

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 an 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 Hebron Presbyterian Church

other names/site number Sutton's Branch Church

2. Location

street & number NW side of SR 1551, 0.15 mi. NE of jct. with SR 1554 ^{N/A} not for publication

city or town Pink Hill vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Duplin code 061 zip code 28572

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

William S. Price 1-17-95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)	_____	_____

Hebron Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Duplin County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Hebron Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Duplin County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Religion

Period of Significance

1886-1926

Significant Dates

1886

1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Hebron Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Dublin County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	2 4 6 2 4 0	3 8 8 3 2 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Drucilla H. York

organization Local History Associates date November 8, 1994

street & number 1903 East Fourth Street telephone (919) 752-5260

city or town Greenville state NC zip code 27858

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Prentice W. Smith* & Ralph K. Smith, Trustees Hebron Presbyterian Church

street & number *1889 Hwy 111 North telephone (919) 568-4244

city or town Pink Hill state NC zip code 28572

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (2001-0012), Washington, DC 20503.

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Built in 1890 and located in the rural northeastern section of Duplin County, Hebron Presbyterian Church is a small, one-story, gable-front, very simple Gothic Revival-style, frame structure sheathed with plain weatherboard. The interior exhibits a simple nave plan with central aisle and raised chancel. It also includes original handmade benches and outstanding woodwork featuring battered surrounds and paneled aprons. Following a building pattern commonly used by various church denominations during the late nineteenth century, Hebron Presbyterian Church stands as the most intact example remaining in the county. Surrounded by agricultural fields and woodland and situated along an unpaved secondary road, the site, which includes the church and flanking cemetery, continues to convey the rural character of its origins as a small mission church in Albertson Township. The property is in excellent condition and has undergone very little alteration through the years.

Facing southeast, this simple gable-front structure is set back from the road approximately forty feet and flanked by a cemetery. Expansive tobacco fields lie directly across the road from the church, and pine woodland bounds the church and its cemetery on the remaining three sides of the approximately one-and-a-half acre lot. The open grassy area in front of the church has a gentle rise, and it is punctuated by two granite monuments which were erected in 1966 by descendants of the church's charter members. One stands approximately twenty feet directly in front of the church and the other approximately fifteen feet from the east corner, directly in front of the cemetery fence. The cemetery has two distinct areas. A Stewart Iron Works fence surrounds the older northeast section and a chain link fence defines the other section to the southwest. Sparse plantings in the cemetery include mature dogwoods, crepe myrtles, azaleas, and camellias.

1. The Church: 1890, contributing

Following a typical one-story, gable-front form, the small rectangular church features one-bay front and rear elevations and three-bay side elevations. Resting on brick piers, it measures approximately 26 feet by 40 feet. Plain weatherboard and cornerboards sheath the exterior. Through the years, cypress shingles, standing-seam tin, and asphalt shingles, respectively, have protected the gable roof with its overhanging eaves and boxed cornice. Expansive nine-over-nine sash windows with plain surrounds and sills punctuate the side and rear elevations. A towering double-leaf central entrance, standing approximately twelve-feet tall, dominates the front facade. Each leaf features three panels outlined with a heavy raised molding. A

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shallow peaked lintel with cornice and a simple surround with lower shoulder capped by an inverted cavetto further define this entry [see Exhibit A]. A metal awning, installed ca. 1975, both obscures and protects this doorway. Modern concrete steps, with a wrought iron railing, lead up to the entry.

The interior plan features a simple nave with center aisle and raised chancel at the rear. The chancel area rises eight inches in height and extends eight feet nine inches deep. Narrow, horizontally placed, tongue-and-groove beaded boards sheath the interior walls. Although presently obscured by acoustical tile installed in 1975, narrow tongue and groove boards also sheath the ceiling. Tall but plain nine-and-a-half-inch baseboards encircle the walls. In the nave area, the floor boards are uniform in size and measure five-and-a-half inches by fifteen feet nine inches. The most outstanding interior feature is the woodwork for the door and window surrounds. Each opening includes a plain surround with battered sides and a peaked lintel with shoulders. Beneath each window, there is a paneled apron. All interior features, including the floors and benches, are painted. Although the church has no electricity, it is heated by two small modern gas units.

The arrangement of interior furnishings complements the floor plan. Ten benches line each side of the center aisle. Removal of an earlier wood stove and stack in 1960 necessitated the installation of the present gas heaters and the relocation of two short chancel pews midway down the center aisle. The chancel features a central lectern with a settee and matching pair of arm chairs directly behind it, three rows of perpendicularly placed short benches in the left corner and a piano in the right. The elaborate Eastlake-style lectern is contemporary with the church; however, the Colonial Revival seating group dates from about 1915. All benches are original and follow two forms. The longer congregational ones feature decoratively sawn enclosed ends with trefoil cap. The shorter chancel benches, however, have similar bases but open sides. The seats and backs of both bench types are open slats, and the backs have a slight incline.

2. Cemetery: ca. 1902, contributing site

Flanking both the northeast and southwest sides of the church, the cemetery has two very distinct sections. The earlier northeast section contains approximately forty-five burial markers, the oldest of which dates from 1902. These graves are placed in rows paralleling the length of the

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church. An ornate Stewart Iron Works fence originally framed this entire 75 feet by 75 feet area. In 1986 the southwest run of this fence was removed when the two cemeteries were joined at the rear west corner with the addition of a chain link fence. The older fence typically features arrow palings and distinctive corners with foliate finials. A large, elaborate, double-swing gate interrupts midway the southeast run of this fence. A more recent Stewart Irons Works fence also defines an interior Smith family plot. In contrast, the cemetery area southwest of the church has approximately fifteen graves, the earliest of which is 1916. It also contains a decorative cast-concrete garden bench and ornamental plantings such as dogwoods, azaleas, camellias, and crepe myrtles. A chain link fence, installed in 1986, encloses this area and joins both cemeteries, which continue to be used.

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Summary

Located in Duplin County's rural Albertson Township one mile from the small community of Pink Hill in Lenoir County, Hebron Presbyterian Church embodies the Home Mission movement within the Presbyterian Church's Synod of North Carolina and subsequent initiatives within the Wilmington Presbytery during the late nineteenth century. The church also exemplifies the architectural characteristics typical of small rural churches constructed in Duplin County during this period and the early twentieth century. Hebron Presbyterian Church was organized in 1886 under the name of Suttons Branch Church, and its meetings and Sunday school were held nearby in Suttons Branch School through 1889, when the present site was deeded to the congregation. The new church was completed and dedicated in October 1890. Initially, Benjamin Franklin Grady (1831-1914), a prominent educator, farmer, congressman, and Albertson Township native, organized the Suttons Branch Sunday school, and John Dickson Stanford (1833-1901), a prominent Kenansville lawyer, state legislator, minister, and evangelist for the Wilmington Presbytery, served from 1886-1896 as missionary speaker and spiritual leader to the Suttons Branch and later Hebron congregation. A simple, gable-front, frame structure, Hebron Church is sheathed with plain weatherboard, supported by a brick pier foundation, and flanked by a cemetery. Notable features include a towering double-leaf entrance dominating the single-bay front facade, a virtually intact interior with battered door and window surrounds with panelled aprons, and an early Stewart Iron Works fence surrounding the original cemetery to the northeast. Originally, Hebron Church was located on the main wagon road connecting Duplin's county seat, Kenansville, with Kinston and New Bern; however, by 1926, the new configuration for North Carolina Highway 11 by-passed Hebron Church to the south by a quarter mile. As a result, the original character of the church's rural setting along a dirt road framed by woodland and agricultural fields is preserved.

Religious Context

Following the Civil War, the development of the Presbyterian Church in the United States was closely linked to the success of the Home Missions movement within the church, particularly in the South and West. The work of Home Missions focused on the proliferation of Presbyterian beliefs into areas which, heretofore, had not been visited or ministered to by the Church. An effort was made to establish new congregations, encourage the construction of new churches, and provide for their ministerial needs through the assistance of a resident minister or evangelist. Economic conditions played a major role

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in the development rate of the Home Mission movement shortly after the war. Historically in areas with established Presbyterian populations, regional presbyteries were collectively organized under the governance of a state synod. The growth of Home Missions during the late nineteenth century, oftentimes, related directly to the level of cooperation and giving provided by these three organizational levels within the Church, either collectively or individually.

In 1866 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church adopted two plans to secure funds for Home Missions, a Preferred Plan and an Optional Plan. The Preferred Plan turned all monies raised for the Home Mission over to the Executive Committee of Home Missions. These funds were then to be allocated to each presbytery according to its needs; in reality, however, the amount received was only equal to what was raised within the presbytery. The Optional Plan allowed each presbytery to administer its own funds. These plans conveyed decision-making authority for Home Missions to the presbyteries in association with the assembly's executive committee and not the synods. Although the Preferred Plan was initially the plan of choice, churches began selecting the Optional Plan as synodical missions were established and the 1866 mission plan became increasingly unsatisfactory. In 1893, the assembly withdrew its 1866 mission plan and adopted a new one.¹

The first Presbyterians in North Carolina were the Highland Scots and Scotch-Irish who settled in the Cape Fear region by 1736, Duplin County and then New Hanover County. Although their numbers grew slowly, the first meeting for the newly formed Synod of North Carolina was held in 1813 and was composed of three presbyteries with 4,000 communicants.² Evangelistic efforts were always an integral part of the development of the church in North Carolina; however, it was not until October 24, 1879, that the first synodical home missionary meeting was held and agent of Evangelist Labor, the Rev. Charles M. Payne, was elected. His initial report, in 1880, identified the destitution within the 94-county synod, which contained five presbyteries with 226 churches and 18,356 communicants. Fifty-three counties in the state were recognized as nearly destitute, with 24 counties having one Presbyterian church and 29 others none. Only two full-time evangelists were employed and contributions in the synod for evangelistic work totalled nearly \$2,300. As a result of this report, the synod urged presbyteries to put evangelists into the field and settled ministers to pursue as much missionary work as possible.³

Efforts to firmly establish synodical Home Missions continued with marginal success until 1888, when a special one-day Home Missions convention was called at the urging of W. E. McIllwaine, chairman of the Mecklenburg

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Presbytery Home Missions Committee and supported by the chairman of the four other presbyteries. This convention was held in Goldsboro on October 23, one day prior to the opening of the annual synod meeting there. As a result of both meetings, the issue of Home Missions became regularized and a high priority within the workings of the synod through the formation of a special Evangelistic Committee, which became permanent at the 1889 synod meeting. In 1889, the issue of territorial distribution within the presbytery system, also, was addressed with the formation of the Albemarle Presbytery. Two key synod positions were also filled: the Rev. W. D. Morton, D. D., was elected as the first synodical evangelist in North Carolina and the Rev. Alexander Sprunt, D. D., was elected agent of evangelistic labor, a position which made him chairman for the Committee of Home Missions.⁴

The chairman of the Wilmington Presbytery's Home Missions Committee, P. H. Hoge, became one of the synod leaders for Home Missions, serving as the secretary for the special Evangelistic Committee. He is credited with two important reports: first, the committee's 1889 report to the synod outlining a future work plan and recommending permanent status for the committee and second, its 1891 report to the synod "on the future 'Work, Policy and Organization' of the Synodical Home Mission Committee." The acceptance of this second report firmly established the responsibility for evangelism on both the synod and presbyteries. In 1893, Dr. Hoge was invited to present the North Carolina Synod's plan for Home Missions to the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church, which adopted the synod's plan as its Home Mission policy.⁵

The Home Missions movement on all three organizational levels always included as its second priority the erection of new churches. In 1879, the General Assembly created two departments within the Executive Committee of Home Missions, one of Evangelism and the other of Sustentation, which included Church Erection.⁶ On December 22, 1886, J. N. Craig presented in the *North Carolina Prebyterian* a report on the status of the General Assembly's Sustentation department, noting \$30,126 in receipts during the year. In comparison this figure totaled \$31,361 in 1883. Craig reported, also:

By the end of the year aid will have been given to about 400 weak churches and destitute points, enabling them to have the services of over 150 ministers. Also (by the end of the year) aid will have been given in the erection of twenty-five (or twenty-six) church buildings.⁷

Credit, also, was given to ministers aided by the fund for encouraging the construction of fifteen or twenty churches, which received no aid. The

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average salary for those ministers, who presented reports to Craig, was \$526.⁸

By 1889 collections were authorized by the General Assembly to support a broad range of committee work, and each month was designated for a specific area of need. Sustainment was supported by collections taken in January and August; however, Church Election was appointed a separate month, February.⁹ In preparation for this February collection in 1890, J. N. Craig wrote in the *North Carolina Presbyterian* on January 29, 1890 that the fund had existed for only one year and during this time had received around \$5,000. Aid ranging in size from \$30 to \$300, given either as a gift or loan, had provided assistance to thirty-two congregations. Craig noted:

The money will aid feeble congregations to build houses of worship. The congregations are required first to do what they can, at home; then the church at large, through their February contribution, gives or lends the last money needed "to put the house in condition to be used free from debt."¹⁰

The Office of Home Missions was located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Concomitant with these efforts by the General Assembly were those within the Synod of North Carolina as reported by Alexander Sprunt, its agent of Evangelistic Labor, at the Wilmington session meeting in October 1890. With each of the six presbyteries submitting reports, Sprunt compiled a detailed account of developments within Home Missions including the organization of four new churches and construction of eighteen new church buildings. In addition to the synod's two evangelists, seven others were working within the presbyteries. Twenty-seven counties in the state remained destitute without a Presbyterian Church.¹¹

In his reports to the Wilmington Presbytery on April 16, 1890, and later, in absentia to the synod in October 1890, the Rev. P. H. Hoge offered an important insight in to advances in the Home Mission movement on the presbytery level. The April report gave an account of the "year's work" and acknowledged receipt of \$2,845 in contributions for evangelistic work on all levels: congregational, Presbyterial, Synodical and Assembly. Use of these funds was clearly stated for the aid generally of the Synod and Assembly and more specifically the "...erection of two churches, supplementing the salaries of five ministers, supplying nineteen churches and mission points; in maintaining one local evangelist, in supporting the Synodical evangelist while within the bounds of the Presbytery...."¹² The Synodical evangelist, Rev. W. D. Morton, conducted 106 services in the presbytery producing fifty-eight conversions to the Presbyterian church. He reported, also, that construction

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of three churches or chapels was completed, four were in process, and three more were planned.¹³

Unfortunately, illness prevented Rev. P. H. Hoge from providing a detailed update on the Wilmington Presbytery for the October synod report, and instead, a committee member hurriedly supplied abbreviated information. It noted: this ten-county presbytery had 2,485 communicants, thirteen ministers, and thirty-nine churches, with only one destitute county, Brunswick. Within the previous year, one church was organized, and four church buildings were constructed. Evangelistic work within the presbytery received both financial and ministerial support. Contributions for this work totaled \$2,137.35, and Rev. J. D. Stanford, Rev. Letcher Smith, and Rev. W. McC. Miller are listed as evangelists. Two additional ministers, also, undertook evangelist work, which included supply to seven feeble churches and sixteen stations.¹⁴

Architectural Context:

During the late nineteenth century, whenever a church building project was undertaken by a small rural congregation in eastern North Carolina, the church constructed was, predictably, a very plain, frame, gable-front building set on a brick pier foundation. With very few exceptions, most denominations within these rural areas utilized this basic pattern which, occasionally, featured Gothic Revival details. This commonalty stems from "protestantism and basic Christian ritual."¹⁵ The appearance of a church, however, could differ significantly through the use of varied fenestration patterns and the introduction of a bell tower. As Catherine W. Bishir wrote in *North Carolina Architecture*, "ready availability of mass-produced building materials enabled scores of small congregations to build neat frame or even brick churches for the first time."¹⁶

In 1994, Jennifer Martin completed a comprehensive architectural survey of Duplin County and wrote the support documentation for a county-wide multiple resource nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. She described most late nineteenth century churches in Duplin County as plain, gable-front frame structures with facades ranging from one-to-three bays. Also, many possessed understated late Greek Revival or Gothic Revival stylistic features. Three Presbyterian churches from the survey clearly illustrate this late nineteenth century period of development: Chinquapin Presbyterian Church (1884), Hallsville Presbyterian Church (ca. 1890), and Hebron Presbyterian Church (1890). All are gable-front structures; however, the earliest one, Chinquapin has a three-bay facade with peaked window

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openings, and the front gable features a belfry and boxed cornice with returns. At the former Hallsville Presbyterian Church, the three-bay two-story fenestration pattern of the front facade mirrors an interior gallery and exhibits unusual decorative woodwork. Other distinctive details are the Doric pilaster cornerboards and side elevation windows with Gothic-arch transoms. In comparison, Hebron Presbyterian Church has a very simple exterior appearance, featuring a rectilinear plan with tall one-bay facade entrance, large nine-over-nine sash windows, and boxed cornice.¹⁷

The proposed Duplin County multiple resource nomination discusses two additional churches, Smith's Presbyterian Church (ca. 1895) and Jones Chapel (1883) along with Hebron Presbyterian Church. Unfortunately, a series of alterations and additions have compromised the original, plain, rectilinear forms of both, Smith's Church and Jones Chapel. As a result, Hebron Presbyterian Church stands as "the most intact of the rural frame churches" built in Duplin County during the late nineteenth century.¹⁸

Historical Background

The forty-year period of significance for Hebron Presbyterian Church embodies the fulfilled goals of the Home Missions movement within the Wilmington Presbytery of the North Carolina Synod during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This time period is defined by three key historical events: the church's organization in 1886 as a mission called Sutton's Branch, the construction of the present church building in 1890, and its assistance in the organization of nearby Pleasant View Church in 1926. Today, the church stands virtually unaltered in a rural setting that mirrors the one in which it was built over one hundred years ago.

Two leaders instrumental in the early development of Sutton's Branch Church were Benjamin Franklin Grady (1831-1914), a teacher, and John Dickson Stanford (1833-1901), a Presbyterian minister and evangelist. Both were natives of Duplin County and community leaders. Grady, who grew up in Albertson Township, was educated at Grove Academy in Kenansville and at the University of North Carolina. An educator, Grady, returned to North Carolina after the Civil War and taught at the Clinton Male Academy for a number of years before settling once again in Duplin County in 1879. He served as superintendent of public instruction for the county from 1881 to 1888, and then in Congress from 1891 to 1895. In addition, he served as a trustee of the University of North Carolina from 1874 to 1891. A devout Presbyterian and member of Grove Church in Kenansville, Grady organized during the 1880s a

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Presbyterian Sunday school at Sutton's Branch School, where he taught the Bible, music, classical literature, and science.¹⁹

On the other hand, John Dickson Stanford was born in Kenansville and educated at Columbia College in Washington, D. C.. A prominent lawyer practicing in Kenansville, Stanford served from 1858 to 1886, with few interruptions, in the General Assembly, either in the House or Senate. By 1886, however, Stanford had decided to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, the Rev. Samuel Stanford, and become a Presbyterian minister.²⁰ He was licensed as a minister on November 4, 1885, and reported that three months later, in February, the "first sermon ever preached by a Presbyterian minister in Albertson township was preached by myself...."²¹ Stanford was ordained on September 18, 1886.²² Stanford's part in the development of Sutton's Branch Presbyterian Church reflects the growing strength of the Home Missions movement in the Wilmington Presbytery. His role was pivotal and extended until 1896.

Sutton's Branch School not only provided a meeting place for Grady's Sunday School and Stanford's revival meetings, but also was the scene of the establishment of the new Presbyterian church, Sutton's Branch. Following the directions of the Wilmington presbytery, on December 16, 1886 an appointed committee formally organized this church.²³ The committee included the Rev. G. W. McMillan of Kenansville and Elders Gibson S. Carr, David Williams, and J. W. S. Miller. Also present at this meeting were the Rev. Colin Shaw of Magnolia, the Rev. J. D. Stanford and Elder I. B. Carr. John G. Smith was installed as the church's ruling elder, and the Rev. John D. Stanford, Evangelist, had received nineteen, men and women, into the organized church. Cold and inclement weather delayed the election and installation of the remaining elders and deacons until January. These men were Elder Jones R. Smith and Deacons Sherwood Grady and Jones Smith. On December 22, 1889, Stanford reported that the church had received on examination thirty-one members, each of whom was new to the Presbyterian church.²⁴ Church services were held once a month at the one-room school and Sunday school on a regular basis.²⁵

Over the next four years, this small mission congregation became more established. The congregation and the church leadership were increasing in number. In 1888, the ruling elders were listed as John G. Smith, James Smith, John H. Whitman, Zachariah Barfield and the deacons were Sherwood Grady and James Kornegay.²⁶ Plans were underway in 1889 for the construction of a church building in the foreseeable future. On December 18, 1889, one of the church's elders, Jones R. Smith and his wife, Martha T. Smith, and William Stroud and his wife, Mary S. Stroud deeded one-and-a-half acres of land for

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one dollar to the Trustees of Sutton's Branch Presbyterian Church, namely John Gorden Smith, William H. Grady, and William Southerland.²⁷ The new site was located in the eastern part of Albertson Township along the New Bern road approximately two miles from Sutton's Branch School .

While work on the new building was being planned and undertaken, the Rev. John Stanford continued his missionary efforts in the county. On February 7, 1890, he reported that the Rev. W. D. Morton, state evangelist, had accompanied him to both Cobb Mills and Chinguepin, and Morton's preaching had "...captured the people at both places." The crowds at Chinguepin were noted as the largest ever and resembled a prebytery meeting.²⁸ Later, at the April 16, 1890, meeting of the Wilmington Presbytery in Wilmington, the following was reported:

By recommendation of the Committee, as a step towards abolishing the Stated Supply system, two evangelistic fields were erected, one covering eastern Duplin and parts of Wayne and Lenoir, to which Rev. J. D. Stanford was elected evangelist, and one covering Onslow and part of Pender, in which the Committee has arranged to place a licentiate in June.²⁹

By fall, Stanford's evangelistic efforts continued to stimulate the receipt of new members at such meetings as the "...protracted services at Blalock's school house within the bounds of Beulah congregation and at Smith's chapel within the bounds of Sutton's Branch."³⁰ The Wilmington Presbytery recognized Stanford's increasing good works and expressed its respect by electing him as moderator for the presbytery meeting at Oak Plain on October 16, 1890.³¹

In September, 1890, the new Sutton's Branch church was completed. Stanford noted on September 16, 1890, "We will hold our first service in our new church at Sutton's Branch next Sunday [September 21 or 28, 1890]."³² The dedication of the church took place on October 26, 1890. Stanford reported on November 7, 1890:

On the fourth Sunday in October we dedicated our new church at Sutton's Branch. The congregation was very large and attentive, and we raised enough money to finish paying for the house. We had two additions to the Church. We greatly missed Bros. Shaw and Marable, both of whom we hoped would be with us.³³

The Rev. Colin Shaw ministered to Mt. Zion Church in Teachey's and lived in Magnolia. On the other hand, Dr. B. F. Marable served the Presbyterian church of Clinton in Sampson County.³⁴

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In 1891, a proposal was made and accepted to officially change the church's name from Sutton's Branch to Hebron. The Synod of North Carolina recognized this change in its session report for its annual meeting in Durham during November 1891 and listed the church as Hebron. The name derives from the ancient City of the Patriarchs, Hebron, located in the Judean Mountains south of Jerusalem. It is one of the oldest towns in the Holy Land and the highest one in elevation. Hebron is, also, the site of the Cave of Machpelah, the sacred burial place of Abraham, Issac, Jacob, and their wives, respectively, Sarah, Rebekah and Leah.³⁵

The Hebron mission, established by Rev. J. D. Stanford, remained under his ministrations until 1896, and between 1896 and 1926, the church continued to flourish under the guidance of a number of home mission ministers. The Rev. Richard Veneable Lancaster served as its primary preacher from 1897-1900, with some assistance from Robert M. Williams in 1898. Another Duplin County native, the Rev. Lucien Elonza Wells, followed in the footsteps of Rev. Stanford and served within home missions at many of the same churches as Stanford, including Hebron from 1901-1905 and 1908-1914. Hebron's fifteenth year was highlighted by a revival held on December 15, 1901 and lead by the Rev. William Black, the Synod's state evangelist and the Rev. L. E. Wells. Information about Hebron is sketchy between 1914-1920, but the Rev. W. M. Shaw, son of the Rev. Colin Shaw, may have served the church at this time.³⁶

The early 1920s were the peak years for Hebron Church. Its highest reported membership of 64 members and 82 attending Sunday school occurred in 1924. From 1920 to 1924, the Rev. George Rouss Faw, a native of Tennessee, served as the minister of Hebron as well Smith's and Seven Springs churches. By 1926 Hebron Church not only embodied the success of the Home Mission movement of the Presbyterian Church but had spawned the development of a new mission within its area, Pleasant View Church. Pleasant View was organized in 1924, and its new church building was completed in 1926. Coincidental to this development was the completion of N.C. Highway 11 a quarter mile south of Hebron Church by 1926. This road effectively removed all major traffic away from the church, a fact which through the years has aided in its structural and environmental preservation.³⁷

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1. Ernest Trice Thompson, Presbyterians in the South, 3 vols. (Richmond: John Knox Press, 1973), 3 (1890-1972): 29-31, hereinafter cited as Thompson, Presbyterians in the South.
2. Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, North Carolina: The History of a Southern State (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 3rd. ed., 1973), 137-138; the Rev. D. I. Craig, A History of the Development of the Presbyterian Church in North Carolina and of the Synodical Home Missions, Together with Evangelistic Addresses by James I. Vance, D. D. (Richmond: Whittet & Stepperson, Printers, 1907), 20, hereinafter cited as Craig, Presbyterian Church in North Carolina.
3. Craig, Presbyterian Church in North Carolina, 45-47.
4. Craig, Presbyterian Church in North Carolina, 55-69.
5. Craig, Presbyterian Church in North Carolina, 66-67.
6. Thompson, Presbyterians in the South, 2 (1861-1890): 273.
7. North Carolina Presbyterian (Wilmington), December 22, 1886, hereinafter cited as North Carolina Presbyterian.
8. North Carolina Presbyterian, December 22, 1886.
9. Thompson, Presbyterians in the South, 2 (1861-1890): 422.
10. North Carolina Presbyterian, January 29, 1890.
11. North Carolina Presbyterian, November 5, 1890.
12. North Carolina Presbyterian, April 23, 1890.
13. North Carolina Presbyterian, April 23, 1890.
14. North Carolina Presbyterian, November 5, 1890.
15. Eliza Davidson, "North Carolina Country Churches: Explorations in the Mountains and the Tidewater," in Carolina Dwelling, ed. Douglas Swaim (Raleigh: North Carolina State University School of Design Student Publication, 1978), 195.

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16. Catherine W. Bishir, North Carolina Architecture (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 310-313.

17. Jennifer Martin, [Duplin County architectural survey files] (Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).

18. Jennifer Martin, "National Register of Historic Places Multiple Resource Nomination for Duplin County, North Carolina" (draft, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1994).

19. History of North Carolina, 6 vols. (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), 5: 282-284; Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, s.v. "Grady, Benjamin Franklin;" The News Dispatch (Clinton, N. C.), March 12, 1914; A. T. Outlaw, "The Progress of Presbyterianism in Duplin County," speech, April 20, 1939, Norman Player Farris Papers, East Carolina Manuscript Collection, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, N. C.

20. Faison Wells McGowen and Pearl Canady McGowen, Flashes of Duplin's History and Government (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Co., 1971), 410-411.

21. North Carolina Presbyterian, December 29, 1886.

22. Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina, Seventy-Third Annual Session, Concord, N. C., October, 1886 (Wilmington: Jackson & Bell, Water Power Printers, 1887), 50, hereinafter cited as Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina with appropriate date.

23. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kenan Smith, comps. and eds. Centennial of Hebron Presbyterian Church 1886-1986 (N.p.: n.p., [1986?]), 2, [place, publisher, date missing], hereinafter cited as Smith, Hebron Presbyterian Church. Note: Stanford wrote in North Carolina Presbyterian, December 29, 1886, that the church was organized on Thursday, December 17, 1886. This date was an error. The actual date was Thursday, December 16, 1886, as reported in the session minutes.

24. Smith, Hebron Presbyterian Church, 2; North Carolina Presbyterian, December 29, 1886.

25. Smith, Hebron Presbyterian Church, 5-6.

26. Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina, 1888, 290.

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27. Jones R. Smith and wife and William Stroud and wife to Trustees of Suttons Branch Presbyterian Church, December 18, 1889, Duplin County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Duplin County Courthouse, Book 45, 296-297.
28. North Carolina Presbyterian, February 12, 1890.
29. North Carolina Presbyterian, April 23, 1890.
30. North Carolina Presbyterian, September 24, 1890
31. North Carolina Presbyterian, October 22, 1890.
32. North Carolina Presbyterian, September 24, 1890.
33. North Carolina Presbyterian, November 12, 1890.
34. Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina, 1890, 498; Levi Branson, North Carolina Business Directory, 1890 (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1889), 256.
35. Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina, 1891, 531; Rivka Gonen, Biblical Holy Places: An Illustrated Guide (New York: Collier Books, 1987), 89-91.
36. Smith, Hebron Presbyterian Church, 6-7.
37. Smith, Hebron Presbyterian Church, 8.

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- _____. Draft "National Register of Historic Places Multiple Resource Nomination for Duplin County, North Carolina." Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

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The News Dispatch (Clinton, N. C.).

Norman Player Farrior Papers. East Carolina Manuscript Collection,
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Presbyterian Church, 1886-1986. N.p.: n.p., [1986?].

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Press, 1973.

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10. Geographical Data:

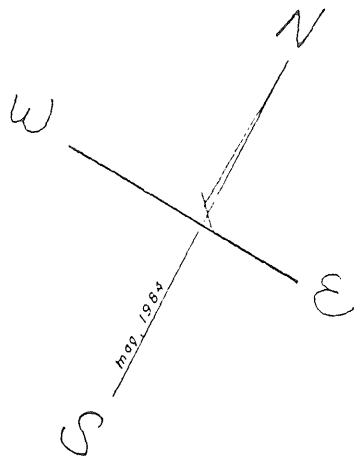
Verbal Boundary Description: The 1.5 acre property is identified and plotted on survey map executed by Joseph R. Brochure, a registered land surveyor, on May 10, 1984.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes a 1.5 acre parcel historically associated with the church and cemetery.

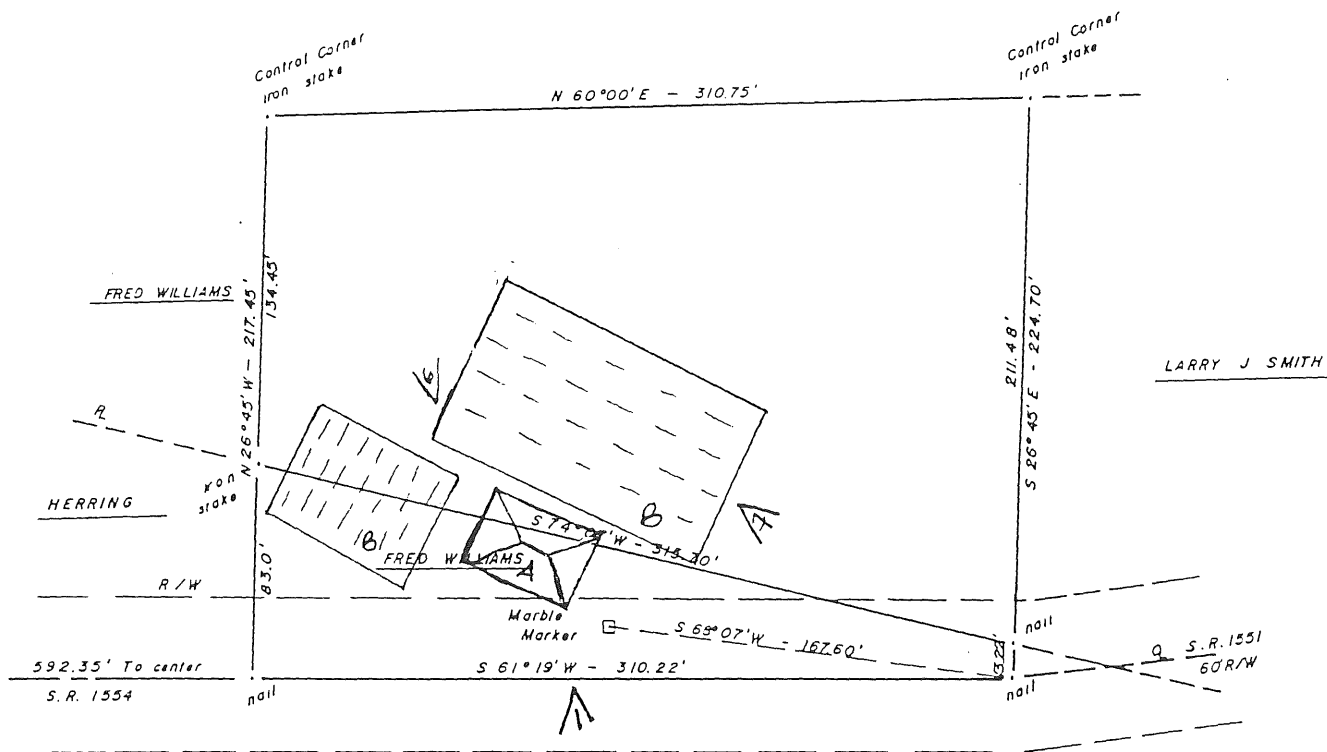
11. Property Owner: continued

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
807 W. King Street
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

telephone: (910) 862-8300



QUENTIN STROUD



PROPERTY OF

≡ HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ≡

ALBERTSON TWP. - DUPLIN CO. N. C.

- 1) Hebron Presbyterian Church, contributing bldg
- 2) Cemetery, Contributing site.

Reduced - No Scale

SURVEYORS
PLANNERS

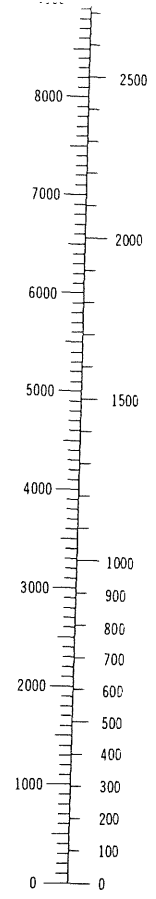
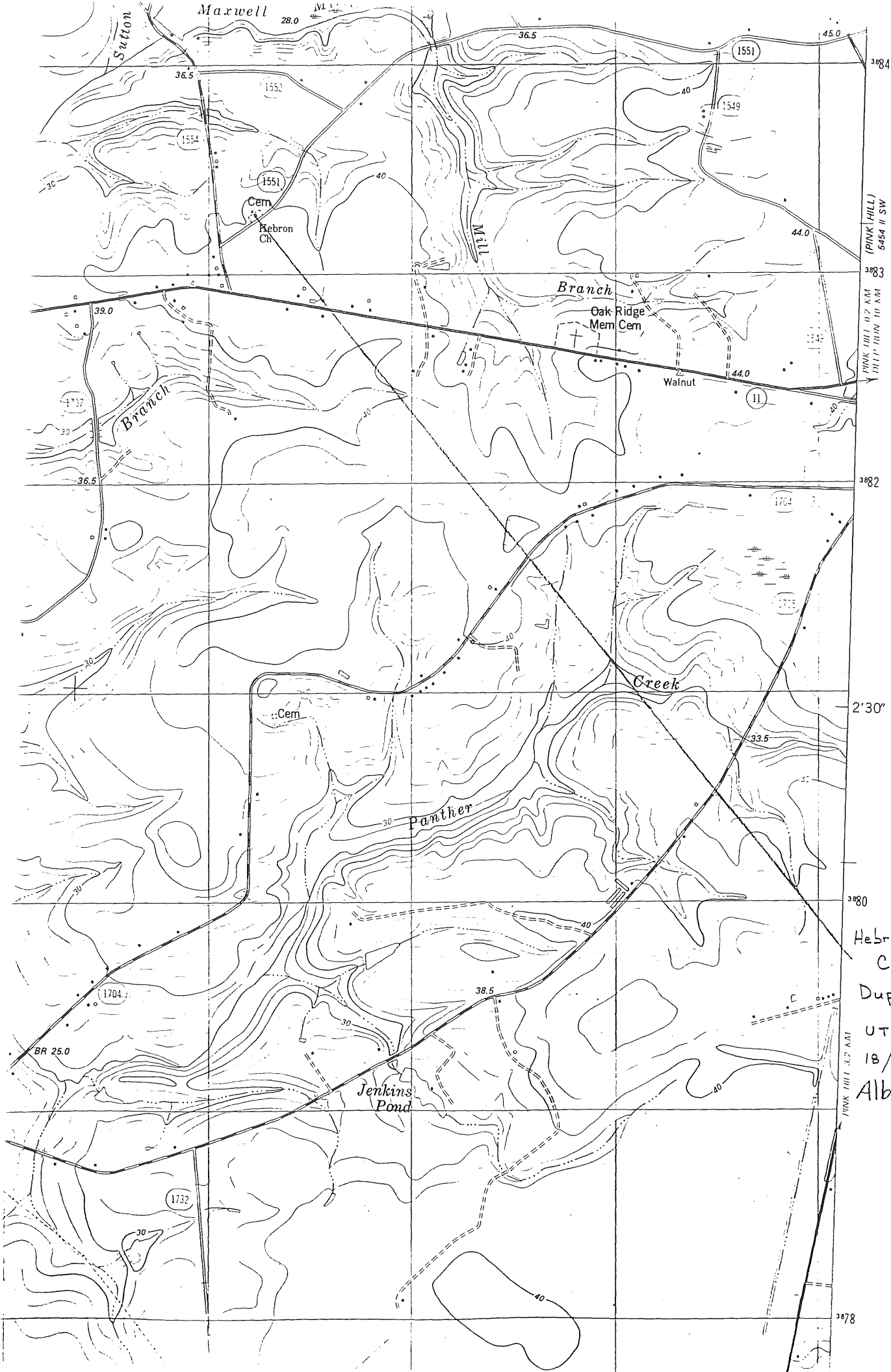
JOEY BROCHURE B ASSOC. P.A.
203 E. CASWELL ST
KINSTON, N.C.

> indicates photo angle and number



EXHIBIT A:

Documentary photograph of Hebron Presbyterian Church, August 1940, exhibiting scale and detail of southeast front entrance. Note original cemetery fence placement, featuring four-foot offset from church at its eastern corner.



Feet	Meters
1	.3048
2	.6096
3	.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Hebron Presbyterian
Church
Duplin County, NC
UTM Reference:
18/246240/35632E
Albertson Good

3884
3883
3882
2'30"
3880
3878
 (PINK HILL) 6454 II SW
 PINK HILL 02 AM
 DULP GUN 10 AM
 PINK HILL 3.2 AM

