

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Caleb Grandy House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number W. side SR1145, 0.2 mi. North of jct. w/SR 1200 not for publication

city, town Belcross  vicinity of congressional district First

state North Carolina code 037 county Camden code 029

**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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Harriss, Jr.

street & number RFD #1 Box 62

city, town Camden, vicinity of state North Carolina 27921

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Camden County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Camden state North Carolina

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Caleb Grandy House, a typical late-Georgian story-and-a-half frame dwelling, was extensively restored in the 1940s by Frank Dawson, an architect who owned it at that time. On the Study List since 1971, the house is nominated despite alterations to its finish because it exemplifies a crucial Virginia-North Carolina house type now rare in Camden County. The form, plan, and chimney are intact.

The house, which faces south, stands on a slight rise about two hundred feet west of the road leading to Belcross and is surrounded by a large lawn which contains a few, scattered trees. A small area immediately to the east of the house is enclosed by a white picket fence. The house is three bays wide with gable-roofed dormer windows located in the front (south) slope of the roof. The rear (north) slope of the roof is less steep than that of the front making a shed configuration. In its proportions and surviving details, the house is typical of late Georgian houses built in eastern North Carolina and tidewater Virginia.

The oldest part of the house, the present two-room-wide one-room deep front portion of the house, stands on a low, brick foundation wall over a shallow basement. It is sheathed with beaded weatherboards which are replacements. The doorway is located to the right of the center of the front (south) elevation with the windows being approximately centered in the spaces allotted to them by the location of the doorway. The dormer windows are placed directly above the first-floor windows and the door and are sheathed with flush, beaded boards which follow the slope of the roof. A large, double-shouldered chimney is situated at each end of the oldest part of the house. The chimney is situated at each end of the oldest part of the house. The chimneys are generally laid in English bond but sometimes there are two rows of stretchers between rows of headers rather than the usual one row. Both chimneys have paved, corbeled shoulders. The west chimney has recently been repointed. At the first floor level, windows flank the west chimney while the east chimney is flanked by a window on the right (north) and a doorway on the left (south). The first floor sash are all nine-over-six and those with wide muntins appear to be original to the house. At second floor level, small windows, containing four-over-two sash, flank both chimneys. These sash and the six-over-six sash in the dormers are replacements.

The second oldest part of the house is the shed addition which is immediately behind the original part of the house. This one-room-deep addition sat on brick piers which have since been bricked in. This addition is sheathed with beaded weatherboards. A window containing nine-over-six sash is located in the west end of the shed addition and a Flemish-bond chimney is on the east end. This chimney has a tall stack and stepped shoulders. The date 1787 occurs on a brick in the stack four courses above where the shoulder begins.

There have been several other additions to the house. At some time a small one-room building was attached to the west end of the rear (north) elevation of the house. The ridge of this primitive mid-nineteenth century, gable-roofed building runs perpendicular to the ridge of the oldest part of the house. This added building is sheathed with plain weatherboards and has extremely wide, hand-planed batten doors in the centers of its east and west elevations. Two narrow four-over-four windows flank each of the doors and there are also two four-over-four windows in the end (north) elevation.

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It is impossible to record all of the additions that have been made to the house, but the present owner, Robert C. Harriss, Jr., related that the garage, the screened porch connecting the garage to the house, and the bathroom were added by a Taylor family who purchased the house from Frank Dawson.

The exterior door and window surrounds are simple and there is a four-pane transom above the front door. There is no visible information concerning the configuration of the early porches. The existing side (east) porch was built by Frank Dawson and the present front (south) porch was built by the Harrisses to replace a deteriorated porch that Dawson had built there. The pattern boards, box cornices, crown moldings, rake boards, and shingle moldings are replacements. The house is presently roofed with asbestos shingles. However, round-butt wood shingles covered the roof of the original part of the house at the time that the shed was added over the rear slope of the roof. Some of these wood shingles remain in place and can be seen by going into the crawl space in the rear eave of the original part 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/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Caleb Grandy House is one of a very few, small but typical, late eighteenth century story-and-a-half hall-and-parlor plan dwellings left in Camden County. Built by Caleb Grandy in the middle to late 1780s, the house features massive paved, double shouldered chimneys at the gable ends and an asymmetrical placement of bays on the front elevation—both characteristic of early homes throughout the state's tidewater. Grandy served the people of his county for several years at both the local and state levels. In 1940 the house was acquired by Frank Dawson, an architect, who restored it within the context of 1930s and 1940s restoration philosophy. Since 1975 the house has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Harriss, Jr., who are preserving the house within the parameters of present popular restoration philosophy.

### Criteria Assessment:

- B. The house is associated with Caleb Grandy who was a politically prominent planter in the early history of Camden County serving as a representative, commissioner, and sheriff.
- C. The Caleb Grandy house is one of the few representative examples of late eighteenth century story-and-half domestic architecture left in Camden County.
- D. It is likely to yield information about late eighteenth and nineteenth century lifestyles in northeastern North Carolina.

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The Caleb Grandy House was built by Caleb Grandy prior to the Revolution near the present-day community of Belcross in central Camden County. Grandy was a large land owner and important community leader in the early days of Camden County, which was formed from Pasquotank County in 1777. He expanded the house in 1787.

Caleb Grandy's name first appears in 1754 as an ensign in Captain Josiah Nash's militia company. When Camden County was formed, during the Revolution, Grandy was named as one of a five-member commission appointed to set up the county government. In 1777 he was elected as one of two commoners (representatives) in Camden's first legislative delegation. He also served terms in the lower house in 1778, 1779, 1792, 1793, and 1795.<sup>1</sup> In 1782 he served as a commissioner appointed by the General Assembly for the purpose of building Camden's first courthouse. He also served as the county's sheriff on a number of occasions.<sup>2</sup> Grandy is listed as the owner of over 1,200 acres in 1782, a substantial amount of land in a small, land-poor county.<sup>3</sup> The 1790 census credits him with the ownership of 18 slaves, making him one of the largest slaveholders in the area.<sup>4</sup>

Grandy died in 1795. His property was apparently divided among his three sons, Miles, Caleb, Jr., and Josiah, with the latter obtaining the house.<sup>5</sup> Josiah Grandy died intestate in 1826. At the time he had at least two minor children, and his land was ordered sold by the court. Wilson B. Dozier purchased the property containing the house.<sup>6</sup> In 1846 Dozier sold the property, at this time consisting of seven acres, to John Henry Mitchell for \$400.<sup>7</sup>

Mitchell purchased adjacent land and had a small farm, valued at \$300 in 1850. During this year he farmed 10 of his 65 acres, with corn and sweet potatoes his largest crop. He owned one slave. He was also Camden County's assistant marshall in 1850.<sup>8</sup> He died in 1855, leaving the property to his son Augustus G. Mitchell,<sup>9</sup> a carpenter, who kept the property until 1883 when he sold the house and 57 acres to Walter R. Gilbert for \$1,050. Mitchell operated a winery on the premises.<sup>10</sup> Gilbert farmed the property until 1905 when he sold it for \$800 to Adelia Lamb.<sup>11</sup> The property has changed hands frequently in the twentieth century.<sup>12</sup> D. S. Forehand owned it the longest, from 1926 until 1940. Frank Dawson, an architect who owned the house from 1940 until 1950, restored it. The present owners Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Harriss, Jr., have owned the property since 1975.

In spite of the large number of people who have owned it, the Grandy House remains in good condition almost two centuries after it was built. It has served a variety of roles, from the seat of Caleb Grandy's spacious plantation to the center of smaller, more modest farms. It remains one of Camden's most historic homes.

The house is of architectural significance as one of a very few small, but typical, late eighteenth century story-and-a-half hall-and-parlor plan dwellings in Camden County. Although one of North Carolina's oldest counties, Camden has lost most traces of its earliest architectural fabric, thus making this small house an important element in the county's architectural history.

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The structure of course is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Jesse Forbes Pugh, Three Hundred Years Along the Pasquotank: A Biographical History of Camden County (Old Trap, North Carolina: N.p., 1957), 60, 79-81, 214-215, hereinafter cited as Pugh, Three Hundred Years Along the Pasquotank.

<sup>2</sup> Historical Highlights of Camden County, 1777-1977 (Camden, North Carolina: Camden County Historical Society, 1977), 2, hereinafter cited as Historical Highlights of Camden County; Pugh, Three Hundred Years Along the Pasquotank, 80-81.

<sup>3</sup> Historical Highlights of Camden County, 79-86.

<sup>4</sup> Pugh, Three Hundred Years Along the Pasquotank, 81.

<sup>5</sup> Pugh, Three Hundred Years Along the Pasquotank, 81, 209; Due to courthouse fires, antebellum records of Camden County are sketchy.

<sup>6</sup> Camden County Estates Records, Josiah Grandy.

<sup>7</sup> Camden County Deed Book Y, p. 280.

<sup>8</sup> Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Camden County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule.

<sup>9</sup> Camden County Will Book D, p. 26.

<sup>10</sup> Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Camden County Deed Book II, 333; Jesse Forbes Pugh, Journeys Through Camden County (Camden, North Carolina: N.p., 1953), 12.

<sup>11</sup> Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Camden County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Camden County Deed Book 4, p. 281.

<sup>12</sup> Walter Gilbert To Adelia Lamb, 1905, Book 4, p. 281; Adelia Lamb Burgess and Arthur Burgess to Samuel Williams, 1914, Book 8, p. 50; Williams to Sallie Evans, 1916, Book 9, p. 431; Sallie and Frank Evans to D. S. Forehand, 1926, Book 14, p. 476; Forehand to Frank Dawson, 1940, Book 23, p. 184; Dawson to the East Carolina News Publishing Company, 1950, Book 31, p. 446; East Carolina News Publishing Company to J. Thomas Perry, 1952, Book 33, p. 191; Perry and wife Jessie to Edward P. Taylor and wife Inez, 1954, Book 35, p. 102; Taylor to Thomas Heinowski, 1966, Book 48, p. 481; Heinowski to Roger Frawley, 1968, Book 52, p. 50; Frawley to Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Harriss, Jr., 1975, Book 63, p. 305.

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Camden County Records. Deed Books, Will Books. Microfilm copies. Estates Papers.  
Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

Historical Highlights of Camden County, 1777-1977. Camden, North Carolina: Camden  
County Historical Society, 1977.

Pugh, J[esse] F[orbes]. Journeys through Camden County. Camden, North Carolina:  
N.p., March, 1953. (p. 12)

Pugh, Jesse Forbes . Three Hundred Years Along the Pasquotank: A Biographical  
History of Camden County. Old Trap, North Carolina: N.p., 1957.

United States Census Office. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Camden County,  
North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule; Ninth  
Census of the United States, 1870: Camden County, North Carolina, Population  
Schedule; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Camden County, North Carolina,  
Population Schedule; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900: Camden County,  
North Carolina, Population Schedule. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of  
Archives and History.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 57.28 acres

Quadrangle name Elizabeth City, NC

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

Lat. A 36° 21' 13" Long. 76° 9' 45"

B 36° 21' 00" 76° 9' 46"

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is described in the attached deed: Camden County Deed Book 63, Page 305. The 57.28 acres is all the land that remains associated with a house which was once the seat of a 1,200 acre plantation.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Architectural Description: <u>Margaret L. Stephenson, Consultant</u>	Historical Statement: <u>Jim Sumner, Researcher</u>
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organization	<u>Survey and Planning Branch</u> <u>Archaeology and Historic Preservation</u>	date	<u>September, 1980</u>
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street & number	<u>N.C. Division of Archives and History</u> <u>109 E. Jones Street</u>	telephone	<u>(919) 733-6545</u>
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city or town	<u>Raleigh,</u>	state	<u>North Carolina 27611</u>
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# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title	<u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	date	<u>October 16, 1980</u>
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For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

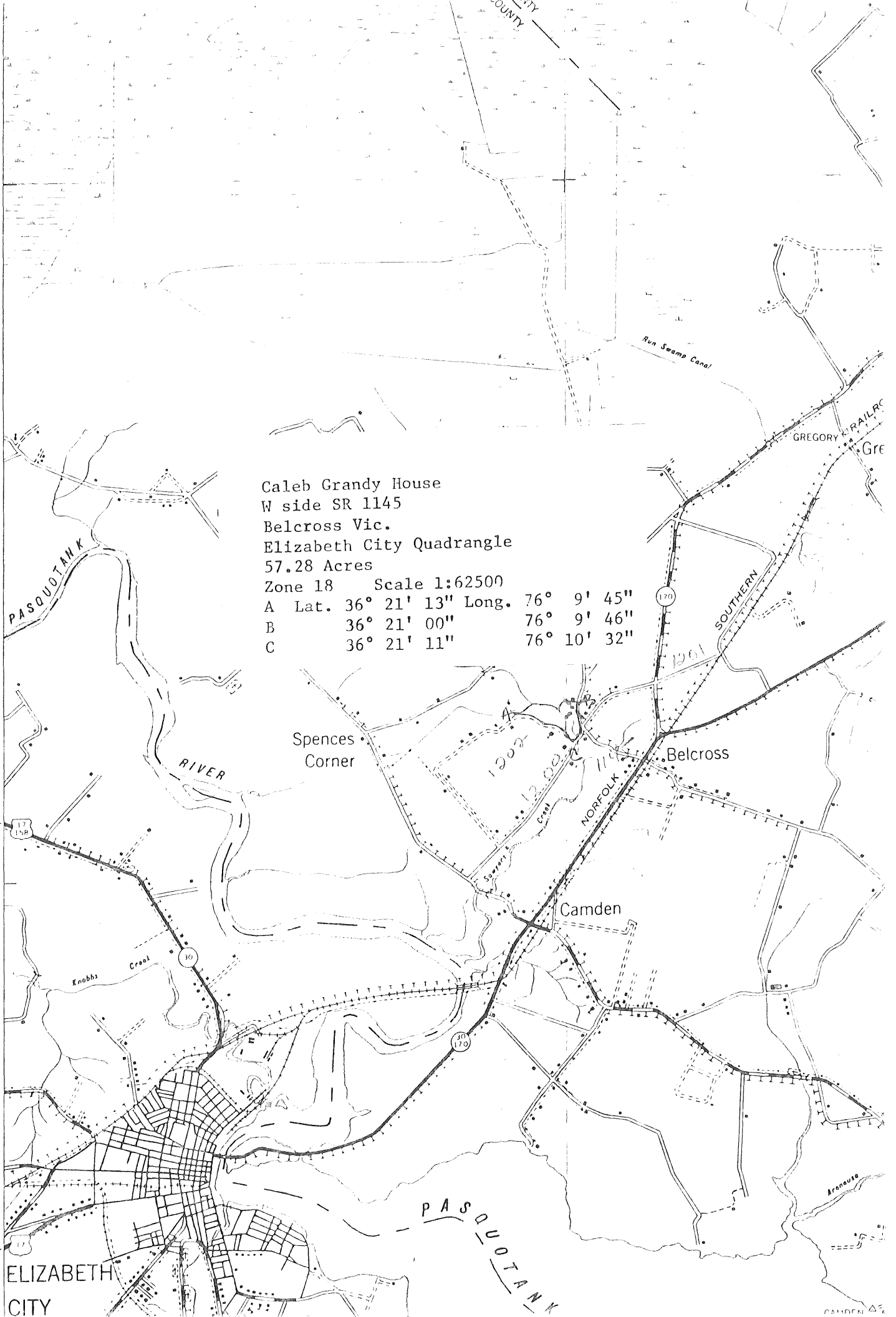
date

Chief of Registration

NORFOLK 41 W.  
SOUTH WILLS 10 W.

20

ELIZABETH 41 W.  
SOUTH WILLS 10 W.



Caleb Grandy House  
 W side SR 1145  
 Belcross Vic.  
 Elizabeth City Quadrangle  
 57.28 Acres  
 Zone 18      Scale 1:62500

A	Lat. 36° 21' 13"	Long. 76° 9' 45"
B	36° 21' 00"	76° 9' 46"
C	36° 21' 11"	76° 10' 32"

ELIZABETH  
 CITY

PASQUOTANK

CAMDEN

