

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Craven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Clear Springs Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Dawson Place: Green's Thoroughfare

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Jasper vicinity

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37      COUNTY: Craven      CODE: 049

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Source for coquina

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Bert S. Dawson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route 3, Box 341

CITY OR TOWN: Chester      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Craven County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: New Bern      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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2.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

On west side of S.R. 1426, 0.3 mile from junction with S.R. 1401

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Clear Springs Plantation, known also as Green's Thoroughfare or the Dawson Place, is a Georgian house constructed on a coquina (locally known as "marl") outcropping west of Bachelor's Creek. The structure faces the creek fed by a spring which flows by the west side of the coquina hummock. Large cedar and pecan trees fill the spacious yard which surrounds the house. The story-and-a-half frame structure is five bays wide and two bays deep, with pedimented dormer windows on both front and rear. It has two interior end chimneys. Both a front and rear porch were present, although only the rear porch remains intact. Beaded flush siding covers the front and rear, and plain weatherboarding protects the sides. The steep gable roof is now covered with standing seam tin. The structure is set over a partially raised full basement whose exterior walls and interior partition wall are of coquina. A pegged wooden grille within each basement opening provides ventilation. Entrance to the basement is through a coquina bulkhead at the rear bay of the southwest side. A single row of brick headers marks the water table.

The main (northwest) elevation is almost perfectly symmetrical. The small-scale central raised-panel entrance door is set in a molded architrave. On either side of the entrance are two windows retaining their original twelve-over-twelve sash, molded architraves, and gracefully molded sills (the only early example known in the county). Each window is protected by shutters, each leaf of which contains three raised panels. These shutters are hung on HL hinges of wrought iron. The tops of the window architraves nearly abut the molded cornice applied beneath the eaves. Directly above each of the first-story windows is a pedimented dormer, each containing original six-over-six sash. The sides of each dormer are now covered with wooden shingles. A coquina foundation in front of the main facade supports an uncovered porch deck. Each opening of this foundation probably contained a wooden grille like those in the basement. The porch balustrades and the porch roof, the notches for which are visible in the corner beams of the main facade, have also disappeared. Wide central steps, each step consisting of a single dressed granite slab set upon a brick base, rise to the porch. The wall treatment, entrance and fenestration of the rear elevation is identical to that of the front. A shed porch roof supported by plain posts protects the entire rear facade. The porch rests on brick pillars and is reached by brick steps. Chamfered pilasters applied to the corner beams of this elevation are the remnants of earlier porch supports.

The original symmetry of the side elevations was achieved through exterior disguise, for the northeast side has two interior end chimneys, while the southwest side has one interior end chimney. The faces of only the northeast front chimney and of the southwest chimney, both exposed to the eave level and flush with the wall surface, are visible on the exterior. The face of the northeast rear chimney is concealed beneath siding, and the stack merges in the second story with the larger front chimney stack to form a common stack which exits at the roof apex. A small four-light closet window with a molded architrave and a wide plain sill originally flanked each of these exposed chimney stacks. The window in the rear bay of the southwest side has been replaced by a large two-over-two

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sash window within a plain architrave, destroying the symmetry. The windows on the northeast side are intact.

The interior plan of Clear Springs is unusual, consisting of a large hall on the north and a small (west) parlor to the right, with a smaller room of equal depth behind each front room. That behind the hall was originally two rooms, but the wooden partition has been removed. The enclosed stair rises in the inner corner of the parlor against the center partition. Apparently the stair originally rose in a straight flight entered from the rear (south) room. The stair is now reached by a door in the hall and uses winders to meet the original straight run which retains tread moldings and baseboard.

On the northeast side the front chimney breast projects into the hall as a central fireplace, and the smaller rear chimney breast projects into the rear (east) room as a corner fireplace. The southwest chimney projects as a fireplace into the parlor and into the southwest bedchamber on the second floor.

An unusual amount of the very fine original interior woodwork has survived. Each room on the first floor (with the exception of the parlor, which has been altered), contains a beaded baseboard, a molded chair rail, and a deep molded cornice. Each sash window and each door of six raised panels is set in a molded architrave. Nearly all of the interior doors retain their original HL hinges. Most of the interior walls are of plaster, except for the partition wall dividing the rear rooms, which is constructed of vertical beaded sheathing. The rear partition wall which no longer exists was of the same construction.

The chimney wall of the hall is fully paneled, with a closet occupying the space on either side of the central projecting chimney breast. The large rectangular fire opening is surrounded by a wide molded architrave. Above this opening, simple chamfered end brackets support a shelf consisting of a single unmolded board. This shelf appears to be a later addition. Above the shelf is a narrow horizontal raised panel below a wider one. These are flanked by narrow vertical panels. The closet doors are identical to the other interior doors. The baseboard, wainscot, and cornice of the adjoining walls continue around this wall. Raised panels cover the wall surface around the closet doors to complete the full paneling.

The chimney wall of the parlor may have been identical to the fully paneled chimney wall of the hall, but the mantel, one of the closets, the paneling and the moldings no longer exist. The door of the remaining chimney closet (now a bathroom) is identical to those which flank the hall mantel. The storage area beneath the stair in this room is accessible through a small square opening with a raised-paneled door.

The corner chimney in the rear east room has no mantel. It is covered with rough plaster and contains a small square fireplace opening and a deep

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eye-level ledge. The only other occurrence of interior paneling is in this room. Above the door in the partition between this and the south rear room, a single raised panel occupies the area between the lintel and the cornice.

The second floor contains a bedroom on each side of a central stair hall. The walls, ceilings, and chimneys on this level are rough plastered, and beaded baseboards occur throughout. The stairwell is protected by a simple balustrade consisting of a single plain railing supported by plain posts; it is probably a replacement. The southwest bedchamber chimney has a small square fireplace opening and a deep shelf at one edge, but no mantel. The chimney breast, which is not in the center of the end wall, begins to angle at this level so that the shaft emerges from the apex of the gable on the exterior. In the northeast room separate shafts rise from the first floor and curve toward one another. They join in the crawl space above the ceiling and emerge in a single shaft above at the apex of the gable.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education           | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering         | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The origin and date of the house at Clear Springs cannot be determined exactly, but its style and the unusual survival of original architectural elements indicate it may be the oldest standing structure in Craven County and probably one of the oldest in the state.

Farnifold Green patented the land on which the house was later built. His will, written in 1711, left his considerable property to his sons, and by division of a grant on the Neuse River, the Clear Springs property came to his son, James. Farnifold was killed in an Indian uprising in 1714 when James was only four years old. If James had built upon his property by the time he was thirty, then the present house might be dated at circa 1740, and this is stylistically possible.

As late as 1756 the ownership of the property was still in question, and James petitioned Governor Arthur Dobbs to settle the dispute. That petition notes that the land was granted to Farnifold in 1707 and that he

settled and cultivated [it] until 1714, and was in the year with one of his sons, one white servant, and two negroes, murdered on said plantation by the Indians. The said Indians at that time also shot one other son of your petitioner's father through the shoulder [who escaped], and his said plantation house, stock and cattle and hogs entirely destroyed and plundered by the said Indians, but before that time having made his will, disposed of said land to your petitioners, the quiet and peaceable possession of which they have enjoyed ever since the ending of said Indian War.

The petition noted that "some evil minded person" had suggested that the Neuse River grant willed to James and Farnifold Green, Jr., contained more land than originally intended and urged Governor Dobbs to order a resurvey of the grant.

The outcome of the petition is unknown, but it does suggest that Farnifold's house was here before 1711, though it burned in 1714. It also implies that both Farnifold, Jr., and James were living on the land before 1756. It seems probable that James was living at that time in the house called Clear Springs or Green's Thoroughfare.

James Green played a significant role in the American Revolution, as did other members of his family, most of whom served in various military

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capacities, attaining ranks ranging from sergeant to colonel. James, Jr., for example, was secretary to the General Assembly of the colony before the Revolution, and to the Provincial Congress which met in Halifax in April, 1776, on the eve of the Revolution. Later he was secretary to the convention presided over by Governor Richard Caswell, which adopted the first constitution for the state.

When James Green, Sr., died in 1788 he devised the house and lands to his son, John, and the will indicates that John was already living there, since the only specific mention of the land is in a section of the will bequeathing slaves. That mention is simply "in addition to what I have given him already." James was buried in the Green family cemetery to the rear of the house. That grave and stone survive, along with the grave of his mother, who was buried there in 1765. Perhaps Farnifold was buried here in 1714, but if so, no marker exists. The burial plot has served succeeding generations of the Green and Dawson families, who still own the land.

The house and land were probably already known as Clear Springs before James's death in 1788, but certainly the name had been given to the property before 1798. In that year John mortgaged the property to John Stanly and the agreement noted that it covered

a parcel of land known by the name of the CLEAR SPRINGS in Craven County, with all the ways, waters, woods and appurtenances, [being the same conveyed to John by James Green, deceased].

Colonel John D. Whitford, in his history of New Bern, suggested than an early school was held at Clear Springs, noting that it "was the place where Robert G. Moore first taught school in Craven County, which was then . . . John Green's residence." Moore had come to New Bern from Ireland, and later became master of the New Bern Academy and editor of the New Bern Spectator. John, to whom James had willed the land in 1788, died in 1791, and through his wife willed the land to his son, John, then only four years old. It is likely that it was during the lifetime of this John Green that Moore held school at Clear Springs.

The second John Green, who did not bear the suffix "junior," was one of several Greens of that name. There were also several Farnifolds, making the tracing of the occupancy of the property somewhat difficult, though ownership is not questioned, since all the deeds and wills of the Green family which concern the property are extant.

It is interesting to note that Clear Springs had been built on an outcropping of natural marl (a shell conglomerate) and this material was used in constructing the foundation and chimney bases of the house. It may be that its successful use here led to its use as a foundation material in several of the earliest houses in New Bern. The Coor-Gaston House, circa 1792, and most others of the same era have marl foundations. When the wall was constructed around Cedar Grove Cemetery in the 1850s, that too was made of marl. It seems

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certain from existing records that most of the material for the Cedar Grove wall came from the quarries at Clear Springs, and it is likely that most of the marl in New Bern houses did as well, since no other early quarries for the stone are known. Remains of the quarries, immediately to the front of the Green house, are still obvious, and it is likely that the cutting of marl provided considerable income for the Green family, since the material was also crushed and used in road construction at an early date.

John Green's will, written in 1863, left the house and property to his son, Cicero, born in 1827. John died in 1864, and Cicero lived at Clear Springs until his death in 1891. At some point during Cicero's occupancy (between 1864 and 1891) a newspaper article on the property (in an old scrap-book in the collection of Charles Duffy, Jr., of New Bern, undated and with no source noted), described the property in some detail.

Belonging to Mr. Cicero Green, distant 12 miles from New Berne, is probably one of the most beautiful and picturesque places in Eastern Carolina. Through the portion of the farm in front of the dwelling, runs a beautiful, clear, cold stream of water fed from a gushing spring, running from under a huge boulder of conglomerate shell rock; both banks of the stream, for a distance of several hundred yards, are of this rugged rock lying in detached boulders of enormous size. In one place a huge slab of stone has been thrown by some titanic force across two boulders. Standing in an erect position, forming a natural bridge, underneath of which runs the stream of water. The banks on each side of the stream rise gradually and would be very easy of ascent, if it were not for so many boulders protruding from the ground.

All along the banks on both sides is an immense grove of very many varieties of trees. Some are of unusual size. I counted 43 cedar trees in a row, two of them measured over eleven feet in circumference. The shade is dense and almost impervious to the rays of the summer sun, and in the hottest weather the atmosphere is delightfully cool. It is a spot one loves to linger in, and aside from its great beauty, there are association connected with it, that makes it one of the most interesting places in North Carolina.

The writer of the same article also describes the buildings and poses a mystery about their date.

The building and kitchen were erected in 1763 as recorded on the kitchen chimney top, and upon an iron slab in the back of one of the fireplaces in the dwelling. The fire place in the dwelling is very large, will take a stick of wood 4½ feet in length; the fireplace in the kitchen is twice as large as the one in the dwelling.

Since the kitchen no longer exists, and dwelling's fireplaces are closed and



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could not be examined, the date on the fireback cannot be checked, if it has survived. Because the style of the kitchen cannot be compared with the style of the house, it is impossible to tell if the two were contemporary. The dated fireback confirms only the date of its manufacture, and the existence of a fire opening in which it could be placed. The overall form and finish of the house, especially the size and finish of the window muntins, the detail and finish of the fully-paneled end walls, and other details, suggest an earlier house. When this is coupled with the known historical facts and family tradition, a date of circa 1740 would seem to be more likely.

From Cicero Green the property passed in 1891 to his daughter, who married A. B. Dawson. The property is still in the Dawson family.

Stylistically Clear Springs stands almost alone in North Carolina, and it is unusually well preserved, though run down. The family seems always to have been interested in modifying only to provide more compact and useable space on the interior, rather than to correspond to the latest stylistic trends. Indeed the house seems to have been designed with just this in mind, especially to the rear of the first floor, where there were two moveable partitions, which could convert the space either into one long room across the rear, or into two smaller rooms on each end, with a hall-like space in the center. One of these partition walls remains, as do almost all of the sash, much glass, one fully panelled wall, most of the shutters, and most of the doors. The stair has been partially changed, as has the siding on the ends of the house, but otherwise, the survival is almost complete.

Clear Springs Plantation, which has been in the same family since 1707, was settled before the arrival of deGraffenried and the founding of New Bern-- an unusually early date for this area of North Carolina. The dwelling is believed to be the earliest extant building in Craven County and is one of the most complete of a very small group of surviving houses of its era in the state. It exhibits the first known use of construction features that were typical of Craven County, notably the use of coquina (marl) foundations and exposed-face interior end chimneys. These factors combine to make Clear Springs one of the most important early eighteenth century houses in the state.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Craven County Records, Craven County Courthouse, New Bern, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Clerk's loose papers).  
 Craven County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Whitford, Colonel John D. The Home of the Walking Stick: Early History of the Biblical Recorder and Baptist Church at New Bern Before 1900, unpublished manuscript, copy in possession of Mrs. G. Tull Richardson, Bellair, New Bern, North Carolina.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35°	12'	57"	77°	12'	03"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

7 August 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name

H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 7 August 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

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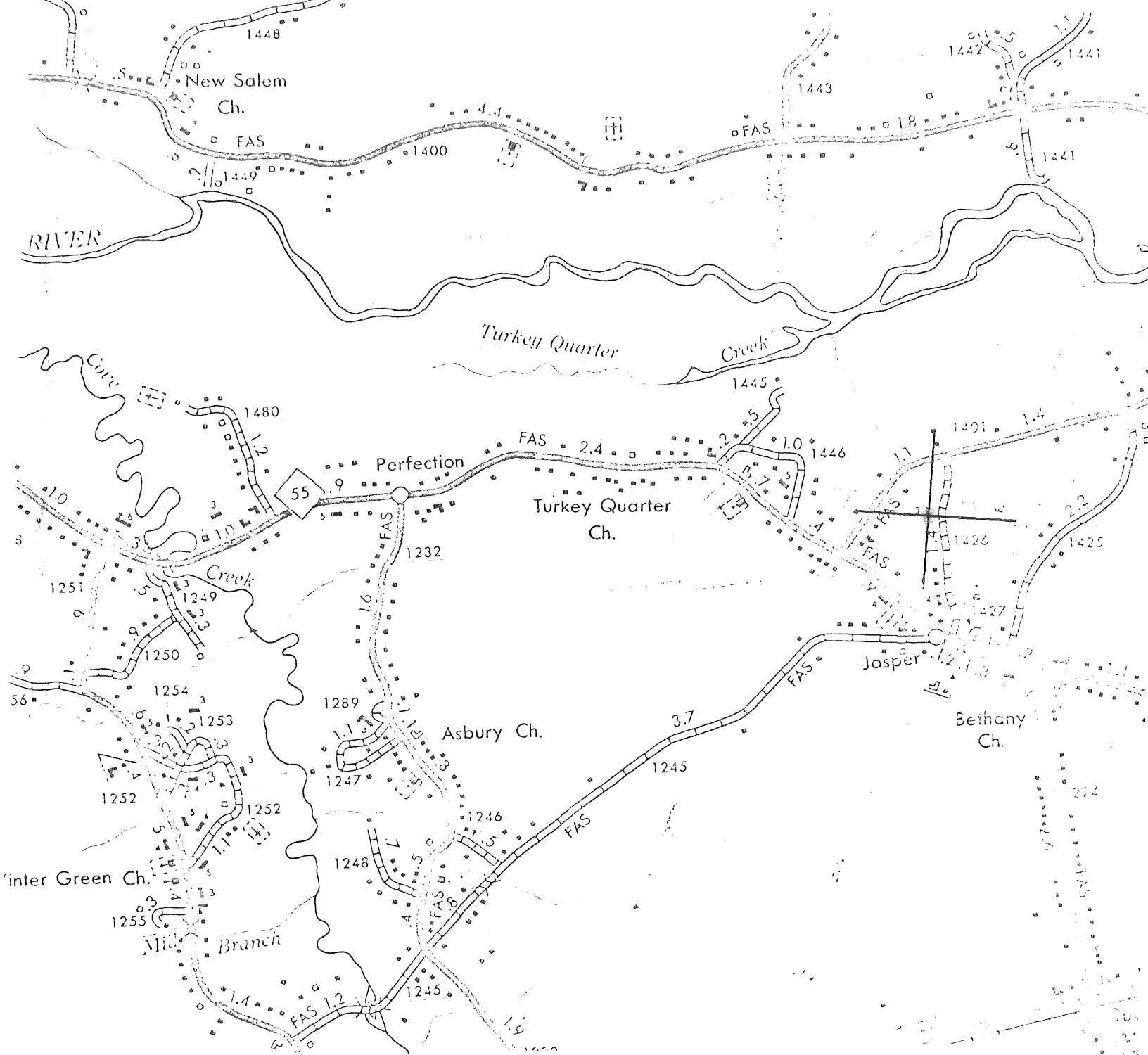
9.

Moore, Elizabeth. "Green Genealogy," unpublished manuscript.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Gravestone Records, Green Cemetery, Clear Springs  
Plantation," unpublished manuscript.

"The 'Clear Springs' Farm," undated newspaper clipping, no source, between  
1864-91, manuscript collection of Charles Duffy, Jr., New Bern.

Saunders, William T., ed. The Colonial Records of North Carolina. Volumes  
I, II and V. Raleigh, North Carolina: Josephus Daniels, Printer to  
the State, 1888.



MAP NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

Clear Springs Plantation  
 (Dawson Place: Green's Thoroughfare)  
 Jasper vicinity  
 North Carolina

COVE  
 POP.

State Highway Commission Map of Craven County  
 Scale: 1 " : 1 mile  
 Date: January 1, 1961

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	12	57	77	12	03

Cove Creek  
 Ch.

