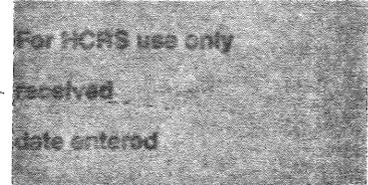


OMB 1024-0018  
EXP 12-31-84

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

historic Joseph B. Stone House

and/or common Stone-Fearrington House

**2. Location**

street & number East side SR 1008,  
1.5 miles South of Martha's Chapel Road not for publication

city, town Farrington  vicinity of Fourth congressional district

state North Carolina code 037 county Chatham code 037

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process <sup>N/A</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered <sup>N/A</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Dr. James S. Howard, III

street & number Route 3

city, town Apex vicinity of state North Carolina 27502

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chatham County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Pittsboro state North Carolina 27312

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

---

## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on a knoll about a half-mile east of the New Hope River stands the Joseph Booth Stone House. Facing west, the frame two-story single-pile block with original one-story rear shed exhibits stylistic features of the Georgian and Federal architectural styles expressed in the vernacular of an I-house framework.

Remarkably unchanged since its construction, the building was restored in 1969 and retains most of its original features. The clapboard siding is largely intact, replacements having been carefully made on some of the lower boards. Federal-style exterior end chimneys with freestanding stacks and a pair of paved and tumbled shoulders are executed in three-to-one common bond with glazed headers. The simple gable and shed roofs have raked end boards and boxed cornices with pattern boards. The roofs were recently covered with steel reinforced cement tiles which have the appearance of wood shingles and match square-ended wood shingles (probably the original fabric) which were found in the attic during the restoration.

Nine-over-nine sash windows with thick unmolded sills on the first floor front and ends of the main block give way to nine-over-six sash upstairs and four-over-four sash in the rear shed rooms. The two-part molded surrounds of the exterior windows and doors consist of an ogee mold around a wide frame with the interior edges beaded--the beading is now partially obscured by weathering.

Dominating the three bay front facade is a wide asymmetrical two-bay paneled entrance beneath a new gable roof porch. This panelling has been oiled but never painted and is almost black. Shaded by the porch roof, the panelling is in stark contrast to the light paint of the weatherboards. The heavy doors have six raised panels surrounded by three-part moldings. The south double-leaf doors, which enter the wide center hall, are surmounted by a six-light transom. Immediately to the left is a single-leaf door of identical workmanship, giving access to the heated north room. The dark oiled pine panels surrounding this entrance feature very plain thin stiles and rails at heights corresponding to the horizontal lines of the door panels. To either side of the whole, plain wide weathered boards extend from the floor to the ceiling of the porch.

The comparative lack of design and joinery sophistication of the exterior paneled area to the well-crafted interior wainscoting places the exterior work on a much cruder level of workmanship. Unanswerable questions arise as to its being work done by different carpenters. It is unlikely, too, that the existing fabric is replacement panelling done after the single door was put in at a later time; interior inspection indicates that the single door is not a later addition, for the wainscot in the north room is continuous, and its symmetry of construction is clearly unaltered.

The center hall floor plan is an expression of Georgian symmetry, extending the depth of the house to corresponding double rear doors beneath the shed roof. In the main block, single doors to each of the large rooms flanking the hall are located near the front entrance on the center axis between the chimneys. From the south room are a door to the small shed room, now a kitchen, and an exterior door between the fireplace and rear end of the south room. The stair door and north shed room are entered by a turn of the hall at the rear of the house.

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Continuation sheet      Description      Item number 7      Page 1

Wainscot in the two main rooms and downstairs hall is the dominant decorative feature of the Stone-Ferrington House. The hall wainscot is surmounted by wide flush sheathing on walls and ceiling. All the woodwork in the house, except for the mantels and the north shed room, has remained unpainted since its construction and is in perfect condition. Heavily molded wainscot rails and stiles surround raised panels in a motif consisting of a vertical panel between stacked pairs of longer horizontal panels. The pattern is repeated for long runs on unbroken walls, or it stands alone in pleasant symmetry for short spaces, such as the distance between a fireplace and corner or a door and corner. The rails descend to the floor with no baseboard. A one-and-a-half inch square chair rail molded with a semicircular tongue-in-section forms the transition to the heavily molded interior door surrounds. Flush horizontal sheathing ten to twelve inches wide covers the walls and ceilings of the hall. The panelling, sheathing, and door trim, as well as the six-panel doors, are unpainted and remarkably free of damage and vandalism. All other walls and ceilings are plaster, which was restored by the present owner.

The enclosed stair has a full size door on the first floor but no door above. Walls and slant ceiling are completely sheathed, and there is no hand rail. The only decorative element is a subtle extended tongue or half-round molding in the tread, like that of the chair rail. At the top of the stair, trim for the stair entrance and door on the perpendicular wall to the north join expertly and meet the sheathing of the stairwell. Here as elsewhere in the house the contrast of dark wood trim to light plaster walls attracts the viewer to the high quality of joinery which has withstood its years so well.

Upstairs the walls and ceilings are also plaster; wainscoting consists of wide sheathing with a wide molded baseboard. Three-part door and window trim and six-panel doors duplicate those downstairs.

The four mantels are Georgian in design and mass, although there are no over-mantels, and they bear their original flat black paint. The two upstairs and the one in the north room downstairs are heavy, dark horizontal pieces 76" wide and 60" high. The three are almost identical, each having wide side panels with a small molding on the outer sides and a pair of small raised panels above the fire opening. A support flares slightly to hold the seven inch deep 82" wide shelf. The parlor mantel is the same size, but the panels of the pilasters and panels over the opening are molded in a manner more like the wainscot. The mantel shelf support is a gradually widening block embellished with ogee moldings.

A stylistic anomaly in a Georgian-Federal house is that the original hinges on all the doors, rather than being H-L type, are stamped iron leaf hinges, four screws per leaf, with the words BALDWIN PATENT, one word per leaf.

Also located on the property are the old well which has been covered by a small brick gable roof pumphouse, a large early twentieth century barn built by Ex. Ferrington, and the eighteenth century John Dupree House. The Dupree House was moved to its present site (about 75 feet southeast of the Stone House) from Wake County and is being restored by the owner.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      n/a                      **Builder/Architect**      unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Joseph B. Stone House in Chatham County was built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century as a piedmont plantation dwelling and was occupied by Joseph B. Stone and his descendants from the antebellum period until the mid-twentieth century. An excellent example of transitional Georgian-Federal style architecture, the house has remained remarkably unchanged over the years and provides an interesting case for the study of vernacular architecture in piedmont North Carolina. Of particular significance is the unusual arrangement of the front entrance with both single and double leaf doors set in a completely panelled wall beneath the porch roof and the unpainted state of most of the original woodwork.

**Criteria Assessment:**

- A. The Joseph B. Stone House is associated with the broad patterns of political, economic, and social development in piedmont North Carolina--patterns predicated on the success of the antebellum plantation economy.
- B. The house is also associated with the Stones and Fearringtons, locally prominent families, who made significant contributions to the political, economic, and social development of the New Hope area of Chatham County.
- C. The house is an unusually intact example of vernacular architecture with elements of the Georgian and Federal styles rendered in a strictly local idiom.

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The structure in Chatham County known as the Joseph B. Stone House was constructed sometime in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Local tradition claims that planter Francis Stone, grandfather of Joseph B. Stone, owned the land on which either Francis Stone or his descendants built the dwelling. Some documentary evidence, however, suggests that the house may have stood on a tract which Joseph B. Stone's father, John Stone, purchased from one Thomas Revelry in 1816.<sup>1</sup> This latter theory is supported by a will of 1847 in which John Stone declares: "I give and bequeath to my son Joseph Stone in addition to what I have heretofore given him a certain tract of land whereon he now lives which I purchased of Thomas Revelry containing about one hundred and ninety eight and a half acres."<sup>2</sup> Although it is not certain whether the Stone House passed to Joseph Stone from his grandfather Francis Stone or from a sale by Thomas Revelry, architectural features strongly confirm the tradition that the house was built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

Joseph B. Stone was a successful planter and slave-owner of moderate wealth whose father and grandfather had also been a part of the state's plantation economy. The house in which Joseph B. Stone lived was indicative of the type of dwellings built and occupied by the relatively prosperous plantation owners of the piedmont. In 1860 he owned 19 slaves and approximately 1,250 acres of unimproved land and 130 acres of improved land in Chatham County. He raised some cotton, grain crops, including 10,000 bushels of corn, and a sizable amount of livestock, especially swine.<sup>3</sup> In the decade before the Civil War Stone may have built another house in addition to the one which now bears his name. His granddaughter, Gladys Stone, recalls hearing that Stone built a dwelling around the time his son "Alpheus was about four years old," ca. 1850s. Another descendant, Paul Fearrington remembers his grandmother, Martha (Mattie) Stone Fearrington, telling him that she helped "burn the brick" for the chimneys of a new house. Still, no evidence has been found that Joseph B. Stone and his family ever moved into another house, and only the earlier residence now stands on the tract. Four slave houses also once stood nearby.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to operating a successful plantation, Stone was a community leader in New Hope township. In the decade before the Civil War he helped establish the New Hope Academy and became a trustee of the new institution. The school continued throughout the Civil War and closed in 1868. Evidently Stone's oldest son, John, attended the academy. In order to keep the seventeen-year-old John from serving in the Confederate Army, Joseph B. Stone paid \$4,000 for a substitute to serve in his son's place.<sup>5</sup>

Like most of the state, Stone's plantation suffered from the cruel effects of the Civil War and the lean years of the postwar decade. His landholdings had decreased by 500 acres in 1870, and he was besieged with tax problems as a result of the economic stringency of Reconstruction.<sup>6</sup>

Perhaps at least partly because of this devastation, Stone suffered a mental decline and the county court announced in 1877 that "Joseph B. Stone has been duly adjudged a lunatic," and appointed one Francis J. Stone his guardian.<sup>7</sup> Within a short time Joseph B. Stone died.<sup>8</sup> His heirs owned his house collectively until 1885 when the residence and 181 acres passed to his daughter Martha. She had earlier married a neighbor Dr. John Fearrington.<sup>9</sup> In 1907 Martha Stone Fearrington conveyed the house to her son Ex. Fearrington.<sup>10</sup>

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Ex. Fearrington added a rear kitchen ell to the Stone homeplace and built a barn which stands south of the house. The Stone residence remained in the Fearrington family whose members rented out the dwelling in the 1950s. The B. Everett Jordan Dam project subsequently claimed most of the house tract, but with the cooperation of the Fearrington family and the Army Corps of Engineers, Dr. James S. Howard, III, recently purchased the house and about four acres. Dr. Howard has also moved the eighteenth century John Dupree House from Wake County to the site. He has restored both buildings and intends to use them as showplaces for antiques.<sup>11</sup>

The structures of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structures. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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Continuation sheet      HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE      Item number      8

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## NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Chatham County Deed Books (microfilm), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, Deed Book V, 309, hereinafter cited as Chatham County Deed Books.

<sup>2</sup>Chatham County Original Wills, John Stone, 1847, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as Chatham County Wills.

<sup>3</sup>Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Chatham County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, 37; Slave Schedule, 6, hereinafter cited as Chatham County Census with appropriate year and schedule.

<sup>4</sup>Interview of Eliza Robertson with Gladys Stone and Paul Fearrington, Chatham County, June 7, 1981, notes of interview in possession of Eliza Robertson, hereinafter cited as Stone-Fearrington interview.

<sup>5</sup>Wade H. Hadley, Jr., Doris G. Horton and Nell C. Strowd, Chatham County, 1771-1971 (Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1971), 267; Chatham County Will Books (microfilm), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, Will Book E, 176-177, hereinafter cited as Chatham County Will Books.

<sup>6</sup>Chatham County Census, 1870: Agricultural Schedule, 23; Stone-Fearrington interview.

<sup>7</sup>Chatham County Estate Records, Joseph B. Stone, 1877, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>8</sup>Chatham County Wills, Joseph B. Stone, 1878.

<sup>9</sup>Chatham County Deed Books BN, 385; Fearrington-Stone interview.

<sup>10</sup>Chatham County Deed Book, EH, 31.

<sup>11</sup>Stone-Fearrington interview.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.94 acres

Quadrangle name Farrington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

1	7
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6	8	0	1	5	0
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3	9	6	1	1	5	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The property included in this nomination is a 3.94 acre plot described in Chatham County Deed Book 413 page 331 and shown in Tax Map Book on page 425. It includes all the property still associated with the house.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eliza Robertson, Consultant  
Joe Mobley, Researcher

organization Survey & Planning Branch  
Archeology & Historic Preservation Section date September, 1981  
Division of Archives & History

street & number 109 East Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. P...

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 14, 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Continuation sheet

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Item number 9

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Hadley, Wade H., Jr., Horton, Doris G., and Strowd, Nell. Chatham County, 1771-1791. Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1971.

Interview of Eliza Robertson with Gladys Stone and Paul Fearington, Chatham County, June 7, 1981. Notes of interview in the possession of Eliza Robertson.

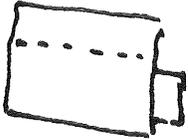
United States Bureau of the Census. Eighth and Ninth Censuses of the United States, 1860 and 1870. Chatham County, North Carolina.



WOODS

WALNUT

JOHN DUPRE  
HSE RECONSTR.

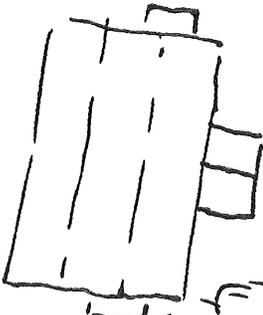


UTILITY SHED



Well site  
marked w/ stones

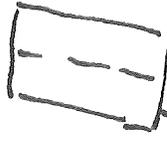
Sycamore



OAK?

Cedar

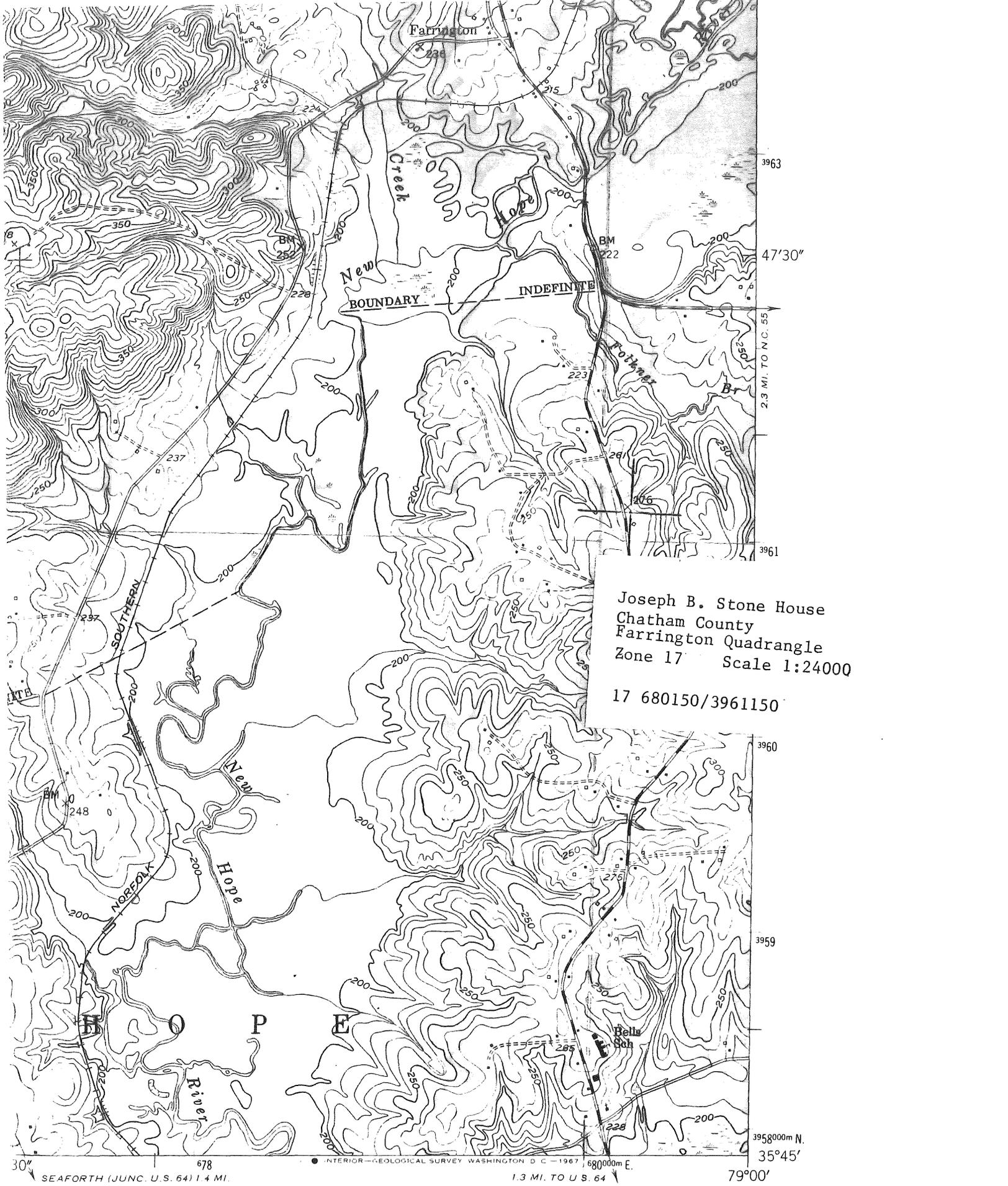
SMALL FRAME  
OUTSIDE - POOR COND



early 20<sup>th</sup> cen  
barn - poor  
condition

>R 100 ft

SKETCH STONE-FEARRINGTON HOUSE & GROUNDS  
NOT TO SCALE.



Joseph B. Stone House  
 Chatham County  
 Farrington Quadrangle  
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24000  
 17 680150/3961150

SEA FORTH (JUNC. U.S. 64) 1.4 MI.

1.3 MI. TO U.S. 64

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		4 LANE 6 LANE	Light-duty	
Medium-duty		4 LANE 6 LANE	Unimproved dirt	

U. S. Route      State Route

