

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge

other names/site number Portsmouth Hunting and Fishing Club

2. Location

street & number Sheep Island not for publication N/A

city or town Ocracoke vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county Carteret code 031 zip code 27960

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official *Sharon Crow* SHPD Date 1/28/05

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

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Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge
Carteret County, North Carolina

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The c. 1945 Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge is located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina on Sheep Island, immediately southwest of Portsmouth Island and approximately one mile from the village. Sheep Island is only accessible from the mainland by private boat or plane. The southward facing lodge sits in the middle of an approximate eight-acre cleared tract several hundred feet from a landing dock on the Pamlico Sound. The setting is rural and the mowed parcel is surrounded by typical Outer Banks maritime vegetation consisting of dense clumps of scrub pines, live oaks, water oaks, black myrtles, yaupon, and red cedar, all of which grow in stunted masses. Situated behind (north) of the lodge is a contributing outbuilding, built c. 1957 to store fishing nets and wooden waterfowl decoys. A small cemetery located several hundred feet southeast of the lodge retains several nineteenth- and twentieth-century headstones including those of John Wallace, the self-proclaimed governor of Shell Castle Island (a small island to the north in Pamlico Sound), and his wife. The nominated property encompasses the Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge along with an approximate eight-acre parcel, a portion of the 51.75 acres owned by the National Park Service and leased to the Battle family since 1980.

Note: According to the lease documents from the National Park Service and knowledgeable local sources, the Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge is located on Sheep Island. The current USGS map incorrectly identifies Sheep Island as Evergreen Island. The name of the island west of Portsmouth, which is identified as Sheep Island on the USGS map, is not known.

1. Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge c. 1945 Contributing Building

The lodge is a simple one-story, side-gable, frame building set on concrete piers. A gable-front, screened porch added by the Battle family sometime soon after 1948 bisects the façade (south elevation) and shelters the three central bays. A concrete slab at the base of the open wooden steps to the porch has a 1948 date etched into it. The original clapboard siding was covered with masonite siding c. 1973. The five-bay symmetrical façade consists of a central door flanked on both sides by paired six-over-six sash windows. Either end bay has a single six-over-six sash window. The original glazed front door consists of three horizontal wooden panels topped by six lights. Both side elevations exhibit two single six-over-six sash windows, while the rear (north) elevation fenestration consists of five asymmetrically placed six-over-six sash windows. The roof is covered with asphalt composition shingles and has exposed rafter ends. An interior chimney is situated on the north slope of the roof.

The entrance opens into a large all-purpose room where kitchen, dining, and leisure activities take place. A wall that once separated the kitchen and the living area has been removed. A bedroom, several storage rooms, and a bathroom are situated along the north wall of the house, while two equal-sized bedrooms are located on the eastern wall. Each room is

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accessed from the main living room area. Interior doors are original and consist of five equal-sized horizontal panels. The rustic interior is defined by wide tongue-and-groove pine boards covering the floors and ceiling. Modern sheet paneling, added in the 1970s, covers the original flush-sheathed pine paneling. A small kerosene stove connected to the chimney sits in the middle of the living room and provides the only heat for the cabin. Furnishings are simple and basic, befitting a hunting and fishing lodge.

2. Cistern c. 1948 Contributing Structure

Two above ground cisterns are located behind the building. The original cistern is constructed of wooden staves, and rests on a brick foundation.

3. Cistern 1993 Non-contributing Structure

A modern concrete cistern sits adjacent to the wooden cistern. Water is supplied to the house by pipes connecting the cistern to the indoor plumbing.

4. Storage Shed c. 1957 Contributing Building

The only outbuilding associated with the property was built in the late 1950s to store fishing nets and waterfowl decoys. The frame gable-front outbuilding sits on wooden piers and is accessed through a single large bay with a pair of doors. A wooden ramp provides access to the interior. The exterior walls are rough-cut pine boards covered with 5-V tin siding, added for protection in the early 1950s. The interior features exposed studs and beams, while the floor is heart pine. The building currently houses a generator system and property maintenance equipment.

5. Dock 2000 Noncontributing Structure

The wooden dock extends into the Pamlico Sound approximately seventy-five feet. It sits on treated pilings and is constructed of four-foot-wide boards nailed to two-by-six-foot runners.

6. Cemetery 1810-1907 Contributing Site

A cemetery containing early nineteenth-century and twentieth-century burials is situated southeast of the cabin in a secluded location. Several gravestones mark the graves of early settlers of the island. Two marble flat-slab stones, embedded in the ground contain the remains of John Wallace (c. 1758-1810), an eighteenth-century settler and entrepreneur, and his wife, Rebecca (1771-1823). A marble paired tablet stone is engraved with the names: Sarah J. Babb

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(b. 9-28-1896, d. 10-6-1896) and Virginia S. Babb (b. 12-16-1906, d. 1-3-1907). The Babb family was previous residents on the property.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge is historically significant for its association with the recreational hunting and fishing tradition along the Core Banks of Carteret County from ca. 1945 to 1957. The surrounding waters of the Pamlico Sound were one of the primary waterfowl hunting areas in North Carolina from around 1870 through the 1950s. The ca. 1945 lodge replaced an earlier lodge that had been dismantled and moved off the island after a 1938 hurricane partially destroyed it. Although the rustic cabin was built near the end of the height of the waterfowl hunting era, it continues to stand as a symbol of the hunting and fishing legacy handed down from one generation to the next. Because of the cabin's remote location on Sheep Island in Pamlico Sound, it can only be reached by boat from the mainland. One of the few remaining historic lodges on the northern Core Bank Islands, the Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge has been carefully preserved and maintained, and continues in its traditional function of providing basic shelter to the present generation of recreational hunters and fishermen. The period of significance begins in ca. 1945 when the Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge was moved to the island and reconstructed and extends to the late 1950s to acknowledge the contribution of the significant outbuilding constructed in ca. 1957 by the Portsmouth Hunting and Fishing Club. Although the period of significance extends into the less than fifty-year period, the function of the lodge from 1954 through ca. 1957 is a continuation of the earlier pattern of use. Also, the cemetery on the property is a contributing resource as it is part of the historic setting for the Lodge.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The town of Portsmouth, authorized by the Colonial Assembly in 1753, was the first and for many years, the largest town on the Outer Banks. Large sailing vessels bound for northern Carolina were forced to use Ocracoke Inlet, which at the time was located on the south side of Portsmouth. Dangerous shoals in Core Sound necessitated that the ships lighten their cargo, transferring their load to smaller vessels that could navigate the shoals. It became evident that wharves, warehouses, and other facilities were needed near the harbor where cargo could be stored and transshipped. It was for this reason that Portsmouth was authorized by the Colonial Assembly in 1753. Portsmouth was laid out into half-acre lots with streets. A commission of five leading citizens from the inland communities was delegated to find purchasers for the property.

By the end of the eighteenth century, the federal government authorized the construction of a lighthouse on Shell Island, situated in the harbor of Ocracoke, near Portsmouth and Sheep Island. At about the same time, John Wallace, a resident of Portsmouth, and John Gray Blount of the town of Washington, had secured state land grants for five islands just inside Ocracoke Inlet. They named one of the islands "Shell Castle" and proceeded to transform it into a major shipping and trading center. Vessels from the open sea would tie up at their docks, unload their cargoes,

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take on supplies, undergo repairs, and then load their outbound cargoes, without ever having to cross the Ocracoke shoals. After the pair constructed wharves, a warehouse, a gristmill, a windmill and several residences, they began operating a fishery, while also controlling pilotage in the inlet, and providing small boats as lighters for those vessels that had to crossover the shoals to the sound. John Wallace soon acquired the unofficial title of "Governor of Shell Castle" (Stick, pp. 77-78).

As commerce developed, facilities on Shell Castle Island were expanded, with the construction of additional warehouses, a lumberyard, new wharves, extensive cisterns, a large store and ship chandlery, and a tavern. The Shell Castle Island lighthouse was completed and lighted in 1798. The Wallace-Blount business on Shell Castle Island continued to prosper and by 1800, the census reported twenty-five people living there, including fifteen slaves owned by Wallace. In addition to the lighthouse, an official United States port of entry was established at Shell Castle Island. By 1806, the island was an important and established component in North Carolina's growing maritime trade (Stick, 78-80).

By 1810, forty people resided on Shell Castle Island, of which ten were white males (Stick, p. 83). "Governor" John Wallace died in July of 1810, at the age of 52, and was buried on his property on Sheep Island, near the location of the current Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge. His wife, Rebecca, is also buried in the small cemetery (Salter, p. 22). The death of John Wallace, along with earlier storm damage, caused the decline of the community on Shell Castle Island and it is probable that its end as an important trading center came during the War of 1812 when the channel which served it began to shoal up (Stick, p. 83).

Portsmouth Island, as well as the entire Outer Banks, was settled mainly by people moving down from tidewater Virginia or from the nearby Carolina mainland (Stick, p. 73). Portsmouth experienced its greatest prosperity in the nineteenth century. By 1820, the population of Portsmouth totaled 362. The population of both the village and the island of Portsmouth continued to grow during the next forty years. Wharves and warehouses were constructed at Haulover Point at the northern tip of the island. The town contained a marine hospital and a customs house. Just before the Civil War there were 105 dwellings and 13 slave houses in Portsmouth and the population was approximately 700, including about 100 slaves (Schoenbaum, p. 206). The village residents evacuated during the Civil War after Federal forces took over the island. Only half the population returned after the war. Shipping trade declined as boats began using the newly opened Hatteras Inlet to the north. Although a lifesaving station opened in 1894, it did not provide enough employment to prevent a further decline in the population. Those that did remain lived much as their ancestors had, living off the land and the sea. A few people remained on the island until 1971 when Henry Pigott, the last male resident, died. Soon after, Marion Babb, the last person remaining on the island, moved to Beaufort (Schoenbaum, p. 206).

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The Salter family has been associated with the Outer Banks since the settlement period. The 1790 census listed only twenty-five family heads living on both Ocracoke and Portsmouth Islands. Among the names listed was Henry Salter. The Salter family was intricately involved with life on the island for over two centuries, marrying and raising families, and making a living from the sea. Annie Salter, wife of Theodore Salter was postmistress on the island from 1926 until 1955, when her daughter, Dorothy took over until the island's post office was closed in 1959 (Salter, p. 41).

John Wallace Salter (b. 8-15-1875, d. 7-20-1950), the son of Christopher Thomas Salter and Matilda Robinson, was born and raised on Portsmouth Island. One of nine children, he was thirteen when his father died. John helped to support the family through oystering, fishing, and hunting (Dudley, p. 65). He married Sidney J. Styron (b. 12-16-1876, d. 7-23-1959) in a ceremony on Portsmouth Island on December 24, 1895 (Carteret County vital statistics). John and Sidney Salter also had nine children: five boys and four girls. Most of the children attended grammar school in the one-room schoolhouse in Portsmouth Village. The Salters lived in an eight-room, two-story, side-gable house on Sheep Island, immediately west of Portsmouth Village. During the 1920s, he moved his family to the mainland so his children could further their education, since the school in Portsmouth only went thorough grade seven (Dudley, p. 65).

Seasonally, John Wallace Salter and his family returned to Portsmouth for fishing and hunting, and the home remained a hunting lodge for many years. The hunting lodge became known as "The Salter Gun Club." John Wallace Salter would shoot waterfowl for market, shipping geese, ducks, and brant by the "sugar barrel full" to markets in the north. The plumage from the birds was often used to decorate women's hats.

Battle family records show that the Salters sold two parcels of land on Sheep Island to J. R. Battle, L. F. Kirby, and W. G. Nichols of Marion County, South Carolina in 1927 and 1928 (Book 00, Page 100 and Book 2, page 18). It is not known if the new owners had a separate building constructed for their use or if the Salters and the new owners shared the Salter House for hunting and fishing purposes. It is known that the partially-destroyed Salter house was dismantled and moved to Atlantic after a 1938 hurricane. In ca. 1945, the Salters dismantled another building in Atlantic, moved it to Sheep Island, and rebuilt it as a replacement for their first hunting and fishing lodge. (According to family oral history the building was a barracks building at a military installation at Atlantic.) The new lodge was situated on the banks of the Pamlico Sound, near the burial site of John Wallace and his wife, Rebecca. The Salters and their children continued to return periodically to the lodge to hunt, fish, and relax.

The National Park Service has an un-dated aerial photograph of Sheep Island showing no buildings on the island. It is possible that the photograph dates from between 1938, when the first

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Salter House was removed from the island, and ca. 1945 when the current building was moved to the island.

On May 20, 1948, John and Sydney Salter sold the lodge and one-and-one-half acres of property to James R. Battle, his brother, R. Frank Battle, S. P. Wood, N. E. Smith, C. S. Beard, W. B. School-Field, J. K. Williams, T. R. Simpson, W. Lipcomb, and C. C. Smith, who made up the Portsmouth Hunting and Fishing Club (Deed Book 120, p. 287). (It has not been determined whether the two earlier land transactions included the current lodge property.) The lodge continued to provide shelter for the Salter family during the week while they pursued their commercial hunting and fishing enterprises on the Core Banks. On the weekends, however, the lodge functioned as a retreat for members of the Portsmouth Hunting and Fishing Club, with members of the Salter family often acting as guides for the club members. The club built a separate storage building to house their collection of buoys, decoys and fishing equipment. The Battle family eventually bought out the other members of the Portsmouth Hunting and Fishing Club, becoming sole owners of the clubhouse by the late 1950s. The Battle family has continued to use the Lodge as a seasonal retreat from the 1950s to the present. Although the Salter family no longer uses the house, a similar relationship exists today between the Battles and other members of the Core Banks community. The Battles have hosted many CEOs from Fortune 500 companies, who have stayed in the present house and hunted ducks and geese from Sheep Island.

Cape Lookout National Seashore was created in 1976 and the United States Government took ownership of Portsmouth Island and the Core Banks. The National Park Service maintains Portsmouth Island and its remaining buildings as it was when occupied during the first half of the twentieth century. All that remains of two earlier communities located on North Core Banks near Portsmouth--Middle Community and Sheep Island--are overgrown foundations and cemeteries. The ca. 1945 Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge and its associated outbuilding and cisterns are the only remaining structures on Sheep Island. The Battles entered into a twenty-five year lease agreement with the National Park Service in February 1980 (Deed Book 439, p. 153). The Battles agreed to care for and maintain the house, the outbuilding, a dock, and grounds in good and proper condition and to preserve an approximate fifty-one-acre surrounding parcel in its natural state. The Battles have been good stewards of the property and have remained the principal caretakers of most of the land on Sheep Island, including the graveyard that contains the Wallace cemetery. They have continued to make use of the building's traditional capacity as a hunting and fishing lodge, often bringing family and friends from their home in South Carolina for a weekend experience of hunting and/or fishing on the Core Banks.

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Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge
Carteret County, North Carolina

Criterion A - Entertainment/Recreation Context – Hunting and Fishing Clubs in Carteret County

The waters of eastern Carteret County were one of the major waterfowl hunting areas in North Carolina from around 1870 to 1950. Prior to that time, the local people survived by practicing subsistence farming, fishing, and hunting, just as previous generations had. Shortly after the Civil War sport hunting became popular. Many northerners traveled to the area to hunt waterfowl and hunting clubs were formed all along the coast. The sportsmen and clubs created new opportunities and jobs for the local people. Club caretakers, boat builders, hunting guides, and decoy makers were able to supplement their incomes by providing professional services for the sportsmen (Dudley, p. 9).

Another cottage industry that flourished was the hunting lodge. Many private homes were converted to provide accommodations for the hunters. Often, the entire family worked together, providing bed, board, and guiding services. It was also common for northern sportsmen to purchase hundreds of acres of wetlands and construct exclusive clubs. In addition to hunting and fishing, the clubs served as retreats and a place to entertain family and friends. The clubs and owners attained a high level of prominence and became an integral part of Carteret County's waterfowl heritage (Dudley, pp. 9-10).

Most of the hunting lodges built during the first half of the twentieth century have succumbed to the ravages of time and the elements, but a few still exist. One of the more well-known clubhouses was built in 1902 for the Carteret Gun and Rod Club on Cedar Banks in Davis. All but one of the original members of the club were from New York. As with the Salter-Battle Lodge, the lumber for the clubhouse had to be transported to the Banks on flat-bottom skiffs, sailboats, and canoes. The clubhouse was similar in plan and layout to the Salter-Battle Lodge. The one-story frame building featured a side-gable roof with a central cross-gable forming a porch supported by square posts. Ammie L. Paul, the club's only Carteret County native, served as the first caretaker, while his wife was the cook (Dudley, pp. 13-16).

Samuel and Etta Salter were assistant caretakers for the club during a period of time between 1915 and 1945. The club had sixty members by 1915. In 1933, a new corporation was formed and the club was renamed the Cedar Banks Club. The club membership had dwindled to only five members by this time, all from New Jersey. Many left after the storm of 1933. In 1947 the club changed hands again and was named the Core Banks Rod and Gun Club. The original clubhouse burned in 1970. A new lodge was built soon after and the club currently maintains an active membership (Dudley, pp. 16-17).

The Harbor Island Gun Club, formed in 1887, built a clubhouse on Harbor Island, a small island located near the northern entrance to Core Sound from Pamlico Sound. Lawrence Pike, the

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Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge
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owner of Harbor Island and the founding member of the club, was from New York, as were most of the charter members. Pike is credited with building the clubhouse, a one-and-one-half story building with a complex gable roof. The foundation and walls were constructed of tabby, a mixture of seashells, mortar, and sand. The timbers were heart pine and bricks were used to construct the liners for the fireplaces. Geese and brant were the birds primarily hunted by the club. The clubhouse was rebuilt after being damaged in 1937 by a storm. The renovated clubhouse had three bedrooms upstairs, three bedrooms downstairs, a great room, a kitchen, and guide's quarters. Ed Gaskill, a local man, was caretaker and guide for the hunting club for over thirty-five years. His sons, Tom and Monroe, also became hunting guides. The club remained in use until the mid 1940s. Today less than a half-acre of the island remains due to erosion and though badly damaged, a substantial portion of the original walls of the clubhouse remain (Dudley, pp. 25-30).

The clubhouse for the Hog Island Hunting Club was built by some of the remaining members of the Harbor Island Gun Club after it was disbanded. The club was constructed from World War II surplus building material from Atlantic Air Field that was transported to Hog Island by barge. The one-story frame L-shaped building has gable ends, exposed rafters, and a screened-in front porch. Monroe Gaskill was the first caretaker, and his brothers, Tom and Luther, acted as hunting guides for many years. The Gaskills were natives of Hog Island. Though hunting has dwindled through the years, the club remains viable (Dudley, p. 32-35).

Although a few of the clubhouses built by wealthy northerners were on a grander scale, the typical hunting lodge was a rustic building, constructed with local materials, that normally had to be brought over from the mainland by boat. They contained only the basic necessities and rarely included central heat or indoor plumbing. The clubhouses provided a refuge from the elements and a retreat from the hectic city lives of the northern hunters. Although the glory days of waterfowl hunting in the first half of the twentieth century are over, the fall hunting tradition is still very much alive in Carteret County. The Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge, built by Carteret County natives steeped in the hunting and fishing heritage of the area, continues to represent the hunting lodge's function of providing a place of shelter and refuge for recreational hunters and fishermen. The hunting lodge is an integral part of Carteret County's waterfowl heritage and local economy.

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Section 9 - Bibliography

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Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge include an approximate eight-acre parcel on Sheep Island. The 360,000-square-foot parcel is bounded by 600 feet fronting Portsmouth Sound (300 feet either side of the dock; 230 degree compass point), 600 feet on the south side (320 degree compass point); 600 feet on the east side (50 degree compass point); and 600 feet on the north side (140 degree compass point). The USGS map identifies the island as Evergreen Island, however, according to the lease documents from the National Park Service and local sources, the correct name of the island is Sheep Island. The name of the island identified as Sheep Island on the USGS map is not known.

Boundary Justification

The property boundary for the Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge encompasses an approximate eight-acre tract containing the ca. 1945 lodge, an associated outbuilding, a dock, two cisterns, and the Wallace cemetery plot. The parcel was historically associated with the Lodge and it provides an appropriate setting for the contributing resources. The parcel is a portion of a 51.75-acre parcel owned by the United States of America, National Park Service and currently leased and maintained by the Battle family.

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The following information applies to all photographs:

Name of Property: Salter-Battle Fishing and Hunting Lodge
County and State where Property is Located: Carteret, North Carolina
Address: Sheep Island, North Core Banks
Name of Photographer: Beth Keane
Date of Photographs: June 1, 2003
Location of Original Negatives: North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh

Photographs:

Photograph 1: Southwest elevations; camera looking northeast

Photograph 2: Northwest elevations; camera looking southeast

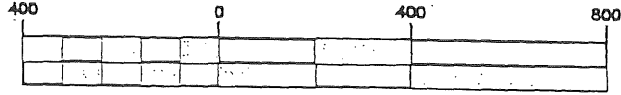
Photograph 3: Overview of lodge and outbuilding; camera looking east

Photograph 4: Outbuilding; camera looking northeast

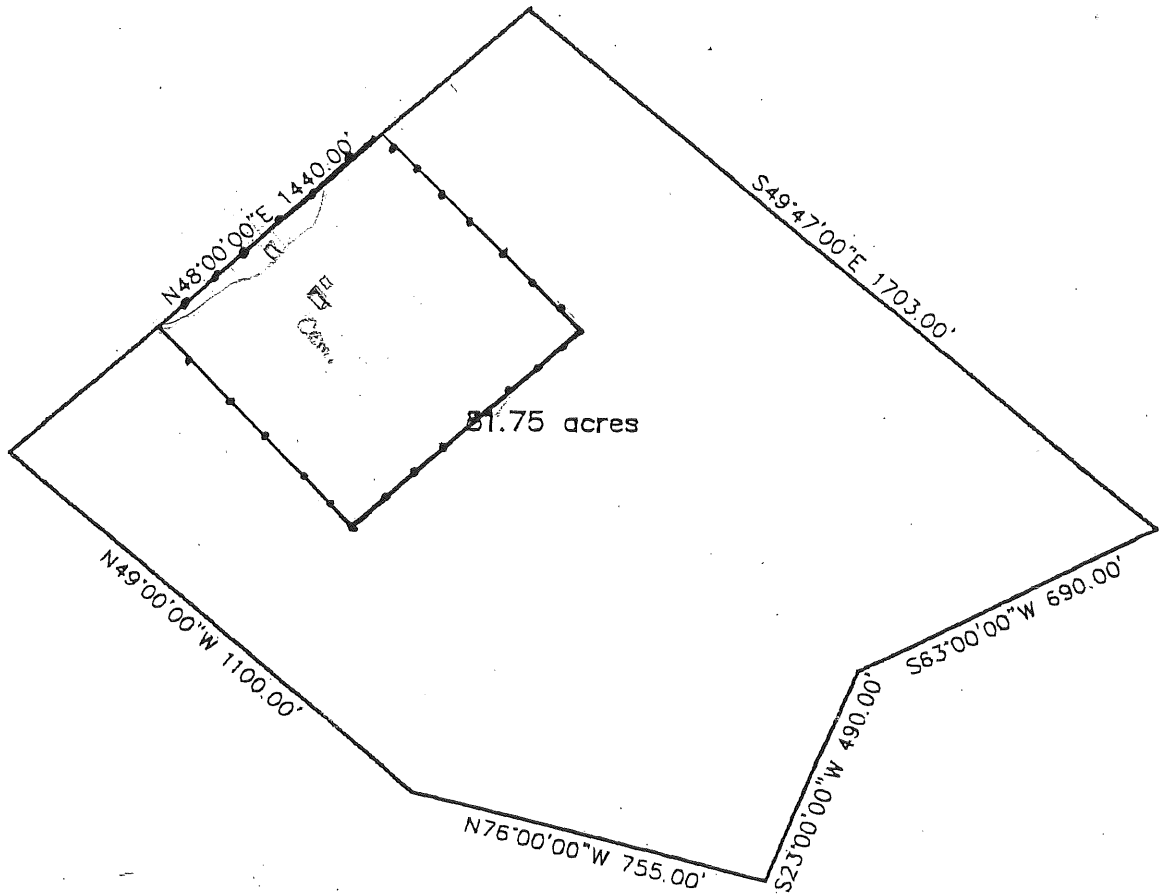
Photograph 5: Interior: bedroom



GRAPHIC SCALE



(IN FEET)
1 inch = 400 ft.



PERIMETER OF SHEEP ISLAND LEASED TO BATTLE BROTHER'S.

Salter-Battle Hunting and Fishing Lodge
Sheep Island, Carteret Co., NC

—••••• Boundary of Nominated Property

