

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Oakland Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
0.4 mile north of SR 1730 from a point on SR 1730, 0.5 mile west of SR 1732

CITY OR TOWN:
Carvers (Seventh Congressional District, The Hon. Alton Lennon)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Bladen	CODE 017
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Neisler

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lake Waccamaw Kings Mtn?

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Elizabethtown

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Bladen

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a high bluff overlooking the Cape Fear River, Oakland is one of the few remaining eighteenth century plantations in North Carolina that has retained the idyllic atmosphere associated with the Old South. The house is approached through a long tree-lined avenue well over a mile in length: the first half of the drive is a narrow tunnel-like lane completely covered by large Southern red cedars; the second half is a wider avenue shaded by ancient deciduous trees. This opens into a four-acre yard bordered by magnolias, palmettos, hollies, and live oaks, all hung with Spanish moss. Behind the house are gigantic oaks and magnolias also covered with Spanish moss. This provides a magnificent background for a wide lawn and informal gardens which extend to the river.

The plantation house is a large two-story building six bays wide and two bays deep built of brick laid in Flemish bond with two exterior end chimneys and an interior stack near the center of the gable roof. Each chimney stack is accented by a white stuccoed band around the cap.

The dwelling rests on a high brick basement the only entrance being through a sunken entrance on the east gable end. Originally lighted by segmental-arched openings which have been bricked up, the basement features brick floors laid in a herringbone pattern and an unusually large fireplace at the east end. The other two chimneys are supported by round-headed structural arches.

Both the main (south) and rear facades are covered by full-height shed porches. The placement of original entrances at both levels on the facades indicates that these porches, both twentieth century, are replacements for earlier ones. The two-tier south porch has, at each level, large square wooden pillars dividing the six bays and is enclosed by simple square balusters and a rounded handrail. There is a doorway at each level in the fourth bay from the left. The rear porch has full-height square pillars dividing the bays, with doorways in the second and fourth bays from the left at the first level and in the second and fifth at the second level. The upper doors open on to small balconies. The remaining openings contain windows with nine-over-nine sash in the first story and nine-over-six above. Flanking the chimney stack at either end is a pair of small casement gable windows. All the openings are surmounted by flat arches formed of alternating rowlocks and soldiers.

The plan of Oakland is most unusual. The front door opens into the main hall which runs front to rear, dividing the house into two unequal sections. To the west is the parlor, while to the east are two smaller rooms and a secondary hall extending from the main hall west to east along the south (front) wall.

All rooms on the first floor except the northwest room contain most of their original hardware, including HL hinges and box locks on the raised-paneled doors. The walls are plastered above and below molded chair rails.

The main stair rises from the west side of the entrance hall in two flights separated by a landing situated directly above the rear doorway so that the four-light transom is cut off from the entrance and actually lights the landing rather than the rear hall. Although the stair has a well-turned Georgian

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7.

balustrade terminating in a square faceted newel with a molded cap, the overall effect of the stair is rather plain because of the unadorned open string and flush-sheathed sides.

The main (west) parlor contains Oakland's finest interiors, including a molded dentil cornice and a chair rail which breaks at each window. The long windows, set in deep slightly splayed reveals, have flat molded sills and were apparently used as window seats. Dominating the parlor is the impressive mantel on the west wall. This consists of a heavy three-part architrave around the rectangular opening with a narrow cushion frieze and molded cornice shelf adorned with dentils above. The overmantel is composed of two fluted pilasters bordering a large rectangular plaster wall section. The main cornice encloses the top of the plaster section and breaks out over the pilaster caps.

Although the northwest room has neither a chair rail nor a cornice, the mantel located on the west wall is only slightly less elaborate than that in the main parlor. Located between two closets (the right opening into the room, the left a small cupboard reached by a small door from the secondary hall), the mantel consists of a molded architrave around the opening, with a cushion frieze and molded shelf above. A simple two-part surround borders the large plaster overmantel. The northeast room contains the plainest first-story mantel, which is composed of a molded architrave, unadorned frieze, and simple molded shelf.

The only major changes to the interior on this floor appear to be the addition of bookshelves in the west secondary parlor during the Greek Revival period and the addition of a crude segmental arch above the door leading from the stair hall into the secondary hall.

The plan of the second level is essentially the same as the first except that the southwest corner of the main hall is partitioned into closets and the west end of the secondary hall houses the original plantation office (now a bathroom).

The west bedroom is quite large (20'x20') and is the only second-floor room finished with a chair rail. The mantel is not as elaborate as might be expected, having an unusually narrow unadorned frieze below a molded shelf and a simple molded architrave around the rectangular opening. The mantel in the west secondary bedroom is quite vernacular. Flanking the opening are two small reeded pilasters with heavy molded bases and caps. Extending from the caps is a molded architrave which borders the top of the opening. The coved frieze, adorned with a band of alternating vertical and horizontal reeding, is surmounted by a large heavily molded shelf. The mantel in the east secondary bedroom also features a coved frieze and a heavily molded cornice above a course of molded pierced dentils.

The attic is unfinished except for a few floor boards and is reached by a ladder in one of the small closets located in the southwest corner of the hall.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

General Thomas Brown, the builder of Oakland, was a leader in the movement to suppress the Tory faction in Bladen County. When the Provincial Congress of North Carolina met in August, 1775, he was designated a lieutenant colonel for Bladen's two companies of militia. Then in May of 1776, as momentum built toward revolution, Colonel Brown was ordered to Wilmington at the head of thirteen companies of draftees for the protection of the province. That year it is recorded also that Brown was sent from Wilmington with a force of 110 men to quell a Tory uprising in Bladen. Brown may have commanded at the Battle of Elizabethtown, which occurred August 27, 1781. Some accounts say it was his brother-in-law, Colonel Thomas Robeson, who led the Whig force which defeated a greatly superior number of Tories and thereby effectively ended Tory influence in Bladen. But in a letter dated July 15, 1781, Robeson wrote to Governor Thomas Burke, "I have not seen Col. Brown since I got home, who is the commanding officer of Bladen, but am told he is coming up to us where our men is embodied or will be with us to-day, but it is impossible to get men to join us without Assistance." It is likely that if Brown did indeed arrive by the time of the battle, six weeks after Robeson's letter, he would have had the command of the Whig militia.

Colonel Brown was first married to Sarah Bartram, the daughter of William Bartram. This William Bartram was the uncle of the famous naturalist of that name. William Bartram, the naturalist, explored his uncle's lands on the Cape Fear River, and a description of the area is to be found in his Travels. It is upon this land obtained by Bartram and passed on to his daughter, who died young in 1779, that Brown built Oakland--probably about the time he remarried in 1780. His name, Tom Brown, is inscribed in flowing script on a brick in the rear wall of the house. Tax lists of 1781 value Brown's estate at 24,850 pounds, and in 1788 he is listed as the owner of 6,791 acres and sixteen slaves. Oakland remained in the Brown family for many years, and during the Civil War was the home of Captain W. H. Brown. The property left the Brown family when it was conveyed by the Mary E. Brown estate to N. G. Brisson in 1901. After three intervening owners it was sold in 1941 to J. A. Neisler, the present owner.

Oakland is a well-preserved post-Revolutionary plantation house with handsome late Georgian interiors, one of the few of its type and period remaining in the state. More than this, though, its dramatic approach and setting make it a place of unique and evocative beauty. Oakland embodies perhaps more vividly than any other plantation in North Carolina the romanticised ideal of the Old South.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bladen County Records, Bladen County Courthouse, Elizabethtown, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Bladen County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Brown, Minnie McIver. "'Oakland,' Colonial Mansion on Cape Fear, Rich in Story," (Raleigh) News and Observer, December 20, 1925.
 Earnest, Ernest. John and William Bartram. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1940.
 Saunders, William L., ed. The Colonial Records of North Carolina. Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, 1890.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34°	28'	28"	78°	23'	49"						
NE	34°	28'	32"	78°	23'	36"						
SE	34°	28'	07"	78°	23'	23"						
SW	34°	28'	03"	78°	23'	36"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 64 Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 30 December 1971

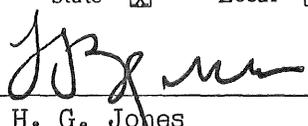
STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name 

H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 30 December 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

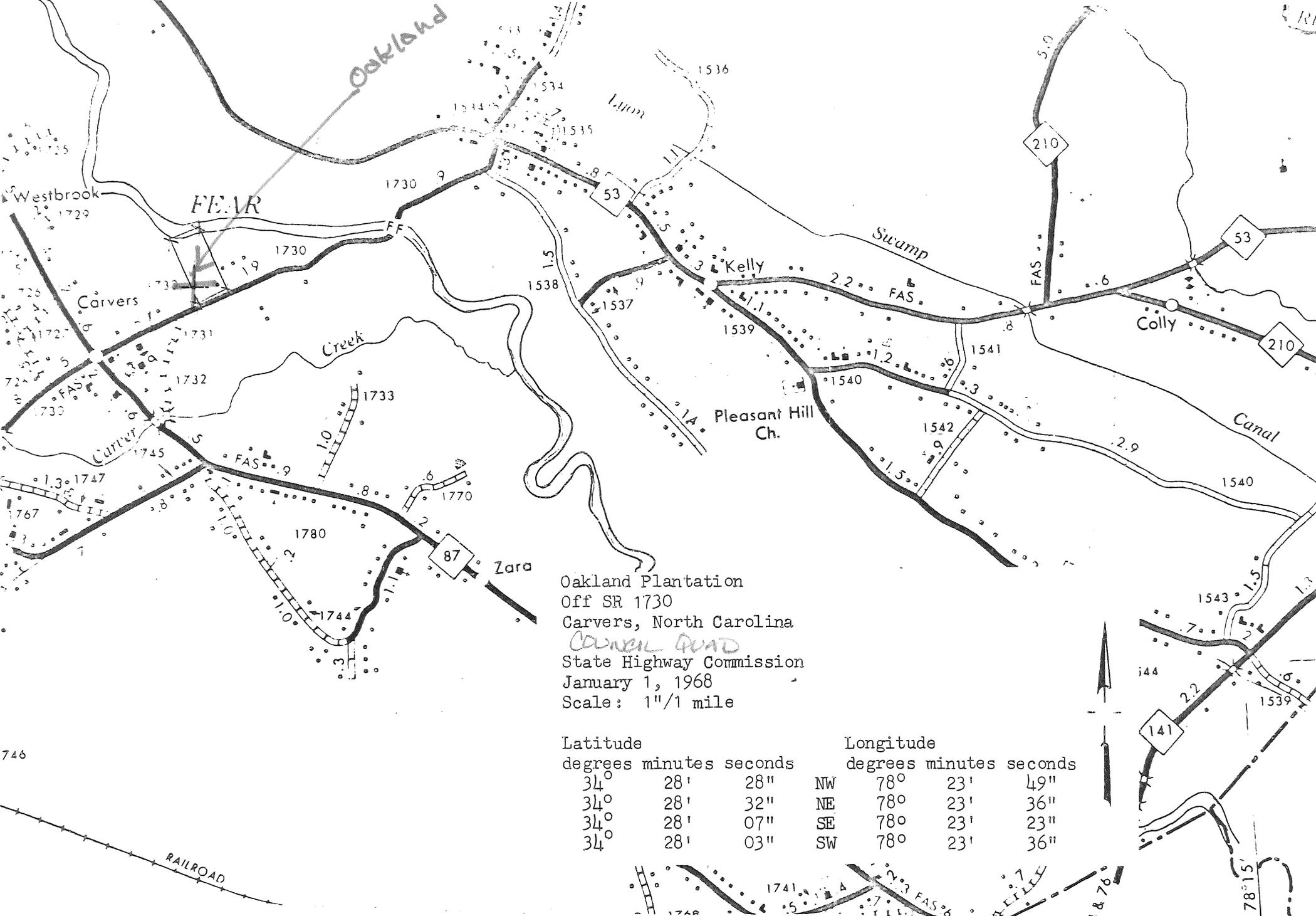
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Oakland Plantation
 Off SR 1730
 Carvers, North Carolina
COUNCIL QUAD
 State Highway Commission
 January 1, 1968
 Scale: 1"/1 mile

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
34°	28'	28"	NW	78°	23' 49"
34°	28'	32"	NE	78°	23' 36"
34°	28'	07"	SE	78°	23' 23"
34°	28'	03"	SW	78°	23' 36"

