

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gilmore-Patterson Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 20337 Hwy 87 West N/A not for publication

city or town St. Paul's vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Bladen code 017 zip code 28384

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Cross SHPO 6/23/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Name of Property

Bladen, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
14	4	buildings
2		sites
	8	structures
		objects
16	12	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agriculture field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbldg.
GOVERNMENT/post office
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricul. field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agri. outbldg.
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Greek Revival-influenced
Other: Queen Anne-influenced

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls wood
roof synthetic
other brick

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1868-1949

Significant Dates

c. 1868

c. 1872

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Name of Property

Bladen, N.C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 120 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 697460 3852580
Zone Easting Northing
2 17 698420 3853560

3 17 698720 3853240
Zone Easting Northing
4 17 697950 3852460

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth Keane

organization Retrospective date February 24, 1999

street & number 321 N. Front St. telephone 910-341-3000

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

Narrative Description

The Gilmore-Patterson farm is located on the west side of the Cape Fear River in western Bladen County, approximately five miles north of Tar Heel. Duart, a small community named after a town in Scotland, developed just south of the farm around the turn-of-the-twentieth century. The nomination includes a rectangular 120-acre parcel situated between North Carolina Routes 87 and 20. The surrounding landscape is predominantly flat with smooth, low rolling hills. Reasonably productive soils support a healthy vegetation. The c. 1872 Patterson farmhouse and auxiliary outbuildings are arranged in a linear pattern with a driveway running between the outbuildings. Landscape features which fan out from the farm buildings include cultivated fields, pastures, wooded areas, and hog yards.

A trace of an old railbed of the Virginia and Carolina South Railroad bisects the agricultural fields. Although additional land which was part of the original Gilmore-Patterson farm survives with the property, it no longer contributes to the historic character of the farm.

The farm complex includes fourteen contributing buildings, two contributing sites, and twelve non-contributing resources, eight of which are non-intrusive grain bins. Among the sixteen contributing resources are a late-nineteenth-century farmhouse, a smokehouse, an outhouse, a (former) post office, a mule barn, three tobacco barns, a garage, a granary, and two tenant houses. The rural setting of the Gilmore-Patterson farm still evinces the character and setting of the late nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century agrarian society of southeastern North Carolina. Although the earliest built resource dates to c. 1868, the farm has been in the same family since the eighteenth century and remains a working farm today. The nominated property retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Inventory List

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Patterson House | c. 1872; c. 1890 | Contributing |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------|

The Patterson farmhouse is a frame one-story dwelling with a central hall plan which was enlarged and updated in a modified Queen Anne style during the latter part of the nineteenth century. A c. 1890 gable-front, pedimented one-room addition to the front of the house created an L-shaped plan. At the same time, a three-sided bay projection was added to the northeast end of the house, along with an exterior-end chimney. The original central five-panel front door with sidelights is flanked on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

north side by a two-over-two sash window. The original detached kitchen was connected c. 1910 to the back of the house with the addition of two small rooms, creating a rear ell. An L-shaped attached front porch supported by turned columns shelters two primary entrances: one into the central hall and one into the front room. In 1963, the kitchen porch was enclosed for a bathroom when plumbing was installed in the house. A few years later, c. 1965, the attached side porch was enclosed with windows.

Simple post-and-lintel mantels, wide baseboards, five-panel doors and simple moldings characterize the interior. The front room exhibits original narrow-width pine floors, while the random-width pine floors in the remaining rooms have been covered with carpeting or linoleum. Simulated paneling covers the original vertical sheathing which lines the walls of interior rooms. The beaded board ceiling is visible in the kitchen, a room which was added to the rear of the house in the early twentieth century. Dropped ceilings cover the beaded board ceilings in the front rooms.

2. Smokehouse c. 1872 Contributing

The weatherboarded, gable-front smokehouse with exposed rafters sits 21 feet northeast of the farmhouse and faces southwest. The building measures 16 1/2 feet by 14 1/2 feet and rests on a new cinderblock foundation. The original 10-inch boards remain visible on the protected southeast side of the building, while weatherboard sheaths the remaining elevations. The building retains a vertical plank door with strap hinges. A shed-roof addition sheathed with wide plank boards is attached to the southwest side of the smokehouse.

3. Outhouse c. 1872 Contributing

The two-seater outhouse resting on a brick foundations stands approximately 100 feet behind the farmhouse. Although fiberboard covers the exterior, the original tongue-and groove pine boards remains visible on the interior.

4. (former) Post Office c. 1900 Contributing

Located 44 feet behind and southwest of the farmhouse, the former post office building measures 12 feet by 18 feet. Metal siding partially covers the frame, gable-front, weatherboarded building. It retains a vertical plank door with strap hinges. A standing-seam metal roof replaced the original shingle roof. A 6/6 sash window in the rear (southwest) elevation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

lights the interior. Metal siding partially covers the weatherboard of a southwest side shed addition.

5. Barn #1 c. 1940 Contributing

The one-and-one-half-story frame barn with weatherboard siding measures 10 1/4 feet by 14 1/4 feet. With a northeast orientation, the barn stands approximately 28 feet southeast of the (former) post office. Standing-seam metal clads the steeply-pitched roof. A loft opening with a small plank door is positioned directly above the central plank door with strap hinges. A 2/2 sash window in the rear elevation lights the interior. Circa 1950 shed additions supported by railroad ties are attached to each side of the main block of the barn. Metal siding partially covers the exterior of the barn.

6. Barn # 2 (granary) c. 1872 Contributing

Although recently converted to a granary, the barn dates to the same period as the house. The frame gable-front, one-and-one-half-story building measures 16 feet, 2 inches by 24 feet, 8 inches and stands approximately 19 feet southeast of barn #1, facing northeast. The barn retains a steeply pitched metal roof, while metal siding covers the weatherboarded building. A treated pole and 4 x 4's support the attached front porch. A sliding chipboard door replaced the original front door. Recently converted to a granary, two grain storage bins stand immediately southeast of the building, each with augers directed into the side of the granary.

7. Garage c. 1935 Contributing

The gable-front two-car garage with wide overhanging eaves and exposed rafters stands approximately 68 feet southeast of the farmhouse and faces northwest. The original part of the garage measures 15 feet, 6 inches by 18 feet, 2 inches. Shed-roof extensions are attached to each side of the original building.

8. Mule Stable c. 1868 Contributing

This two-story frame building with a steeply-pitched roof and shed additions is the oldest outbuilding on the property and may pre-date the farmhouse. The southwest oriented building measures 20 feet, 6 inches by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

31 feet, 9 inches. Metal siding partially covers the stable's original wide plank boards.

9. Log Tobacco Barn #1 c. 1927 Contributing

Constructed of pine logs with saddleback notching, the tobacco barn measures 20 feet by 15 feet and is sheathed with wood boards. Attached collapsing sheds surround the barn. Leaning precariously, the building has not been used for a number of years.

10. Log Tobacco Barn #2 c. 1942 Contributing

Of pine log construction with saddleback notching and portland cement chinking, this two-story gable-front tobacco barn measures 20 by 20 feet. Wide shed additions surround the barn.

11. Tenant House #1 c. 1927 Contributing

Relocated from its original farm site, this one-story, gable-end frame house is three bays wide with asymmetrical fenestration and features a door flanked by casement windows. A combination of metal sheathing and particle board covers the original board-and-batten siding. Square posts support a full-width front porch. A pole shed is attached to the rear of the house.

12. Tobacco Barn #3 c. 1945 Contributing

The frame gable-front tobacco barn with a standing-seam metal roof measures approximately 18 feet by 22 feet. Metal siding partially covers the original weatherboard siding. The building is in good condition and retains the gas-fueled dryers. The barn rests on a cinderblock foundation and retains open pole-shed additions on two sides.

13. Tenant House #2 c. 1927 Contributing

The one-story frame gable-end, double-pile house measures 33 feet by 38 feet. The three-bay asymmetrical facade includes a paneled door flanked by 6/6 sash windows. Corrugated metal siding partially covers the original weatherboard. The house, which rests on brick piers, retains an interior chimney and a standing-seam metal roof. Shed-roof porches supported by wood posts span the front and rear facades.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

14. Barn #3 c. 1927 Contributing

The two-story frame gable-front barn with a standing-seam metal roof measures approximately 15 feet by 20 feet. A loft opening is positioned immediately above the original centered vertical plank door. Metal siding partially covers the barn's flush wide pine boards.

15. Agricultural landscape. c. 1872-present Contributing Site

The surviving agricultural landscape of the Gilmore-Patterson farm consists of several elements. Cultivated fields of wheat, soybeans, peanuts, and corn lie southwest of the farmyard. Groves of hardwood trees line the southern and northern boundaries of the property. Several hog lots are scattered along the northwest and southwest boundaries of the property. The land continues to be used essentially as it was during the period of significance of the farm. The agricultural landscape conveys the visual character typical of many eastern North Carolina farmsteads during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

16. Railroad bed 1911-1958 Contributing Site

In 1911, the Virginia and Carolina South Railroad built a line between St. Paul's and Elizabethtown, which bisected the Gilmore-Patterson Farm. Although the railroad disbanded in 1958, a trace of the railroad bed remains visible.

17. Utility Shed 1971 Non-contributing

A one-story shed-roof cinderblock outbuilding stands slightly southeast of the granary. Principal facade bays include two front entrances and several small fixed sash windows. Metal sheathing and exposed rafters define the sloping shed roof.

18. Pole Shed 1980 Non-contributing

An open storage pole shed with a shed roof supported by poles.

19. Pole Barn #1 1980 Non-contributing

A one-story seven-bay storage equipment pole barn with a metal shed roof stands slightly southwest of the utility shed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 1

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gilmore-Patterson Farm, in Western Bladen County adjacent to the small community of Duart and five miles north of Tar Heel, is a rare surviving example of a southeastern North Carolina farm that has been continuously owned and cultivated by the same family since the mid-eighteenth century. The area was first settled in the mid-eighteenth century largely by Highland Scots who were immigrating to the Cape Fear Valley seeking religious freedom. William Lord, a Scottish immigrant, received a land grant of 640 acres on the southwest side of the Cape Fear River on September 6, 1735. By the mid-nineteenth century, the land had come under the ownership of William Lord Gilmore, a descendant of the original landowner.

The residual 120-acre tract of the Gilmore-Patterson Farm meets Criterion A for significance in the history of agriculture as an important representation of the evolution of agricultural practices in western Bladen County. The period of significance for the property begins c. 1868, the year William Lord Gilmore deeded the property to Daniel Patterson and the construction date of the earliest extant resource.

The farm also meets Criterion C for architectural significance. The complex is anchored by a one-story late-Greek Revival house built by Daniel and Catherine Gilmore Patterson c. 1872 and updated to a modified Queen Anne form c. 1890. The agricultural complex also includes a large collection of significant late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century outbuildings, including several tenant houses, a mule barn, a smokehouse, an outhouse, several log tobacco barns, several frame barns, and a former post office, all arranged in an agricultural landscape of pastures, fields, and woods evocative of the historic rural landscape of eastern North Carolina. A trace of an old railroad bed which transects the property is a reminder of the Virginia and Carolina South Railroad, an early-twentieth-century rail line, which ran from St. Paul's to Elizabethtown. The agricultural landscape extending beyond the boundaries of the nominated 120-acre Gilmore-Patterson farm remains a remarkably intact vista of fields and pastures reminiscent of the original eighteenth-century land grant.

The Gilmore-Patterson farm presents a rare and important glimpse into a typical Bladen County late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century farm, founded by Scottish immigrants and sustained through several centuries of social and agricultural change.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 2

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

Historical Background

Currently encompassing 976 square miles, Bladen County was formed in 1734 from New Hanover County. The county was named in honor of Martin Bladen, a member of the board in charge of affairs of the English colonies. The county has been referred to as "the mother of counties" as fifty-five additional counties have been carved from it (Bethel Township in Bladen County, p. 3).

By the middle of the eighteenth century, immigrating Highland Scots, seeking religious freedom, began to fill the interior of North Carolina. The enticement of fertile land and good climate lured many Scots into the Cape Fear Valley. In 1735, William Lord, a Scottish immigrant, received a land grant of 640 acres on the southwest side of the Cape Fear River in Bladen County.

The original William Lord land grant was passed down through succeeding generations and divided accordingly. By 1850, William Lord Gilmore, age thirty-eight (1811-1880), a farmer, his wife Rachel, age twenty-five (1823-1905), and their two children, John J., age ten, and Louise, age three, were residing on the property (1850 U.S. population census). Their daughter, Mary Catherine, was born on Aug 1, 1850 (Patterson, p. 440).

The same year, John Patterson, age fifty, his wife, Worthy, age fifty, and their seven children were residing on a 140-acre farm in Bladen County (1850 U.S. population census). Their eldest child, Daniel (age twenty-one), would ultimately go on to play a significant role in the Confederate Army and later, marry Mary Catherine Gilmore.

The outbreak of the Civil War shattered the tranquility of farm life in western Bladen County. Contingents formed throughout North Carolina and in March and April of 1862, Company H, known as the Clarendon Guards, enlisted in Bladen and New Hanover Counties. They were mustered into Confederate Service at Wilmington on May 10, 1862, as "Captain Daniel Patterson's Artillery Company of North Carolina Volunteers". Soon after muster, the battery was stationed at Fort St. Philip, Brunswick County, where it remained until transferred to Fort Fisher in New Hanover County in early 1864. The company fought at Fort Fisher on December 24 and 25, 1864, and was captured when the fort fell on January 15, 1865. Captain Daniel Patterson, along with the other officers, was sent to Fort Columbus, New York Harbor, where he remained until he was paroled at Boulware's Wharf, James River, Virginia, on March 5, 1865 (Manarin, p. 290).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 3

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

Captain Patterson returned to his native Bladen County after the war. On November 6, 1868, William Lord Gilmore deeded to Daniel Patterson, a parcel of land on the southwest side of the Cape Fear River in Bladen County, described as 500 acres more or less of a 640-acre portion conveyed to the said William L. Gilmore by William L. Miller on November 31, 1836. (A will by Frederick Miller dated April 4, 1834, listed William L. Miller as his son and William Lord Gilmore as his grandson.) Apparently, Gilmore was indebted to Patterson to the sum of thirteen hundred dollars, as the deed also conveyed a number of notes to Patterson, in order to pay off his debt (Deed Book 33, p. 542). On July 24, 1871, Captain Patterson, age forty-two, married William Lord Gilmore's daughter, Mary Catherine Gilmore, age twenty-one (Bladen County Vital Statistics).

William Lord Gilmore died on December 22, 1880. His obituary mentioned he began life where he ended it, near Prospect Hill in Bladen County. It went on to describe him as "a gentlemen of much more than ordinary talent and intelligence and of a very social disposition" (Bladen County Vital Statistics). His wife, Rachel, died on March 12, 1905 (family cemetery). They are buried together in a family plot on the Gilmore-Patterson farm on a section of land not included in this nomination.

A period of recovery and renewal in Bladen County, as elsewhere in North Carolina, lasted approximately from the end of the war in 1865 to the mid 1880s. Although farming and new construction had come to a virtual standstill during the Civil War due to a scarcity of materials and available labor, Bladen County gradually rebuilt its agricultural-based economy in the post-war years. New rail lines throughout North Carolina contributed to the availability of mass produced lumber and nails, encouraging the construction of lighter, faster balloon frame houses.

Around 1872, the Pattersons replaced the old Gilmore farmhouse with the existing one-story, center-hall, late-Greek Revival style house. Daniel and Mary Catherine Patterson's four children included Mary Luola Patterson (1873-1941) who married George Wright Lennon (1867-1942), Emmie Murphy Patterson (1875-1968) who remained unmarried, Theresa Shaw Patterson (1877-1956) who remained unmarried, and Alton Gilmore Patterson (1890-1954) who married Hattie Thomas Davis. Captain Daniel Patterson died on January 5, 1904, at the age of seventy-five, and is buried at Beth Carr Presbyterian Church, on the periphery of Tar Heel.

The 1910 population census revealed that Mrs. Mary C. Patterson (widow, age fifty-nine) was farming 108 acres. Her daughter, Emmie, age thirty-eight, her son A. G. (Alton Gilmore), age twenty, and her sister-in-law, Ophelia Gilmore, age fifty-four, were also residing on the farm.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 4

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

A. G. Patterson married Hattie Thomas Davis on October 17, 1917 (Patterson, p. 441). Members of A. G. Patterson's household reported in the 1920 census included his wife, Hattie, age twenty-eight, his daughter, Mary Virginia, age eight, and his mother, Mary Catherine, age seventy.

A will made out by Mary Catherine Patterson, dated February 24, 1921, devised 200 acres of land to her son, A. G. Patterson. The parcel consisted of "a strip of land running from her back line to S. P. McNair's line near the Cape Fear River, and to be of such equal width all the way through as to contain two hundred acres." She bequeathed to her daughters, Luola P. Lennon, Emmie M. Patterson, and Theresa S. Patterson, all the balance and residue of her lands (Will Book 4, Bladen County). Mary Catherine Patterson died on July 31, 1926, and is buried next to her husband, Captain Daniel Patterson, in the Beth Carr Presbyterian Church cemetery.

After his mother's death, A. G. Patterson and his wife, Hattie Thomas, continued living on the farm and cultivating the land. Their family grew to include Alton Gilmore Patterson, Jr., born November 24, 1927. A. G. Patterson, Jr., married Daphne Lewis Allen on March 14, 1954 (interview with Daphne Lewis Allen Patterson). Several months later, the senior Alton Gilmore Patterson died. His wife, Hattie, died ten years later on October 28, 1964. They are buried adjacent to Captain Daniel and Mary Catherine Patterson in the Beth Carr Presbyterian Church cemetery. Before her death, Hattie, along with her daughter, Mary Patterson Cruse, formally deeded the farm to A. G. Patterson, Jr., (Deed Book 151, p. 795) along with another parcel of land nearby. An earlier deed (Deed Book 151, p. 737) dated February 25, 1957, transferred a fifty-acre parcel of land from Hattie Patterson and Mary Patterson Cruse to A. G. Patterson, Jr. described as lying on the southwest side of North Carolina Highway 20, being all of that portion of the A. G. Patterson, Sr., homeplace conveyed to him in a division of the Mary Gilmore Patterson estate.

Alton Gilmore Patterson, Jr., and his wife, Daphne, had two children: Patricia Ann Patterson (b. June 15, 1957) and Russell (Rusty) Lynn Patterson (b. April 24, 1963). After many years of farming the land, A. G. Patterson, Jr., died on July 20, 1997. His will stated: "all the land not already deeded to Patricia Ann Sheppard and Rusty Patterson shall remain as one farming unit not to be sold. Rusty Patterson will have the right to the farm as long as he lives. At his death the land becomes the property of Austin Lamar Sheppard, Stacey Leigh Sheppard, and any children born to Rusty Patterson after this date, and shall be divided equally among them. It is also requested that Rusty Patterson cover and maintain the old home place and that it must be maintained in a liveable condition for any family

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 5

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

member to live in" (Will File 97E 00175, Bladen County Records). Thus, provisions have been made for the farm to continue in the same family, at least for another generation. Carrying on the family tradition, Rusty Patterson continues farming the land, growing diversified crops, as well as raising hogs and cattle.

Agricultural Context

The agricultural history of southeastern Bladen County parallels the development of agricultural practices in North Carolina. By the middle of the eighteenth century, the region was being settled largely by immigrants from Scotland, who were attracted to the area's fertile soil and mild climate. While a few of the immigrants received large land grants, many of them established small- to mid-size farms. The early economy depended largely on the production of tar, pitch, and turpentine harvested from the regions' vast stands of virgin pine forest.

Although large plantations were the exception, there was an established middle-class of farmers who owned slaves. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the Gilmore family were fairly typical in this respect. The 1850 slave census listed William Lord Gilmore as owning five slaves, a female, age twenty-nine, and four children. The Gilmores were living on 700 acres of unimproved land and 150 acres of improved land. The family owned two horses, five cows, five cattle, and twenty hogs. They also grew approximately four-hundred bushels of corn, ten bushels of peas and beans, and sixty bushels of sweet potatoes.

Circumstances had changed little by 1860, when the agricultural census reported that the Gilmores owned 650 acres of unimproved land and 150 acres of improved land, with a total value of \$2,000.00. They owned two horses, two mules, five cows, six cattle, and eighty-five swine. The amount of produce grown was approximately the same as reported in the 1850 census.

Daniel Patterson acquired approximately 500 acres of the Gilmore farm in 1868. At the same time, he came into possession of two mules, twenty head of cattle, thirty-seven head of sheep, twenty hogs, three wagons, one cart, and one buggy and harness. Farming practices underwent a gradual evolution after the conclusion of the Civil War. With thousands of farmers in debt, and with thousands of newly free but landless blacks seeking work, the tenant system developed. Workers and landowners were often drawn into a spiral of debt and cash-crop production that increased dependence on a single money crop--most often cotton or tobacco (Bisher, p. 273). The average size of farms began to decline due to the effects of emancipation and the economic conditions generated by Reconstruction policies.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 6

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

Cotton production increased in Bladen County during the early twentieth century. Additional agricultural products from local farms included corn, watermelons, and peppers. The 1920 census relates that A. G. Patterson (son of Daniel Patterson), age twenty-nine, was farming 186 acres. Cotton was the principal crop on the Gilmore-Patterson farm at this time, while hog production was also an important source of income (interview with Patricia Sheppard). Tenant farmers were recruited to aid with the labor-intensive production of cotton. The relationship between the landlord and the tenant varied among farmers, however, the landlord normally provided tenant housing and a share of the crop in return for labor. The Pattersons maintained three substantial tenant houses, two of which are located on the nominated property. A. G. Patterson, Sr. continued to farm the land throughout his lifetime.

A. G. Patterson, Jr., took over the farm upon the death of his father in 1954. The production of cotton gradually gave way to tobacco cultivation. The cultivation and processing of tobacco required curing barns on the farm acreage. Three tobacco barns on the Gilmore-Patterson farm, two of log construction and one of frame, provide evidence of the importance of tobacco production in the early- to mid-twentieth century.

Peanuts also became an important cash crop in the early- to mid-twentieth century. The growth of the peanut industry was greatly enhanced when an up-to-date peanut factory was erected at Elizabethtown, the county seat, in 1931. By 1973, Bladen County still remained a largely rural and agricultural county. The Pattersons continued tobacco production on their farm until about 1978. Additional important products included grains, soybeans, corn, and peanuts. They also continued to raise hogs and cattle.

Rusty Patterson follows in his ancestors footsteps by continuing to work the family farm. He grows a variety of crops including peanuts, soybeans, corn, hay, oats, and wheat. He also carries on the family tradition of raising hogs and cattle. At a time when modern agribusinesses have combined former, smaller, family-owned farms into corporate complexes, the Gilmore-Patterson farm remains a family enterprise.

Architectural Context

The Gilmore-Patterson farm is architecturally significant as one of the best surviving examples of a family-owned farm complex dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Bladen County. Although the farm has been in continuous ownership and under cultivation by members of the same family since the eighteenth century, all remnants of late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century farm buildings have disappeared.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 7

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

The Patterson farmhouse and most of the outbuildings and support features date from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The Gilmore-Patterson farm complex clearly illustrates evolving architectural styles and farm practices in Bladen County throughout the twentieth century.

The c. 1872 Patterson farmhouse was originally built as a vernacular one-story, gable-end, single-pile house with a center-hall plan. Late Greek Revival details are revealed by the sidelights flanking the central front door, corner pilasters, and simple moldings around the doors and windows. The interior is defined by five-panel doors, plain wide baseboards, and simple post and lintel mantels. A detached kitchen was situated behind the main house. The traditional one-story, symmetrical, central-hall-plan was typical of farm houses of the post-Civil War era across southeastern North Carolina.

By the early 1890s, the house was enlarged and updated with late-nineteenth-century Victorian details. Additions included an asymmetrical front pedimented gable wing with a peaked louvered vent. The northwest parlor room was enlarged with the addition of a three-sided bay. Windows were also enlarged with 2/2 sash giving the house an updated Queen-Anne-style appearance. The "L"-shaped attached porch is supported by turned posts. In a later addition, the kitchen was connected to the house by the addition of two rooms and the porches flanking the kitchen were screened. In 1963, the kitchen porch was enclosed for a bathroom when plumbing was installed in the house.

While a reconnaissance-level survey of Bladen County was conducted in the 1970s, as a rule small late-nineteenth-century farms were not documented. It is unlikely that many farm properties of this era survive with the number of dependencies and agricultural outbuildings as the Gilmore-Patterson farm. Modern agribusinesses such as swine and poultry producers have combined former, smaller, family-owned farms into corporate complexes aimed at large-scale production. This, together with the overall decline of the family farm and changes in farming technology, has caused farm outbuildings and other agriculture-related structures to disappear.

The c. 1872 Patterson farmhouse sits amongst an assortment of subsidiary outbuildings, providing a clear picture of farming practices and traditions at the turn-of-the-twentieth century in Bladen County. Situated close to the house are several buildings associated with the operation of the household, including a smokehouse and a privy. The two-seater outhouse situated behind the main house continues to serve as a reminder of the inconveniences suffered by the general populace before the advent of indoor plumbing. The smokehouse, also located in close proximity to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 8

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

farmhouse, was used for salting and curing meat well into the twentieth century.

The farm includes resources directly associated with the production of crops or livestock, such as cribs, barns, tobacco barns, packhouses, and silos. These buildings and structures are normally situated some distance from the dwelling. The earliest extant building, the c. 1868 heavy-timber mule barn, stands approximately 120 feet from the house. Much of traditional farm life revolved around the care and feeding of farm animals. The mule barn reflects the once common practice of keeping horses and mules on a farm for the purpose of pulling early farming implements.

Additional outbuildings include a c. 1872 barn which has been converted into a granary, a c. 1940 barn, a c. 1900 (former) post office, and a c. 1935 garage. The (former) post office building was probably moved onto the property when the post office in Duart closed. It has served as an office and storage building on the farm.

The earliest of the remaining tobacco barns in Bladen were built in the 1920s and 1930s when the production of flue-cured tobacco was beginning to flourish. Three tobacco barns on the Gilmore-Patterson farm, two log and one frame, reflect the popularity of tobacco as a cash crop in Bladen County in the early twentieth century. All of the barns are situated some distance from the farm house. The flue-cured log barns on the Gilmore-Patterson farm utilize saddle-back notching and are filled with mortar chinking. One of the structures is a perfect square (20 feet by 20 feet), while one measures 18 feet by 22 feet and the third measures 20 feet by 15 feet. Each of the barns has attached sheds which served several purposes. They provided a shady place for stringing the tobacco, protected the furnace from the rain, and sheltered attendants who needed to stay at the barn overnight during the curing process. Two of the barns have been covered with metal siding for better insulation.

The nominated tract of the Gilmore-Patterson farm includes two tenant farmhouses, one remains occupied by a farm employee. The houses, built c. 1927, date to approximately the same time period as the two log tobacco barns. The simple frame, one-story side-gabled houses lack any form of ornamentation.

As farming practices evolved and the needs of the family changed, more buildings were added to the farm complex. Recent additions include several pole barns to house modern farm equipment and a cinderblock storage building. A modern ranch house and garage associated with Patterson

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 9

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

descendants sits adjacent to the nominated portion of the Gilmore-Patterson farm.

While little is known about farms in Bladen County, several farm complexes in adjacent Duplin County, which has undergone a recent comprehensive survey, are comparable to the Gilmore-Patterson farm. The Bryan Newkirk Williams farm in western Duplin County revolves around a c. 1800 house with updated additions, along with a full complement of outbuildings including a c. 1900 log crib, a c. 1950 barn, flue-cured tobacco barns, hog houses, a smokehouse, and a detached kitchen. The Samuel Tilden Patterson farm, also in Duplin County, is anchored by a 1912 frame I-house. Outbuildings on the farm include log tobacco barns, a smokehouse, sheds, packhouses, and barns. Similar to the Gilmore-Patterson farm, the Patterson family in Duplin County grew diversified crops including tobacco, corn and other staple crops.

The Gilmore-Patterson farm and its full complement of outbuildings dating from c. 1868 to the present continue to reflect the evolving farm practices of this family-owned and operated Bladen County farm. The farm as a whole is in excellent condition and Russell Patterson plans preventative and restorative steps to maintain the Patterson farmhouse and early outbuildings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 1

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Gilmore-Patterson Farm
Bladen County, NC

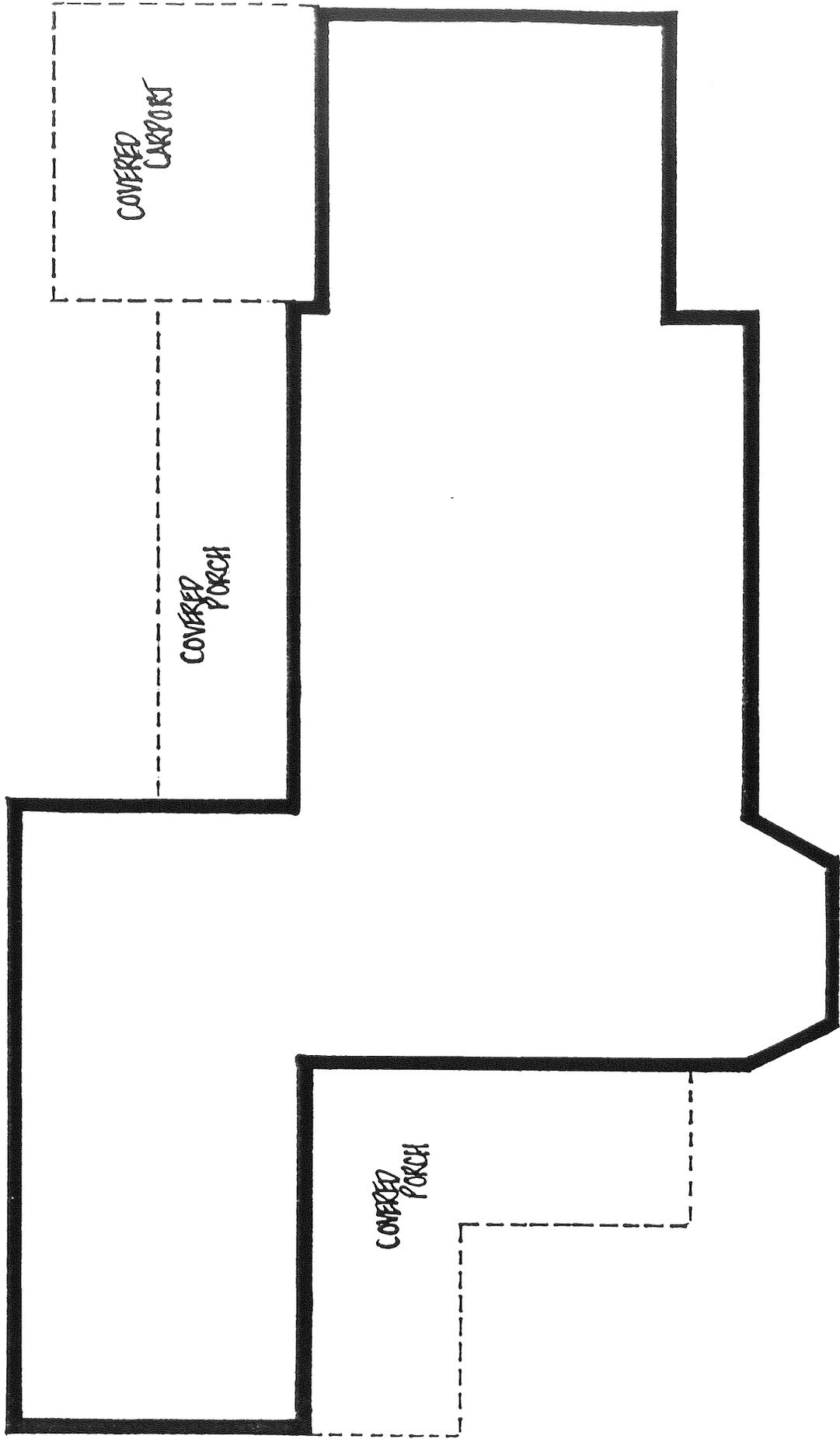
Verbal Boundary Description

The Gilmore-Patterson Farm nomination includes 120 acres of the total 266 acres owned by the Patterson family. The nominated parcel is a portion of the land deeded to A. G. Patterson by his mother, Mary C. Patterson, and is also a portion of the land deeded to Daniel Patterson by William Lord Gilmore. The parcel is a rectangular piece bounded on the northeast by State Route 87 and on the southwest by State Route 20. The southeast boundary runs along the property line for 1300 feet between State Routes 87 and 20. The northwest boundary runs parallel to the southeast boundary for 2000 feet and is the original property line of the parcel of land deeded to A.G. Patterson by Mary Patterson(Please see accompanying tax map.)

Boundary Justification

The 120-acre tract contains a late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century farm complex, together with adjacent fields and pastures, which retain historic and architectural integrity in an intact agricultural landscape.

PATERSON HOUSE, C. 1872, BLADEN COUNTY, N.C.



GILMORE-PATTERSON FARM
BLADEN CO., N.C.

(not to scale)

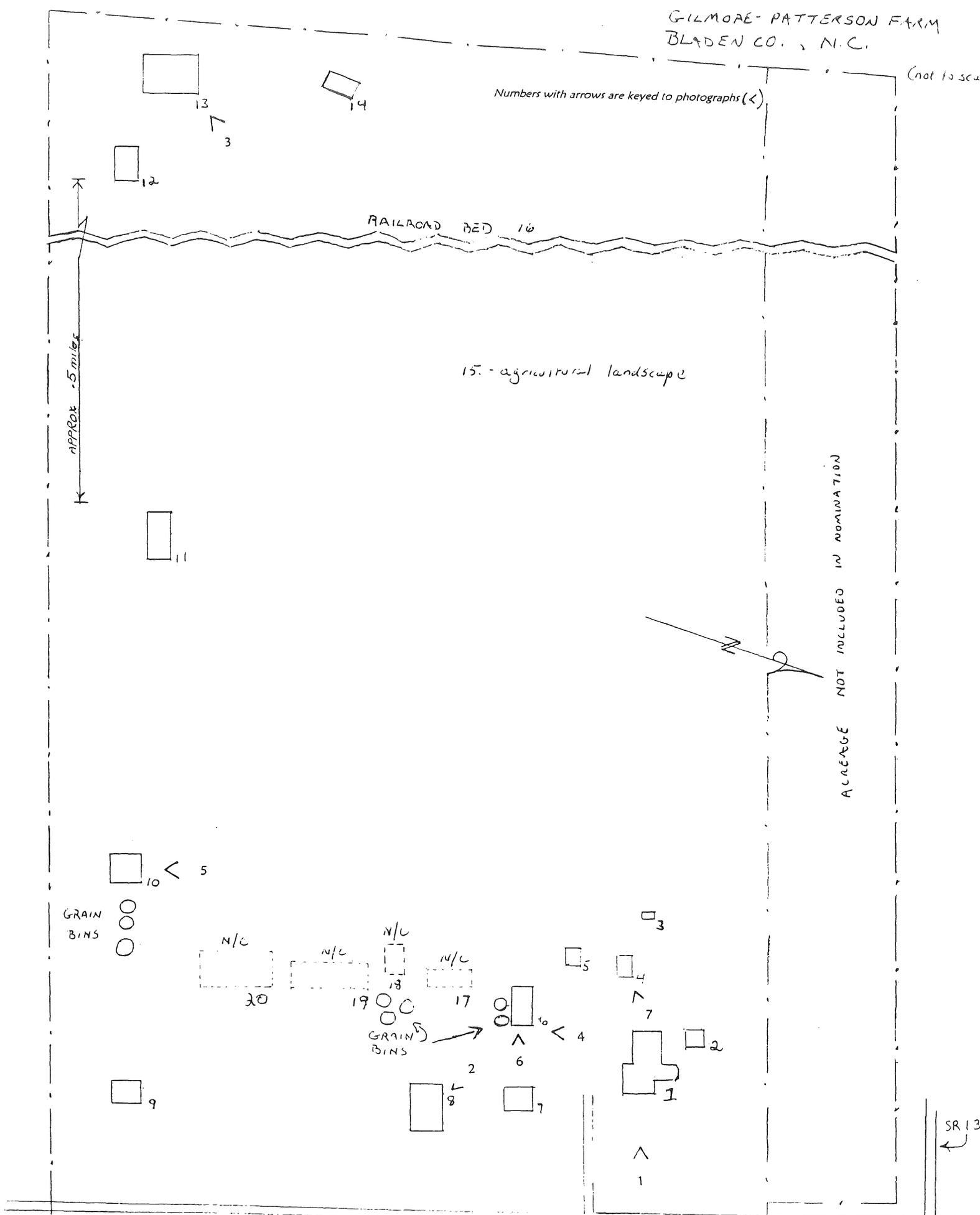
Numbers with arrows are keyed to photographs (<)

RAILROAD BED 16

15 - agricultural landscape

ACREAGE NOT INCLUDED IN NOMINATION

APPROX .5 miles



NC HWY 87

SR 130

