

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Griffis-Patton House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West side SR 1927, 0.4 mile south of jct. with SR 1921 ___ not for publication

city, town ___ vicinity of Mebane and Haw River

state N. C. code 037 county Alamance code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Eric Hinshaw

street & number Rt. 4, Box 437

city, town Mebane ___ vicinity of state N. C. 27302

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Register of Deeds

street & number Alamance County Courthouse

city, town Graham state N. C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Lounsbury, Carl. Alamance County Architectural Heritage. Graham: Alamance County title Printing Dept. (and the Alamance Co. has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no Historic Properties Commission), 1980.

date ___ federal ___ state county ___ local

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section

city, town Raleigh state N. C. 27611

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Griffis-Patton House, located on the east side of Quaker Creek and to the north-east of Haw River on a tract of just over twenty-one gently rolling acres, is a substantial and well-preserved two-story brick Greek Revival plantation. It was constructed 1839-1840. The Griffis-Patton House is one of the first houses in the county known to have been constructed entirely of brick--an expensive material which only a few Alamance County owners could afford in the antebellum period.

The proportions and details of the L-shaped dwelling are characteristic of better antebellum houses constructed throughout North Carolina. A two-story brick ell projects from the rear northeast corner of the house. Beneath a low pitch gabled roof, the emphatically rectangular and symmetric structure is laid in irregular one-to-two and one-to-three common bond and rests on a low brick foundation. The main feature of the wide five bay south front elevation is the single story entrance porch with four original, rounded brick columns supporting the hipped roof and plain entablature. The porch shelters the central entrance and the flanking bay to either side.

The five-bay wide facade contains a central entrance which consists of a wide fully glazed replacement door flanked by sidelights above molded blind panels surmounted by a transom. The original first-story window openings contain nine-over-nine sash; the second story openings have a nine-over-six division. Most of these windows have replacement (1942), board and batten shutters with a simple diamond-shape cut in the upper portion. Small attic windows flanking the chimney on each gable end contain four fixed panes. Flat arches above doors and windows are filled with light-colored, smooth, rubbed bricks. Double-shouldered exterior end chimneys are located in the center of each gable end of the main block; a third chimney stands at the rear (north) elevation of the ell.

The interior follows a center stair hall. Its spaciousness and simplicity is characteristic of regional Greek Revival houses. Present throughout the house are typical Greek Revival details including symmetrically molded surrounds with cornerblocks, high, heavy molded baseboards and paneled doors. A handsome feature of the interior are four original mantels featuring fluted pilasters, paneled friezes, and bold moldings supporting the shelf.

The L-shape stairway, located along the east wall of the center hallway, is simply executed. The stairway has slender balusters square-in-section which rise to support the rounded rail. At each end of the stairs stands a square, fluted newel.

The architectural integrity of the house has remained intact in spite of several expansions. These include: a carport addition to the north rear elevation of the ell, the replacement of the original shed roof back porch for a kitchen and bath, and the replacement of two first story windows on the east elevation of the ell by a single picture window. Inside the house sheet paneling has been simply applied over the original plaster walls; two of the six original mantels were removed and the rear stairway was dismantled. All of the above alterations were made in 1942.

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Description

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There are three frame outbuildings on the property. The oldest of the group is the nineteenth century frame kitchen, a rectangular one-story building covered with a gabled roof. About 1934 it was moved from its original location to the present location northeast of the house; during the move the brick chimney standing on its gable end was lost and the opening weatherboarded over. A door and window occur on its present front (south) elevation. Beside it is the well house, a diminutive one-story frame building with a gabled roof and a board and batten door on its south gable end. The well house was built about 1934 to replace the well-shed. Also dating to about 1934 is a small one-story frame shed roof chicken house, now used as a wood shed. It stands a short distance to the west of the house.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1839-1840 **Builder/Architect** UNKNOWN

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

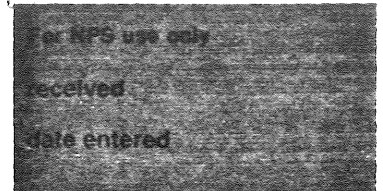
The Griffis-Patton House, built 1839-1840 on the west side of the Hillsborough and Haw River Road northeast of the village of Haw River, is a handsome two-story, five-bay brick plantation house of commanding presence. Built on the lands assembled by William Griffis with purchases beginning in 1795, the house was first occupied by his son, William P., and Mary (Robbins) Griffis who lived in it until 1859 when they and other members of the prominent Griffis family decided to remove to Texas. In the division of the family property the house and its lands became the property of Dr. Thomas E. Griffis (1820-1903) who apparently never lived in the house and in 1886 also moved to Lamar County, Texas joining his brother, Thomas, there. During his ownership the house was a rental (or tenant) property. In 1916 the house and its 138 acres were acquired by Lonnie and Mary (Bason) Patton. The Patton family, also prominent in Alamance County, has occupied the house since 1916--longer, of course, than the occupancy in the antebellum period by the Griffis family. In 1936 the house became the property of the Patton's daughter, Hazeline Patton Tickle. She sold the house property in 1982. In addition to its local historical significance the house possesses local (county) architectural significance as one of the county's few antebellum brick plantation seats and the most intact member of that group. The wide five-bay front elevation of the house and the two-story rear ell raise the house to a status above the more usual three-bay brick house of the North Carolina Piedmont. Its exterior trim and interior finish, particularly the door and window surrounds, their panelled reveals, and mantels executed in a transitional Federal/Greek Revival manner are the work of a fine vernacular craftsman, possibly William P. Griffis himself.

Criteria Assessment:

- B. The Griffis-Patton House is associated with the lives of members of two locally prominent families in Alamance County. It was the residence of William P. Griffis for about twenty years and afterward the property, though not the residence, of his brother Dr. Thomas E. Griffis (1820-1903). Since 1916 it has been the residence and property of Lonnie and Mary Patton and their daughter Mrs. Clyde (Hazeline Patton) Tickle and Mr. Tickle. It remained in the family until November 1982.
- C. The house embodies the distinctive characteristics of the better class of antebellum plantation seats in Piedmont North Carolina. The finish of the interior enjoys the presence and scale of the house's exterior and is well crafted with a program of transitional Federal/Greek Revival woodwork which, excepting the loss of two mantels, survives intact to the present. The door and window surrounds and their paneled reveals, part of the mainstream of Greek Revival architectural design, and the retention of Federal forms in the composition of the four mantels--each slightly varying from the other--place the house firmly in the vernacular building tradition of the state.

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The Griffis-Patton House was constructed about 1839-1840 for William P. Griffis, son of William Griffis and his wife Sally Horn Griffis.¹ William Griffis began buying land on Quaker Creek in 1795 and continued to purchase adjoining property until 1820 by which time he had accumulated a contiguous estate in excess of 1,000 acres.² He and his wife Sally produced five children, four boys and one girl. The girl was not identified, but the sons were John, Abel, Thomas, and William P.³ The home of William Griffis and his family stood north of the present Griffis-Patton House near the confluence of Quaker and Scrub creeks.⁴

William died in 1833 and his oldest son, John, assumed head of household. The family owned forty-six slaves and apparently hired three overseers to help manage the extensive lands.⁵ The family resided as a unit in the home near Scrub Creek until 1839 when William P. married Mary Robbins of Guilford County.⁶ The Griffis-Patton House appears to have been constructed for the newlyweds. Completion of the house must have taken sometime since William P. and Mary R. Griffis did not move in until sometime after the summer of 1840.⁷ Local tradition maintains that bricks for the construction were fired on the adjoining Bason plantation and employed slave labor.⁸

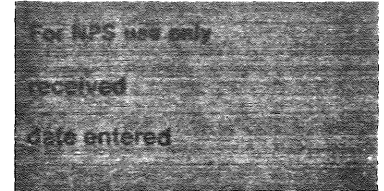
William P. Griffis (born 1814) was the only one of William Griffis's sons to marry before 1850. He and Mary had three children: Louisa, Sarah, and John. William P. was a carpenter by trade and may have done much of the work on the house himself. By 1850 (Alamance was created from Orange in 1849) he had apparently established a successful business in which he employed another carpenter and a laborer.⁹ The property on which William P. Griffis's home still stands was during his residency owned jointly by the heirs of his father, William Griffis. John, the oldest son who never married, died on September 24, 1843, leaving his interests in the estate to a number of relatives including William P. Less than a year later, February 6, 1844, William P. conveyed his interests to his brothers Abel and Thomas E. Griffis but continued to reside in the house.¹⁰ By 1850 the Griffis property had been consolidated in the hands of old William's widow, Sally, and two of his sons, Abel and Thomas E. and was valued at \$19,900.¹¹

By September 12, 1859, seventy-four year old Sarah (Sally) Griffis and two of her sons, Thomas and William P., had decided to move to Texas. Abel apparently chose to remain in Alamance County. In pursuance of the move, the family divided the lands jointly owned by them. Sally received seventy-two acres on Otter Creek; Abel took 587 acres on the waters of Back and Stagg creeks; and Thomas was given 641 acres that included both dwelling houses, that of his parents and the Griffis-Patton House then occupied by his brother William.¹² Since William P. had earlier sold his interests to his brothers, he was not involved in the land division. Abel was allowed to live in the old Griffis home near Scrub Creek even though the title was held by his brother Thomas.¹³ The Griffis-Patton House was rented to men who managed the farms on the lower half of the estate. Thomas gave his brother Abel power of attorney to conduct all business and legal matters necessary to run the operation of his farmlands and rental properties.¹⁴

Thomas E. Griffis (1820-1903) had received a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in the 1840s. He practiced medicine in Alamance County and presumably continued his profession after moving to Texas.¹⁵ He did not marry while living in North Carolina but remained in his mother's household near Scrub Creek. His brother Abel, a

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merchant, lived in a house on the Scrub Creek farm also.¹⁶ There is no evidence that either lived in the Griffis-Patton House; in fact, the records tend to show that both resided in or near the old William Griffis home. Abel remained in Alamance County until 1886 when, at the age of seventy-six, he joined his younger brother, Thomas, in Lamar County, Texas.¹⁷

From about 1860 to 1913 the Griffis-Patton House, locally called the "Griffis Place," served as rental property. Only one person can be identified with the house during this period even though there were undoubtedly others who lived there. In 1883, William F. Faucette was cultivating the land, occupying the premises, and assuming the management of the farming operation. He had apparently been living there prior to 1883, but how long before and after that date remain unknown. He did not move into the house until sometime after 1860.¹⁸

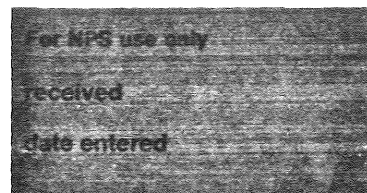
The Griffis-Patton House remained in the hands of Dr. Thomas E. Griffis's heirs following his death in 1903. On January 5, 1912 Benjamin and Arma Guthrie bought the house and 602 acres; less than five years later they sold 138 acres, "known as 'the Griffis Place'" to Lonnie and Mary Bason Patton, whose name has been appended to the house.¹⁹

Both Lonnie Patton and Mary Bason were descendants of long established and well respected families in the Quaker Creek area. Their marriage brought together a heritage of successful farming and community prestige. The Patton occupancy returned the house to its antebellum status as the property and home of a prominent Alamance County family.

On August 17, 1936, Mary B. Patton transferred the house and 37.48 acres to her daughter Hazeline who later married Clyde Tickle.²⁰ The Tickle's owned and occupied the house until September 1982 when Mrs. Tickle moved out of the house. In November 1982 she sold the house and its remaining tract of twenty-one acres to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hinshaw who will make it their home.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Orange County Marriage Bonds, State Archives, Raleigh. Bond dated August 9, 1804. For family relationship see William Griffis Estate Papers, Orange County Records, State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Griffis Estate Papers; and Alamance County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Alamance County Courthouse, Graham, Deed Book 2, p. 35, hereinafter cited as Alamance County Deed Book.

²Alamance County Deed Book 12, pp. 225-232. The land was purchased when the territory was still Orange County but the deeds were not registered until 1886, ninety-one years after the first purchase. See also Alamance County Deed Book 26, pp. 383-385.

³See Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: North Carolina, Orange County, Population Schedule, 46. Census records hereinafter cited by number, date, schedule, and page. See also Alamance County Deed Book 2, p. 35; Deed Book 26, p. 383; and Fifth Census, 1830, Population Schedule, 327.

⁴See Alamance County Deed Book 2, p. 35. The "home tract" is defined as being on Quaker and Scrub creeks. This is the same piece of land bought by William Griffis a month after his marriage. See Alamance County Deed Book 12, p. 225. For geographical relationship of the Griffis-Patton House to the confluence of Quaker and Scrub creeks, see Map of Alamance County, North Carolina, 1893, by William L. Spoon. Alamance County Map Collection, State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Spoon Map, 1893.

⁵Griffis Estate Papers; and Sixth Census, 1840, Orange County, Population Schedule, 183.

⁶Sixth Census, 1840, Orange County, Population Schedule, 183; and Guilford County Marriage Bonds, State Archives, Raleigh.

⁷Sixth Census, 1840, Orange County, Population Schedule, 183. William P. did not appear in the census suggesting that he and his bride may have temporarily resided in Guilford County near or with her parents.

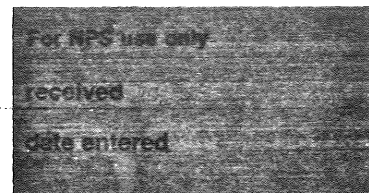
⁸"Historic Alamance County." Brochure prepared by the Bicentennial Heritage Committee in cooperation with the Burlington Woman's Club, 1976, hereinafter cited as "Historic Alamance County."

⁹Seventh Census, 1850, Alamance County, Population Schedule, 60; and David Leroy Corbitt, The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943 (Raleigh: Department of Archives and History, 1950), 1.

¹⁰For death of John Griffis, see the Hillsborough Recorder, September 28, 1843. See also Alamance County Deed Books, p. 35; and Seventh Census, 1850, Alamance County, Population Schedule, 60.

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Footnotes (continued)

¹¹ Alamance County Deed Book 26, pp. 383-385; and Seventh Census, 1850, Alamance County, Population Schedule, 60.

¹² Alamance County Deed Book 26, pp. 383-385; Deed Book 31, p. 553; and Dr. Durwood Stokes, interview by Linda Marquez-Frees, November 21, 1980, hereinafter cited as Stokes interview. Notes on file in Survey and Planning Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. A complete check of the 1860 Alamance County census found only Abel Griffis remaining in the county.

¹³ Abel Griffis lived next door to Jacob Holt whose home still stands near Scrub Creek. See Eighth Census, 1860, Alamance County, Population Schedule, 176; and "Historic Alamance County." See also fn. 12.

¹⁴ Alamance County Deed Book 9, p. 247.

¹⁵ Stokes interview; and Seventh Census, 1850, Alamance County, Population Schedule, 60.

¹⁶ See order of visitation in Seventh Census, 1850, Alamance County, Population Schedule, 60.

¹⁷ In 1886 Abel recorded all of the land transfers regarding the Griffis properties. See Alamance County Deed Book 12, pp. 225-232. He died in 1892 in Lamar County, Texas. Copy of his will in Alamance County (loose) Wills, State Archives, Raleigh. See also Stokes interview.

¹⁸ Alamance County Deed Book 9, p. 247. This was a power of attorney from Thomas to Abel Griffis. In 1860 William F. Faucette was twenty-four, unmarried, a farmer living in the household of J. E. Pickett. Pickett was living two houses away from C. Sellars whose son W. B. (known as Squire Sellars) appears on the Spoon Map, 1893, as about the same distance from the "Griffis Place."

¹⁹ Alamance County Deed Book 45, pp. 96, 432; and Deed Book 51, p. 352. The Pattons bought the house on December 31, 1916.

²⁰ Alamance County Deed Book 117, p. 46; and Deed Book 286, p. 350.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10.17 acres

Quadrangle name Mebane

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	1	7
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3	9	9	1	8	4	2	1	0
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3	9	9	1	7	8	1	8	1	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached tax plat map on which the property nominated is Lot 31, Alamance County Tax Plat Map #13-22.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state		code	county		code
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11. Form Prepared By

Architectural description by Linda Marquez-Frees (consultant) and Davyd Foard Hood (staff); name/title Historical significance by Jerry L. Cross; Statement of significance and criteria assessment by Cross and Hood.

organization Division of Archives and History date

street & number 109 East Jones Street telephone 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state N. C. 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

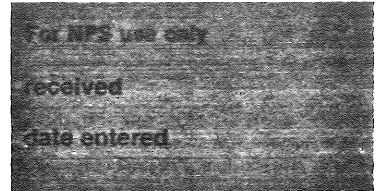
State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date February 7, 1983

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: date
 Chief of Registration

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

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Alamance County Records
Deeds
Estates Papers

Corbitt, David Leroy. The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943. Raleigh: Department of Archives and History, 1950.

Guilford County Marriage Bonds.

Hillsborough Recorder. September 28, 1843.

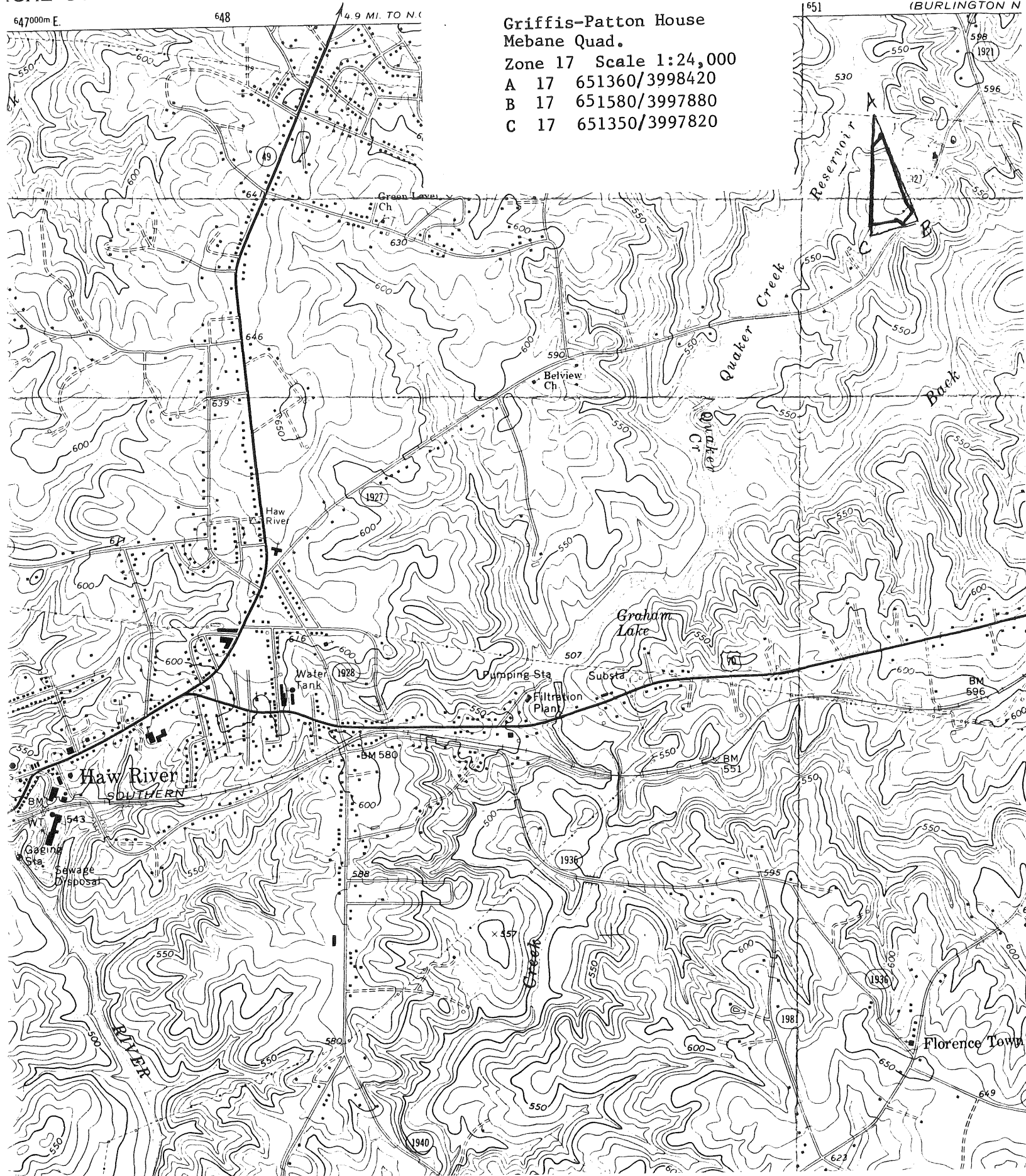
"Historic Alamance County." Brochure published by the Bicentennial Heritage Committee in cooperation with the Burlington Woman's Club, 1976.

Orange County Records
Deeds
Estates Papers
Marriage Bonds
Wills

Stokes, Dr. Durwood. Interview by Linda Marquez-Frees, November 21, 1980.

United States Census Records.
Alamance County 1850-1860
Orange County 1820-1840

Griffis-Patton House
Mebane Quad.
Zone 17 Scale 1:24,000
A 17 651360/3998420
B 17 651580/3997880
C 17 651350/3997820



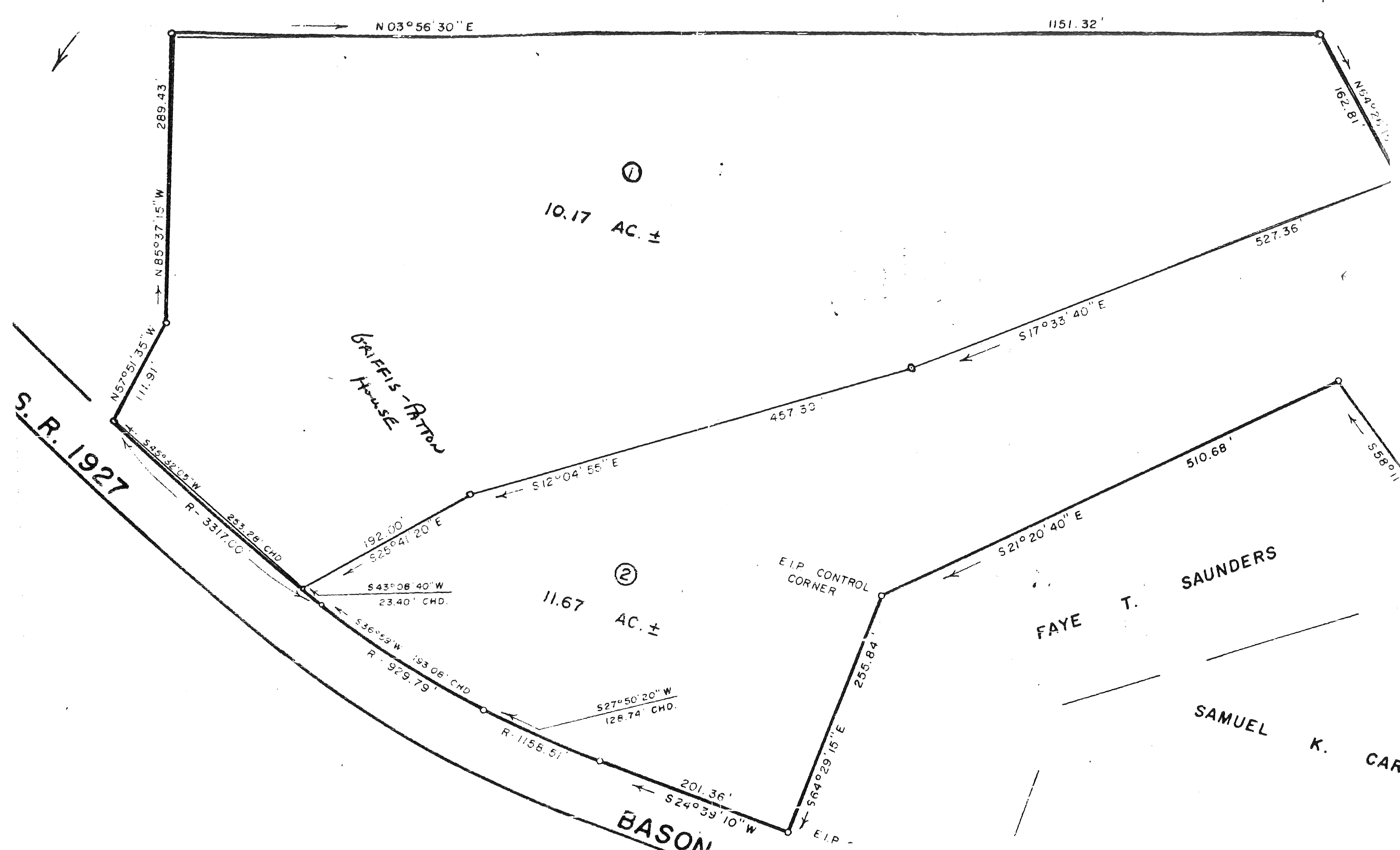
647000m E. 648 4.9 MI. TO N.C.

647000m E. 648

4.9 MI. TO N.C.

647000m E. 648

4.9 MI. TO N.C.



N 03° 56' 30" E

1151.32'

289.43'

N 85° 37' 15" W

N 29° 25' 15" E
162.81'

①
10.17 AC ±

GRAFFIS - RATON
GRAFFIS HOUSE

527.36'

S 17° 33' 40" E

457.39'

S 12° 04' 55" E

510.68'

S 21° 20' 40" E

E.I.P. CONTROL CORNER

②
11.67 AC ±

FAYE T. SAUNDERS

SAMUEL K. CAR

S. R. 1927

N 57° 51' 35" W
111.91'

S 53° 32' 05" W
533.32' CHD.

R - 3317.00'

253.28' CHD.

192.00'
S 25° 41' 20" E

S 43° 06' 40" W
23.40' CHD.

S 36° 59' W
193.08' CHD.
R - 929.79'

S 27° 50' 20" W
126.74' CHD.

R - 1158.51'

BASON

201.36'

S 24° 39' 10" W

S 64° 29' 15" E
E.I.P.

235.84'

