

April 5, 1990

Nicholas L. Graf
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 26806
Raleigh, N.C. 27611

Re: Section 106 Consultation
West Charlotte Outer Loop, historic structures
survey report, Mecklenburg County, R-2248A,
Federal Aid F-117-1(5), ER 90-8066

Dear Mr. Graf:

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 1990, concerning the above project.

We have reviewed the report and concur with the finding that the John Grier House, Steele Creek Church and Cemetery, John Douglas House, Dr. Query House (omitted from the listing in your letter), Brown Farmstead, Cooper Log House, Dr. Sandifer House, Moore-Sadler House, and Shopton Historic District are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We also agree that the fourteen other sites recorded in the surveyed area are not eligible for the National Register.

From the information in this report, it appears that the eastern alignment will have an adverse effect on the Brown Farmstead and the Dr. Query House; the middle alignment will have an adverse effect on the Shopton Historic District; the western alignment will have an adverse effect on the Dr. Sandifer House, the Shopton Historic District, and the John Grier House; and the northern crossover will have an adverse effect on the Moore-Sadler House. When the preferred alignment is chosen, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley to continue the Section 106 compliance procedure.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106, codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

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Historic Structures
Survey and Evaluation Report
Charlotte Outer Loop (West Section)
R-2248A

Prepared for
North Carolina Department of Transportation
and
Federal Highway Administration

Prepared by
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January 31, 1990

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II. Management Summary

The project known as Charlotte Outer Loop (West) (R-2248A) constitutes one segment of a four-lane, limited-access highway proposed to circle the city of Charlotte in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. As proposed, the western segment of the Outer Loop will extend 13 miles from NC 27 to I-77. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and in consultation with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, an architectural survey was conducted on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration, to identify architectural resources listed in or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and to identify impacts to such resources that may potentially occur as a result of the proposed West Loop project.

The architectural survey was conducted during March and June of 1989, by Mary Beth Gatza for Archaeological Research Consultants under Kimley-Horn & Associates, using the 1988 Mecklenburg County Survey as a basis of information. For the purpose of this survey, all standing structures judged to be more than 50 years old were inspected. Several 1920s and 1930s bungalows were noted which were not included in the County Survey. While they do fall under the '50-year rule,' they were determined to be of little historic significance due to their number and commonness throughout the county, and thus were not included in the inventory.

During the initial phase of the survey, structures determined to be of historic significance were mapped and targeted for closer inspection. These properties were visited, the residents or owners were interviewed, and the buildings were photographed. Original historical research was conducted where appropriate or necessary to verify information gathered from oral histories.

The Area of Potential Effect was determined before proceeding with the intensive survey. The Area of Potential Effect includes, but is not limited to, the right of way for all three of the alignments that were initially proposed. Generally, it includes properties within and immediately adjacent to the corridors. Ground cover and topography were

determining factors in judging whether a property should be included in the area of potential effect. It was determined to be greater in areas where interchanges are likely to be built, such as the point where the highway would cross Steele Creek Road (NC 160). Thus, the area of potential effect is variable throughout the project area. All structures falling within the area of potential effect were surveyed. In addition, three properties (Cooper Log House, Steele Creek Church and Cemetery, and John Douglas House) located outside the Area of Potential Effect have been included in the inventory for information purposes.

The survey area, in general, represents a good cross-section of the architectural types and styles which are found throughout Mecklenburg County. The 27 sites inventoried can be broken down as follows: one late-eighteenth century log house, with subsequent periods of construction dating from c. 1840 and c. 1880; two early-nineteenth century plantation houses; three mid-nineteenth century farmhouses; thirteen residences dating from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries; three dwellings built during the 1910s; one twentieth century tenant farm house; one house of undetermined vintage which was overbuilt during the late-nineteenth century; a complete farmstead dating from 1929; a late-nineteenth century church and a ca. 1890 brick store building. The inventory includes a proposed rural historic district which encompasses five of the above-listed properties.

Eight individual properties and one district, containing five properties, were evaluated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. They are:

John Grier House MK 1365	Shopton Historic District:
Steele Creek Church/Cemetery MK 1371	Robinson House MK 1376
John Douglas House MK 1361	Hayes-Byrum Store MK 1367
Dr. Query House MK 1373	Byrum House MK 1356
Brown Farmstead MK 2490	Bungalow
Cooper Log House MK 1359	William Grier House MK 1364
Dr. Sandifer House	
Moore-Sadler House	

Fourteen additional properties were evaluated as ineligible for the National Register:

Johnson Horse Barns	House, Dixie River Road
Gallant-Brown House	House, Dixie River Road
Faires House MK 1362	Vinson House MK 1593

Cathey House MK 1257
Brown House
Freeman House MK 1363
Tenant House

House, Walker's Ferry
Wilkinson-Mitchell House MK 1524
George Williamson House MK 1525
Connell House MK 1492

Implementation of the West Outer Loop project may potentially require the acquisition of right-of-way from within the historic resource boundaries of the John Grier Farmstead (West Alignment) and Dr. Sandifer House (West Alignment). In the case of the Brown Farmstead (East Alignment), acquisition would also involve removal or demolition of contributing buildings and structures. In addition, impacts associated with the introduction of incompatible visual or audible factors may potentially occur with respect to the above properties and also to the Dr. Query (East Alignment), Shopton District (Middle Alignment) and Moore-Sadler (Middle Alignment) properties.

III. Introduction

The West Charlotte Outer Loop is but one section of the Outer Beltway, a four-lane, limited access-highway which will encircle the city of Charlotte, in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The project area traverses two townships, Steele Creek and Berryhill, and extends into a third, Paw Creek Township. The proposed corridors run from NC 27 (Mount Holly Road) on the north to I-77 on the south.

The survey was conducted by Mary Beth Gatza for Archaeological Research Consultants, under the direction of Kimley-Horn & Associates, on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. An architectural survey of the proposed West Charlotte Outer Loop project area was conducted during March, May and June, 1989. The purpose of the survey was to identify architectural resources listed in, or potentially eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places that may be affected by the proposed project.

IV. Physical Environment

North Carolina can be divided geographically into three regions--the coastal plain, the piedmont, and the mountains. The Piedmont, which means literally "foot of the mountains," is a broad expanse which gently and gradually rises in elevation between the coastal plain on the east and the mountains on the west. All of Mecklenburg County lies within the Piedmont. Elevation in the county varies from 520 to 850 feet, with the southwest (and the project area) generally having a lower elevation.¹

Typical of the Piedmont, the topography of Mecklenburg County is characterized by gently rolling hills. The region is well-watered, with numerous small streams. Although most streams in the county flow southeast, those in the project area flow southwest to the Catawba River, which forms the western boundary of the county. The bottomland areas adjacent to the streams, are generally lush and agriculturally desirable. The primary stream through the area is Steele Creek, which begins in the project area and runs southwest, through York County, South Carolina, to eventually empty into the Catawba River.

Meadows, cultivated fields, pastures and woodlands comprise the ground cover² throughout the county. Mixed hardwoods and pine trees are found in the wooded areas. Cultivated crops have historically included cotton, corn, grains, and miscellaneous truck crops, such as sweet potatoes and peanuts.³ The Soil Survey of Mecklenburg County, published in 1912, is an excellent source of information regarding

¹L. L. Brinkley and W. Edward Hearn, Soil Survey of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1912), p. 41.

²This refers to undeveloped land.

³Soil Survey, pp. 9-13.

Interviews conducted while performing the Mecklenburg County Survey (1988) reveal that the most common crops since the turn of the twentieth century are cotton and corn, but grains and truck crops were also important, and dairy cattle were and are raised in certain sections of the county. Brown-Grier Road, which is within the project area, is one such area where dairy cattle are still being raised for profit.

agriculture during the early twentieth century. The authors, L. L. Brinkley and W. Edward Hearn, note that

"...cotton is the most important crop. A large quantity of corn is grown in the county, and this crop ranks second to cotton in value. A considerable quantity of oats is grown, but only a small acreage of wheat."

They further mention cowpeas (cut for hay), sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, cabbage, and various vegetables, fruits and cattle as being important agricultural products.⁴

The geology of Mecklenburg County was formed during the Precambrian and Paleozoic periods.⁵ Underlying rocks include gneiss, granite, schist, diorite, mica, and gabbro.⁶ Scattered rock outcroppings occur in various places throughout the county.⁷ The soils found throughout the county have been formed by the weathering of these rocks, and most types are clay-based. The "Blackjack" type of soil, which is found in the Steele Creek section of the county, is noticeably darker than soils found elsewhere, and is considered by farmers to be desirable.⁸

Mecklenburg County was a leading gold-producing center for a time during the nineteenth century. In fact, so much gold was mined here that the United States Mint opened a branch office in Charlotte in 1837. Numerous small mines were found throughout the county in the nineteenth century, and occasionally one still hears about the remnants of mine shafts located on isolated properties.

With North Carolina's largest city, Charlotte, at its center, Mecklenburg is considered to be an urban county, and accordingly, it faces intense development pressure. Even in the rural and suburban

⁴Soil Survey, pp. 10-11.

⁵P. Albert Carpenter, III, Stephen G. Conrad and William F. Wilson, North Carolina Geology and Mineral Resources: A Foundation for Progress ([Raleigh?]: North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, 1980).

⁶Soil Survey, p. 16.

⁷A good example of this in the project area is along Steele Creek just south of the point where it is crossed by Brown-Grier Road.

⁸Interview with Robert Ralph Grier, Steele Creek community, Charlotte vicinity, North Carolina, May, 1989.

areas, which are increasingly intermingled, a good percentage of the total land area in the county is developed. Subdivisions are located even in the far areas of the county.



V. Architectural and Historical Background

Colonial Period, 1750s-1780s

Thomas Spratt and family are generally credited with being the first white settlers in Mecklenburg County. They emigrated from Pennsylvania in 1755 and were soon followed by Thomas Polk and other Scotch-Irish settlers.¹ The Scotch-Irish, people of Scottish descent who had lived in the Ulster section of Ireland since the 1630s, migrated en masse from Ireland to America throughout the second quarter of the eighteenth century. They arrived in America primarily through the port of Philadelphia and soon populated southeastern Pennsylvania. Lured by reports of cheap land, many of these immigrants, continued south along the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road, down through the Valley of Virginia, and into the Piedmont region of North Carolina.²

The area which is now called Mecklenburg County was originally a part of Anson County. Mecklenburg was divided off from the western portion of Anson County in 1762, and was named for the birthplace of Queen Charlotte, the bride of King George III. Six years later, in 1768, Mecklenburg County itself was subdivided and Tryon County was created to include the area west of the Catawba River. Cabarrus County, which lies to the east and northeast of Mecklenburg, was split

¹Mary Norton Kratt, Charlotte: Spirit of the New South (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Continental Heritage Press, 1980), p. 22; LeGette Blythe and Charles Raven Brockman, Hornet's Nest (Charlotte: McNally of Charlotte, 1961), pp. 16, 161.

²Kratt, Charlotte, p. 22; Cordelia Camp, The Influence of Geography Upon Early North Carolina (Raleigh: Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, 1963), pp. 18-19; Harry Roy Merrens, Colonial North Carolina in the Eighteenth Century: A Study in Historical Geography (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1964), pp. 66-67; D. A. Tompkins, History of Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte From 1740-1903, 2 vols. (Charlotte: Observer Printing Office, 1903), p. 18.

off from Mecklenburg in 1792. The final subdivision, which created Union County to the southeast, was enacted in 1842.³

A primary reason for the the large-scale immigration of the Scotch-Irish settlers concerned the issue of religious liberty. Presbyterian by faith, they had left Ireland when they were pressured to adopt the Church of England by King James, and later by Charles II.⁴ Establishing churches in their new home was a priority, and occurred soon after they arrived in North Carolina. One of the early churches in Mecklenburg, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, was established in the Southwest section of the county as early as 1760.

The History of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church suggests that the area was being actively settled as early as 1751. The exact date that the church was organized is unknown, as church records no longer exist. The church was named for the stream which waters the area, the Steele Creek, which was in turn probably named for the Steele family who, it is thought, lived near the present-day Brown-Grier Road.⁵

The present-day church building at Steele Creek Church (Fig. 5) is the fifth such edifice to serve the congregation. It was erected in 1889, following the destruction of an earlier building by fire. The building was constructed of bricks made nearby from local clay. The cemetery was most likely laid out when the church was first established, and is surrounded by a rubblestone wall of unknown vintage (Fig. 6). The earliest marked grave is that of Sarah Knox and dates from 1763.⁶

³David Leroy Corbitt, The Formation of North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943. 3rd ed. (Raleigh, 1975), pp. 147-48.

⁴Camp, The Influence of Geography, p. 19; Kratt, Charlotte, p. 22.

⁵Historical Committee of 1976, The History of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, 1745-1978 (Charlotte: Craftsman Printing and Publishing House, 1978), pp. 14-16.

⁶Historical Committee, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, p. 197.

Early settlers in Mecklenburg County were primarily subsistence farmers, due in part to the great distance from market. The nearest accessible market to inland areas of the county was in South Carolina, and the high cost of transport made trade only marginally profitable.

The Soil Survey, describes early agriculture in Mecklenburg County:

"The early settlers began to produce small grain, corn, hogs, cattle, and sheep....By 1767 grist mills and tanyards were in operation. Trading was begun with Charleston, S. C., in hides, tallow and cheese. A little later every farmer had a distillery for converting the excess grain and fruits into whiskey and brandy."⁷

Virtually no domestic architecture built during the Colonial period survives in Mecklenburg County.⁸ The predominant building type during the period was a one-room log cabin, usually one story with loft, having a single entrance, a single window and a single end chimney.⁹ While there are examples of this type in Mecklenburg County,¹⁰ none have been reliably dated, at least partly due to the fact that building with log proved to be an inexpensive and practical method and did not become outmoded in Mecklenburg County for another hundred years.¹¹

Three basic floorplans were used in Mecklenburg County during the Colonial Period. The one-room plan (described above) was the simplest and easiest to construct. An advancement over this

⁷Brinkley and Hearn, Soil Survey, p. 9.

⁸With the exception of the Hezekiah Alexander House, built in 1774.

⁹A. J. McKelway, "The Scotch-Irish of North Carolina." North Carolina Booklet 6 (March 1905): 14; Blythe and Brockman, Hornet's Nest, p. 163; Historical Committee, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, p. 5; Tompkins, History of Mecklenburg County, p. 23.

¹⁰For example, the McAuley Log House on Alexandriana Road and the Robert Montgomery House on Thriftwood Drive.

¹¹The last documented hewn log house in Mecklenburg County was built in 1881.

elementary plan was the two-room, or hall-and-parlor house, an early example of which was the McIntyre Log Cabin, destroyed in 1941. A further refinement in plan was evidenced in the "Quaker" plan, which was advocated by William Penn. The Quaker plan consisted of one large room and two smaller rooms, separated by boarded partitions.¹² The larger room contained the entrance, an enclosed stair and the fireplace.

Not all early dwellings were crude log cabins. Although no pre-Revolutionary frame dwellings are known to survive in Mecklenburg County, several stone houses have been documented. Only one, the Hezekiah Alexander House (1774), is still extant. The two story dwelling is laid up in uncoursed fieldstone and has a four-room plan (two rooms wide and two rooms deep), but no center hall. It is the only known house in Mecklenburg County with a four-room plan. A noteworthy, but no longer extant, stone house was the Ezekial Wallis House, built in 1778 and demolished in the 1960s. It was laid up in coursed fieldstone and followed the Quaker plan. It stood two stories tall with a side-gable roof and two interior end chimneys.

Antebellum Years--1780s to 1860s

Analysis of the 1790 census data reveals that district #1 (which includes the entire project area) was a slaveholding area, with thirty-three families recorded as owning a total of one hundred slaves. The majority, seventy percent, owned only three or fewer slaves, and only one man, John Beaty, Jr., owned as many as nine. These data would support Cordelia Camp's claim that "in the Piedmont the small farm with one or two slaves to a farm was the chief unit in the economic structure."¹³

¹²Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941), pp. 5-6, 15, 173.

¹³Camp, The Influence of Geography, p. 24.

Cotton as a cash crop did not take on great significance until the early nineteenth century. D. A. Tompkins, a Charlotte historian, wrote in 1903 that "when Mecklenburg was settled, between 1740 and 1760, the pioneers were slow to undertake the planting of cotton."¹⁴ He further notes that, "After the War, from 1782 to 1795, considerable cotton was planted in the county, though all of it was for use in the family."¹⁵ Gradually, however, cotton emerged as a major cash crop. Its rapid and unqualified success, however, probably would not have taken place without the presence of slave labor. Raising cotton was labor-intensive, as well as soil-depleting, and to be profitable, expenses had to be kept to a minimum. As noted in Tompkins' History of Mecklenburg County,

"The expansion of cotton planting naturally increased the demand for slave labor, and the increase in slave labor increased cotton planting, so these two forces in southern life were linked together and were, in a sense, dependent upon each other."¹⁶

Despite the predominance of cotton in Mecklenburg County agriculture, farmers continued to produce a variety of other crops and farm products. Grain, corn and meat were staples of home consumption, while flax, sheep, cattle and distilled liquors were marketed, along with cotton, in Charleston.¹⁷

The principal architectural expression of Mecklenburg County's antebellum plantation environment was the so-called "I-house," a type that was not exclusive to Mecklenburg County, or even to North Carolina, but remained the standard form here for well over one hundred years. The typical Mecklenburg County plantation house was a two-story, single-pile structure with a three-bay facade, exterior end chimneys and a one-story rear ell. It generally had a center hall plan, although hall-parlor houses were still being built as

¹⁴Tompkins, History of Mecklenburg County, p. 94.

¹⁵Tompkins, History of Mecklenburg County, p. 95.

¹⁶Tompkins, History of Mecklenburg County, p. 96.

¹⁷Brinkley and Hearn, Soil Survey, p. 10.

late as the 1870s.¹⁸ The finer examples were adorned, inside and out, with rich woodwork; the plainer sort were minimally embellished.

This house type was adaptable to whatever style was in vogue at the time. Generally, the Federal style prevailed across the piedmont from about 1800 to 1840. The Greek Revival style appeared in Mecklenburg County as early as 1831¹⁹ and continued to influence building until the Civil War. The Italianate style enjoyed a brief period of popularity beginning in the 1860s.²⁰

There are four houses within the project area dating from the antebellum period. The Cooper Log House (Fig. 10), the only log house in western Mecklenburg County, was originally erected c. 1790. Two two-story frame sections were added, one to the east side c. 1840, and one to the rear c. 1880. The two-story log section was originally built with a hall-parlor plan. When the c. 1840 addition was constructed, a stair was built in the smaller room of the log section, transforming the whole into a center hall plan house.

Both the William Grier House (1828) (Fig. 15) and the John Grier House (c. 1836) (Fig. 2) fit the standard plantation house typology (as described above). Both houses embody Federal-style proportions, but only the William Grier House is a distinctive example of the style. The William Grier House originally had a hall-parlor plan, but a partition was added to create a center hall. The Dr. Sandifer House (Fig. 11), a later example built in the 1850s, has elements of the Greek Revival style in its six-over-six sash windows and heavy glazed door surround.

¹⁸For example, the Cathey House (1870s), on Dixie Road (NC 160).

¹⁹The earliest documented example of the style is Cedar Grove, in the northern part of the county, which was built for James Torrence between 1831 and 1833.

²⁰For example, Ingleside (in the north) and the Morris House (in the south), both of which date from the 1860s.

After the War--1860s to 1900s

The Civil War and the resultant abolition of slavery brought immeasurable changes to the south. While Mecklenburg County did not host any major battles, soldiers returning home found the land neglected and unkempt. They faced more work than ever on the farm, and had fewer resources with which to do it. Cotton remained the principal cash crop, however, and production steadily increased in the decades following the war. In 1865, 6,000 bales of cotton were produced countywide, and by 1880, the number had increased to 19,000.²¹ In that year, Mecklenburg County ranked third in the state in cotton production.²²

After the war, the institution of slavery was supplanted by the tenancy system, with many former slaves staying on to continue working the land as tenants. Landholdings, in terms of number of acres per farm, began to decline. The emphasis since the 1760s had been toward acquiring large tracts. After the war, however, huge tracts were no longer feasible, as taxes increased and labor costs soared, parcels were gradually subdivided, becoming smaller and smaller through each successive generation. This is a trend which still continues today.

The 1988 Mecklenburg County Architectural Survey has identified very few dwellings constructed during the Civil War, and few would have been built in any event, given the social and economic dislocations of the War and immediate post-War periods. No structures built during the war have been recorded in the West Charlotte Outer Loop project area, although the John Douglas House (c. 1867) was built shortly thereafter.

Surviving houses from the 1880s include the Gallant-Brown House (Fig. 21), the George Williamson House (Fig. 31), and the Moore-Sadler House (Fig. 14). Together, they represent a good cross

²¹Brinkley and Hearn, Soil Survey, p. 10.

²²R. D. W. Connor, History of North Carolina: Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth. (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1919), p. 380.

section of late-nineteenth century building types in Mecklenburg County. The Gallant-Brown House is located in the Steele Creek community, the others are in the northern part of the project area, closer to the Paw Creek section.

The Gallant-Brown House is a good example of a late-nineteenth century one-story farmhouse. Undoubtedly, there were at one time many similar homes throughout the county, but few one-story dwellings from this period remain. The Moore-Sadler House is one of only a few double-pile houses in Mecklenburg County. On the interior it bears a resemblance to houses constructed in nearby Fort Mill, South Carolina, yet has no duplicate in Mecklenburg County.²³ Just down the road, the George Williamson House was erected around the same time, but in a more traditional form, distinguished, however, by a two-story, two-level porch.

At the turn of the century, Mecklenburg County was still predominantly agrarian. An important feature of a rural community has always been the country store. The Hayes-Byrum Store (Fig. 17) was erected around 1890, and is most commonly associated with its owner at the turn of the century, Lester Byrum. Joseph Hayes lived in a one-story house nearby, the Robinson House (Fig. 19) for a few years before building a home next to the store. The latter (subsequently occupied by Byrum) (Fig. 18) is a finely-executed, albeit typical, vernacular Victorian farmhouse. The Hayes-Byrum Store and the Byrum House form the core of the small crossroads community of Shopton, which also includes the Robinson House, a twentieth-century Bungalow, and the William Grier House (1828).

A common phenomenon in rural areas is the growth and change of a house over the years to a point where it barely resembles its original state. Such 'organic' growth occurs largely to accommodate a growing family and/or changing social patterns. Two houses of this type exist within the surveyed area. The Cooper Log House (discussed previously) (Fig. 10), has sections dating from the 1790s, c. 1840 and c. 1880, representing three different generations of

²³Based on data gathered during the 1988 Mecklenburg County Survey and the 1989 Fort Mill Cultural Resources Survey, both conducted by the author.

owners. The other example, a house on Walker's Ferry Road (Fig. 29), has an early core which was overbuilt in the late-nineteenth century. The overbuilding completely obscures the earlier structure, and the only clue to its existence is the presence of massive foundation stones beneath the front section of the house. This is not a local oddity, as other houses with multiple phases of construction have been recorded in areas of Mecklenburg County outside the project area.

By the early twentieth century, rural Mecklenburg had lost much of its traditional isolation from the world at large, through the increasing availability of automobiles, macadamized roads, Rural Free Delivery, graded public schools, telephone and electric service. The city of Charlotte experienced a population growth in the first decades of the twentieth century, its expanding industries drawing many would-be laborers from the surrounding county. By the 1920s, a substantial amount of non-farm housing was being built throughout Mecklenburg County. Numerous bungalows, on modest lots, dotted the rural landscape, as residents gradually shifted away from the agrarian lifestyle. This, too, is a trend which continues today, as more and more farmland is turned into subdivisions.

Many fine dwellings built during the first decade of the twentieth century remain in the county. The three examples within the project area represent three common house types from the period. The Faires House (Fig. 22), the Wilkinson-Mitchell House (Fig. 30) and the Connell House (Fig. 32) were all constructed in 1905.

The Faires House is the largest of the three, and represents a late example of its type. Side gabled with a front-facing cross gable, this form was used throughout the county from the late 1860s until about 1910. The Wilkinson-Mitchell House is a 'triple-A' style farmhouse, which is fairly typical of the region. The one-story Connell House is representative of a type that was built throughout the county from the 1890s to the 1910s. It has a combination of front- and side-facing gables over a massed, center hall plan form.

Two examples within the community, the Steele Creek Manse²⁴ (1910) and the Richard Query's House (1919) (Fig 7), represent a later, transitional phase. Both have elements of the Colonial Revival style, yet retain a blocky, massed plan common with the American Four-Square style. Both are two stories tall and have square, massed plans and a side stairway. The Manse has an unbalanced facade and an off-center doorway, while Dr. Query's House retains the more traditional bilateral symmetry. On the interior, the two houses are similar in plan and detailing. They are the only two houses inventoried in the county which originally had back staircases. (The back stair in the Manse is no longer intact.)

Located midway between the Manse and the Query House, the Freeman House (1914) (Fig. 25) has a more traditional facade, but shares some similarities with the other two houses. The original owner of the house, Issac "Ike" Freeman, was an amateur carpenter and is thought to have had a hand in the building of the other two houses.

The 1920s is often referred to as the first modern decade. A new house type, the one-story Bungalow, was designed for efficiency and cleanliness. They were already being built in urban and suburban areas, but were well suited to life on the farm. Numerous houses of this type exist throughout the county, and within the project area (Fig. 1). A notable example is the bungalow at the Brown Farmstead (Fig. 8). It was built by a local contractor for himself, and has an attractive design and nice detailing, including such as the paired porch columns and decorative brickwork above the window and door openings.

²⁴The Manse is not located within the Area of Potential Effect, nor is it National Register-eligible. Nonetheless, a comparison is useful.



Fig. 1
Representative Bungalows

VI. Methodology

The West Outer Loop architectural survey consisted of three phases: 1) the initial windshield survey, 2) fieldwork to identify all of the resources in the area and determine which properties warranted individual survey, and 3) site visits to each property which warranted individual survey (those included in this inventory). Site visits included interviews with the owners and/or residents, photography, sketch of site plans, and interior inspections where possible. Some historical research was undertaken in order to verify or supplement the information gathered in the field.

The area of potential effect was initially determined by consulting the USGS 7.5 minute series maps, refined in the field, and refined further after consultation with the Department of Transportation.

In May 1989, preliminary National Register-eligible recommendations were presented at meetings with representatives of NCDOT, the NCSHPO and Kimley-Horn & Associates. The list of recommendations was refined at that time and is reflected in this report.

In June 1989, a draft Survey Report was submitted, through Kimley-Horn and Associates for review by Louis Berger & Associates (for NCDOT) and the State Historic Preservation Office. Comments from both were incorporated into the revised report. A second meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office was held during October at which time the recommendations were discussed. In November, a field view was conducted with representatives of Louis Berger & Associates in order to refine historic boundary definitions for several potentially eligible properties.

VII. Property Inventory and Evaluations

A. List of recorded properties considered eligible for the National Register:

✓ John Grier House	c. 1836	Brown-Grier Road
✓ Steele Creek Church & Cemetery	1760s/1889	Steele Creek Road
✓ John Douglas House	c. 1867	Christie Lane
✓ Dr. Query House	1919	Steele Creek Road
✓ Brown Farmstead	1929	Dixie Road
✓ Cooper Log House	1790/c. 1840/c. 1880	Dixie River Road
✓ Dr. Sandifer House	1850s	Moore's Chapel Road
✓ Moore-Sadler House	c. 1880	Moore's Chapel Road

Shopton Rural Historic District includes:

✓ Robinson House	c. 1900	Steele Creek Road
Hayes-Byrum Store	c. 1890	Steele Creek Road
Byrum House	c. 1900	Steele Creek Road
Bungalow	c. 1930	Steele Creek Road
William Grier House	1828	Steele Creek Road

B. List of recorded properties not eligible for the National Register:

✓ Johnson Horse Barns	20 c.	York Road (NC 49)
Gallant-Brown House	1880s	Brown-Grier Road
Faires House	1905	S. Shopton Road
Cathey House	1870s	Dixie Road
Brown House	1870s	Garrison Road
Freeman House	1914	Dixie Road
Tenant House	20 c.	Dixie Road
House	late 19 c.	Dixie River Road
House	late 19 c.	Dixie River Road
✓ Vinson House	c. 1900	Dixie River Road
House	?/late 19c.	Walker's Ferry Road
✓ Wilkinson-Mitchell	1905	Moore's Chapel Road
✓ George Williamson	1880s	Moore's Chapel Road
✓ Connell House	1905	Mt. Holly Road

C. Inventory of National Register-eligible Properties:

1. John Grier Farmstead

Location: North side of Brown-Grier Road

Date of Construction: c. 1836

Style: Federal

Historical Background: John H. Grier (1811-1864) erected this house c. 1836. His great-grandfather, James Grier I (1708-1784) emigrated from Ireland in the 1770s with two of his sons, James II (1738-1808) and Thomas (c. 1744-1828) and a grandson, Jimmy (c. 1770-1828). They lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, until after the Revolutionary War, then moved to the Waxhaw region where they resided for several years before settling on this land in Steele Creek. The original family homestead, no longer standing, was located near the present structure. The relationship between Jimmy Grier and John H. Grier is uncertain, but they were probably cousins.¹

John H. Grier married and had at least four children. His eldest daughter was fourteen years old in 1850, and thus was born around 1836. His wife, Martha, was only thirty years of age in 1850, so it is unlikely that they would have married much before 1836 (when she was sixteen). This information supports the 1836 date of construction ascribed to the house through the oral history.

From John H. Grier, the property passed to a son of Jimny Grier, Thomas Pringle Grier (1815-1892). Pringle Grier was a Ruling Elder of Little

¹Linda L. Blackwelder, A History of Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church. (n.p., 1978), pp. 42-44; Historical Committee of 1976, The History of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, 1745-1978, 3rd ed. (Charlotte: Craftsman Printing and Publishing House, 1978), pp. 273, 278; Interviews with Robert Ralph Grier, Charlotte, N.C., November 1988 and May 1989;

²Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: North Carolina (Washington: National Archives Microfilm Publications), Mecklenburg County, p. 4.

Steele Creek A.R.P. Church for more than 46 years. The property was in the possession of Pringle's son, William Alexander Grier (1850-1920) for a short time. William Alexander Grier resided in Gastonia for many years, and returned to the area a few years after his father's death. He served several terms in the State Legislature. In 1919, his son, Robert Ralph Grier Sr., (-1977) purchased the property from family members and settled there with his bride, the former Miss Brown. The property is currently inhabited by Ralph, Jr.'s son.³

Summary of Physical Description: The two story I-house is three bays wide by one room deep, and has a one-story rear ell and a rear shed. Constructed of frame, with weatherboard cladding, it has a side-gable roof and two exterior end chimneys. The chimney on the east side is new; the one on the west side has been partially rebuilt. The west chimney is laid up in five-course common bond brick and rests on a fieldstone foundation. Two four-pane fixed-sash windows flank the chimney at the garret level. The east chimney was removed when it began to lean dangerously, and in doing so, the entire wall was torn away and rebuilt. Nine-over-nine sash windows are found on the first story and nine-over-six sash on the second story. The rear ell and rear shed were constructed in 1919, using materials salvaged from buildings which stood at Camp Greene in Charlotte. A porch along the east side of the rear ell has subsequently been filled in. The front porch has recently (1988) been rebuilt, and features square wood posts and a shed roof. On the interior, much of the original fabric remains, including the enclosed stair, door and window surrounds, and the mantle in the west room of the first floor.

Integrity: While altered, the John Grier House retains much of its original fabric, both inside and out. The 1919 rear additions should be considered historic in their own right. The rebuilt porch and east wall, and the absence of one original mantles do detract from its integrity.

Associated Outbuildings: Two large barns, a granary, and a tenant house remain on the property. All are of wood frame construction, and date from the twentieth century.

Setting and Landscaping: The Grier Farmstead retains its original agrarian setting (Fig. 4). Although the house sits close to the road, there are open fields on the east side, and a plowed field to the west. The open area extends beyond the barnyard, to the property line. The west branch of Steele Creek runs through the property, to the east of the house. The

³Blackwelder, Central Steele Creek Church, pp. 45-51; Grier Interviews.

Grier place has been farmed continuously by seven generations, and remains a functioning dairy farm today. Brown-Grier Road is quite scenic, and is as-yet undeveloped.

Evaluation: The John Grier House is a good example of a home built by a reasonably prosperous cotton planter and slaveholder during the 1830s. It represents a man of means, if not wealth. It has remained in the same family for seven generations, and the land has been farmed continually. Therefore, it has continuity of ownership and land use. The setting is relatively unchanged since the 1830s, and associated outbuildings are present. It was placed on the the state "study list" by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History in April, 1989.

The John Grier Farmstead is recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Historic Boundaries: The pristine agrarian setting and the historic associations with the land itself necessitate that the historic boundaries of the John Grier Farmstead be carefully considered. The tract has been continually owned, occupied and farmed by members of the Grier family since the late eighteenth century, and still retains a deep connection with the plantation system which was in place in Mecklenburg County during the antebellum period. It was determined that nearly all of the north side of Brown-Grier Road (with the exception of two modern brick ranch houses) be considered as the historic setting of the farmstead (Fig. 4c).



Fig. 2
John Grier House

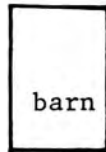
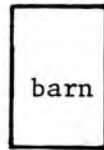


Fig. 3
John Grier House
outbuildings

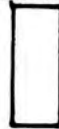


Fig. 4
John Grier House
setting

tenant
house



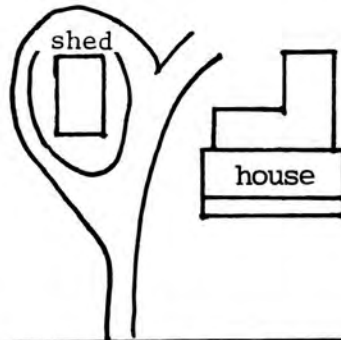
milkhouse



shed



shed



Brown-Grier Road

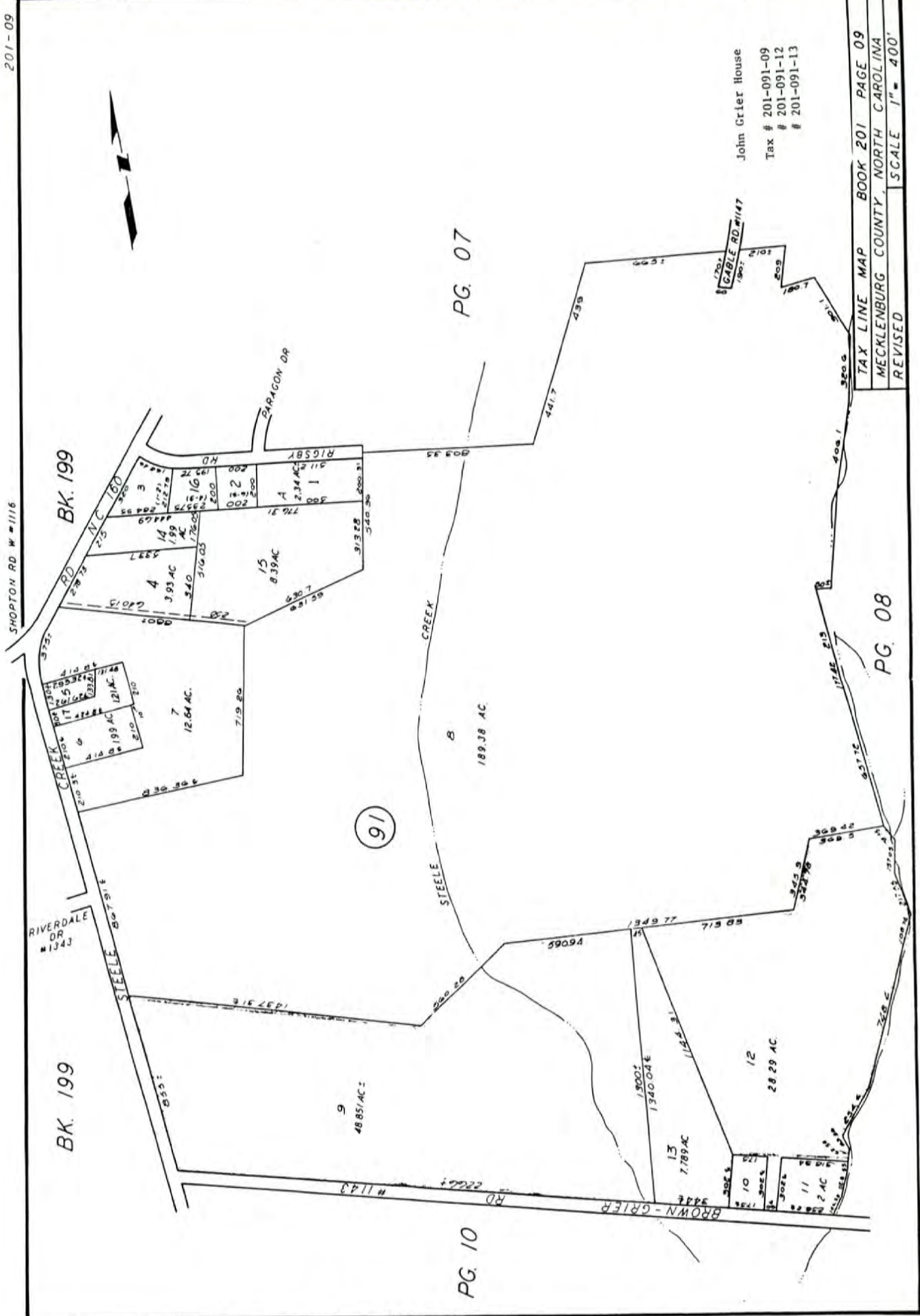
Fig. 4a

John Grier House

Site Plan
(not to scale)

3

201-09



John Grier House
 Tax # 201-091-09
 # 201-091-12
 # 201-091-13

TAX LINE MAP BOOK 201 PAGE 09
 MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
 REVISED SCALE 1" = 400'

Fig. 4b
 John Grier Farmstead Tax Map
 29

2. Steele Creek Church and Cemetery

Location: East side of Steele Creek Road (NC 160)

Date of Construction: Cemetery, from 1760s; Church, 1889

Historical Background: Steele Creek Presbyterian Church was established in the 1760s by Scotch-Irish settlers, many of whom held land grants in the area. The earliest marked stone in the cemetery dates from 1763, but the grave of an unknown traveler is thought to be even earlier. The sanctuary is the fifth such edifice to serve the congregation. It was begun⁴ after the fourth church building burned in 1888 and was completed in 1889.

Summary of Physical Description: The walls of the church are laid up in five-course common bond brick. The building is three bays wide by six bays deep. The facade exhibits some fine detailing, including a dentilled cornice, pilasters, Gothic arches and segmental arches. The entrances have been altered: the doors have been replaced and metal awnings have been installed over the doorways. On the side elevations, pilasters separate each bay, where Gothic arches top six-over-six sash windows. The interior has been completely remodeled.

The churchyard is surrounded by a rubblestone wall and contains a very good collection of early headstones. Several stones are decorated with family crest, and a few are carved on both the front and back sides. Some of the stones have been attributed to the Bigham family of headstone carvers, who were based in the area.

Integrity: The integrity of the cemetery is very good. It is well kept and appears to be intact. The Church, however, has undergone some alterations. The interior has been completely remodeled, and the awnings (while probably reversible) give the church an appearance it never would have had in the late nineteenth century. Overall, though, the integrity of the church is good, as all of the original fabric of the exterior is intact.

Associated Outbuildings: Several modern brick buildings are located around and behind the original building.

Setting and Landscaping: The site is on a curve on the east side of Steele Creek Road (NC 160). The church sits well back off of the road in

⁴Historical Committee, Steele Creek Church, pp. 21, 148, 197.

sparsely wooded surroundings. The cemetery is located north and west of the church, surrounded by a stone wall, closer to the street. Behind the church, the land is wooded (Fig. 6b).

Evaluation: Steele Creek Church is the cornerstone of the Steele Creek community, and is inextricably linked to the history of southwestern Mecklenburg County. Architecturally, the church is a fine example of a substantial late-nineteenth century country church. The property was placed on the state "study list" by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History in April, 1989.

Steele Creek Church and Cemetery are recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Historic Boundaries: The church and cemetery are not within the Area of Potential Effect at this time. If the proposed alignments shift, historic boundaries will need to be determined.



Fig. 5
Steele Creek Presbyterian Church



Fig. 6
Steele Creek Cemetery

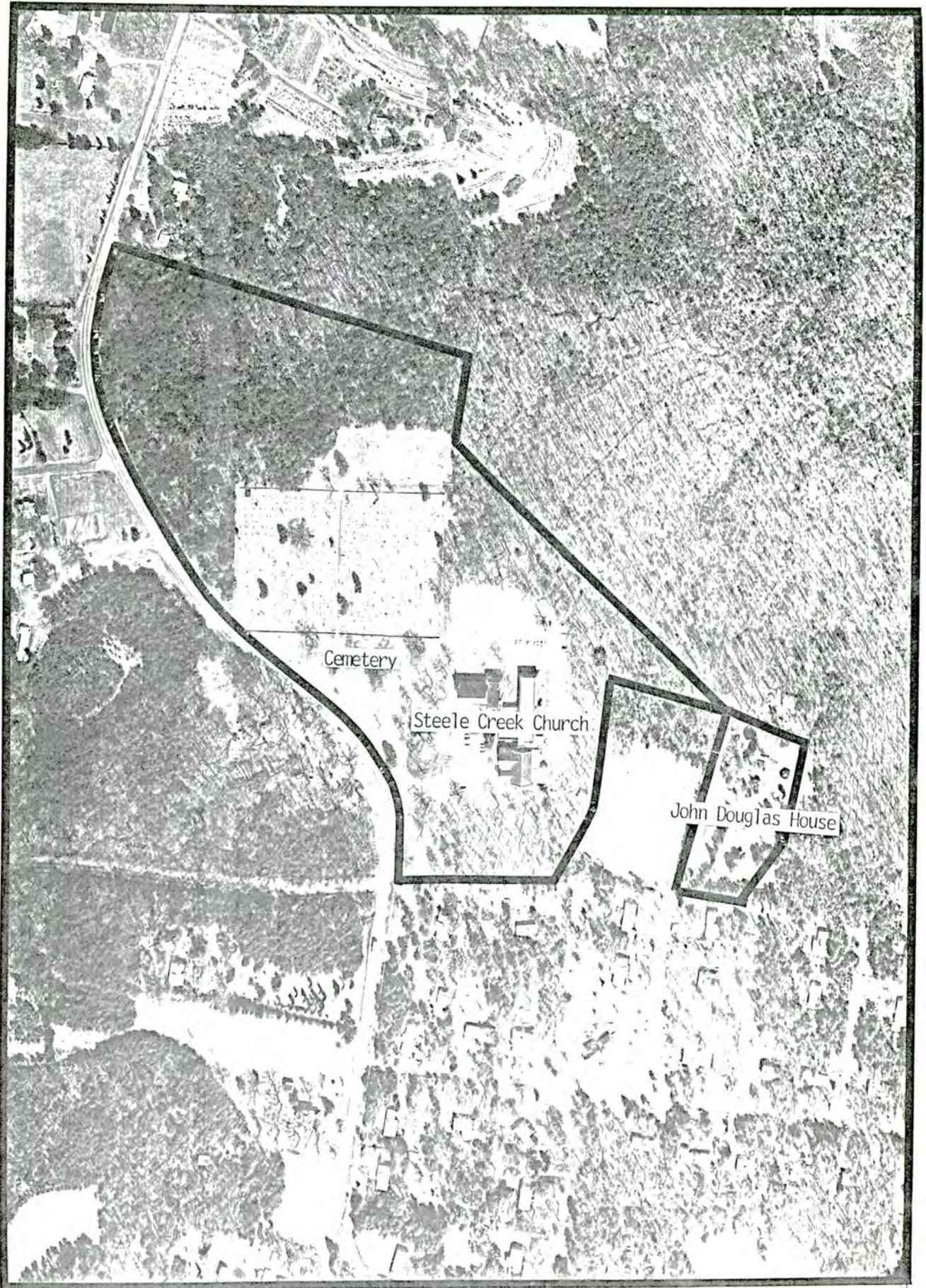


Fig. 6b
Steele Creek Church/John Douglas House
Aerial Photograph

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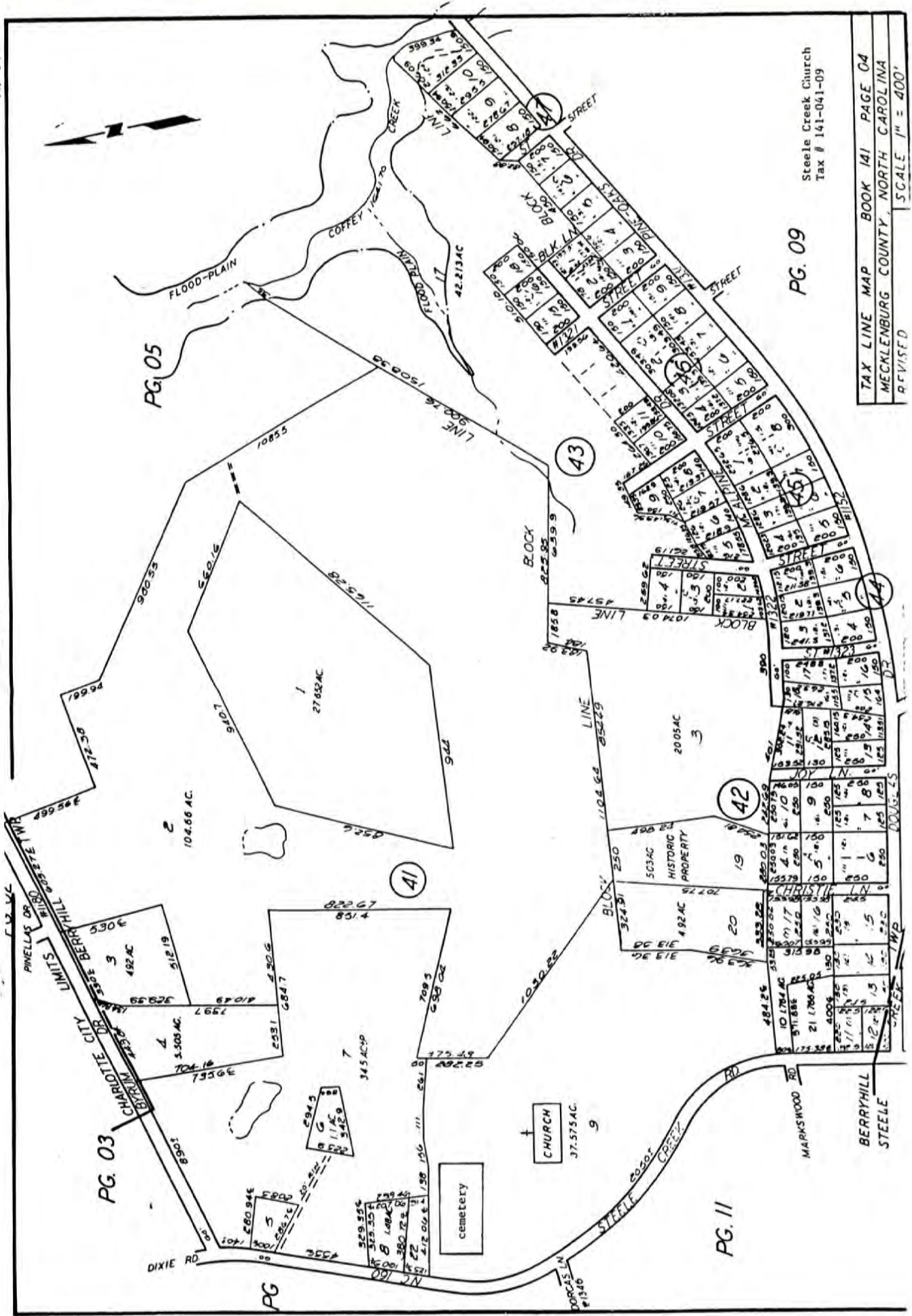


Fig. 6a
Steele Creek Church Tax Map

TAX LINE MAP BOOK 141 PAGE 04
MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
REVISED

Steele Creek Church
Tax # 141-041-09

PG. 09

42

43

41

PG. 05

PG. 03

PG. 11

PG

CHURCH
37.575 AC.

cemetery

503 AC
HISTORIC
PROPERTY

492 AC

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3. John Douglas House

Location: off of Christie Lane

Date of Construction: c. 1867

Style: Greek Revival

Historical Background: Reverend John Douglas (1809-1879) was a native of Chester County, South Carolina. He served as the ninth pastor at nearby Steele Creek Presbyterian Church for thirteen years, from 1866 until his death in 1879. He purchased this tract of land conveniently located behind the church, and erected this house, probably in 1867.⁵

Summary of Physical Description: The frame and weatherboard Douglas House stands one story high under a side-gable roof. Two interior chimneys rise up through the roof of the double-pile dwelling. The most notable features of the house are the double entry doors and glazed door surround. Nine-over-nine sash windows are found throughout. The one-bay front porch is probably not original.

Associated Outbuildings: None.

Setting and Landscaping: The John Douglas House, surrounded by woods, is located at the end of a curving dirt drive. The dirt drive is reached from the end of a short street in a mid-twentieth century subdivision. The curve of the drive, however, and the density of the trees act to effectively shield the Douglas House from encroaching suburban sprawl (Fig. 6d).

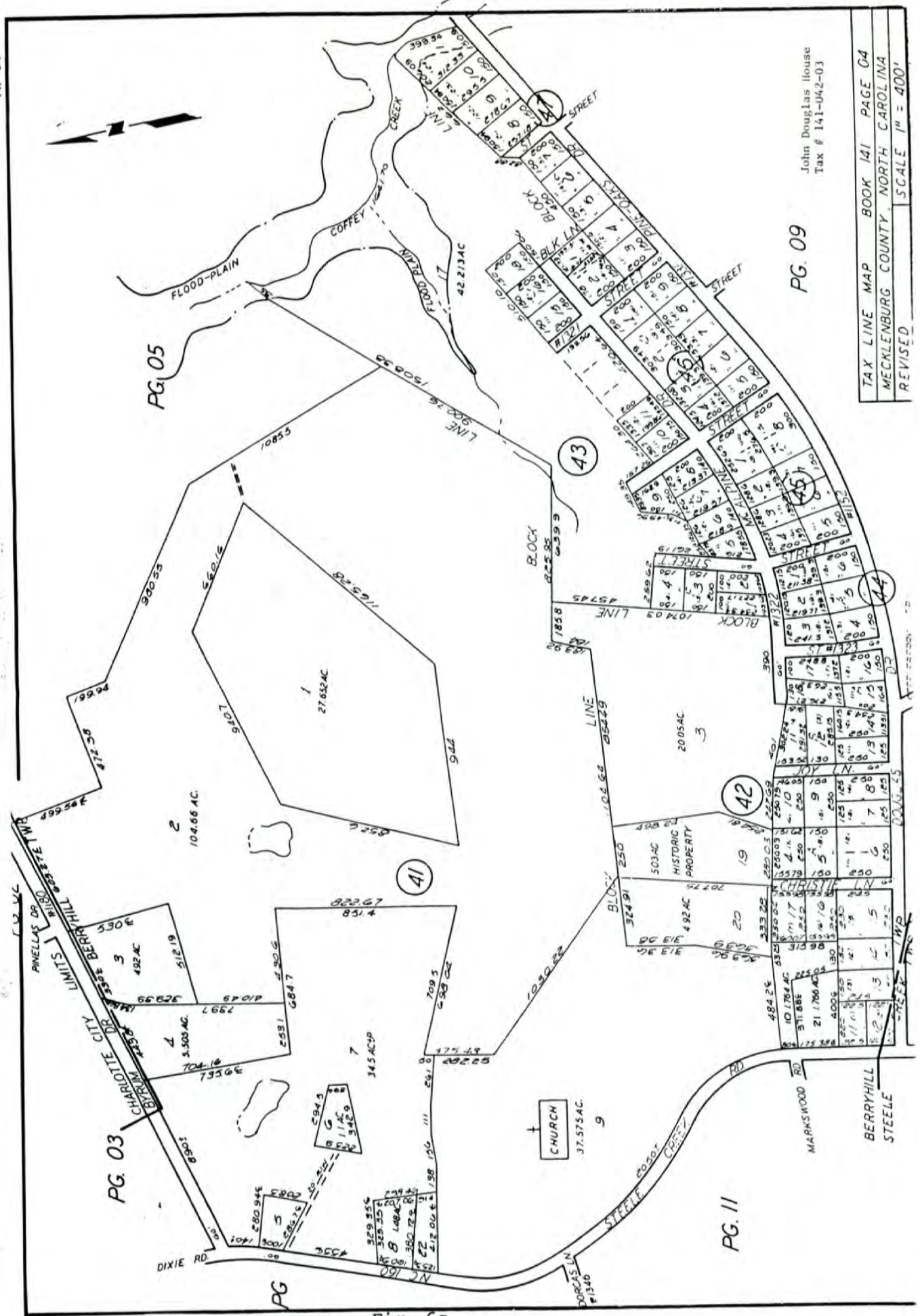
Integrity: The integrity of the John Douglas House is good; alterations appear to be few.

Evaluation: This house is unusual in Mecklenburg County for its one-story, double-pile form. Other residences built during that time were either two-story I-houses or simple one-story frame or log cabins.

The John Douglas House is recommended as eligible for the National register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Historic Boundaries: The John Douglas House is not within the Area of Potential Effect at this time. If the proposed alignments shift, historic boundaries will need to be determined.

⁵Historical Committee, History of Steele Creek, pp. 65, 69.



John Douglas House
Tax # 141-042-03

TAX LINE MAP	BOOK 141	PAGE 04
MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA		
REVISED SCALE 1" = 400'		

Fig. 6c

John Douglas House Tax Map

4. Dr. Query House

Location: West side of Steele Creek Road (NC 160)

Date of Construction: 1919

Style: Colonial Revival influence

Historical Background: Dr. Richard Z. Query (1880-1939) had this house built in 1919. It is said that a neighbor, Issac "Ike" Freeman had a hand in constructing the house, as did a local contractor named Paul Brown. Dr. Query was a well-known country doctor and several area residents can remember coming to his office, which was in this house, for treatment. The porte cochere at the south side of the house was just big enough to drive a Model-A or Model-T Ford through. Cars could pull right up to the office door, so that the patient would not have to go out into the weather.

Dr. Query was active in church affairs. He was an elder at nearby Steele Creek Presbyterian Church from 1922 to 1925, and again from 1929 to 1939. He is buried in the churchyard there.

Summary of Physical Description: The frame and weatherboard house stands two stories tall under a high hipped roof. It was built on a rectangular plan, and is three bays wide and four bays deep. The second story of the facade has five window openings; those on the end bays are closely spaced together. Windows have four panes on the upper sash and a single pane below. The hipped dormer contains two fixed-sash windows. There are two interior chimneys. The main stair rises up from the northeast corner of the interior, and a back stair rises up from the rear of the house. The fluted door and window surrounds are original.

Integrity: All windows and all interior woodwork are original, with the exception of one mantle in the front room. The front porch is not original, and the entire structure has been wrapped in vinyl siding. A rear porch has been filled in, but the one-story rear ell is original. The integrity of design and workmanship in the house as a whole remains evident.

⁶Interview with Mr. I. M. Cook, Charlotte, N.C., November 1988 and May 1989.

⁷Historical Committee, Steele Creek Church, pp. 135, 334.

Associated Outbuildings: None

Setting and Landscaping: Dr. Query's House is set back from the road on a small lot at the head of a U-shaped drive. A modern brick-veneer ranch house stands nearby.

Evaluation: Dr. Query's House is unusual for its style in Mecklenburg County. Showing elements of the Colonial Revival (neatly balanced facade) and Four-Square (corner stair and asymmetrical, massed interior plan) styles, it would be at home on an urban or suburban lot. Unique features include the porte-cochere with its arched openings, and the back stairway. Equally important is its strong association with the local country doctor. Dr. Query, in his capacity as a family physician, was an integral component of the Steele Creek community.

Dr. Query's House is recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B and Criterion C.

Historic Boundaries: The setting of the Query House has already been compromised by its proximity to a modern brick ranch house, and by the nearby intersection of Byrum and Steele Creek Roads. The Historic Boundaries were determined to include only the house and its immediate setting (Fig. 7c).



Fig. 7
Dr. Query House

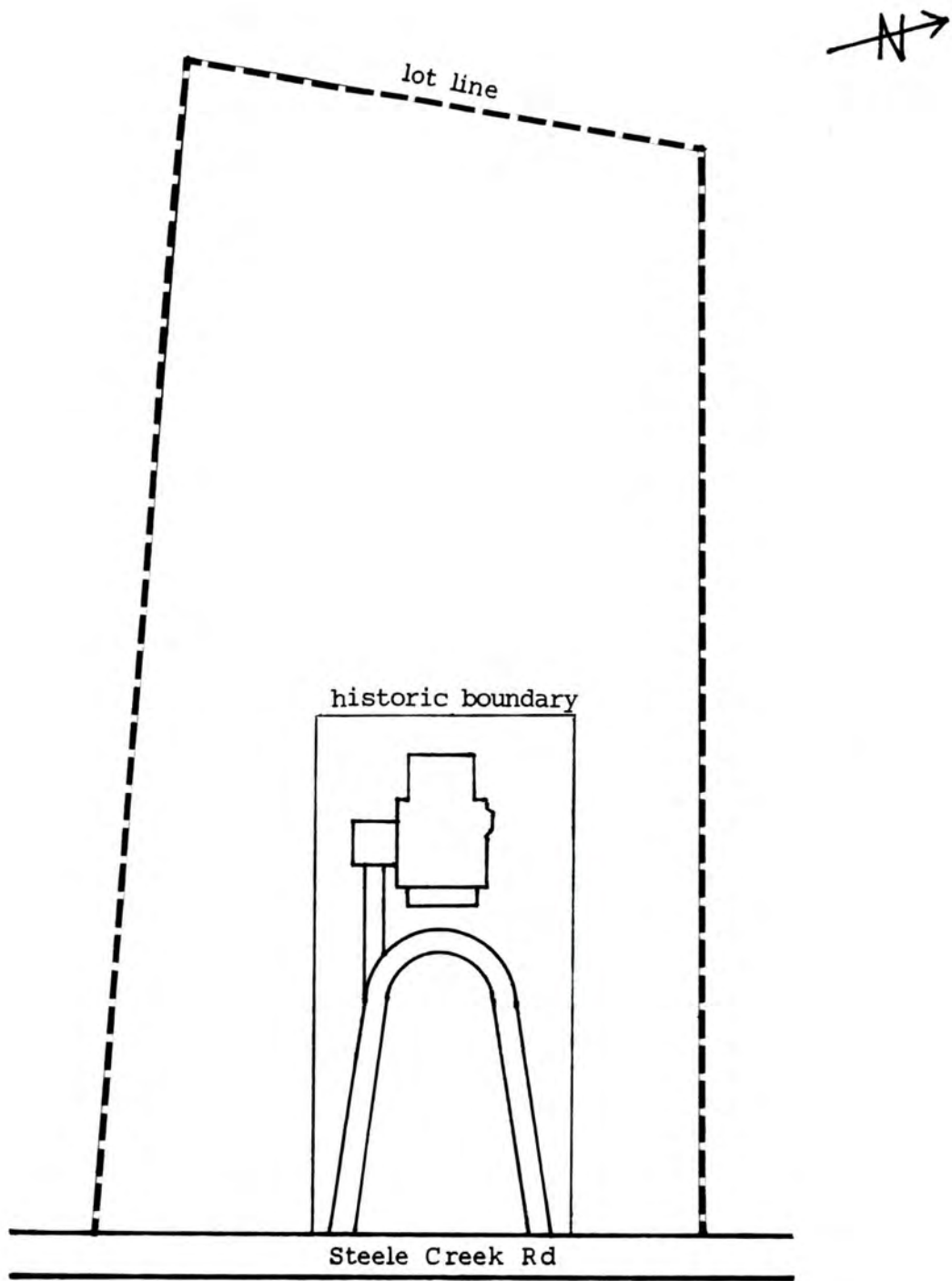


Fig. 7a
Dr. Query House

Site Plan
(not to scale)

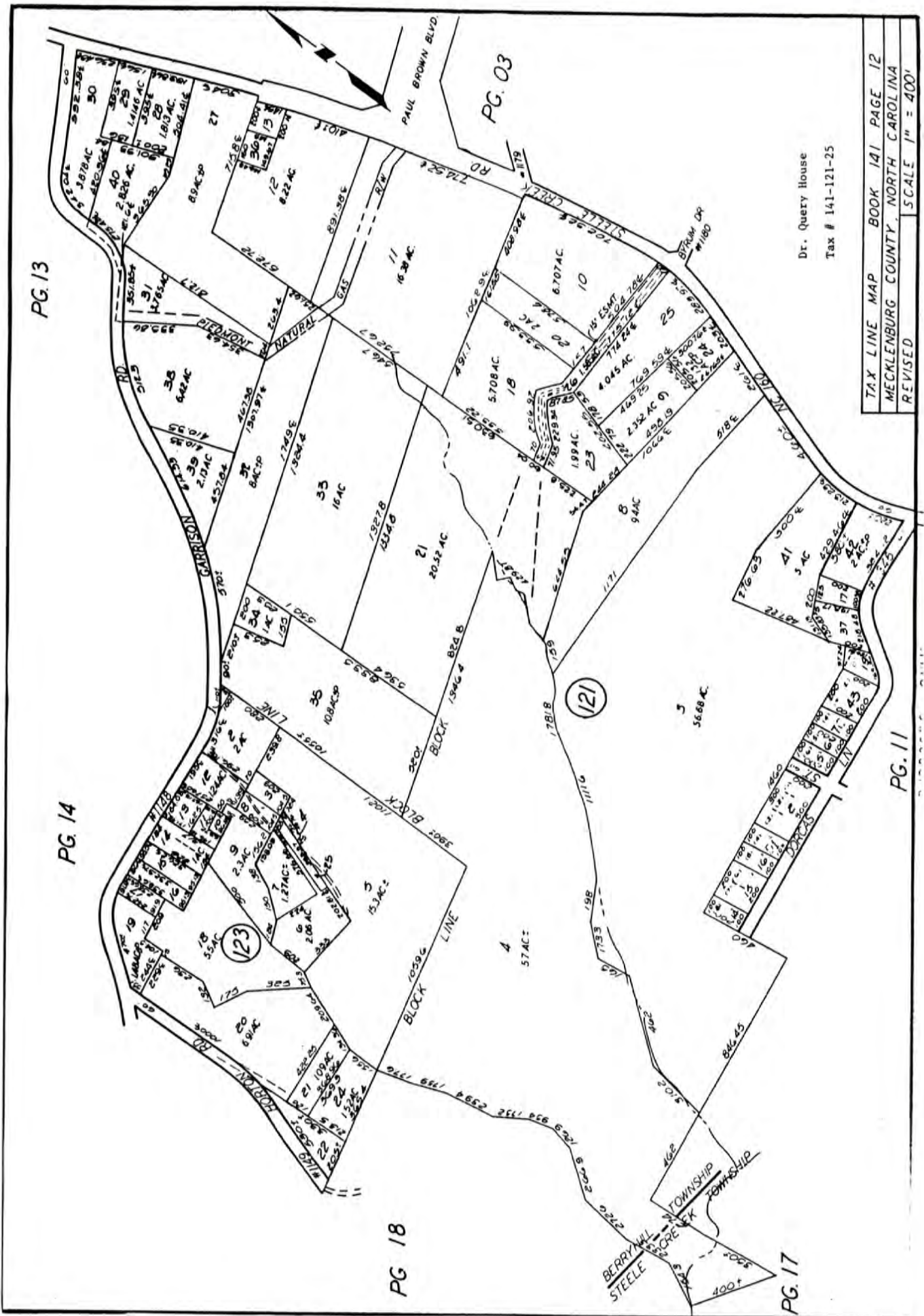


Fig. 7b
 Dr. Query House Tax Map
 43

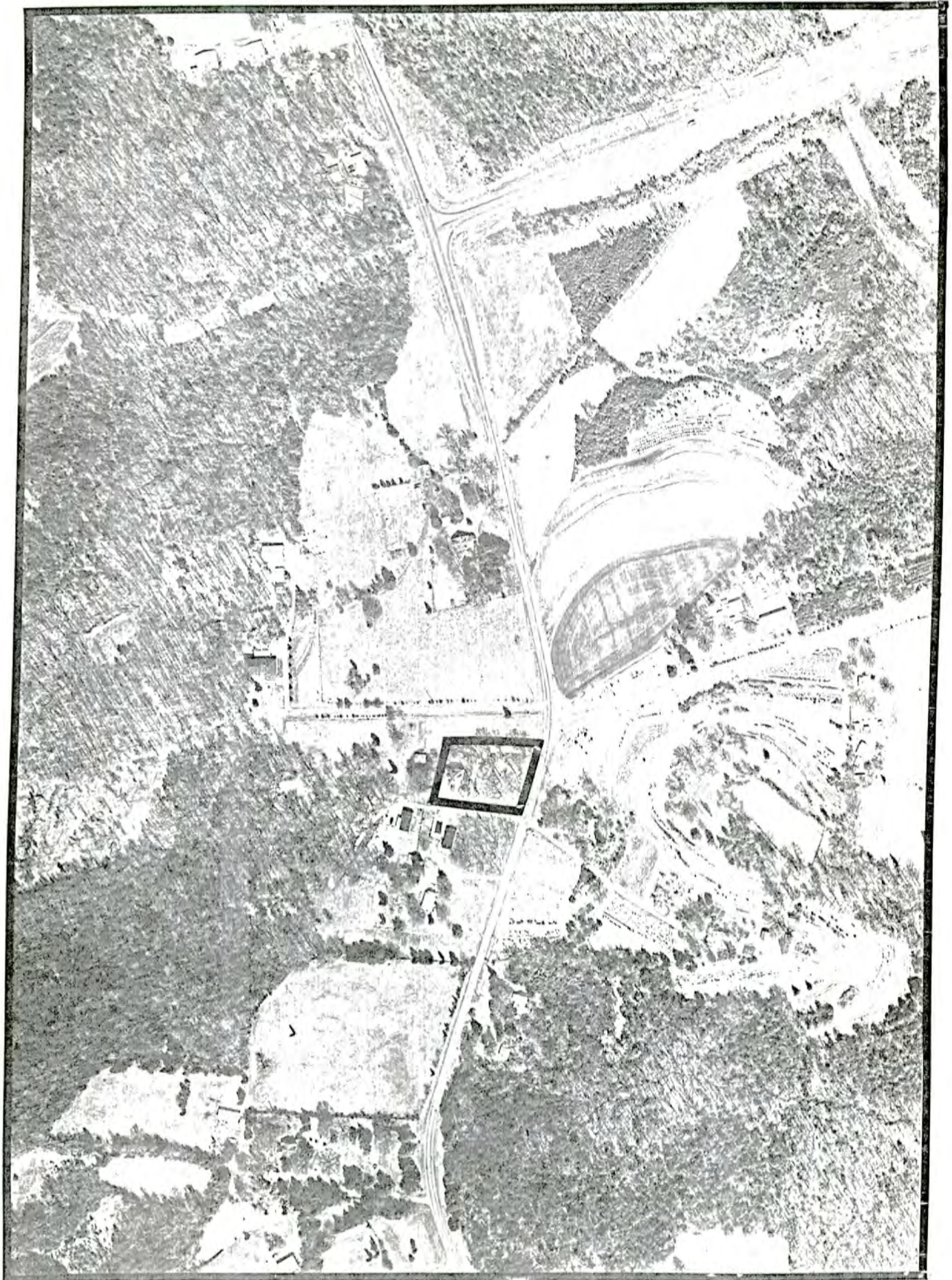


Fig. 7c
Dr. Query House Aerial Photograph



5. Brown Farmstead

Location: West side of Dixie Road (NC 160)

Date of Construction: 1929

Style: Bungalow

Historical Background: Paul J. Brown (1889-1973) erected this house and farm complex in 1929 after his family homeplace was destroyed in a tornado. Mr. Brown was a builder by trade, working for the Charlotte firm of Blythe and Eisenhower.

The Brown family has been in the Steele Creek section of Mecklenburg County, and on this parcel of land, since the mid-eighteenth century. The land has been farmed continually since that date.

Summary of Physical Description: The house stands one and one-half stories tall, with a wide, side-gable roof and an oversized dormer. The gabled dormer holds two sash windows. Triangular knee braces adorn the wide eaves of the dormer, and also of the pedimented porch roof. The porch roof is supported by paired, square wood columns which rest on square brick piers. The door and window openings are topped by courses of decorative brickwork, consisting of bricks laid alternately vertically and horizontally. The house itself is probably constructed of frame, accented with stucco and brick veneer. There is a central chimney and an interior end chimney.

Integrity: The integrity of the Brown Farmstead is very good. The house and most of the outbuildings appear to be unaltered.

Associated Outbuildings: Several outbuildings remain on the property and most date from 1929. Two barns and several sheds are grouped to the northwest of the house. A garage and a shed could be slightly later than the other buildings. All of the outbuildings are frame and are typical of twentieth century rural Mecklenburg County.

Setting and Landscaping: The Brown Farmstead complex was laid out in 1929 according to the best wisdom of the day. The house is positioned off to one side of a semi-circular drive, and the outbuildings are spread throughout the yard behind and to the side of the house (Fig. 9a). The immediate setting is relatively open, but the complex sits on a curve in the road, so the house is only visible from the street coming from the north. Several small groupings of Cedar trees are scattered throughout the yard.

Evaluation: The Brown Farmstead provides a nearly complete picture of an up-to-date farmstead of the late 1920s. While a bungalow is often

considered to be a modest type of dwelling, this house is a better example of the style and is quite large for its type. The attention to detail (paired columns, decorative brickwork above the window openings) is uncommon for a bungalow in Mecklenburg County. The collection of contemporary outbuildings adds to the property's significance as a working farm.

The Brown Farmstead is recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

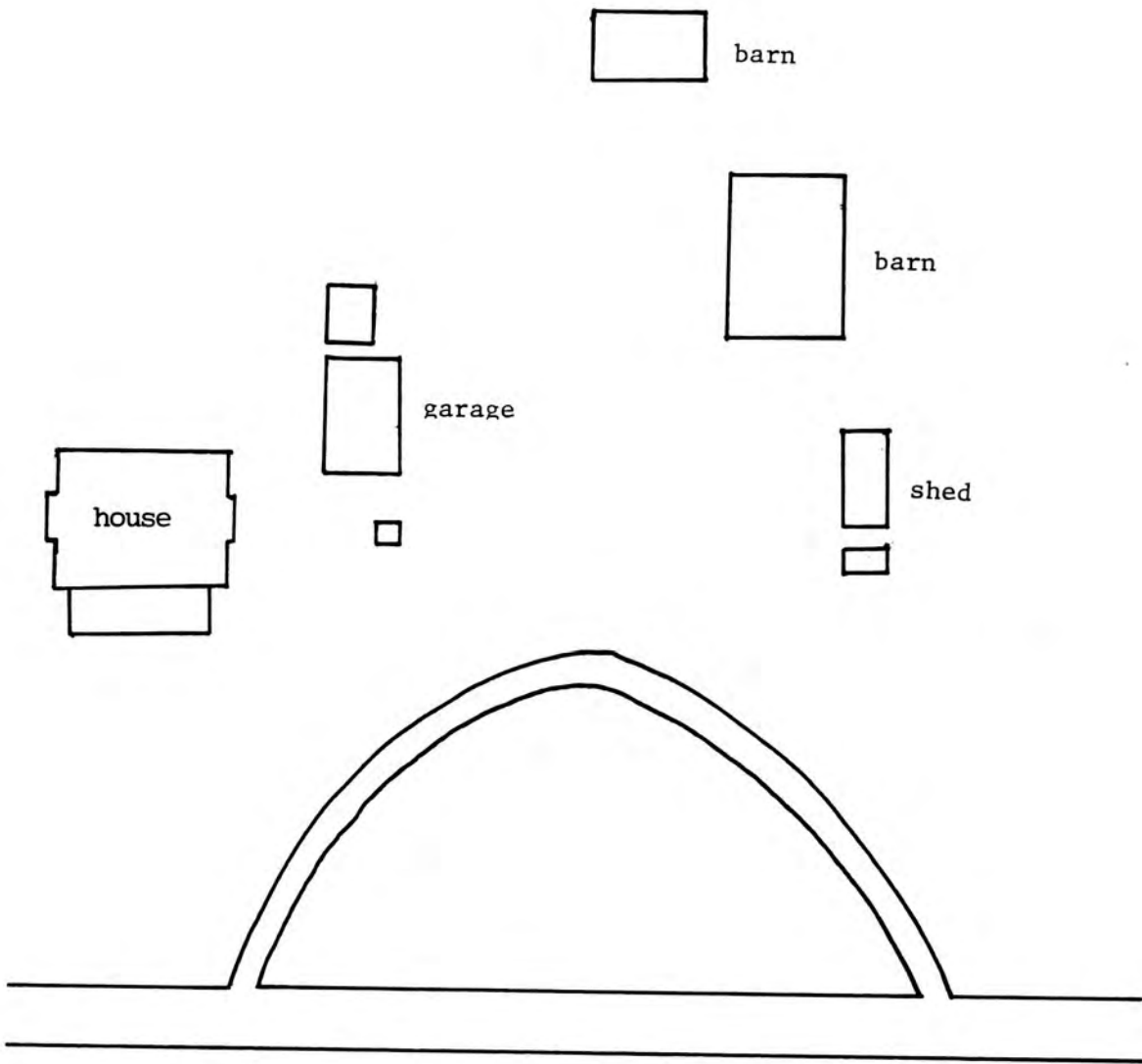
Historic Boundaries: All of the area within the current legal boundaries of the tract comprises the historic setting of the Brown Farmstead (Fig. 9c).



Fig. 8
Brown Farmstead



Fig. 9
Brown Farmstead



10

Fig. 9a
Brown Farmstead
Site Plan
(not to scale)

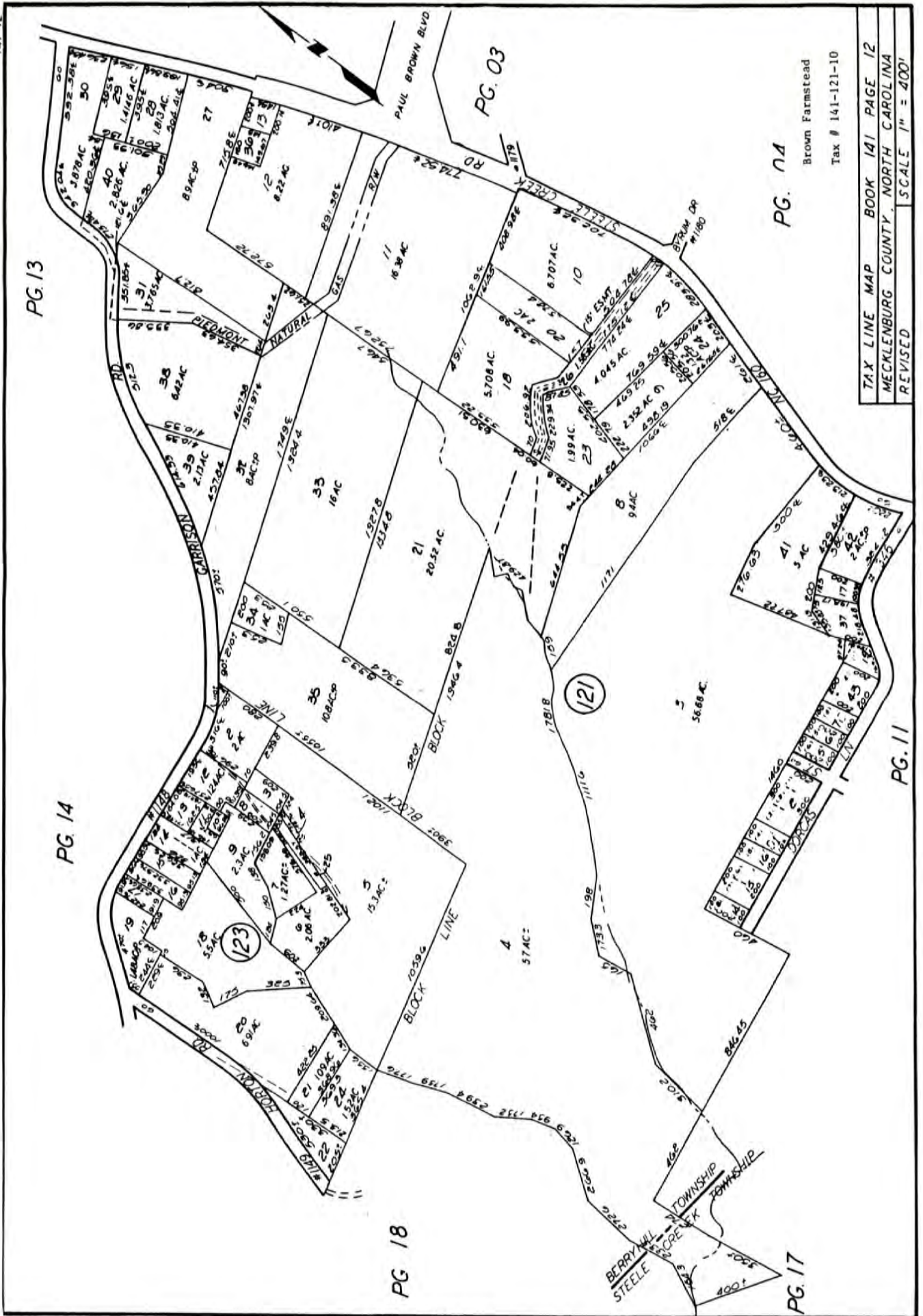


Fig. 9b
Brown Farmstead Tax Map
50

TAX LINE MAP BOOK 141 PAGE 12
MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
REVISED SCALE 1" = 400'

Brown Farmstead
Tax # 141-121-10

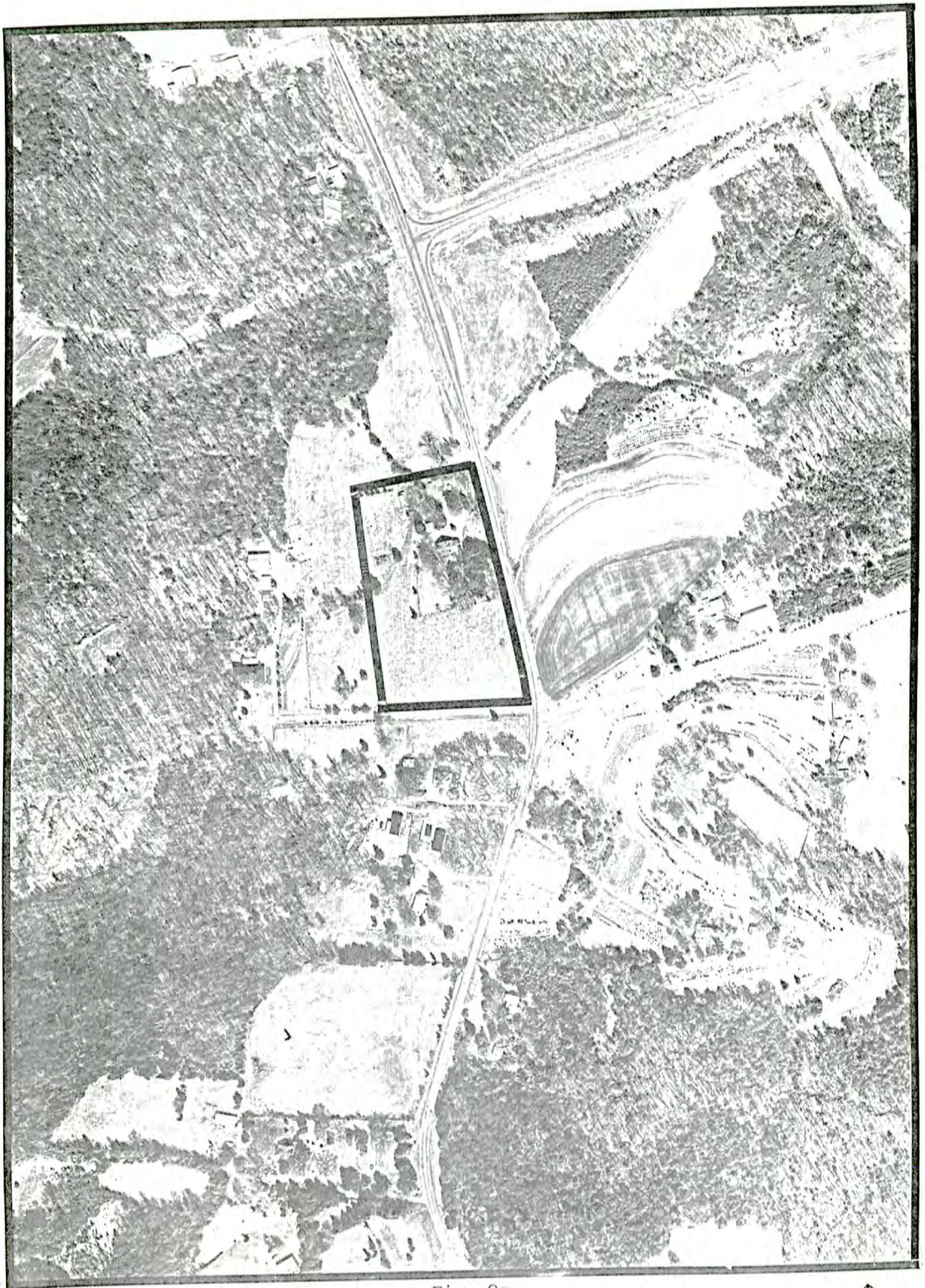


Fig. 9c
Brown Farmstead Aerial Photograph
51



6. Cooper Log House

Location: Northeast corner of Dixie River Road and Mt. Olive Church Road

Date of Construction: c. 1790s/c. 1840/c. 1880

Historical Background: It is thought that William Cooper (1758-1834) erected this house around the 1790s. He was a slaveholder, and undoubtedly raised cotton and other crops on this plantation. From William Cooper, the property passed to his son, Alexander Cooper (1798-1863), who probably enlarged the house c. 1840. Alexander Cooper's 350 acres were divided among his children upon his death in 1863, and the house passed to a son, Thomas S. Cooper (1840-1904). It is thought that Thomas Cooper built another addition to the house, c. 1880. Thomas Cooper fought in the Civil War, and served as Mecklenburg County Sheriff from c. 1887 to 1898.

The property passed out of the family in 1897 when it was purchased by Joseph Freeman, who retained ownership until 1928. The next owners, James and Mary Yandle, held the property until 1940. It has subsequently been sold⁹ and resold, and the land subdivided. It is currently vacant and for sale.

Summary of Physical Description: The oldest portion of the Cooper Log House is the western half, which is made of logs joined with a half-dovetail notch. It stands two stories with a side-gable roof and originally had a hall-and-parlor plan. An original Federal mantle remains in the larger of the two rooms. The chimney is common bond brick on a fieldstone foundation. Nine-over-six sash windows are found in the first story, and six-over-six sash on the second story.

The two-story, two-room (one room on each floor) frame addition to the east side was constructed about 1840. At that time, a stair was added to the smaller room of the original log house, making a center hall plan house. The stair features turned balusters and an attractive newel post. Nine-over-six sash windows are found in the first story, and six-over-six

⁸William H. Huffman, "A Historical Sketch of the Cooper Log House," Survey and Research Report for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission, July 1983.

⁹Huffman, "Cooper Log House," p. 3.

sash on the second story. On the exterior, the brick chimney has been stuccoed.

The third and final addition, constructed about 1880, is a two-story rear ell covered with weatherboards and fitted with six-over-six sash windows. The splayed front door surround on the eighteenth century log section also dates from this period of construction.

Integrity: The Cooper Log House is primarily intact, even though it represents three distinct periods of construction. While the original form and plan have been changed, the alterations of c. 1840 and c. 1880 should be considered historic in their own right, and the house should be evaluated not as an altered eighteenth century log cabin, but rather as a house that has grown over time to suit the changing needs of its occupants.

Associated Outbuildings: A small log house, c. 1847, was moved onto the property in the early 1980s and sits behind the house.

Setting and Landscaping: The Cooper Log House sits close to the intersection of two heavily-traveled roads. The area immediately surrounding the house has been cleared, but adjoining areas are wooded. Several twentieth century bungalows sit nearby on Dixie River Road (Fig. 10b).

Evaluation: The Cooper Log House is a good example of how a house can grow and evolve naturally to accommodate the changing needs of its occupants. The log core is the earliest known structure in Western Mecklenburg, and possibly in the entire county.

The Cooper Log House is recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Historic Boundaries: The Cooper Log House is not within the Area of Potential Effect at this time. If the proposed alignments shift, historic boundaries will need to be determined.



Fig. 10
Cooper Log House

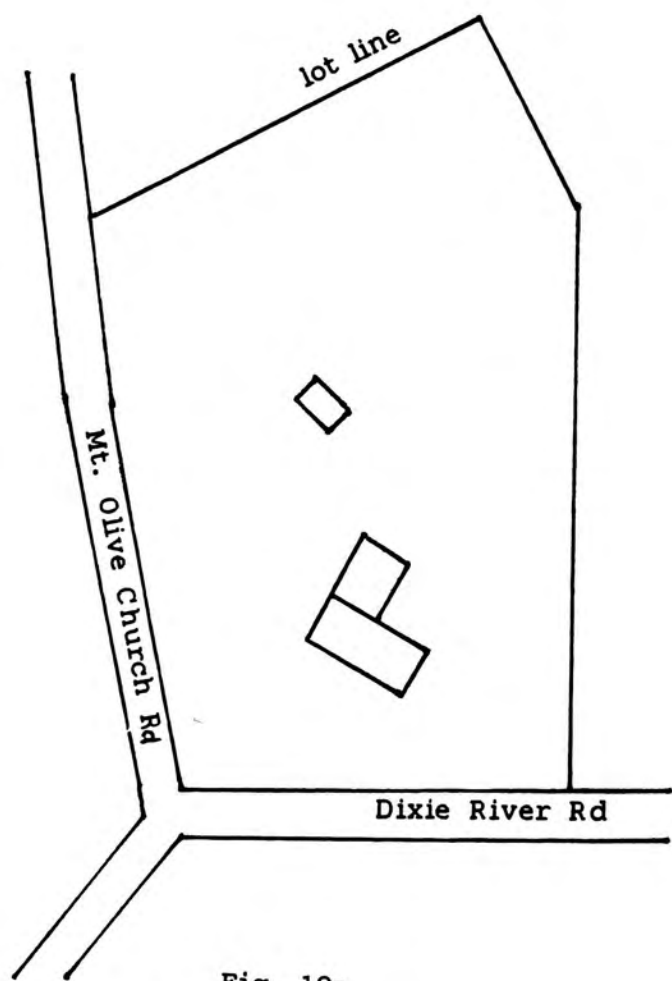
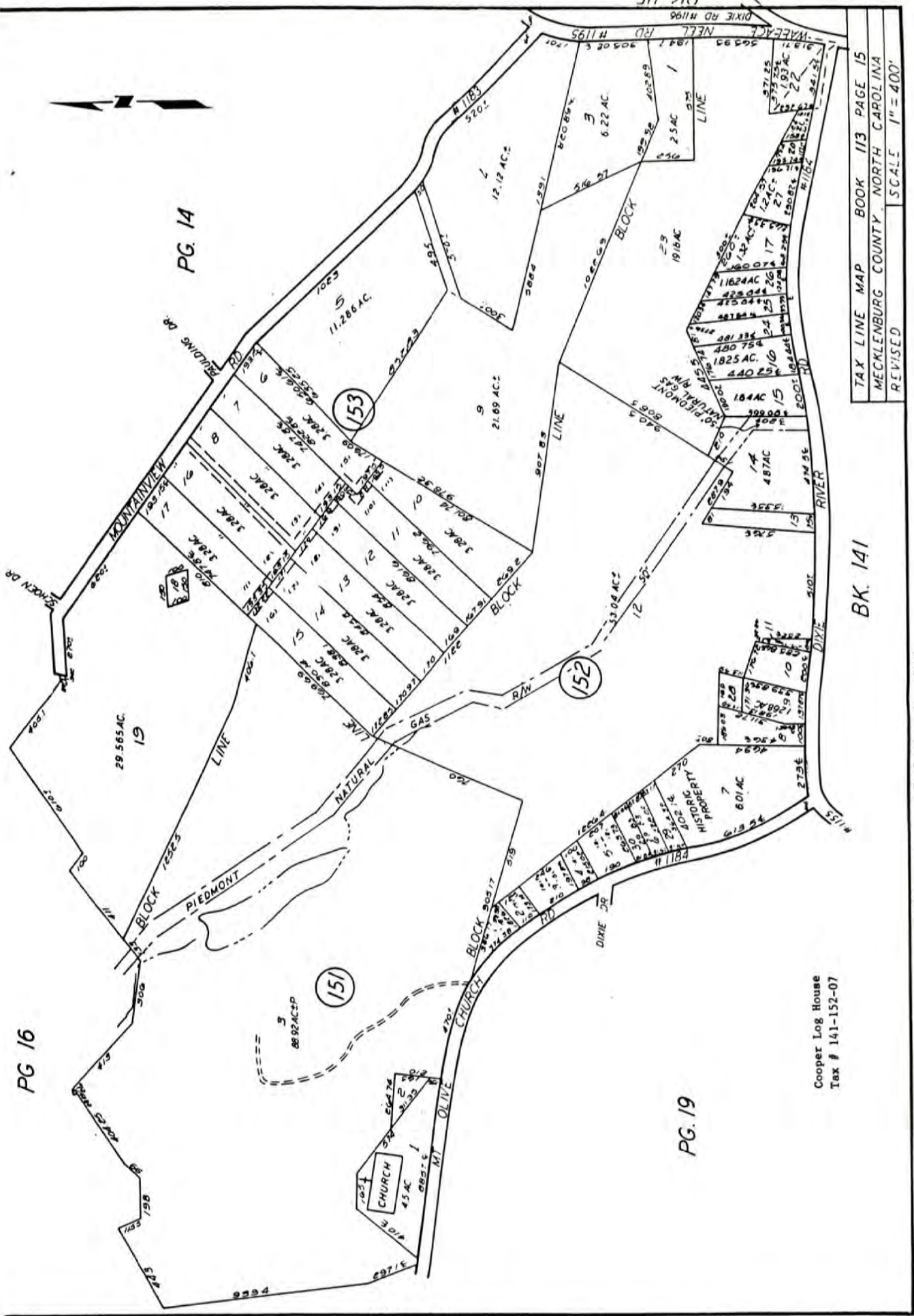


Fig. 10a
Cooper Log House
Site Plan
(not to scale)



TAX LINE MAP BOOK 113 PAGE 15
 MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
 REVISED SCALE 1" = 400'

BK. 141

Cooper Log House
 Tax # 141-152-07

Fig. 10b
 Cooper Log House Tax Map
 56

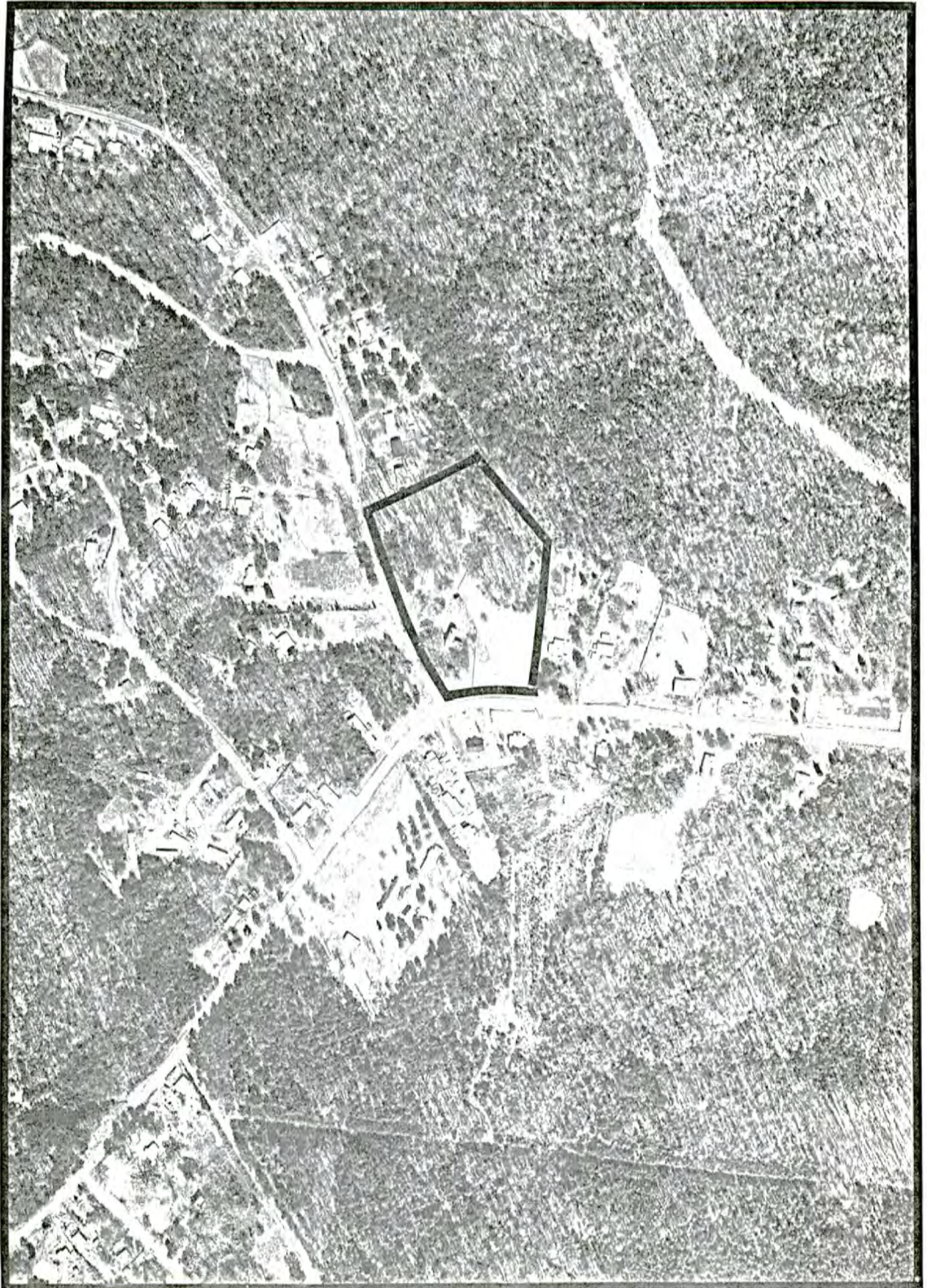


Fig. 10c
Cooper Log House Aerial Photograph



7. Dr. Sandifer House

Location: East side of Moore's Chapel Road, south of I-85

Date of Construction: 1850s

Historical Background: Dr. Thomas Thorn Sandifer, a local country doctor, purchased 246 acres from the heirs of Isaac Wilson, and erected this house in the 1850s. Sandifer's plantation was said to stretch from Moore's Chapel Road to the Catawba River, and included this tract. He lived in Mecklenburg County, but served patients across the Catawba River in Belmont. Subsequent owners include the Grice family and Bob Alton, who owned the house during the 1940s.¹⁰

Summary of Physical Description: The frame and weatherboard house stands two stories tall, and is three bays wide and one bay deep. There are two rear chimneys and an original shed across the back of the house. Six-over-six sash windows are found throughout. The front door surround contains sidelights and a transom. The window and door surrounds feature interesting trim which is suggestive of brackets, but is not as pronounced. The interior is arranged as a center hall plan. The front porch is rather wide, and features thin, paired columns with flared caps. When the porch was altered, the columns were shortened and now rest on square brick piers. The hipped porch roof is not original.

Integrity: The Sandifer House has experienced only a few alterations. On the front porch, the columns have been cut down, square brick piers added, and the roof changed. The current owners have recently built a full-length addition onto the rear of the house. Original features include windows, window and door surrounds, mantles and the stair.

Associated Outbuildings: None

Setting and Landscaping: The Sandifer House sits well back from the road. Modest twentieth century dwellings line Moore's Chapel Road to the south, however, they are barely visible from the house or yard.

¹⁰Interview with Mrs. Bradshaw, Charlotte, N.C., May 1989.

The landscaping is typical (shrubbery, bedding plants, etc.) but well-kept.

Evaluation: The Sandifer House dates from a decade which has left few standing structures in Mecklenburg County. It was undoubtedly a fine house when built, as evidenced by the quality of the woodwork and attention to detail found throughout the house. The association with a local country doctor should not be overlooked, as the local doctor was a strong element of the community during the nineteenth century.

The Sandifer House is recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B and Criterion C.

Historic Boundaries: The Dr. Sandifer House has already lost its original plantation environment. Various divisions of the original 246 acre tract have left the house standing alone on the front portion of a 7.87 acre parcel. The remainder of the lot, or approximately half, is wooded. The historic boundaries were determined to include the lot lines on the north, west and south, and the tree line on the east (Fig. 12c).



Fig. 11
Dr. Sandifer House



Fig. 12
Dr. Sandifer House Setting

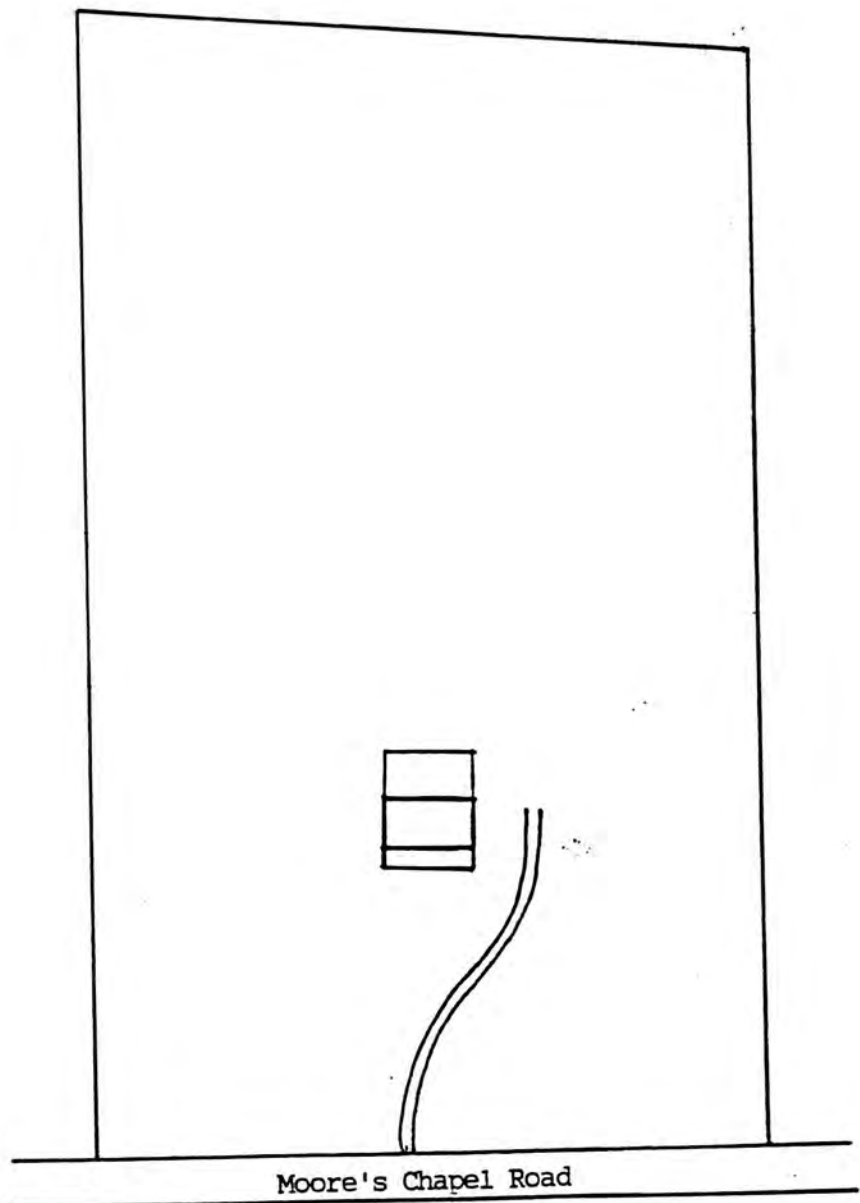
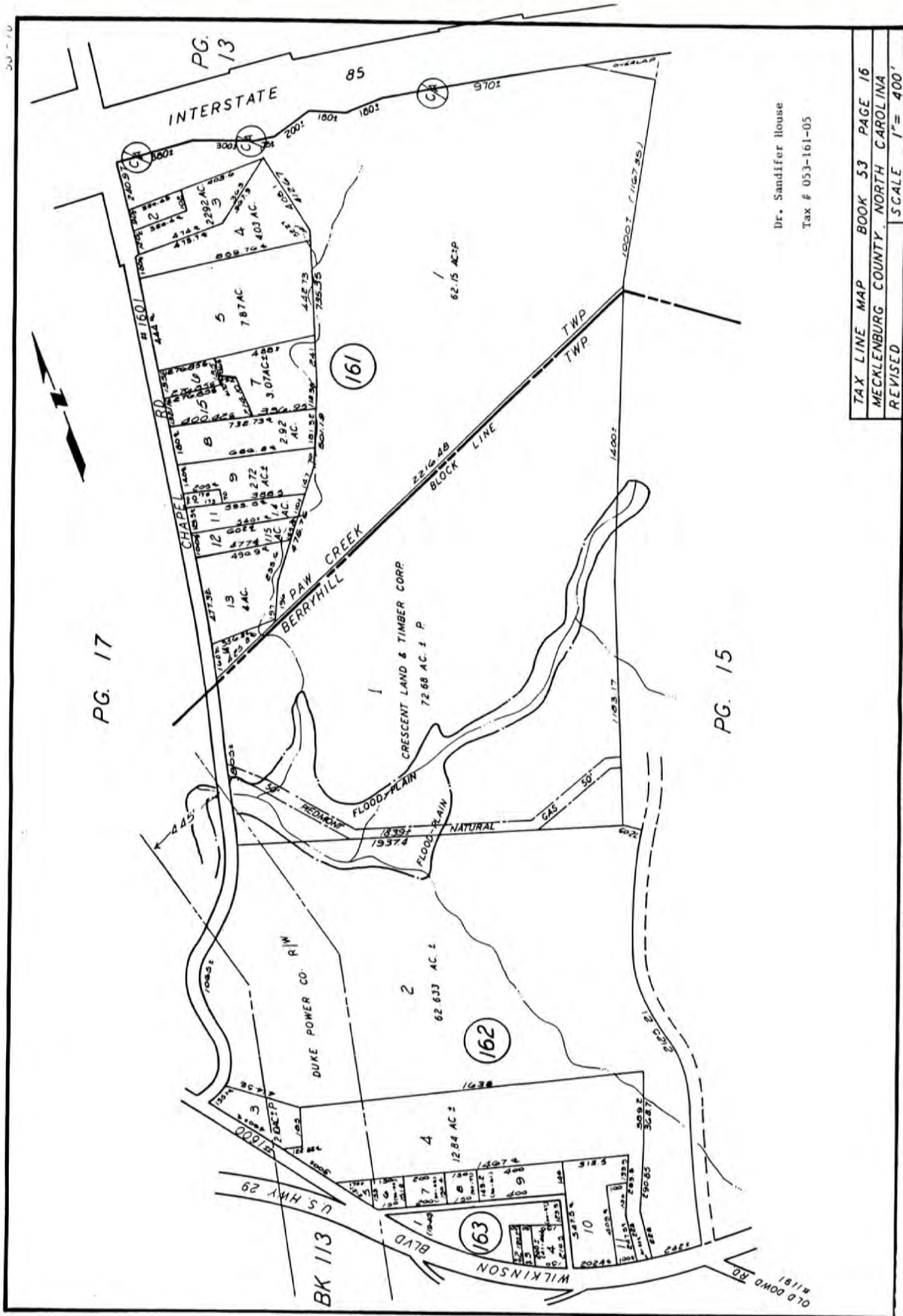


Fig. 12a
Dr. Sandifer House

Site Plan
(not to scale)



Dr. Sandifer House
 Tax # 053-161-05

TAX LINE MAP BOOK 53 PAGE 16
 MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
 REVISED SCALE 1" = 400'

Fig. 12b
 Dr. Sandifer House Tax Map
 63

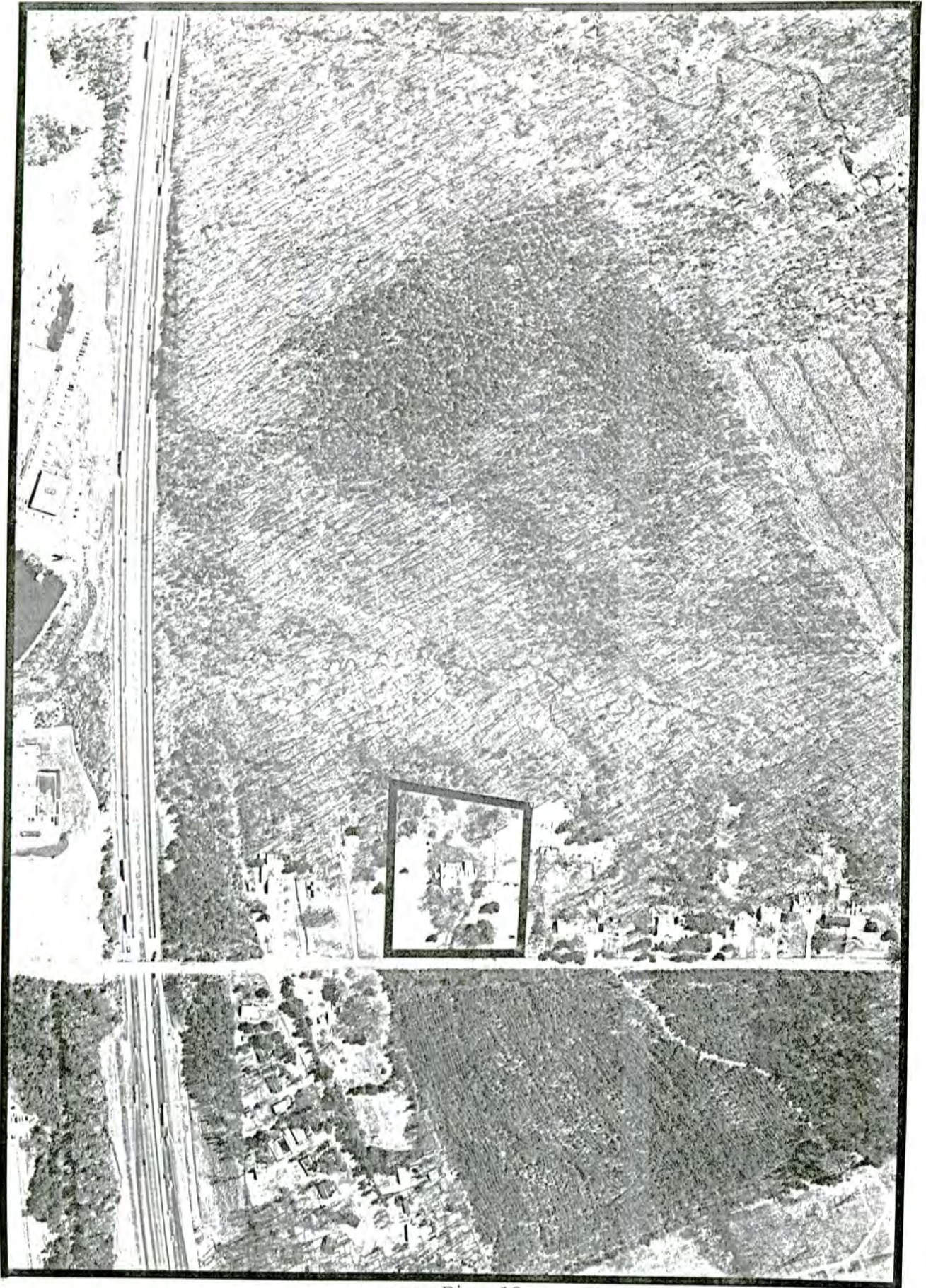


Fig. 12 c
Dr. Sandifer House Aerial Photograph

↙N

8. Moore-Sadler House

Location: South side of Moore's Chapel Road

Date of Construction: c. 1880

Historical Background: The Moore Brothers, who had a drugstore business in Charlotte, owned this land in the mid-nineteenth century and built this house. They were founding members of Moore's Chapel nearby and are buried in the cemetery. Mr. Wrisdon and Tom Sadler were subsequent long-term owners.

Summary of Physical Description: The double-pile house has two interior chimneys rising up through the hipped roof, and a one-story rear ell. The three-bay facade features paired, four-over-four sash windows, a central front gable, and bracketed eaves. On the interior, there is a very wide center hall, with tongue-and-groove wainscoting, and an extraordinarily long stair. The stair risers are shorter than the average, and at the same time the treads are deeper than most. Three out of four mantles on the first floor are original and are quite unusual for Mecklenburg County. The bold, ornate and deeply patterned mantles are similar, but not identical, to each other. The wide hall, long stair and interesting Victorian mantles are all features that have been observed in Fort Mill, South Carolina, but nowhere else in Mecklenburg.

Integrity: The integrity of this house has been compromised by the application of vinyl siding to the exterior and the alteration of the front porch. At one point, the wrap-around porch had a wooden floor which was supported by brick piers. The floor has been removed and a concrete floor put in at a much lower level. This change left a gap in the weatherboards along the base of the walls, which was covered with a brick facing. The original porch reportedly had a set of steps at either end.

Associated Outbuildings: None

Setting: The house sits well back from the road on a 75-acre parcel. There is open land on both the Moore's Chapel Road and Sam Wilson Road sides of the house, and its setting is very attractive.

¹¹Interview with Dorothy Mitchell, Mecklenburg County, NC, February 1988 and May 1989.

Evaluation: This was undoubtedly a fine home when built in the 1880s. Although its integrity has been compromised on the exterior, the interior is primarily intact, and has elements which are rare for Mecklenburg County. Two sides of the 75-acre parcel are open and contribute immeasurably to the grand vista created from either Sam Wilson Road or Moore's Chapel Road. The picturesqueness of the house's setting makes an important contribution to its status as a potentially eligible property.

The Moore-Sadler House is recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Historic Boundaries: The historic boundaries of the Moore-Sadler house were determined to include the open area which surrounds the house. It stretches from due north of the house, along Moore's Chapel and Sam Wilson Roads, until the house is no longer visible from the road. It encompasses a portion of an adjoining tract to the southeast, but excludes Moore's Chapel at the intersection of the two roads, which is considered to be an intrusion. On the south and west, the historic setting reaches to the tree line (Fig. 14c).



Fig. 13
Moore-Sadler House



Fig. 14
Moore-Sadler House Setting

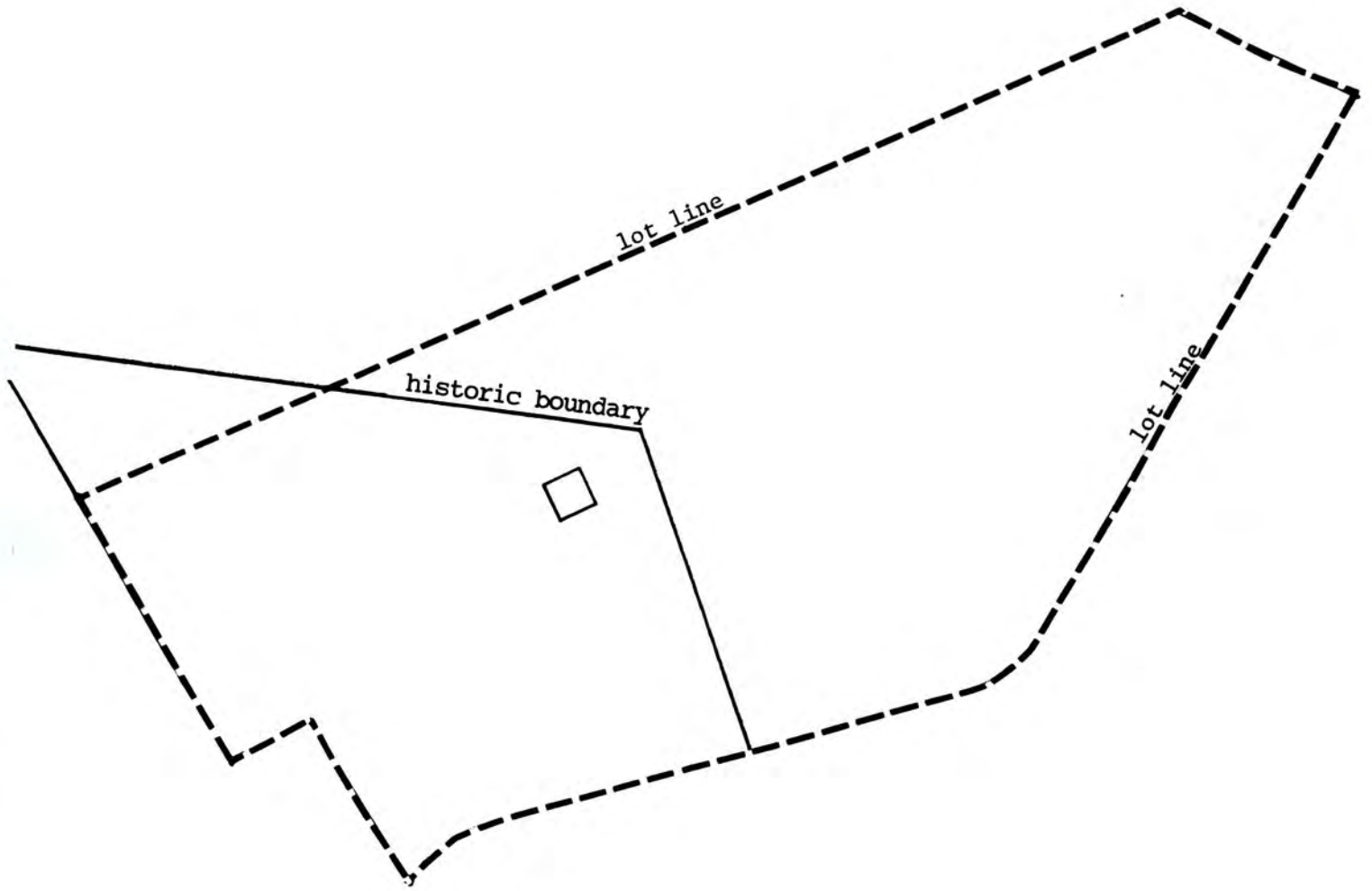
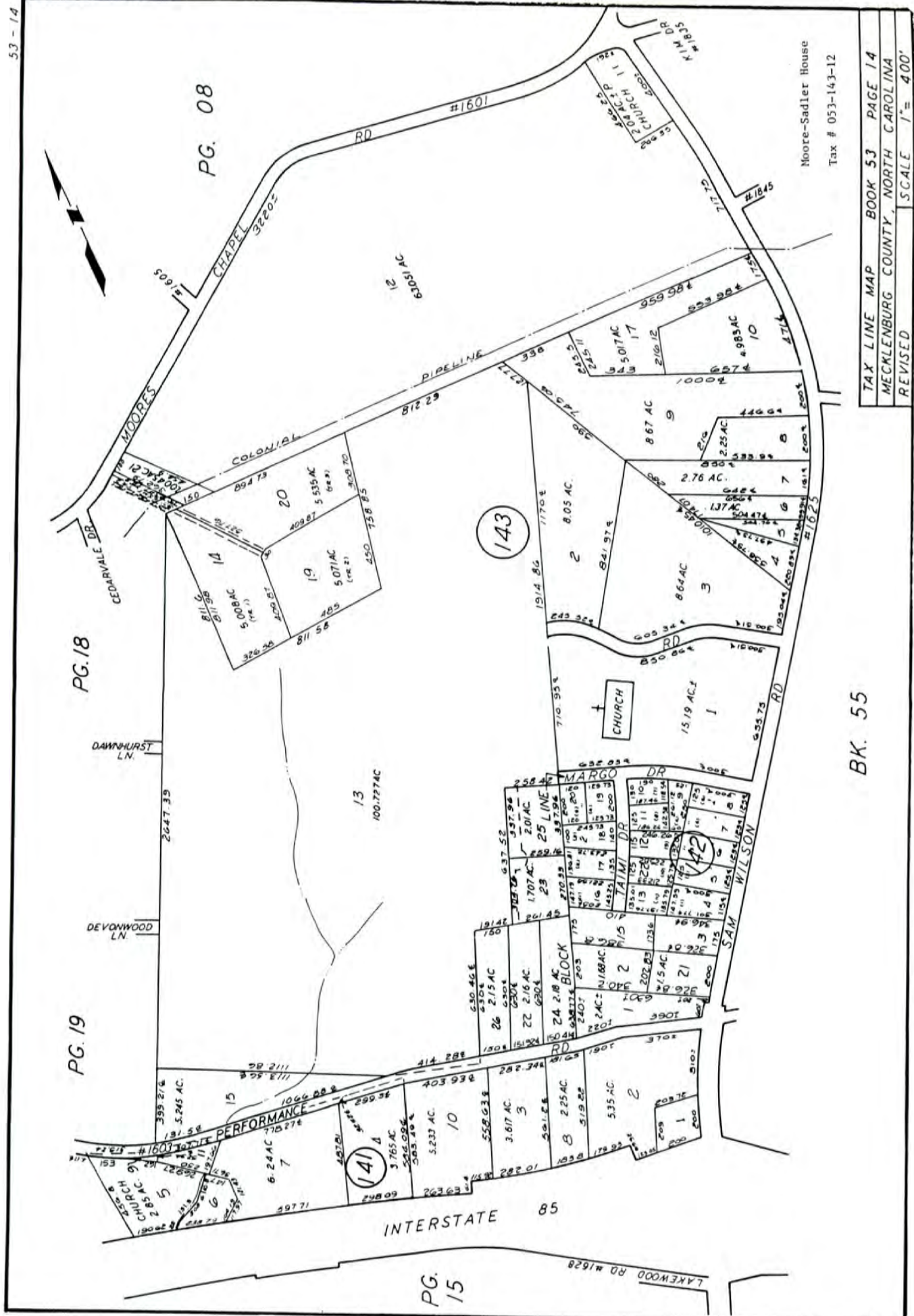


Fig. 14a

Moore-Sadler House

Site Plan
(not to scale)



TAX LINE MAP BOOK 53 PAGE 14
 MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
 REVISED SCALE 1" = 400'

Moore-Sadler House
 Tax # 053-143-12

BK. 55

Fig. 14b
 Moore-Sadler House Tax Map

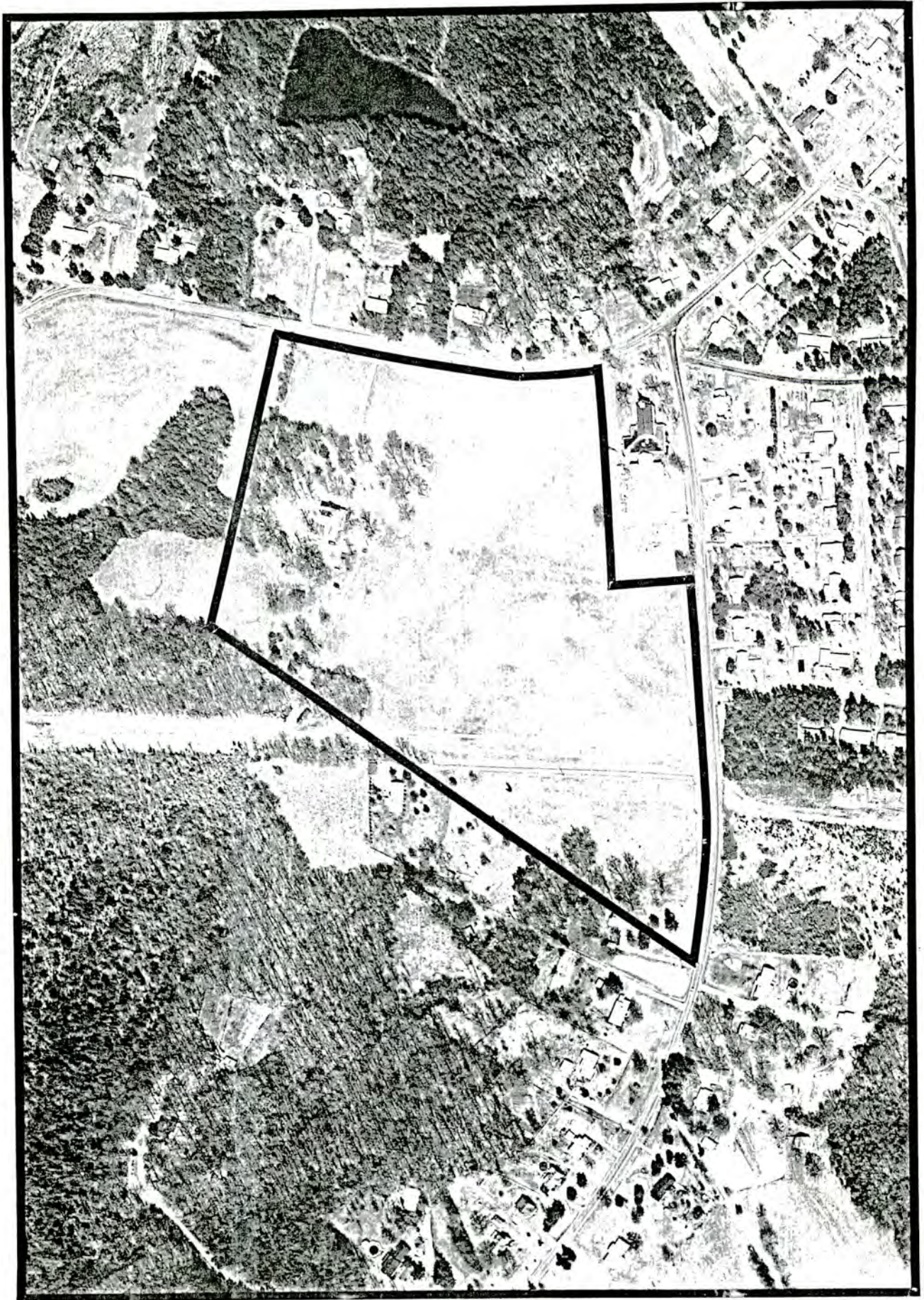


Fig. 14c
Moore-Sadler House Aerial Photograph

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9. Shopton Historic District

Location: West side of Steele Creek Road (NC 160), near intersection with Dixie River Road

Dates: 1828-c. 1930

Historical Background: Shopton is situated along Steele Creek Road, one of the oldest roads in the western section of Mecklenburg County, near its intersection with Dixie River Road. Dixie River Road at one time led to Wilson's Ferry, which crossed the Catawba River.¹² Both roads would probably have been heavily traveled since the early days of the county's history. The oldest building at the crossroads is the William Grier House, built in 1828. Around 1890, Joe Hayes (1849-1914) erected a brick store near the intersection.

During the last years of the nineteenth century, Hayes lived in a one-story frame dwelling (Robinson House) which was then within sight of the store. Hayes soon outgrew the house and erected a new one adjacent to the store (c. 1900), where he probably lived until his death in 1914. His widow, Emma Hayes, and other heirs conveyed this and other tracts of land to William Lester Byrum (1879-1952) in 1919. Lester Byrum operated the store and resided in the house until his death. From Lester, the house and store passed to his nephew, Robert Franklin Byrum (1925-1973). R. F. Byrum's widow continues to live in the house. A son and daughter still operate the Byrum store, and the son resides in the William Grier House.¹³

The latest structure within the district is a bungalow which dates from c. 1930. Its lot was probably within the tracts of land transferred by Joe Hayes to Lester Byrum in 1914, and could have been built by Lester Byrum as a rental property or for a relative.

Summary of Physical Description:

William Grier House (1828): This frame I-house stands two stories tall with a one-story rear ell (c. 1840). The doorway on the facade is off-center and the fenestration is uneven, a reflection of its

¹²Spratt, "A Map of Mecklenburg County," 1911.

¹³Interviews with Miss Byrum, Charlotte, N.C., November 1988 and May 1989; Research conducted by William H. Huffman and Paula Stathakis, November 1989.

original hall-parlor plan. Nine-over-nine sash windows are found on the first story and nine-over-six sash on the second story. There are two exterior end chimneys, laid up in random-course common bond brick on fieldstone bases. The shed-roofed front porch is at least the third porch on this house.

Bungalow (c. 1930): Simple in form, yet effective and attractive, this bungalow stands one story tall under a hipped roof. The front porch shields the facade and extends out to the south with a freestanding bay. Paired, square wood porch columns are similar to those used on the Brown bungalow (1929) nearby.

Hayes-Byrum Store (c. 1890): The walls of the store are brick, laid up in five-course common bond. The facade features an arched double doorway and large, two-over-two sash windows, also topped by segmental arches. The parapet roofline has been rebuilt, and an addition has been built on the south side. The rear elevation is similar to the front, except that it has a smaller doorway. On the interior, some of the original woodwork remains, including some drawers and shelves, and a bracketed cornice.

Byrum House (c. 1900): The Byrum House was built following a common form, having a side-gable main block with a front-facing cross gable over a projecting wing. All of the gables are pierced by louvered vents. The house has a two-story ell on the south side and a one-story ell on the north, both of which are original. Two-over-two sash windows are found throughout. The fluted front door surround features bullseye cornerblocks and baseblocks, and bevel-edged panels which are inscribed on the top and bottom edges. There is a transom window incorporated into the door surround. The front porch, which is original, wraps across the facade and one bay of the north elevation. It features a central pediment, classical columns and a hipped roof. There is a single interior chimney.

Robinson House (late 19 c.): This house stands one story tall under a complex roof structure. The roof over the main block of the house is side-gabled, and it has a front-facing cross gable and a side-facing cross gable. There is also a gabled rear ell. The entire structure is covered with a handsome slate roof. One-over-one sash windows are found throughout. The fluted front door surround incorporates bullseye baseblocks. There are two interior chimneys. The front porch, which is not original, features a central pediment and fluted, square wood columns. Much of the interior woodwork remains, and includes door and window surrounds, mantles and overmantles.

Integrity:

William Grier House: While the identifying features of this house remain, there have been a few alterations over time. The chimneys are suspected to date not from the initial period of construction, but from later in the nineteenth century. It is thought that there was an earlier stair, which would have risen up from a corner. Partitions were added at some point, creating a center hall plan. Original woodwork includes wainscoting, molded surrounds, doors and Federal-style mantles.

Bungalow: Alterations appear to be few, and the integrity of the bungalow is good.

Hayes-Byrum Store: The store retains some important original features, such as the windows and doors, and interior furnishings. The addition onto the south side, and the rebuilding of the roofline parapet on the facade, however, are not completely sensitive alterations.

Byrum House: The Byrum House is intact and relatively unchanged since the date of construction.

Robinson House: This house is primarily intact, despite some alterations on the interior. It originally had a center hall plan, but one dividing wall was removed, so that one now enters directly into the living room. The porch has been rebuilt, and the house has been sheathed in asbestos shingles. On the interior, the mantles and overmantles, doors and windows are original.

Associated Outbuildings: None

Non-Contributing Structures:

The Volunteer Fire Station, a modern brick veneer building, forms an intrusion into the district.

Setting and Landscape: The village of Shopton is bordered on the east by busy Steele Creek Road (NC 160). The William Grier House is separated from the rest by the intersection with Dixie River Road. The six buildings (including the William Grier House) span a distance of about one quarter of a mile. The areas along Steele Creek Road to the north and south of Shopton are somewhat developed, however, undeveloped, open land remains on the east side of Steele Creek Road.

Evaluation: Coherent groupings of historic structures are rare in a once-rural but now fast-developing area like Mecklenburg County. This enclave, while situated on a busy road, is a remnant of a slower, simpler way of life. It also represents community in that it embodies the importance of trade and community interaction.

While the structures within the grouping do not all date from the same time period, they do show an evolution of rural architectural types. By contrasting a Federal style plantation house to a turn-of-the-century farmhouse, and then to a twentieth century bungalow, it is possible to understand how dramatically our concepts of residential architecture have changed in just over 150 years.

The Shopton Rural Historic District was deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Historic Boundaries: The district boundaries should include all five contributing structures. Since the orientation of the buildings in the district is toward the street, the rear (west) boundary should be drawn just behind the structures (Fig. 19c).



Fig. 15
William Grier House



Fig. 16
Bungalow



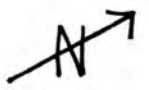
Fig. 17
Hayes-Byrum Store



Fig. 18
Byrum House



Fig. 19
Robinson House



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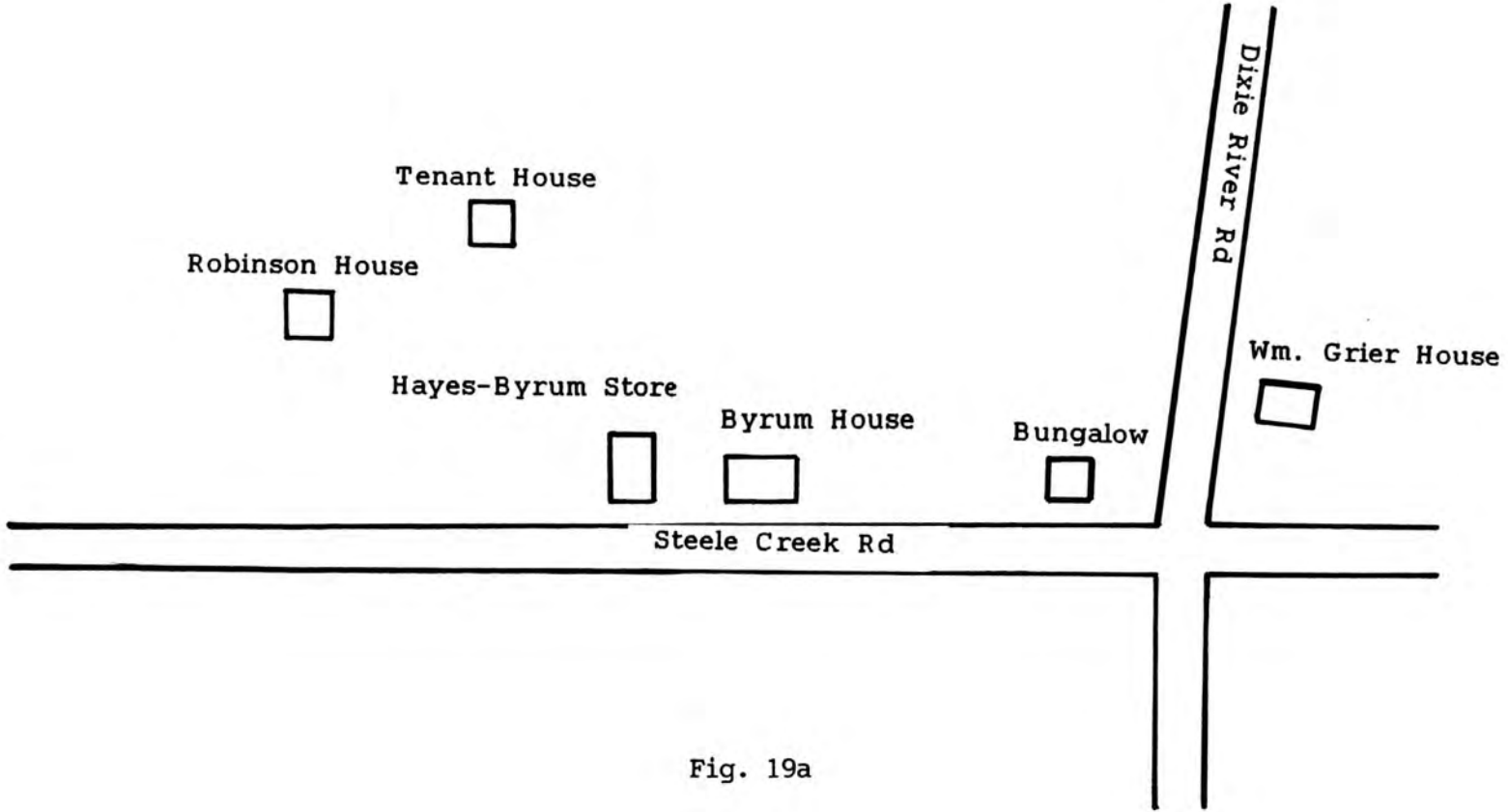


Fig. 19a

Shopton Rural
Historic District

Site Plan
(not to scale)



Supton Rural Historic District:
 Robinson House #199-241-09
 Hayes-Byrum Store #199-241-12
 Byrum House #199-241-12

TAX LINE MAP BOOK 199 PAGE 24
 MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
 REVISED SCALE 1"=400'

F.O.D. TAX PURPOSES ONLY

Fig. 19b

Supton Rural Historic District Tax Map

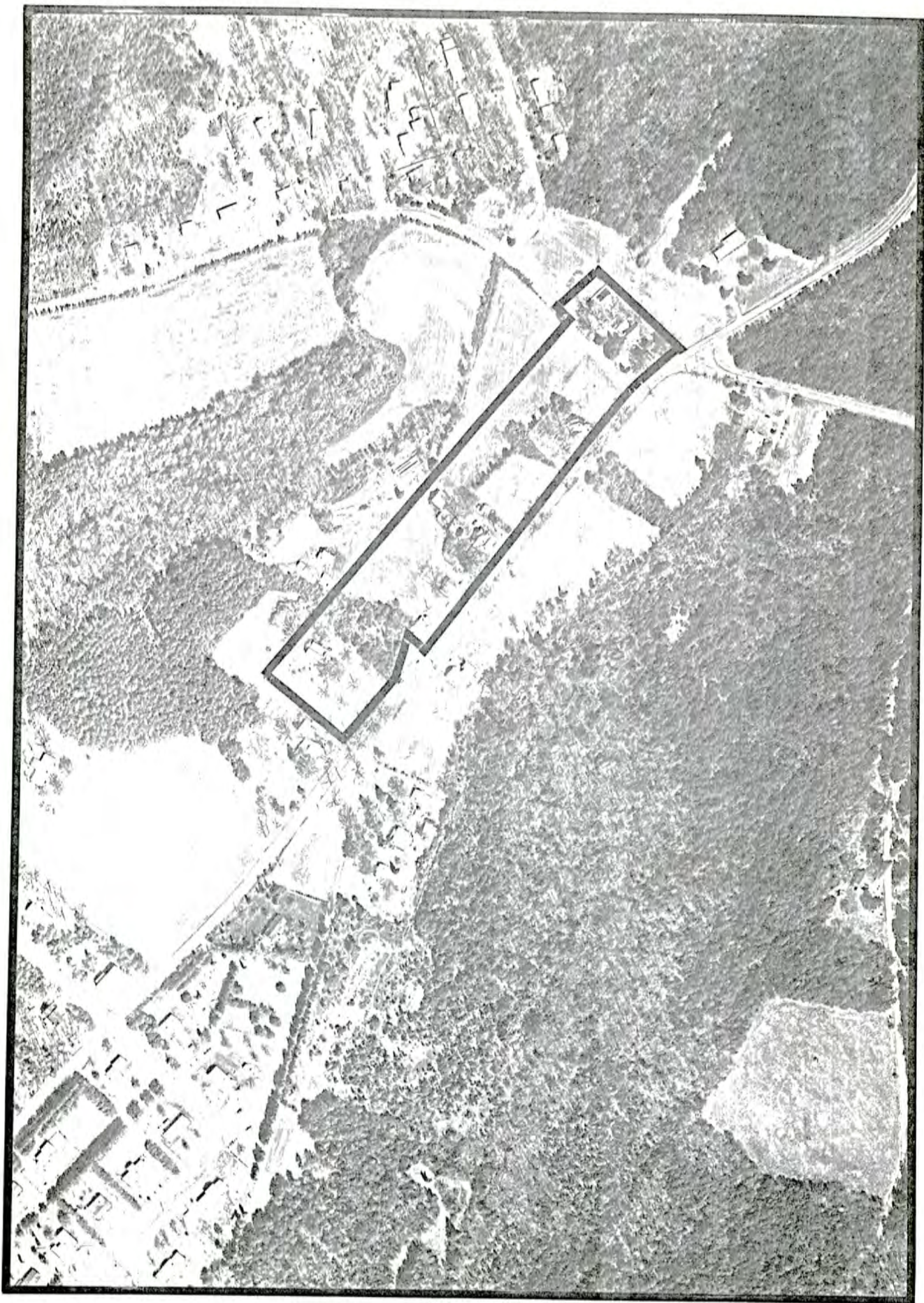


Fig. 19c
Shopton Rural Historic District Aerial Photo

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N

D. Inventory of Non-eligible Properties:

1. Johnson Horse Barns

Location: Northwest side of York Road (NC 49)

Date of Construction: Twentieth century

Historical Background: Horses were raised at this location by the Johnson family, who have since moved their operation to another state.

Summary of Physical Description: Two large frame barns stand on the property. They are side-gabled frame structures each with a central passageway and stalls on either side.

Integrity: The horse barns appear to be intact.

Associated Outbuildings: An older building, probably another barn, stands nearby, but it is in dilapidated condition.

Setting and Landscaping: Although located on a busy road, the setting remains rural.

Evaluation: The Johnson Horse Barns are probably the largest barns in Mecklenburg County. However, they are typical and are probably not more than 60 years old.

The Johnson Horse barns were deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Fig. 20
Johnson Horse Barns

2. Gallant-Brown House

Location: South side of Brown-Grier Road

Date of Construction: 1880s

Historical Background: This house was originally in the Gallant family, until it was sold to Mr. Brown. From the elder Brown, it passed to his son, Otto C. Brown (1886-1967), who was one of eight children. The Brown's ran a dairy here.¹⁶

Summary of Physical Description: The Gallant-Brown House is a typical one-story side-gable farmhouse from the late-nineteenth century. It has a central entrance and a center hall plan. The front porch shields only the facade and features square wood posts and a hipped roof. Six-over-six sash windows are found throughout.

Integrity: The integrity is fair--moderate alterations have occurred over the years.

Associated Outbuildings: None

Setting and Landscaping: While Brown-Grier Road is picturesque and undeveloped, the setting of this house has been compromised by the presence of modern brick-veneer ranch houses on either side of it. It sits back from the road in a grove of trees.

Evaluation: The Gallant-Brown House is a fair example of a common farmhouse type from the late-nineteenth century. It is representative of a rural lifestyle.

The Gallant-Brown House was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

¹⁶Interview with Mrs. Otto Brown, Mecklenburg County, NC, May 1989.



Fig. 21
Gallant-Brown House

3. Faires House

Location: S. Shopton Road

Date of Construction: 1905

Historical Background: Issac Beaty Faires (1865-1950) moved to the Steele Creek area from Clover, South Carolina in 1905 and had this house built in that year. He chose a contractor with whom he was familiar, a Mr. Beamguard, also of Clover, South Carolina. The house was begun in the late fall of 1905, and was completed by January 1906. I. B. Faires married the next door neighbor, Cora Whiteside (1869-1955), and together they had two sons and five daughters. The Whiteside family owned a considerable amount of land, and it is probable that this parcel was given to the newlyweds by Cora's parents. I. B. Faires was a surveyor by trade, but was also a gentleman farmer. He grew cotton, corn and fruit on the land, and raised chickens as well. From I. B. Faires, the property passed to his daughter, Lois Faires Williamson (c. 1894-1988). Mrs. Williamson received degrees from both Columbia University and Charlotte's Presbyterian Hospital. She was a missionary to Mexico, through Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, from 1921-1927. She married Rev. Oren Conway Williamson (1893-1951), and together they lived in this house until Conway Williamson died in 1951. At that time, a one-story brick-veneer ranch house was erected on the property next to this house, where Lois Williamson lived until she died in November 1988. The Faires house is currently leased to a tenant.¹⁷

Summary of Physical Description: The frame and weatherboard Faires House stands two stories tall, with a rear shed and a one-story rear ell. It has a side-gable roof and a front-gable projecting wing. There is an interior chimney, plus an exterior end chimney on the south side. Two-over-two sash windows are found throughout. The front porch wraps across the facade, including the projecting wing, and down one bay of the north elevation. The porch features square brick piers and tapered square wood columns supporting a hipped roof. There are pediments, set on a 45-degree angle, at the corners where the porch rounds the projecting wing. The roof could be original, but the supports are not. Also added later is a second level of the porch, which shields the side-gabled section of the house. It has

¹⁷Interview with Lois Williamson's niece, Mecklenburg County, NC, November 1988.

square wood columns and a low-pitched shed roof. The lower half has been sheathed with wooden shingles, which may conceal an earlier balustrade.

Integrity: The integrity of the Faires house is good. With the exception of the various changes to the porch, alterations appear to be few. The alterations to the front porch, however, visually impair the structure and therefore compromise its integrity.

Associated Outbuildings: A tenant farmer's house and a frame barn, both dating from the early twentieth century, are still standing on the property. The tenant house stands one story tall, and has a side-gabled roof and a rear ell. Six-over-six sash windows are found throughout. On the interior, it has a one-room plan in the main section. There are two small flue stacks, but no full-sized chimney.

Setting and Landscaping: The Faires House stands well back off the road, just beyond the point where S. Shopton Road splits off from Steele Creek Road. Open land surrounds the house on four sides.

Evaluation: While a good example of its style, the Faires House is not an uncommon type. Numerous other examples exist throughout the county, especially in the north sections. Better, more intact examples include the Byrum House in Shopton, the McElroy and Craven Houses in Long Creek, and the Alexander House in Charlotte.

The Faires House was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Fig. 22
Faires House

4. Cathey House

Location: East side of Dixie Road (NC 160)

Date of Construction: 1870s

Historical Background: Alexander Cathey (1833-1913) erected this house a few years after his marriage in 1870 to Margaret Cathcart (1839-1912). From him it passed to a son, Lewis D. Cathey (1877-1916), and then to his son, Kenneth Cathey, the present owner. All three generations of Catheys farmed the land, raising cotton, corn, horses and cattle here.¹⁸

Summary of Physical Description: The house stands two stories tall, with a side-gable roof, a single exterior end chimney, and a one story rear ell. There are three bays across the facade on the first story and two bays on the second story. Nine-over-nine sash windows are found throughout. The front porch, which is not original, shields most of the facade, and features short stone piers with thick wood columns supporting a hipped roof. The interior wall finish is flush sheathing, and there is an enclosed stair.

Integrity: The house saw an extensive remodeling in 1937 or 1938. The porch dates from this time, as do the chimney and portions of the rear ell. Originally weatherboarded, the house has been sheathed in aluminum siding.

Associated Outbuildings: One outbuilding of unknown function is estimated to be of the same vintage as the house, but it has been altered. A frame barn, a frame shed, and a frame storehouse all date from the twentieth century.

Setting and Landscaping: The house sits close to Dixie Road and next to a small ranch house.

Evaluation: The Cathey House was modest when built and could have been called 'traditional' at that time. It represents a late usage of nine-over-nine windows, flush sheathing and an enclosed stair. Subsequent alterations have acted to compromise its integrity.

The Cathey House was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

¹⁸Interview with Mr. Kenneth Cathey, Mecklenburg County, NC, May 1989.



Fig. 23
Cathey House

5. Brown House

Location: off of Garrison Road

Date of Construction: 1870s

Historical Background: John L. Brown (1850-1932) built this house on a 125-acre tract during the 1870s. His ancestors had been in Steele Creek for about one hundred years, and this parcel was probably a portion of the family lands. His son, Samuel Wilson Brown (1877-1962) was born in the house, lived here all of his life, and eventually passed the property on to a daughter.

Summary of Physical Description: The 1870s Brown house was heavily altered in the mid-twentieth century, and now reflects two separate phases of construction. As originally built, it was a center-hall plan I-house with a one-story rear ell. Subsequent alterations have created a house with an irregular plan, unbalanced facade and projecting side wing. The house is sheathed in asbestos shingles, but the original weatherboards are probably intact underneath.

Integrity: Because of the mid-twentieth century remodeling, the Brown House has lost its integrity.

Associated Outbuildings: Several sheds of various vintages and a modern wood frame workshop are scattered throughout the yard.

Setting and Landscaping: An unusual circumstance has been created by the development of a parcel of land on nearby Garrison Road. A parking lot has blocked the entry to this house, so that one must enter the lot in order to get to the drive. This has effectively cut the property off from Garrison Road, visually as well as conceptually. The house itself sits in a small open area; surrounding land is wooded.

Evaluation: The integrity of this house has been so severely compromised by the mid-twentieth century remodeling that it no longer resembles an 1870s farmhouse.

The Brown House is deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Fig. 24
Brown House

6. Freeman House

Location: West side of Dixie Road (NC 160)

Date of Construction: 1914

Historical Background: This house was built in 1914 by Issac "Ike" Freeman (1874-1955). Mr. Freeman was a farmer, electrician, and amateur carpenter. Mr. Freeman was a forward-thinking man, and had all the modern conveniences installed in his home. He was the first in the neighborhood to have electricity, and was the first to have a telephone as well. On the farm, he grew figs, strawberries and other fruits, and kept laying hens. The house is in possession of a granddaughter.¹⁹

Summary of Physical Description: The frame house is two stories tall and built on a rectangular plan, with a one-story rear ell. It has a hipped roof, with a center-front cross gable, and two interior chimneys. Two-over-two sash windows are found throughout. The front porch has been rebuilt, but the roof is original and features a low-pitched central pediment. The fluted front door surround incorporates bullseye baseblocks.

Integrity: The house has been altered over the years. The front porch is not original. On the interior, several mantles are missing and several walls have been moved.

Associated Outbuildings: A frame smokehouse and a frame storehouse, thought to be contemporary with the house, survive.

Setting and Landscaping: The house sits fairly close to the road. There is a plowed field to the north and a modern house to the south. The area behind the house is wooded.

Evaluation: The Freeman House is an interesting transitional phase between the Victorian idiom and the more modern Colonial Revival style. The plan and massing reflect the latter, while the overall appearance and detailing represent the former.

The Freeman House was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places, primarily because of the alterations.

¹⁹Interviews with Virginia Windsor, Mecklenburg County, NC, November 1988 and May 1989.



Fig. 25
Freeman House

7. Tenant House

Location: West side of Dixie Road (NC 160)

Date of Construction: Twentieth century

Style: Vernacular

Historical Background: This tenant house was most likely built during the early years of the twentieth century.

Summary of Physical Description: The frame tenant house stands one story tall with a front gable roof and a central entrance.

Integrity: The integrity is fair.

Associated Outbuildings: None

Setting and Landscaping: The house sits far from the road in a grove of trees. There are plowed fields on three sides of it.

Evaluation: Tenant farm houses were at one time quite common, and were usually very simple structures. This is a typical example.

The Tenant House was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

8. House

Location: North side Dixie River Road

Date of Construction: Late nineteenth century

Historical Background:

Summary of Physical Description: This two story I-house has been severely compromised by its present state of neglect and deterioration. The original appearance of the house could only be guessed at. Apparently, there was a one-story shed porch across the facade. The windows, siding and chimneys are not original.

Integrity: This house retains no integrity.

Associated Outbuildings: None.

Setting and Landscaping: The house sits back off the road and is surrounded by trees.

Evaluation: This house has no redeeming characteristics. It is deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Properties.



Fig. 26
House, Dixie River Road

9. House

Location: North side of Dixie River Road

Date of Construction: Late nineteenth century

Historical Background:

Summary of Physical Description: This is a heavily altered two-story I-house, the core of which dates from the late nineteenth century. The wraparound front porch is not original, and probably dates from the 1910s. All of the windows are aluminum replacement windows. Side porches have been filled in and an addition has been constructed at the east side.

Integrity: This house retains very little integrity.

Associated Outbuildings: None.

Setting and Landscaping: The house stands back from the road and is surrounded by a grove of trees.

Evaluation: This house is a common type and this example does not retain its integrity.

The house is deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Fig. 27
House, Dixie River Road

10. Vinson House

Location: East side of Dixie River Road

Date of Construction: c. 1900

Historical Background: This house was built around the turn of the century and served as a farmhouse.

Summary of Physical Description: The frame house stands one story tall with a side-gable roof and a projecting, front-gable wing.

Integrity: The house has seen various alterations over the years.

Associated Outbuildings: A frame barn and few sheds remain on the property.

Setting and Landscape: The house sits far from the road, and the land is open on all sides.

Evaluation: This is a house represents a typical rural lifestyle.

The Vinson House was deemed ineligible for the National register of Historic Places.



Fig. 28
Vinson House

11. House

Location: West side of Walker's Ferry Road

Date of Construction: ?/c. 1880

Historical Background: The core of this house predates the present form. It was overbuilt during the latter years of the nineteenth century in a then-common form.

Summary of Physical Description: The house, in its present form, stands two stories tall with a side-gable roof and projecting, front-gable wing. The older portion of the house is inside the front-gable wing. There is an exterior end chimney and an interior chimney. Six-over-six sash windows are found throughout. The porch shields the side-gable section of the facade and features plain wood posts and a hipped roof.

Integrity: The house appears to have been altered.

Associated Outbuildings: None

Setting and Landscaping: The house sits very close to Walker's Ferry Road. A nearby trailer park compromises the setting of this house.

Evaluation: This is a good example of how a house can grow and evolve over time. Its present form, however, is quite common throughout the county. Better, more intact examples abound, including the Byrum House in Shopton, the Alexander House in Charlotte, and the McElroy and Craven Houses in Long Creek.

This house was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Fig. 29
House
Walker's Ferry Road

12. Wilkinson-Mitchell House

Location: North side of Moore's Chapel Road

Date of Construction: 1905

Style: Triple-A

Historical Background: Fabius Wilkinson moved to Mecklenburg County from Catawba County and built this house in 1905 on property he purchased from a Mr. Wrisdon. There was a sawmill on site, and all of the lumber for the house came off of the property.²⁰

Summary of Physical Description: The two-story I-house has a Triple-A roofline and a one-story rear shed. The house is weatherboarded on the exterior, and the cross gable retains the original sawtooth shingles and diamond-shaped vent. The front door surround is slightly splayed, and represents a late example of this type of door surround. The front porch, altered from the original, features chamfered columns with sawn brackets resting on square brick piers. Windows are two-over-two double-hung sash.

Integrity: Although the house is primarily intact, its integrity has been compromised by the removal of a wall on the interior and the changing of the stair.

Associated Outbuildings: None

Setting and Landscaping: The house sits very close to Moore's Chapel Road. There are modern brick veneer ranch homes on either side and woods to the rear.

Evaluation: This is a fairly common house type throughout the region. It is a good example of the genre, though altered.

The Wilkinson-Mitchell House was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

²⁰Interview with Dorothy Mitchell, Mecklenburg County, NC, Spring 1988 and May 1989.

Evaluation: While undoubtedly a fine house when built, the integrity has been compromised by subsequent alterations.

The George Williamson House was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

10



Fig. 30
Wilkinson-Mitchell House

13. George Williamson House

Location: South side of Moore's Chapel Road

Date of Construction: late 1870s

Historical Background: George Williamson bought a 98-acre tract in 1875, and built this house soon thereafter. According to local lore, Williamson erected his own sawmill on the site, cut the timber, and set it to cure for a year before building the house. All of the weatherboarding is said to have come from one tall pine. A later owner, James Arthur Love, was a chicken farmer.²¹

Summary of Physical Description: The house is two stories tall, single-pile, with exterior end chimneys, a rear wing, a rear shed, and a transverse rear ell. A central front gable projects from the roof, covering the two-level front porch. The chimneys are laid up in common bond brick, and each incorporates a row of patterned brick. The decorative rows are laid up with the bricks turned, so that the corners of the bricks are flush with the plane of the chimney surface, to make a recessed sawtooth pattern. Six-over-six sash windows are found throughout. The front doors on both the first and second stories feature shaped glass panes.

Integrity: Mid-twentieth century alterations include the application of asbestos shingle to the exterior, the cinderblock underpinning of the brick pier foundation, and the filling in of a side porch. A shed-roofed vestibule addition on the back of the rear ell probably dates from the mid-twentieth century as well.

Associated Outbuildings: Three frame chicken houses remain from Mr. Love's tenure of the place. A frame barn stands behind the chicken houses and could be slightly older.

Setting and Landscaping: The house sits fairly close to the road, on a rise, and is reached from street level by several concrete steps. A grape arbor stands in the side yard. The rear portion of the property is wooded.

²¹Interview with Adrian Love by Mr. William Huffman, February 1988.

Evaluation: While undoubtedly a fine house when built, the integrity has been compromised by subsequent alterations.

The George Williamson House was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Fig. 31
George Williamson House

14. Connell House

Location: South side of Mt. Holly Road (NC 27)

Date of Construction: 1905

Historical Background: Built by Jap Beaty, this house was at one time the seat of a large farm. Lester Connell purchased it in 1921 from Mr. Beaty, and raised ten children here. Mr. Connell grew cotton, corn, pigs, chicken and cows here. He worked for the highway department as a young man, and after about age 50, retired to the farm and kept show horses. The property is in the possession of two daughters, and a son raises cattle in the adjacent pasture.²²

Summary of Physical Description: The Connell House is a one-story frame dwelling with two, parallel, front-facing gables. There is a central entrance, which consists of the original glazed front door in a plain surround. Two-over-two sash windows are found throughout, those on the facade reaching from the floor to the ceiling. The wraparound porch features turned columns and turned balusters. Spindlework brackets are found in the cross gables. On the interior, there is a central hall, with three rooms opening off from either side, and a kitchen ell in the rear off of the west side.

Integrity: While many original features remain, such as the spindlework brackets, the integrity has been compromised by the addition of interior partitions.

Associated Outbuildings: Several original outbuildings remain, including a barn, a wellhouse, a chicken house, stables and a tack room. Mr. Connell built an office on the premises when he raised horses here, which is also still standing.

Setting and Landscape: The setting of this farmstead was at one time impressive, however, it has been seriously compromised by the power lines which run through the property.

Evaluation: This is a good example of a farmhouse of a common type in Mecklenburg County. Numerous other examples of this type

²²Interview with Lois Connell, Mecklenburg County, May 1989; Interview with Myrtle Connell, Mecklenburg County, May 1989.

exist in the county, however, which have retained better integrity of setting and architectural fabric. The Robert Montgomery House in Charlotte, for example, has retained its interior plan and details. Since the integrity and setting of the property have been compromised and the house represents a common type in the county, the Connell House is not recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register.

The Connell House was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Fig. 32
Connell House

VIII. Potential Effects on Properties

Eight individual properties and one historic district (containing five contributing structures) have been recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Three properties (Cooper Log House, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, and the John Douglas House) are located outside the Area of Potential Effect, and are therefore omitted from the following discussion of potential effects.

Eastern Alignment

The eastern alignment proposes an interchange at Steele Creek Road (NC 160) near the Dr. Query House (1919) and the Brown Farmstead (1929). The roadway would cross Steele Creek Road at the Brown Farmstead, running directly through the parcel and necessitating the destruction or removal of the house and outbuildings.

Implementation of the Eastern Alignment alternative would not require acquisition of land within the historic resource boundaries of the Dr. Query House. At least one ramp would be visible from the house; however, it would be located on the opposite side of Steele Creek Road. Thus, while construction of this interchange would alter the existing view from the Query property, it would not diminish any qualities contributing to the property's significance.

Middle Alignment

A proposed interchange at Steele Creek Road (NC 160) would lie at the southwestern edge of the Shopton Rural Historic District, but would not require acquisition of land within the historic district. Incompatible visual and audible elements may be introduced along the southwestern boundary of the district, specifically in the area of the Robinson parcel.

Western Alignment

Construction of the western alignment would require the acquisition of land from within the historic resource boundaries of the Dr. Sandifer House. Acquisition would occur along the eastern portions of the property. Visual and audible impacts may also occur as a result of the implementation of this alignment.

The effect of the western alignment on the Shopton Rural Historic District will be identical to that of the middle alignment.

As originally drawn, implementation of this alternative would require the acquisition of right-of-way within the historic resource boundary of the John Grier Farmstead. The southwestern portion of this alternative has been eliminated, and the alignment will tie into the Middle Alignment at Steele Creek Road. If construction occurred at this location, the pastoral qualities created by the presence of pasture, creek and mature trees (east of the farm buildings), which contribute to the property's importance, would be significantly diminished.

Northern Crossover

The northern crossover may affect the Moore-Sadler House property. Land would be acquired from within the historic resource boundaries; and incompatible visual and audible elements may be introduced immediately adjacent to the property. It should be noted that the important views to and from Sam Wilson and Moore's Chapel Roads would not be altered.

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