

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 W. Stokes Boney House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 651 East Southerland Street (NC 41) n/a not for publication

city or town Wallace n/a vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Duplin code 061 zip code 28466

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.)

Jeffrey J. Cron SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/2/99
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 commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

W. Stokes Boney House
Name of Property

Duplin County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>		structures
		objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin Co., NC
ca. 1790-1943.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Late Greek Revival influenced

foundation brick

walls wood

roof asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

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

Period of Significance

ca. 1850
1878-1890

Significant Dates

1878

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Boney, W. Stokes (builder)
Blanton, George (brickmason)

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:

W. Stokes Boney House
Name of Property

Duplin County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 17.81 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	2 2 6 4 4 0	3 8 4 8 3 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	2 2 6 6 2 0	3 8 4 8 5 0 0

3	1 8	2 2 6 8 2 0	3 8 4 8 4 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 8	2 2 6 7 6 0	3 8 4 8 7 2 0

See continuation sheet

5 18 226550 3848040

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 Emily Browder Lee and HPO Staff

organization date March 1, 1999

street & number 7809 Audubon Drive telephone 919/847-0321

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27615

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 Emily B. Lee and Cameron W. Lee, Jr.

street & number 7809 Audubon Drive telephone 919/847-0321

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27615

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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W. Stokes Boney House
Duplin County, North Carolina

Description

The W. Stokes Boney House is located at 651 East Southerland Street (N side of NC 41 East) and straddles the eastern boundary of the city limits of Wallace in Duplin County. Built during a twelve-year period beginning in 1878, the unusual two-story weatherboard house faces south toward NC 41. Little Rockfish Creek, located three-tenths of a mile to the east of the house, flows south to Rockfish Creek. A historic grist and saw mill established by Colonel Wright Boney in the eighteenth century stands on the banks of a mill pond formed by Little Rockfish Creek. The Wallace Commercial Historic District (NR 1995), made up of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings, is located approximately one mile to the southwest along the tracks of the former Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in downtown Wallace.

The Boney House stands on a level eighteen-and-one-half-acre parcel. From the highway, the house is approached by a paved circular driveway which is flanked on both sides by a lawn dotted with mature white, red, and chestnut oaks planted by the home's builder, W. Stokes Boney. He also planted the majestic cypress tree positioned in the southeast corner of the yard. A dirt drive circles the rear of the house. A mid-nineteenth century smokehouse stands fifty feet northeast of and facing the rear of the house, while a noncontributing outbuilding built in 1955 is located just north of the rear ell also facing the house. A simple grape arbor built in 1890 of wood posts measures 33 x 31 feet and stands between the outbuildings and the house. North and west of the small complex are eleven acres of loblolly pines planted in 1997 and two acres of woodlands.

House

1878-1890

Contributing Building

The Boney House is a two-story, side-gabled frame house notable for the gentle eighteen-degree inward bend of the main block. A prominent full-width, double-tiered engaged porch follows the bend and features decorative scalloped millwork and paneled porch posts and pilasters with simple molded caps. A one-story ell with a screened porch extends from the rear elevation.

The symmetrical five-bay facade features four-over-four sash windows and centered original heart pine doors with sidelights; Greek Revival-inspired architraves crown both the windows and doors. Mirroring the porch columns are full-height pilasters with molded caps which flank each side of the central doors and

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W. Stokes Boney House
Duplin County, North Carolina

each end of the facade. Tongue and groove sheaths ceilings on both levels of the porch. The first floor porch floor was replaced with clay tile in 1955, while the original heart pine floor remains intact on the upper level. A modest wrought-iron balustrade occupies the second level of the porch.

The west and east elevations of the two-story block feature a towering single shoulder stepped chimney laid in American bond, molded gable returns, and corner posts with molded caps. The west gable end contains one four-over-four window with peaked heads on each story placed on the north side of the chimney. On the east gable end, two windows pierce the first and second stories on the north side of the chimney and are identical to those already described

The rear of the front block accommodates the bend and is divided into three distinct, angled sections delineated from one another by full-height pilasters; a majority of the easternmost pilaster is not visible because of the presence of the rear ell. This rear elevation features one four-over-four sash window on each level on the west end of the elevation and a smaller window near the center of the elevation. A slender brick chimney stack stands near the middle of the center section of the elevation.

The one-story rear ell is original and features corner posts identical to those on the main block at its rear or north pedimented gable end. A partial-width screened porch added in the 1970s occupies the west side of the ell. A single fixed-sash window is off-center on the rear wall of the ell. The east side includes a single-leaf door on the north end and a modern three-part shuttered window on the south end. A square-shaped open patio or deck occupies the north end of the east elevation of the ell.

The interior plan of the Boney House is dictated by the bend in the house. The rooms radiate from a central foyer that contains a grand curving stair in its northwest corner. All parts of the stair are original including the curved balustrade which W. Stokes Boney is said to have soaked in water for twelve days in order to achieve the slight bend. To the west of the foyer is a parlor sheathed in vertical chamfered wood slats. This room contains a simple mantel with a bracketed top shelf. Behind the parlor at the northwest corner of the house is a small bedroom with a plain finish. On the opposite side of the foyer is a plainly-finished room containing a simple mantel. The second floor contains two large bedrooms, a smaller bedroom, and two bathrooms. In the late nineteenth century, square dances were held in the large bedroom the west side of the upstairs. The interior contains original heart pine floors and tongue and groove ceilings; a few of the ceilings have been covered with Sheetrock.

The rear ell contains a kitchen and dining room. The kitchen was modernized in 1947. That same year, the porch which spanned the length of the west side of the rear ell was enclosed in order to enlarge the kitchen. In the 1970s a sunporch was added to the west side of the rear ell.

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W. Stokes Boney House
Duplin County, North Carolina

Smokehouse
ca. 1850
Contributing Building

A 10 x 12 feet plank smokehouse joined with half-dovetail notching stands fifty feet northeast of the house. A front gable roof tops the building and overhangs the front sheltering a batten door. The smokehouse served a smaller house which stood on this site prior to 1878.

Grape Arbor
1890
Contributing Structure

Constructed of wooden posts and standing approximately six feet tall, the arbor is positioned between the rear ell and the smokehouse. W. Stokes Boney's cousin Lou Lamb planted the grapevine here in 1897 in honor of Boney's marriage to Emma Caroline Boney, his distant cousin. The overall dimensions of the arbor are 33 X 31 feet. While some of the posts have been replaced, the majority of the material is original. The arbor remains in its original configuration and on the original site.

Outbuilding
1955
Noncontributing Building

The rectangular, side-gabled outbuilding was built to resemble an early-nineteenth century house which stood on the property prior to 1878. The house functioned as a school and was later moved into the city limits of Wallace where it was demolished in the 1980s. This outbuilding stands to the rear of the ell and serves as storage for tools and light equipment.

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W. Stokes Boney House
Duplin County, North Carolina

Significance Statement

Summary

The W. Stokes Boney House is a highly unusual two-story frame house notable for the eighteen-degree inward bend of the prominent side gabled main block. Built from 1878 to 1890 by mill owner and farmer W. Stokes Boney (1860-1946), the house exhibits regional characteristics of the late Greek Revival style including paneled porch posts and pilasters topped with molded caps and peaked window and door architraves. However, it is the form of this substantial house, said to have been inspired by Boney's desire to accommodate a graceful curving stair, that is its most conspicuous attribute. Seen as an anomaly, the Boney House is the only documented nineteenth century house in North Carolina to display this arched form. It is eligible under criterion C as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina, ca. 1790-1943." The significance of the Boney House is discussed in Context 3: Town Building and Agricultural Prosperity in Duplin County: 1876-1943. It meets registration requirements for significance in the history of the county's architecture as outlined in Property Type 2B: Houses Built Between the Civil War and 1943. Adding to the significance of the Boney House is the ca. 1850 smokehouse standing behind the dwelling. Constructed of log planks joined at the corners with half-dovetailed notching, this 10 x 12 building is one of only a small number of log plank outbuildings remaining in the county. This structure meets registration requirements for significance in architecture as defined in Property Type 3: Outbuildings.

Historical Background

The land near present-day Wallace upon which the W. Stokes Boney House stands has been in the Boney family since 1763 when Jacob Boney, a native of Frenckendorf, Switzerland acquired property in what was then New Hanover County. Duplin County was formally created in 1750, but the town of Wallace, originally called Duplin Roads for the stage lines that intersected there, was not incorporated until 1873. Early settlement of the town had begun around 1800 primarily by members of the Boney family. Upon the probation of Jacob Boney's will in 1761, the land passed to his son Wimberick Boney and then to John Boney in 1801. John's brother Colonel Wright Boney received the land in 1831 and passed it to James Wells Boney in 1857. James W. Boney bequeathed the land to his son W. Stokes Boney in 1885, eight years after W. Stokes Boney commenced construction of his house.¹

Prior to the erection of the Boney House, a small dwelling which served as a school stood on the lot. Probably built in the early nineteenth century, the school is most closely associated with Thomas O. Larkin (1802-1858) who taught there from 1825 to 1829. Larkin, a native of Charlestown, Massachusetts who came to Duplin County by way of Wilmington, operated a store at Rockfish, became the county's justice of

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Duplin County, North Carolina

the peace in 1825, and postmaster of Rockfish in 1826. He eventually left North Carolina for California where he became a member of the California Constitutional Convention.²

In the 1870s, the school was moved to a parcel at the corner of Cliff Street and Old Teachey Road in Wallace where it was converted to use as a house for the Graham family. The house burned and was demolished in the 1980s.³ The only reminders of the building are the smokehouse which accompanied it, the outbuilding which was built in its likeness in 1955, and a state highway historical marker placed in 1949 commemorating Thomas O. Larkin and the school at which he taught.

W. Stokes Boney was born in Duplin County in 1860. In 1897 he married a distant cousin, Emma Caroline Boney (1875-1953), daughter of Ephriam Boney, Sr. and Emily Caroline McMillan Boney. Together, the couple raised two daughters and four sons. Boney operated Boney's saw and grist mill, and since his youth he had farmed. Once he had established his own farm, he grew tobacco, corn, strawberries, and cotton on the land behind his house. Because of its proximity to the Angola Swamp and Rockfish Creeks and its many tributaries, the low-lying terrain in southwestern Duplin County afforded Boney the opportunity to grow rice in the front yard of the house. Although he received no formal education beyond Clement School, a secondary institution located in Wallace, he was knowledgeable about political affairs and served in the 1913 General Assembly. He was instrumental in passing the local fence law which required farmers to enclose their livestock and put an end to open range grazing. According to family members, the action proved so unpopular that Boney, anticipating sure defeat at the polls, did not seek reelection.⁴

Boney, who was not known as a skilled carpenter, started construction of his house in 1878 when he was only eighteen years old. He did not work from any formal plans, just his own drawings. As the owner of a sawmill, he had access to finished lumber, but used hand-planed sills; the walls and floors are framed by 4 x 8s which are crossed in an X-configuration. Walter Kenan, Sr., a tenant farmer who lived and worked on Boney's farm, along with John Gavin, helped Boney with the building. Local brickmason George Blanton, who built many of the commercial buildings in downtown Wallace, laid the foundation and the American bond chimneys. Construction on the house was not completed until 1890.⁵

W. Stokes Boney closed Boney's Mill in 1944 and died two years later, followed by Emma Boney in 1953. The house then passed to the couple's two daughters, Mary Emily Boney Browder (1910-1995) and Eleanor Catherine Boney (1916-1997). Upon Mary Emily Boney Browder's death in 1995, her half-interest in the house went to her husband W.H. Browder, Sr., their son, W.H. Browder, Jr. and their daughter, Emily Sue Browder Lee. When Eleanor Catherine Boney died in 1997 with no heirs, her one-half interest went to Mary Emily's heirs. In 1998, Emily Sue Browder Lee and her husband, Cameron W.

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W. Stokes Boney House
Duplin County, North Carolina

Lee, Jr. gained full ownership and granted Emily Lee's father, W. H. Browder, Sr. lifetime estate rights to the home. Mr. Browder continues to live in the house. Emily and Cameron Lee plan to restore the house to its original appearance.⁶

¹ Duplin County Land Grants; Duplin County Wills (Kenansville: Duplin County Records).

² William S. Powell., ed. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, volume 4 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1991), 22-23.

³ Emily Lee interview with W.H. Browder, Sr., March 1999.

⁴ Emily Lee interview with W.H. Browder, Sr., March 1999; Agriculture Census 1880, 1890, 1900.

⁵ Ibid; *Wallace Enterprise*, 1977.

⁶ Ibid; Duplin County Wills.

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W. Stokes Boney House
Duplin Co., NC

Bibliography

Agriculture Census Records for Duplin County. 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920.

Archibald, J.D. Duplin County, North Carolina: An Analysis of the Community and the Library Which Serves It. Kenansville: Dorothy Wightman Library, 1979.

Bishir, Catherine W. and Michael T. Southern. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.

Duplin County Land Grants

Duplin County Wills

Hill, Michael, ed. *Guide to North Carolina Highway Markers*, 8th Edition. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1990.

Powell, William S. *The Proprietors of Carolina*. Raleigh: Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, 1963; reprint, Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1968.

Powell, William S., ed. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1991.

Wallace Enterprise.

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W. Stokes Boney House
Duplin Co., NC

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is defined as by the dark line illustrated on the accompanying Duplin County tax map #3306 (18) drawn to a scale of 1 inch= 100 feet.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property consisting of eighteen and one-half acres constitutes the majority of the historic setting and all of the current setting of the W. Stokes Boney House and its attendant outbuildings and one structure. The acreage is the residual of the original acreage which accompanied the house.

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Section number Photos Page 1

The following information pertains to all enclosed photographs:

Property Name: W. Stokes Boney House
County/State: Duplin County, North Carolina
Photographer: Sonny Sikes
Date: February 1999
Negative Location: NC HPO

1. Front Façade, looking north
2. Looking northwest
3. Looking west
4. North rear elevation, looking south
5. Grapevine, north rear of house, looking south
6. Front porch detail, looking west
7. Southwest parlor, fireplace and mantle
8. Newel detail
9. Curved stair, 2nd floor looking down
10. Outbuilding, noncontributng resource
11. Smokehouse, north rear of house

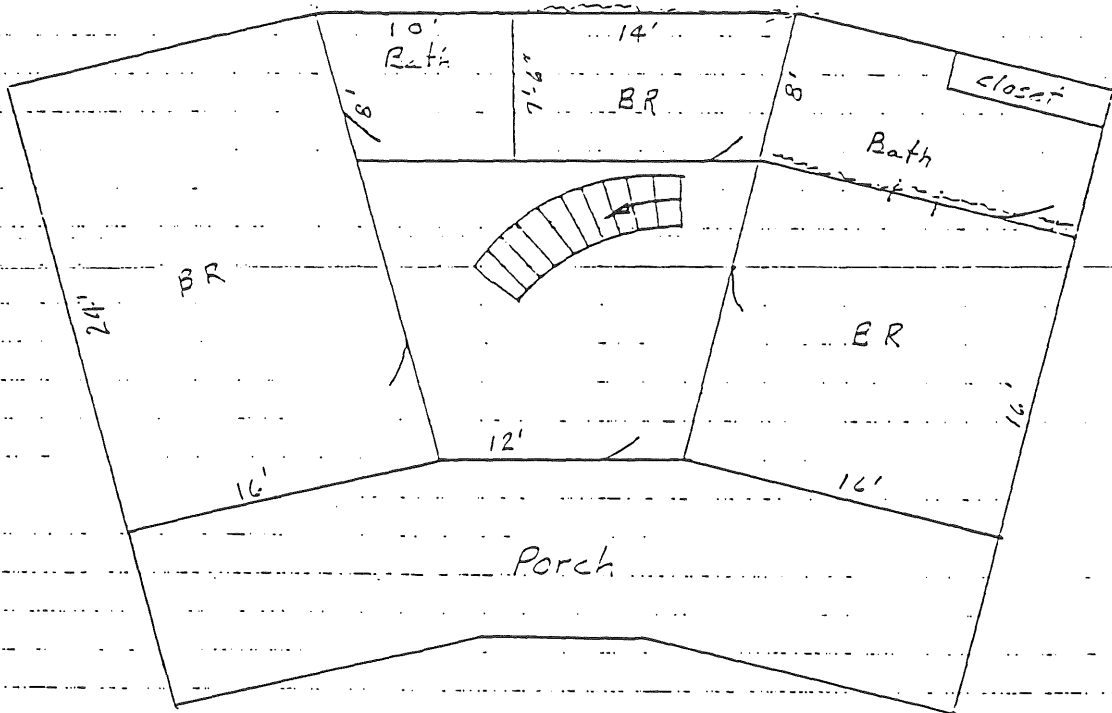
Boney House

First Floor



Boney House

Second Floor



PRELIMINARY PLAT!
NOT FOR RECORDATION,
SALES, OR CONVEYANCES.

N.C. GRID NORTH (N.A.D. 1983)

17.816 Ac.±

1/2" IRON PIPE FOUND
CORNER #11 ON MAP BK. 3,
PG. 48 CALLS FOR CONC. 40

ANNETTE H. ROSE
BK. 446, PG. 278

GEORGIA H. LONGEST
BK. 966, PG. 473

PHILIP LONGEST et ux
BK. 785, PG. 665

BEAUFORT B. LONGEST et ux
BK. 944, PG. 733

McROY PEARSALL BK. 261, PG. 181

20' EASEMENT
BK. 861, PG. 256

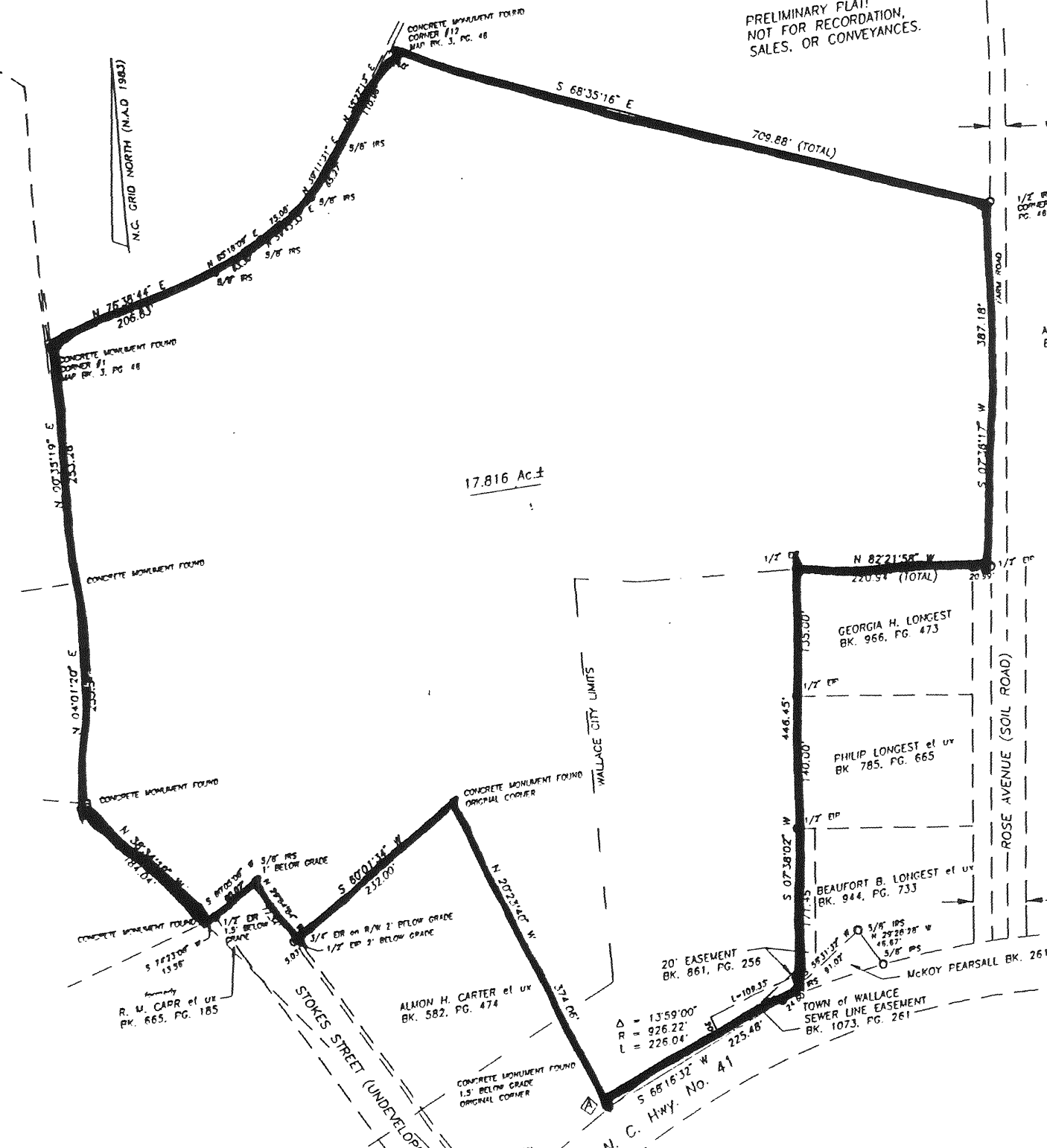
TOWN of WALLACE
SEWER LINE EASEMENT
BK. 1073, PG. 261

ALMON H. CARTER et ux
BK. 582, PG. 474

R. M. CARR et ux
BK. 665, PG. 185

$\Delta = 13^{\circ}59'00''$
 $R = 926.22'$
 $L = 226.04'$

N. C. Hwy. No. 41



TAX MAP
W. Stokes Boney House
Duplin County, NC
Wallace

