patio is tucked between the projecting gabled wings. Originally, half-timbering finished both gabled wings, like those on the front elevation, but in 1984, the owners extended the southern gable to the west, obscuring the original west elevation of the south wing.

The south elevation most clearly shows the cross-gable configuration of the roofline. A projecting bay is nearly centered on the south elevation. This bay houses a pair of plate glass windows below multi-light transoms. An original multilight door is adjacent to the projecting bay, and this door opened into Samuel Childs' office. Stone steps with low stone cheek walls and a pipe railing led to this door. Next to the door, another window has been replaced with a plate glass picture window topped with a transom. To the west of the projecting bay is the rear ell addition.

The 1984, non-historic addition wraps the southwest corner of the house. This projecting ell is clad in T-111 wood siding and is one-story plus a lower basement level housing two garages. The roofline is front gable with a small projecting side-gable wing on the north side and a shed roof over the garages on the south side. Windows throughout are one-over-one, unless noted otherwise. The north elevation of the addition consists of a double-leaf single-light door opening onto the patio, and a projecting wing with windows on all sides. The west elevation has only



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minimal fenestration, with trapezoidal shaped, fixed-light windows on either side of the single-shoulder exterior brick chimney on the north end, and two double windows on the south end. The south end of this elevation cantilevers out over the garages below. The south elevation of the addition also cantilevers out over the garages below for the full width and contains five double window bays. The east elevation consists of two large fixed-light windows overlooking the patio and woods to the east.

### *Interior*

The house, on the main level, consists of the living room, dining room, office, kitchen, three bedrooms, and two and a half baths (see floor plan sketch). Walls and ceilings throughout are plastered, and floors are narrow oak boards. Typical doors are single panel with glass knobs. Cased openings throughout the house originally had doors, but these were destroyed in some vandalism in the house in the 1960s. The receivers for the door latches are still present in the floors. Original door and window hardware remains throughout the house.

The front entrance of the house opens directly into the living room, with the stone mantelpiece on the west wall a central focus of the room. The heavy oak mantel shelf was added in 1984, extending out further in both directions than originally. Additional details within the living room included paneled wainscoting and boxed beams.

A cased opening in the living room's south wall opens into the dining room, with paneled wainscoting as in the living room. In 1984, owners added a picture window to the south wall. Original windows are situated on the east and west walls. There is crown molding around all walls.

A cased opening in the dining room's east wall opens to Childs' office, with windows on three sides. The window on the south side has been changed to a single fixed-light picture window in 1984, but the original transom remains.

To the north of the dining room is the kitchen, with a half bath and a laundry room (former pantry) along the north wall. The west wall of the kitchen has been removed and now opens into the 1984 addition.

The north side of the house consists of three bedrooms and a bath built around an L-shape hall configuration. The master bedroom has two closets opening into it, the larger of which on the west wall, was originally the bath. To the north of the room, through a cased opening, is a large master bath, converted from a former sitting room to a bath by the current owners after 2018. In order to retain the windows on the east wall of the bath, a mirror has been placed behind the window for privacy that is not visible from the exterior and retains the original window configuration intact. Originally there was a door on the west wall of this bath which opened into the bedroom at the northwest corner of the house. From the hallway, there are doors that lead to the basement and to the attic (see floor plan).

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The basement of the house is divided into two unfinished rooms, but the stone and brick foundation and the slab on grade flooring is clearly visible in both rooms. The attic is primarily unfinished space although there is wood flooring over most of the space. The roof rafters are exposed as is the roof decking.

The main level of the addition is comprised of a great room with a Cathedral ceiling interspersed with boxed beams. Walls and ceiling are sheetrock and floors are hardwood. To the south and divided from the great room by a series of sliding glass doors, a smaller sunroom with laminate floors cantilevers over the garages below. At the east end of this room, stairs lead down to the garages.

Stonework Landscape Features. Contributing structure, ca. 1923.

The topography of the lot slopes gently down from south to north, with a lawn and stone retaining wall located at the front of the house. Wide stone steps run along the front of the house and up to the entry portico, with a solid rock wall curving down from the house to the steps below set to the north side of the entry. A stone walkway extends from the steps at the front around to the north side of the house, forming a stone patio on the north. At the rear of the house (west elevation) there is a narrow stone pathway lined by stones with wide steps leading to a concrete patio at the rear (added by the current owners). Lee Dewey Wright, the stonemason for the house, executed the stone landscape features using stone and grapevine mortar joints to match the house.

*Integrity Statement*

Architecturally, the Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House is intact and maintains complete integrity of location, setting, feeling, workmanship, and association. Painting the originally unpainted wainscot has negatively affected the integrity of design because of the emphasis the Craftsman style placed on natural materials, but the wainscot remains, and the painting is reversible. In the 1980s, three windows were altered. This resulted in a loss of some material integrity but most windows are original, and the modified windows do not affect the house's overall ability to convey integrity of design. Recent floor plan changes, completed around 2018, to accommodate a new bathroom also does not affect the overall integrity of design and materials as the changes are in a private space and did not result in a notable loss of material. The addition to the house's rear elevation resulted in an opening in an originally solid wall and it obscures part of the original rear elevation, but the addition is not on a character defining elevation and has minimal impact on the integrity of design and materials. Likewise, a pool added to the grounds does not detract from the integrity of setting.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1923

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1923

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Anders, Ervin J., builder

Wright, Lee Dewey, stonemason

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House, with a period of significance of ca. 1923, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house embodies the characteristics of the locally significant architectural history of 1920s residential design in Henderson County where the Craftsman and Rustic Revival styles accentuated the mountain aesthetic sought by Southern vacationers. Samuel Childs, a real estate developer, began purchasing land for a family home, a farm, and a resort development in 1922. He hired local Hendersonville contractor Ervin J. Anders and stonemason Lee Dewey Wright, to build the house, and they completed construction in 1923. The house exhibits excellent craftsmanship and embodies the characteristics of Henderson County architecture from the 1920s.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Historic Background**

The Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House, built by local builder Ervin J. Anders, with stonemasonry executed by local stonemason Lee Dewey Wright, was completed around 1923.

Samuel James Childs (1874 – 1962) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. By 1920 he was living in Pennsylvania with his wife Jessie McCune Childs (1888 – 1977) and children Arthur Wadsworth Childs, Samuel James Childs Jr., and Robert Brown Childs. His specific occupation was not noted, other than being self-employed.<sup>4</sup> Sometime after 1920, Childs began splitting his time between St. Petersburg, Florida, and Henderson County. In 1922, Childs began purchasing land in Hendersonville, buying approximately twenty-one acres from H. H. and Jennie Ewbank and John and Grace Ewbank on December 14, 1922, including several lots noted on the H. H. and Jonathan Ewbank subdivision plat, lots 25, 26, and 41.<sup>5</sup> Childs purchased additional land from the Ewbanks subdivision, under a separate deed dated the same day, which included lots 17 – 24.<sup>6</sup> Childs purchased an additional 1.5 acres from Lula Hendrix et al on October 25, 1927.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> United States Federal Census, 1920.

<sup>5</sup> Henderson County Deed Book 117, p. 181 and Plat Book 1, p. 17.

<sup>6</sup> Henderson County Deed Book 119, p. 213 and Plat Book 1, p. 17.

<sup>7</sup> Henderson County Deed Book 181, p. 204.

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Although the farm was likely in operation before then, Brightwater Farm was incorporated in 1929. The incorporation notice in the Raleigh newspaper noted that the purpose of the entity was to "...buy, rent, and otherwise operate farms, gardens, orchards, etc...".<sup>8</sup> The land which Samuel J. Childs purchased on October 3, 1932 from J. W. Brown and Emma Brown included additional acreage from the same Ewbank subdivision, including lots 27 – 32 and 36 – 39.<sup>9</sup> It appears, based on a comparison of the plat and the current tax map, that the house sits on a portion of lots 21 – 23, purchased as noted in 1922.<sup>10</sup>

Samuel Childs used his residence not only as his home, but as the headquarters for both Brightwater Farm and the Brightwater resort development located directly to the north of the home, across Brevard Highway. The office in the home, with a separate entrance from the remainder of the home, attests to this use by Childs. The farm Childs operated with his sons on lands to the south of his home, won many awards for its prized cattle and chickens. Childs was involved in the farm, but his sons were the ones who performed the majority of the farming operations. Childs' main occupation was in real estate and in the development of the Brightwater resort to the north of his property, a community that annually drew summer-long residents from Florida. Robert and Ruth Childs, two of Childs' children, were noted for winning multiple prizes at the county fair in 1934.<sup>11</sup> Other livestock at the farm included sheep, goats, geese, and in later years, horses.<sup>12</sup> Childs was a pioneer in the best farming technology of the day. In addition to these operations, Childs also ran Brightwater Farm and Supply Company at 412 – 414 North Main Street in downtown Hendersonville from ca. 1924 to 1933. Childs constructed this building ca. 1924, from plans drawn up by Hendersonville architect Erle Stillwell.<sup>13</sup> Statesville Flour Mill Company leased the building in 1933 before buying the building. Childs noted, upon sale of the store, that more time was needed to develop the farm operations.<sup>14</sup>

There are no known records for Childs in the 1930 Federal census, but he clearly was buying land and expanding his farm, resort development, and had built his own home by that time. In addition to his farm and resort operations, Samuel J. Childs was active in the Hendersonville community, serving on the Chamber of Commerce's agricultural committee.<sup>15</sup> He and wife Jessie often hosted community gatherings, including the Kiwanis Club and the Men's Bible class

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<sup>8</sup> Notice of incorporation of Bright Water Farms. *The News and Observer*, January 6, 1929

<sup>9</sup> Henderson County Deed Book 203, p. 100 and Plat Book 1, p. 17.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> "Prize Awards Are Made at the Fair", *The Times-News*, October 12, 1934.

<sup>12</sup> Martha Childs Pryor. Granddaughter of Samuel J. Childs. Phone interview with Sybil H. Argintar, April 24, 2023.

<sup>13</sup> William Mitchell. *Buildings as History: The Architecture of Erle Stillwell*. Self-published, 2006, p. 50. The building was designed by noted Hendersonville architect Erle Stillwell, but there is no record that Stillwell also designed Samuel Childs' home.

<sup>14</sup> "Farm Supply Store is Sold", *The Times-News*, January 18, 1933.

<sup>15</sup> "Designate C. C. Committees", *The Times-News*, March 26, 1934.

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of the Presbyterian Sunday school.<sup>16</sup> Childs was a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason and a member of the First Congregational Church in Hendersonville.<sup>17</sup>

Childs' major real estate development was the summer resort of Brightwater to the north of his home, developed from the late 1920s through the 1930s.<sup>18</sup> Childs was one of many developers from Florida who divided their time between Florida and Henderson County, many of whom also built subdivisions in the early part of the twentieth century. These developers, along with individuals who visited as summer residents and then became full-time residents who settled in Henderson County, as did Childs, were drawn to the cool mountain air in the summer and the generally mild climate. Through his contacts and part-time residency in Florida, the resort filled every summer with residents who rented cottages for the summer and were often repeat clients. Childs was ideally set up for these summer residents since visitors could take the train to Horse Shoe, a station located close to the property.<sup>19</sup>

Originally the resort included only individual cottages, but later Childs expanded his operation to include a lodge building and dining hall, and a guest house. Much of the food grown on Childs' farm, including eggs, produce, and meat, supplied the dining hall. Meals were available to locals and to those visiting or renting the cottages or guest house rooms. The lodge building was converted from an old school building known as the Yale School. The guest house, built in 1938, was a two-story building constructed of stone, with all eight guest rooms having a private bath.<sup>20</sup> There was also a recreational area on the property that included a pavilion, lawn bowling, shuffleboard, croquet, a card and game room, tennis, and badminton.<sup>21</sup> Cottages on the property were rustic in design, and were fully furnished with one to three bedrooms, hot and cold running water and full baths, and heat.<sup>22</sup>

By 1940, Childs was living full-time in Henderson County, with his wife, three sons noted above, and daughter Ruth Childs Brown (born ca. 1927). Childs' occupation was noted as being a "developer of communities".<sup>23</sup> The 1950 census includes wife Jessie and son Arthur living in the home. Childs, age seventy-seven at the time, was noted as being "unable to work".<sup>24</sup> After Samuel J. Childs died in 1962, Jessie McCune Childs remained in the house until 1976. In 1972

<sup>16</sup>"Club Directorate Sees Development at Brightwaters", *The Times-News*, May 10, 1938 and "Presbyterian Men's Class Enjoys Picnic", *The Times-News*, July 12, 1933.

<sup>17</sup>"S. J. Childs, 88, Dies; Tourist Business Pioneer", *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 4, 1962.

<sup>18</sup>Henderson County Grantee Deed Index for years 1922 - 1961.

<sup>19</sup>Martha Childs Pryor. Oral history gathered by the current owners from Martha Childs Pryor, son of Robert Childs and granddaughter of Samuel Childs, who grew up on Brightwater Farm.

<sup>20</sup>Martha Childs Pryor. Oral history and collection of Martha Childs Pryor.

<sup>21</sup>Martha Childs Pryor. Oral history from Martha Childs Pryor and "Brightwaters" historic brochure.

<sup>22</sup>"Brightwaters" historic brochure, collection of Martha Childs Pryor.

<sup>23</sup> United States Federal Census, 1940.

<sup>24</sup> United States Federal Census, 1950.

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she deeded a portion of the property to her sons, Robert and Arthur.<sup>25</sup> On April 20, 1976 Jessie Childs deeded the remaining property, including the house, to Martha and Walter Snipes. The Snipes retained ownership until April 1, 1978 when they sold the property to Anne L. and Bette E. Saxton. The Saxtons also were only in the property a short time, selling it to Betty I. and W. Palmer Van Arsdale on December 30, 1983. The current changes to the property, including the rear addition and the swimming pool to the north of the house, were completed by the Van Arsdale family. The Van Arsdale family sold the Childs property on August 24, 1987 to Barbara E. and R. George Hochschild. Barbara Hochschild remained in the house until February 16, 2018 when she sold it to the current owners.<sup>26</sup> The property which originally comprised the farm to the south of the house has been partially developed into a subdivision, but much of the land is still rich bottomland that is farmed locally. .

### **Architecture Context**

Built ca. 1923, the Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs house is an example of a Bungalow/Craftsman style, with a reference to the Colonial Revival style in the detail of the front door. Ervin J. Anders, a local builder/general contractor, and Lee Dewey Wright, a local prolific stonemason, built the house.<sup>27</sup>

Ervin J. Anders (1887 – 1980), a native of Hendersonville, North Carolina, initially worked as a painter, as noted in the 1910 Federal census. In 1922 Anders joined G. T. Anders and S. Maxwell to form a new real estate company in Hendersonville, the Maxwell Real Estate Company. According to a newspaper article, the company's business included public auctions and real estate.<sup>28</sup> In 1930 he married Kate Anders and was working as a contractor in the area, a trade which he continued into at least the 1950s.<sup>29</sup> Anders also continued his work in real estate brokerage into at least the 1960s.<sup>30</sup> Ervin J. Anders passed away on April 17, 1980.<sup>31</sup>

Lee Dewey Wright (1899 – 1985) was also a native of Hendersonville, North Carolina. His father, James Robert Wright (1853 – 1922) was a stonemason who passed the trade on to all of his sons, including Lee.<sup>32</sup> James Wright's other sons, William Benjamin Franklin, James Robert

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<sup>25</sup>Henderson County Deed Books 494, p. 315 (1/21/1972) and 494, p. 645 (4/11/1972). Robert Childs developed his portion of the property into Brightwater Estates, a subdivision located just to the north of the Childs House and to the west of the Brightwater Cottages development.

<sup>26</sup>Henderson County Deed Books 541, p. 803; 562, p. 691; 594, p. 441; 704, p. 557; and 3164, p. 228.

<sup>27</sup>"New Henderson County Homes", *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 11, 1938.

<sup>28</sup>"Maxwell Real Estate Company is Newest of Local Realty Firms", *The News of Henderson County*, September 29, 1922.

<sup>29</sup>The 1950 Federal census notes Anders' occupation as a house builder.

<sup>30</sup>"Real Estate Board Announces Licenses", *Asheville Citizen-Times*, December 7, 1962.

<sup>31</sup>Grave index for Ervin J. Anders.

<sup>32</sup>United States Federal Census, 1920. James R. Wright was noted as being a stonemason, and Wright, James R. "Wright Brothers: Stone Masons". Family history compiled by Lee Dewey Wright's son, p. 3.



Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House

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Jr., and Joseph Few, worked primarily in Brevard, North Carolina, completing, among other work, the stone walls around Brevard College in the 1930s.<sup>33</sup> Lee Dewey Wright, along with his brothers John Columbus and Eugene Haliburton, remained in the Hendersonville area, all working as stonemasons.

By 1920, at the age of 20, Lee Wright was working as a stonemason.<sup>34</sup> During the 1930s, Anders and Wright partnered on residential projects in the Hendersonville area, including several houses in the Brightwater resort. Two of these are known to exist, including the *Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Edwards House*, 301 Sunset Drive, ca. 1938.<sup>35</sup> This home, of stone construction, has a similar plan to the Childs house, with a recessed center area and projecting front-gable wings. It is smaller in scale than the Childs house but has the same stonework style with grapevine mortar as the Childs house.<sup>36</sup> The second extant home built by Anders and Wright is the *Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Le Sense House*, 3309 Brevard Road, likely built in the 1930s, but deed records are unclear as to its date of construction. This simple bungalow is built of random course stone with no grapevine mortar and is mostly intact as built except for a small addition on the east side.<sup>37</sup> Lee Wright was the stonemason for another house in Brightwater, the *Arthur W. Moore House* at 299 Sunset Drive, 1936 (NR 2001) but worked on this house with builder/general contractor Albert Drake. The stonework on this house is different, with randomly laid coursing and recessed mortar joints, and a good example of Wright's work that demonstrated the breadth of his skills.<sup>38</sup> Anders was the general contractor for another bungalow in Brightwater, the *Mr. and Mrs. Henry Saltonstall House*. This frame bungalow does not appear to be extant, but historic photos note it was a front-gable house with a projecting front-gable roof and a hip-roof wing on one side. The craftsmanship of a front exterior stone chimney on the house suggests Wright may have been the mason.

Lee Wright completed the bulk of his work in the 1930s through the mid-1950s in Hendersonville. In addition to the work that he completed with general contractors Ervin Anders and Albert Drake, Lee Wright completed the stonemasonry on his own house, the *Lee and Willie Wright House*, ca. 1933, on Long John Mountain, near the quarry his father founded, and the *Woodson and Sina Drake House* on Davis Circle, ca. 1940. The stone for these two houses came from the family quarry.<sup>39</sup> Additional houses that Lee Wright completed include the *George and Betty Drake House* on US 64, ca. 1942; and the *Joe and Earleen Plick House* on North Hillside Road, ca. 1955. One of Lee Wright's last commissions was *Rossmont* on North Rugby Road,

<sup>33</sup>"Wright Brothers: Stone Masons", p. 4.

<sup>34</sup>United States Federal Census, 1920.

<sup>35</sup>Henderson County Deed Book 224, p. 200. Samuel J. Childs sold the property to L. E. Edwards. See also "New Henderson County Homes", *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 11, 1938.

<sup>36</sup>"New Henderson County Homes", *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 11, 1938. See photos dated May 2023 of the house.

<sup>37</sup>"New Henderson County Homes", *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 11, 1938. See photos dated May 2023 of the house.

<sup>38</sup>"New Henderson County Homes", *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 11, 1938. .

<sup>39</sup>"Wright Brothers: Stone Masons", pp. 7 - 8.

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completed in the mid-1950s. The house was veneered with Indiana sandstone, with hand cut window lintels and sills. The interior includes two stone fireplaces.<sup>40</sup> It is not known how many of these additional works of Lee Wright still exist, but nevertheless it attests to the fact that he was a prolific and highly skilled craftsman.

Lee Wright continued to work as a stonemason into the 1950s, but apparently with some difficulty since the 1950 census noted he was “unable to work”.<sup>41</sup> Lee Dewey Wright passed away on September 25, 1985.<sup>42</sup>

### *Bungalow/Craftsman Style*

Bungalow/Craftsman style homes originated from the Arts & Crafts movement of the late nineteenth century. The style was a reaction to the heavily ornate Victorian Era home of the same time period and focused upon the skills and workmanship of the individual builder/craftsman that still existed in the midst of a mechanized and often depersonalized industrial revolution of the day. The first Craftsman homes built were often costly due to the high cost of materials and labor in producing them. But over time this style house became the home of the working class. It was a practical, functional style for the middle class, built at a time when household servants were no longer part of the family. With this in mind, the house was simple in layout with built-in cabinets, kitchens that were functional and part of the main living space, simplified front porches, and plain, unadorned door and window trim.

The Craftsman Bungalow style, in its high-style form, was popular from 1905 – 1930. It typically features one to one-and-one-half stories, irregular massing, gable or hip roofs, partial or full-width porches with battered posts on brick or stone piers, exposed rafter ends, knee braces, open or closed porch balustrades, shingle, weatherboard, or stone walls, and often the use of stone foundations. The bungalow house form, a simplified version of the more high-style Craftsman bungalow, was a common house design utilized by all economic classes.

The Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House is primarily an example of the Bungalow/Craftsman style, but it is not the typical “every man” middle class housing that is commonly thought of as representative of this style. Rather, it is part of a regionally specific aesthetic and development pattern in western North Carolina that was connected not only to the developmental influences of South Carolina and Florida, but to the western North Carolina aesthetic that, in the first decades of the twentieth century, focused upon the idea of naturalistic or organic architecture that blended well into the surrounding mountain landscape. These houses not only utilized log or stone as the primary home building materials, as in the Childs House, but often included elements of these natural materials out into the landscape. This is evident in the Childs House in the use of stone walkways, walls, and paths throughout the property, tying the house to the landscape and its surroundings. These types of Bungalows were different than the

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<sup>40</sup>Wright Brothers: Stone Masons:, pp. 9-11.

<sup>41</sup>United States Federal Census, 1920 - 1950.

<sup>42</sup>Grave index for Lee Dewey Wright.

Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House

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“standard” bungalows found nationally, even the most high-style Craftsmans built for white collar professionals in larger cities and towns.

The Childs House in particular through its use of irregular massing, a gabled roof, stone construction with grapevine mortar joints, and wood casement windows with simple, unadorned surrounds exemplifies this mountain Craftsman-influenced aesthetic. On the interior the paneled wainscot, finely crafted woodwork, stone mantelpiece, oak flooring, and boxed beam ceiling are all elements of the style. While there are minor features of the house such as the front door with fanlight and sidelights that is more typical of the Colonial Revival style, the door itself, constructed of v-board with heavy strap hinges, is more related to the Craftsman style. The house also displays one architectural detail usually seen in the Tudor Revival style: half-timbered gable ends. This finish is frequently exhibited in the Craftsman Bungalow style as well and it further enhances the style in the Childs House.

Refined in its detailed exterior stonework, interior woodworking in paneled wainscot and flooring, and stone mantelpiece, the Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House stands out as one of the best examples of the work of Anders and Wright as a building team. The closest in scale and workmanship would be the *Arthur W. Moore House* (NR 2001), but this was the work of local builder Albert Drake not Ervin Anders. However, the Moore House, along with the other houses mentioned, provide local context for the notable stonework at the Childs House. All of the houses noted are excellent examples of the work of Lee Dewey Wright, but the Childs house stands out in particular for the scope of work completed on a house this large. The use of the grapevine mortar was not something that Wright used on all of his known houses and it lends a degree of refinement to the house that is not seen in the stonework on the *Arthur W. Moore House* or the smaller scale *L. E. Edwards House* noted above.

Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House  
Name of Property

Henderson, North Carolina  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Anders, Ervin J. United States Federal Census Records, 1910 – 1950.

Argintar, Sybil H. *Otto King House*, National Register Nomination, 2015.

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Pryor, Martha Childs. Collection of photos and other papers related to the Samuel J. Childs House, Brightwater resort, and Brightwater Farm.

“S. J. Childs, 88, Dies; Tourist Business Pioneer”, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 4, 1962.

Statesville Flour Mills Company advertisement. *The Times-News*, January 19, 1933.

Wright, James R. “Wright Brothers: Stone Masons”. Family history compiled by Lee Dewey Wright’s son. Undated. A copy of this report is in the working file at the State Historic Preservation Office.

Wright, Lee Dewey. United States Federal Census Records, 1910 – 1950.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Western Office, Archives and History

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** HN1982

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 2.62 acres

Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House  
Name of Property

Henderson, North Carolina  
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.330545 | Longitude: -82.520263 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for the nomination is shown on the accompanying tax map, at a scale of 1" = 200'.

Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House  
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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes a portion of the original acreage purchased by Samuel James Childs in 1922 for his residence and farm operations. The 2.62 acres currently associated with the home is part of this historic acreage. While the acreage to the south of the house was historically associated with the Brightwater farm it was later sold off for a subdivision, with only a small portion of the original farmland remaining in agricultural use. The Brightwater resort to the north of the Childs House is also not included since it is a separate development from the house and is separated from the house by a busy highway.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Sybil H. Argintar  
organization: Southeastern Preservation Services  
street & number: 166 Pearson Drive  
city or town: Asheville state: NC zip code: 28801  
e-mail sybil.argintar@yahoo.com  
telephone: (828) 230-3773  
date: October 20, 2023

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House

Henderson, North Carolina

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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House

City or Vicinity: Hendersonville

County: Henderson

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Sybil H. Argintar

Date Photographed: April 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 9 Front of house, view west
- 2 of 9 North elevation, view southeast
- 3 of 9 Stone chimney, rear of house, view east
- 4 of 9 Addition at southwest corner of house (added 1984), view southeast
- 5 of 9 Southeast corner of house, view northwest
- 6 of 9 Living room, view northwest
- 7 of 9 Office, view southeast
- 8 of 9 Master bedroom, view northeast
- 9 of 9 Addition, view northeast



Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House

Henderson, North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

35,330545  
-82.820263

# Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House--Location Map

35,330545  
-82,820263

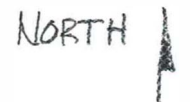
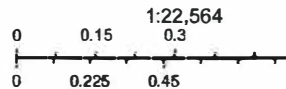


September 21, 2023

- Streets and Highways**
- THOROUGHFARE
  - FREEWAY
  - INTERSTATE
  - BOULEVARD
  - COLLECTOR
  - Local Roads
  - Parcels

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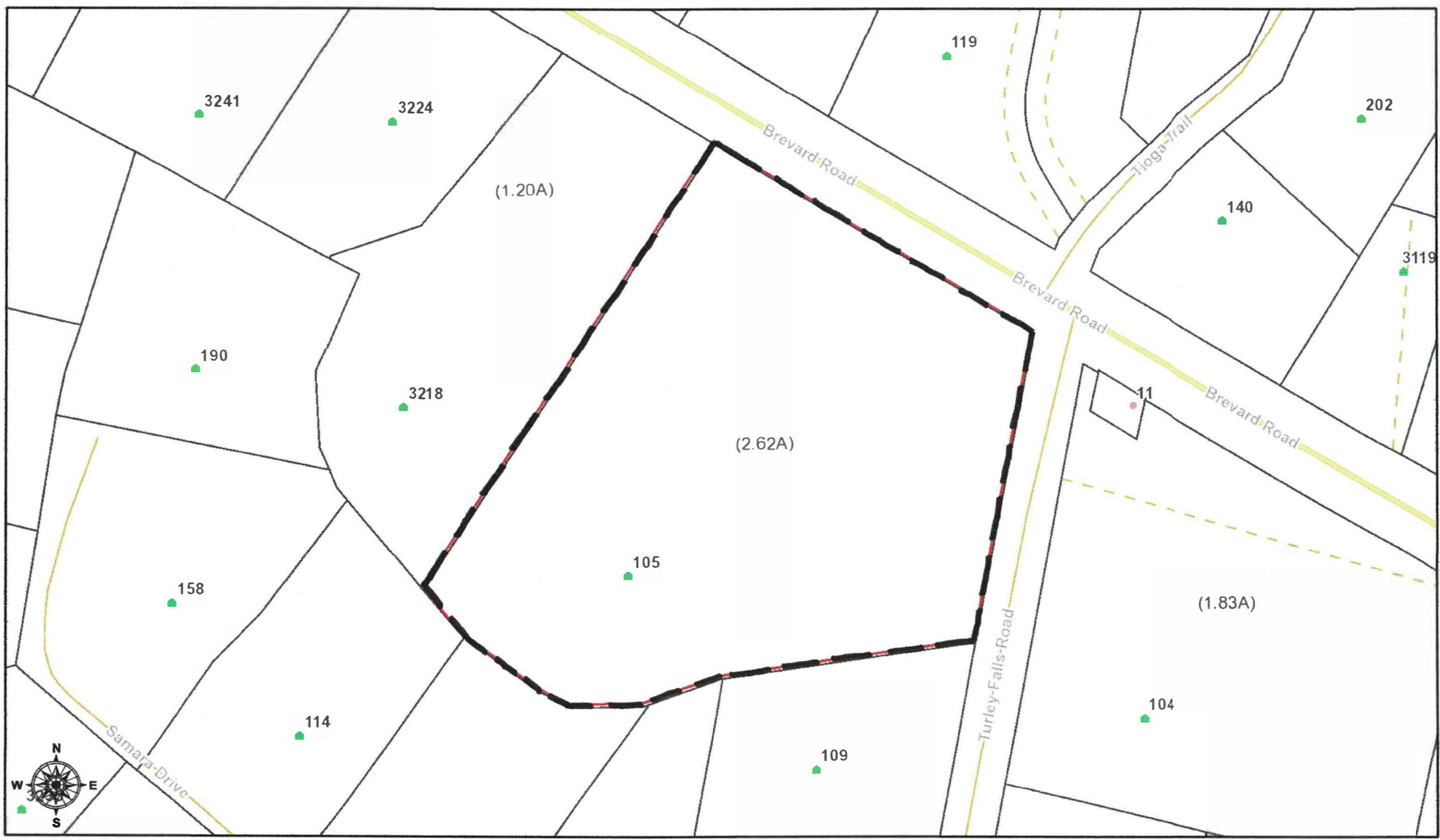
105 Turley Falls Road, Hendersonville, Henderson County, NC

Map created by: S. Argintar  
Source: Go Maps, Henderson Co, NC

Map Created by: S. Argintar  
 Source: Go Maps, Henderson  
 County, NC

# National Register Boundary Map

35.330545 - 82.520263

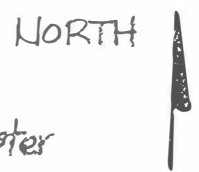
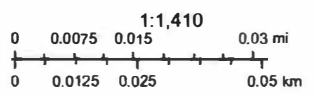


September 21, 2023

- |                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Streets and Highways</b> | THOROUGHFARE |
| FREEWAY                     | COLLECTOR    |
| INTERSTATE                  | Local Roads  |
| BOULEVARD                   | Parcels      |

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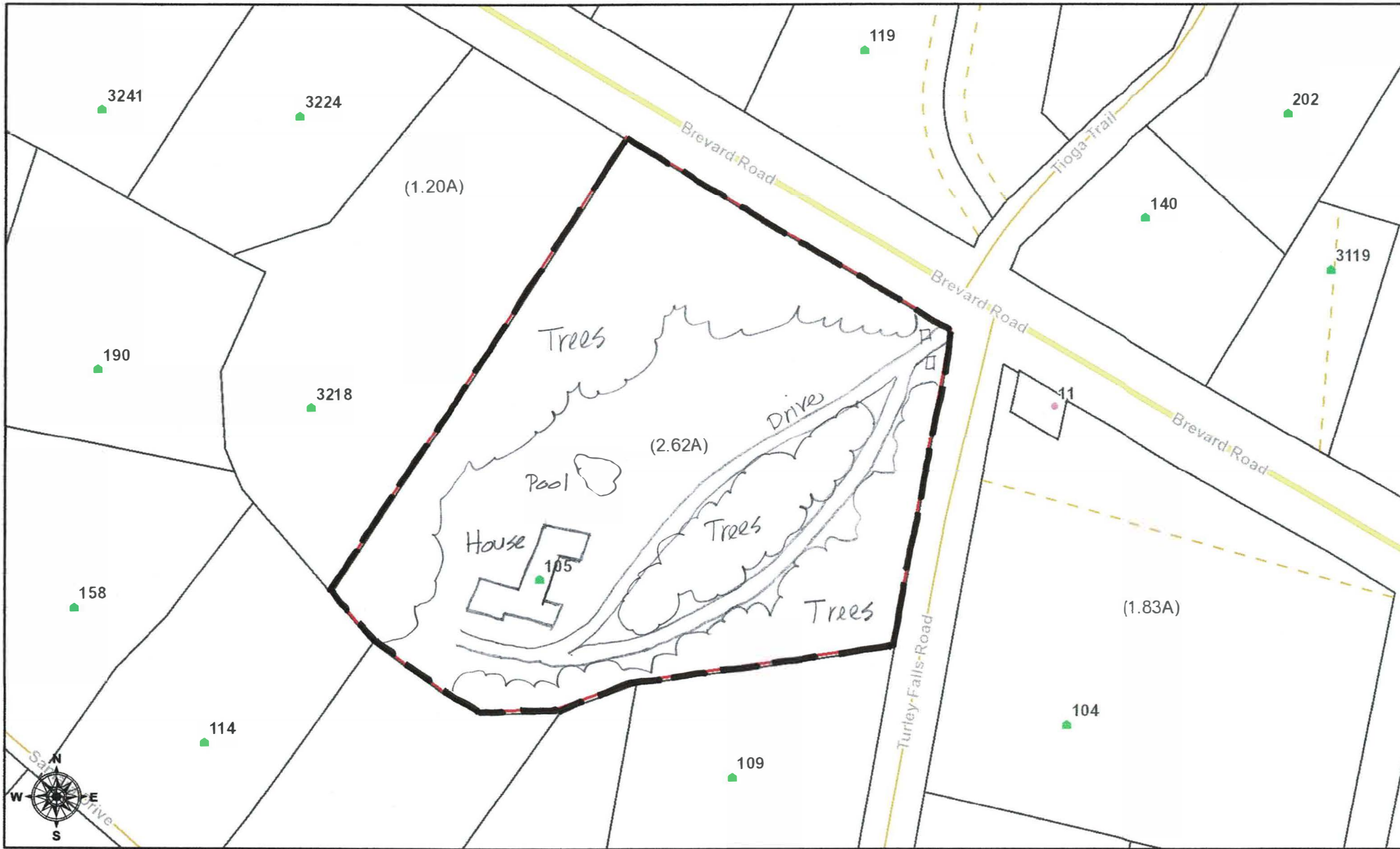
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Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House  
 103 Turley Falls Road, Hendersonville, Henderson County, NC

--- National Register Boundary

# Samuel J. and Jessie McCune Childs House--Site Plan

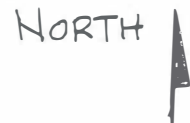
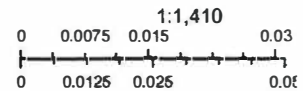


September 21, 2023

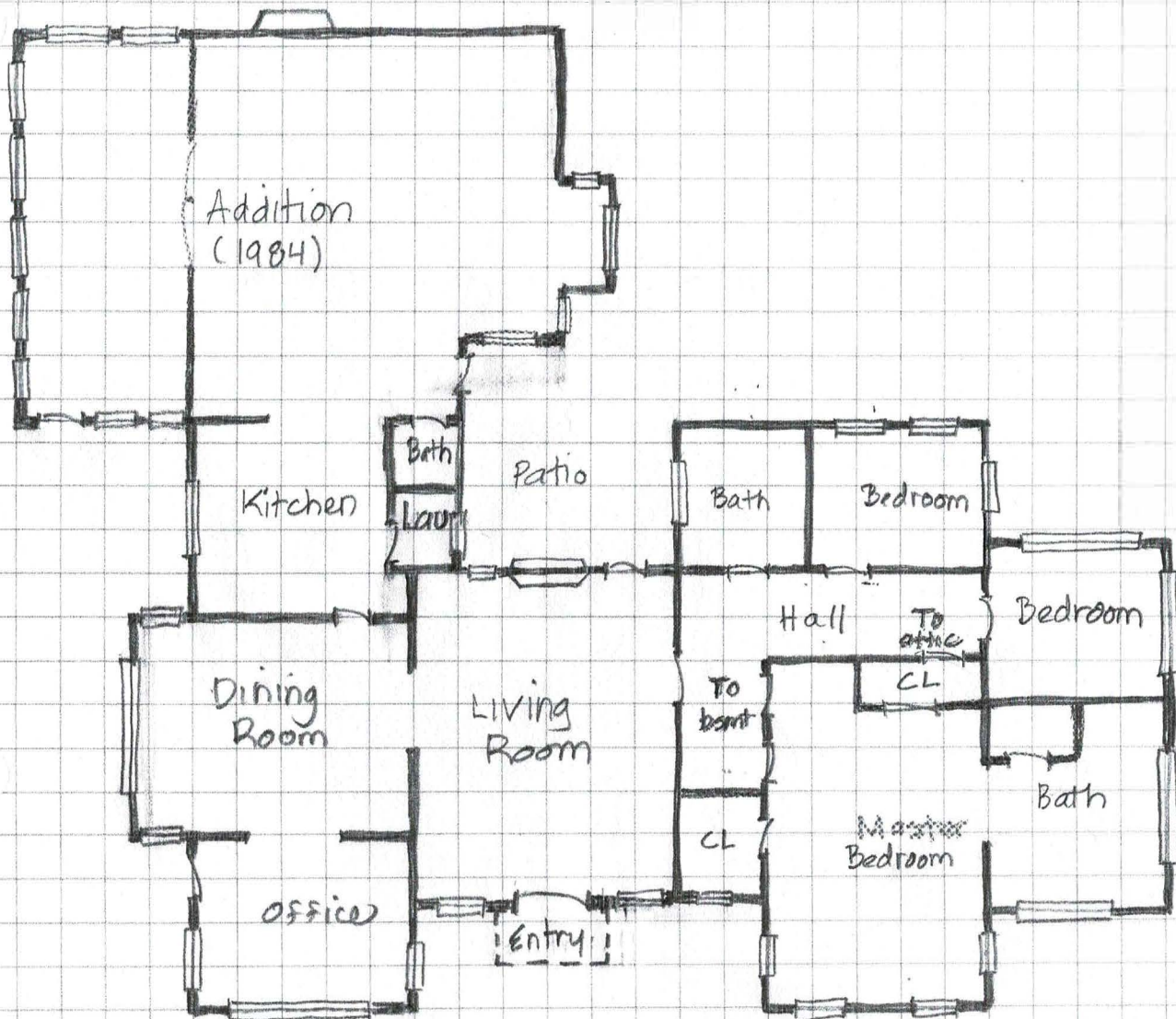
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| <b>Streets and Highways</b> | — THOROUGHFARE |
| — FREEWAY                   | — COLLECTOR    |
| — INTERSTATE                | — Local Roads  |
| — BOULEVARD                 | □ Parcels      |

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105 Turley Falls Road, Hendersonville, Henderson County, NC

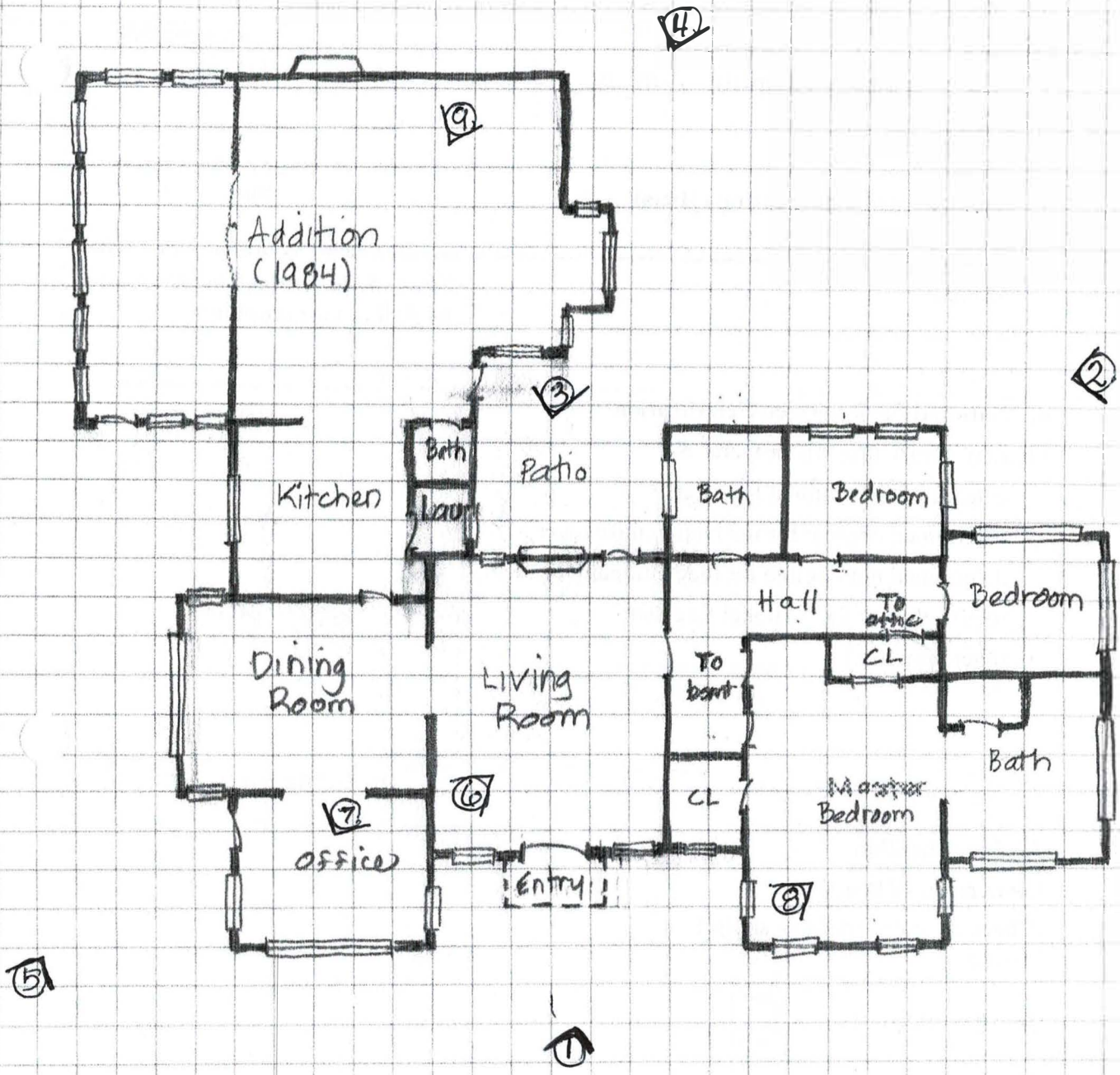


Samuel James, and Jessie McCune Childs House  
 105 Turkey Falls Road  
 Hendersonville NC  
 Henderson County

Not to scale

North


Floor Plan Sketch  
 Not to scale



Samuel James and Jessie McCune Childs House  
 105 Turley Falls Road  
 Hendersonville NC  
 Henderson County

North →

Floor Plan Sketch  
 Not to scale

Photo Key   
 Photo and Direction of View