

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 Herring, Needham Whitfield House and Outbuildings

other names/site number Murray House

2. Location

street & number 201 NC Highway 24-50 N/A not for publication

city or town Kenansville N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Duplin code 061 zip code 28349

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.)

William S. Rain, Jr. 4-20-94
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Herring, Needham Whitfield House & Outbuildings
Name of Property

Duplin, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4	2	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

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Other: 19th century front gable

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

BRICK

roof METAL

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1853

Significant Dates

1853

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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Herring, N. W., House
Duplin County, N. C.

General Physical Description.

The Needham Whitfield Herring House is a large frame plantation house that faces north to NC Highway 24-50, one-half mile west of Kenansville, the county seat of Duplin County, North Carolina. The dwelling, built in 1853 and enlarged around 1890, is set back about one hundred feet from the road within a grove of oak and evergreen trees. Open fields extend in all directions to distant tree lines bordering Grove Swamp. The historic ambience of the rural site is altered only by the 1920s-era paved highway that runs through rolling countryside between Kenansville and Warsaw, eight miles distant. An unpaved driveway extends south from the road to a parking area west of the house along the property line. A footpath bedded with pine needles runs beneath the trees from the parking lot to the front (north) porch of the house and intersects a portion of an earlier driveway that once curved in a semicircle from the northeast and northwest corners of the site to the main entrance. Within forty feet of the southeast corner of the house are a frame carriage house, a brick garden shed, and a brick pump house. A three-pen frame smoke house is located thirty feet to the southwest of the main structure, and a two-story frame barn stands near the rear of the lot about two hundred feet further south.

The house, carriage house, smoke house and barn that formed the domestic complex of the 551-3/4-acre nineteenth century plantation, were originally located two hundred yards south of the current site. The house faced south to the old east-west road and railway that linked Kenansville and Warsaw during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the outbuildings were built behind the residence. When the new Kenansville to Warsaw highway was completed in the 1920s, the structures were moved and turned around to face the new road skirting the northern boundary of the plantation. The barn, carriage house and smoke house were repositioned to retain their original relationship to the house at its former location, and a brick garden shed and a pump house were constructed. The landscaping planted in the 1920s copied what still survives on the original site.

Narrative Description.

1. Needham Whitfield Herring House. 1853 and ca. 1890. Contributing.

Built in 1853 for Dr. Needham Whitfield Herring (1814-1887), a local physician and planter, whose family resided here until the first decade of the twentieth century, the Greek Revival style, two-story, single-pile, center-hall plan Needham Whitfield Herring House rests on a continuous brick foundation and features plain-edge weatherboarding, wide skirt and corner boards, and a broad, unadorned frieze that extends beneath the standing-seam metal hipped roof. The three-bay front elevation is accentuated by a handsome double-story pedimented porch. Four square posts with recessed molded panels rising to points just below the stepped capitals support the porch at each level. The lower porch is enclosed by simple balustrades

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Duplin County, N. C.

with square pickets and rounded handrails. The upper porch has two-part balustrades, the lower sections suggesting miniature Ionic columns, and the upper sections containing sheaves-of-wheat pattern work. The pediment incorporates flush siding and a peaked attic vent. Double-hung windows contain six-over-six sash and are surmounted by pedimented hoods. Corner pilasters form the corners of the house and duplicate the design of the paneled porch posts.

The east and west elevations incorporate two periods of construction. The two-story main block is covered with a hipped roof and is two bays wide with double-hung, six-over-six sash windows flanking exterior end chimneys. The chimneys are of handmade brick laid in common bond and rest on step-faced brick foundations. Two one-story Queen-Anne style hipped roof wings, added by the Herrings ca. 1890 to provide additional living space, project south from the main block and are supported by brick piers. The wings are separated from one another by a wide passageway extending back from the main hall to an attached porch that runs across the south walls of the center and east bays and terminates in the flanking wall of the larger, west wing. The rear porch is supported by slender, turned posts. The exterior walls are faced with plain-edge weatherboards similar to those on the older structure, but without skirt boards, and the corner boards are narrow and unmolded. Windows contain two-over-two sash, and the west wall of the larger wing angles out into a shallow bay window. The roofs are covered with standing-seam metal matching the material on the main structure.

The main entrance of the house opens into a wide center hall through an early twentieth-century beveled glass door that is enframed by paneled sidelights and a multi-light transom capped by a peaked hood. Doors in the side walls of the hall open into parlors on the east and west, and a handsome staircase rises through a short, straight flight along the west wall and continues in a semicircle across the rear and east walls to the second story. The stair is enhanced by scroll-pattern step ends and a walnut handrail that begins as a volute supported by a turned newel and square-in-section balusters, sweeps up in a graceful curve from a semicircular first step and straightens out into a balcony railing in the upper hall. Modern French doors in the south wall beneath the stair lead to the rear quarters of the house. The remaining door and window frames, and the mantel in the west parlor, are original and adorned with symmetrical moldings and rosette corner blocks. The windows, extending nearly to the floor, are set above shallow paneled skirts. Molded cornices extend around the rooms, and decorative medallions are centered in the ceilings of the parlors---a foliated pattern in the east parlor and a concentric-circle pattern in the west parlor.

The second level echoes the plan of the first story. Opposite the stair, the north wall of the center hall contains paired, glazed upper-panel doors that exit to the front porch gallery. The doors are framed by sidelights and a transom. Four-panel doors in the east and west walls open into twin bed chambers above the parlors. Here the detail, also original, is more restrained than below, as

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evidenced by unmolded door and window frames, plain corner blocks, and simple mantels. The windows, however, repeat the paneled skirt pattern found elsewhere at the first level.

The interiors of the ca. 1890 additions originally contained a kitchen, two pantries and a dining room in the west wing, and a bedroom and adjoining bath in the east wing. Although the floor plan of the house and additions remain unchanged, the bedroom in the east wing is now used as a second dining room and an additional bath has been installed in the larger pantry in the west wing. The plans of the house as originally designed and currently used are shown in Exhibit A.

2. Garden Shed. ca. 1920. Non contributing.

A small, brick garden shed is positioned southeast of the house. The north, east and west walls are faced with manufactured brick laid in a running bond and rise to an exposed rafter shed roof, covered with tin, that slopes away to the north. The south wall contains large, fixed-pane windows flanking a glazed door. The structure was built for Mrs. Murray, whose family moved the house and frame outbuildings to the current site in the 1920s, to store and protect her plants and gardening tools. Over time, the roof, windows and doors deteriorated and the walls were overgrown with vines. The exterior of the structure has been restored and the interior wooden floor has been rebuilt.

3. Brick Pump House. ca. 1920. Non contributing.

Several feet south of the Garden Shed is a brick Pump House, also built in the 1920s, which has running bond brickwork surmounted by a shed roof covered with tin, and a board-and-batten wooden door. The structure has been restored and returned to its original use.

4. Carriage House. c.1853. Contributing.

A frame Carriage House sits about forty feet to the east of the main house beyond the Garden Shed. The structure is faced with plain-edged weatherboards and narrow corner boards, and is covered by an exposed rafter, gable front roof covered with tin. Two pairs of board-and-batten doors with clipped upper corners enclose the north side of the building, and a single door occupies the left portion of the south wall. In the 1920s, with the advent of the automobile, the Carriage House was modified for use as a garage by extending the north wall out one foot and incorporating the double doors beneath a pent roof.

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5. Smokehouse. c.1853. Contributing.

A three-pen frame smokehouse is situated about thirty feet from the southwest corner of the main house. The walls consist of plain-edged weatherboarding and the central portion of the structure is raised above the ground on brick piers. Access to central pen is by a short flight of open-stringer steps and a board-and-batten door centered on the gabled facade. The interior has exposed joists and wide wooden floors. The walls and interior face of the door are covered with metal panels, installed in the 1920s to keep the room cool when it was used to store eggs produced on the farm. Shed roofs covered with tin slope down on the north and south sides to incorporate an enclosed, earth-floored room on the north and a lean-to for wood storage on the south.

6. Barn. c.1853. Contributing.

A tripartite frame barn stands about two hundred feet south of the main house. The structure, measuring thirty-two feet by fifty feet, has a two-story gable-front center block and one-story shed-roofed wings along the east and west walls. The north wall, facing the highway, contains a wide doorway which opens into a large interior room. The floor is tamped earth and the ceiling incorporates exposed rafters supported by square posts with angle braces. Five animal stalls with their original hay cribs occupy the south wing and are enclosed by spaced horizontal boards and vertical slat doors. The north wing is open to the main room and was used for storing wagons and other farm equipment. Access to the second story is through a double trapdoor in the center of the ceiling. The upper level is lighted by two windows on the north and a single window on the south. The floor is composed of wide boards with battens beneath the butt joints. The gabled and shed roofs are covered with tin.

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Duplin County, N. C.Summary.

The Needham Whitfield Herring House, built in 1853, with its rare collection of antebellum outbuildings, is significant in the architectural history of Kenansville and Duplin County because it represents the regional popularity of the mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival style at its best. As it stands on a portion of its original plantation land, the house retains the rural repose of its mid-nineteenth century appearance, and the quality of its architectural detail exhibits the taste and technology of the time. It incorporates handsome proportions enhanced by a bold, double-story front porch featuring unusual balustrades at the upper level which combines vernacular Ionic colonettes and sheaves of wheat patterns, large window areas contained within pedimented hoods, paneled corner pilasters, a gracefully curving staircase that rises from the first to the second story halls, and interior door and window frames and mantels that incorporate symmetrical moldings and rosette corner blocks. The exterior and interior fabric of the main block are intact and preserve the sentient quality of a mid-nineteenth century plantation house of the region. The rear additions, built ca. 1890 to increase the interior space of the house by including a kitchen, pantries, dining room, bedroom and bath, retain their late nineteenth-century appearance and do not detract from the antebellum character of the house. The house is complimented by three rare surviving outbuildings, a tripartite smokehouse, a carriage house and a barn that date from around the construction date of the house. Although the house and outbuildings were moved north about two hundred yards from their original sites in the 1920s, the same open fields surround and sustain the ambience of the rural plantation so that the property meets Criteria Consideration B.

Architectural Context.

The Needham Whitfield Herring House, built in 1853 as the seat of a then extensive plantation, is the culmination of the Greek Revival style of architecture in Duplin County, one that became popular in the region during the mid-nineteenth century and was an outgrowth of an American national style that flourished from about 1830 to 1860. In form and detail, the house epitomizes the robust proportions of square columns, wide corner posts, broad friezes and large windows that exemplify the Greek Revival style. The impact of a classically-inspired plantation house rising above broad fields framed by timberland gives the structure a scale that is both dramatic and striking. In addition, three original timber frame outbuildings, a smokehouse, a carriage house and a barn, survive to illustrate the well-defined organization of plantation life. Two 1920s-era accessory buildings---a garden shed and a pump house---complete the ensemble of outbuildings. The effect is duplicated in only two other regional plantations of the period, both built in the 1850s near Faison, northwest of Kenansville: they are Buckner Hill, designed in a transitional Greek Revival-Italianate style, and the Italianate-style Faison-Williams House.

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Interest in Greek Revival architecture was particularly strong in Kenansville during the period in which the Herring house was erected. Several town residences and churches were built near the courthouse square, such as the Isaac Kelly House (ca. 1841), the Blount House (c. 1850), the Hinson House (c. 1850), the Graham House (c. 1855), Grove Presbyterian Church (c. 1855), the Gillespie House (c. 1858), Kenansville Baptist Church (c. 1858), and the Methodist Parsonage (c.1858). The uniform appearance of these buildings strongly suggest the presence of a local craftsman-builder in the vicinity.

Historical Background.

Needham Whitfield Herring was the son of William Herring (1779-1830) and Rachel Bryan, nee Whitfield (1783-1850), both natives of Lenoir County, North Carolina, who were married in 1804.[1] Their son, Needham, was born on December 25, 1814, the sixth of nine children.[2]

After attending local schools in his childhood, Needham extended his studies by attending the University of North Carolina, where he was graduated with an A.B. degree in the class of 1838.[3] Subsequently, he became a physician and Presbyterian minister.[4] In mid-1842 he moved to Kenansville, county seat of Duplin, and purchased from William Faison two tracts totaling 551-3/4 acres west of town and east of Grove Swamp, and a house and lot a block south of the Courthouse from Dr. William Price.[5] The dwelling on the town lot was still under construction at the time of purchase and Dr. Herring bought additional materials necessary to complete the residence.[6]

On December 27, 1842, Herring married Julia Pearsall (1824-1854), daughter of a local planter.[7] Dr. Herring's journal, including receipts from his medical practice and expenditures for building materials, indicates that from February through May 1853 he was building a new residence on the two tracts he had purchased in 1842. The house faced south toward the Kenansville-to-Warsaw road and was framed by boxwood hedges.[8] Julia died on April 6, 1854 just after their house was completed, leaving her widower with two children, Catharine P., aged four, and Evander McNair, aged one.[9] On September 25, 1860 he married Margaret A. Shine (1834-1913) and she and their children inherited the house and property after Dr. Herring's death on June 29, 1887.[10] About 1890 the Herrings attached one-story wings to the rear of the main block to provide modern amenities without altering the original use and plan of the main house.[11]

James J. Bowden purchased the plantation in 1909 and held it until 1916 when he sold 125 acres and the buildings to W.B. Murray.[12] During the Murray's ownership in the 1920s and thereafter the land continued to be farmed, but the construction of a new Kenansville-to-Warsaw highway (now designated NC Highway 24-50) isolated the homestead and made its situation undesirable. Rather than abandoning their home, the

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Murrays decided to move the house, wings and outbuildings about two hundred yards north and turn them around to face the new highway. The move was accomplished by mule power---the family remained in residence during the relocation, and the outbuildings were arranged according to their original relationship at the rear of the house. After the buildings were relocated, two additional brick outbuildings were erected, and the grounds were landscaped with trees, and a curved driveway was cut to the road.[13]

In 1990, the current owner, Lynn Dail Davis, purchased the approximately five-and-one-half acres containing the house and the outbuildings from the Murrays.[14] Plans are underway to use the property as a specialty store and restaurant.

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Duplin County, N. C.

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Endnotes.

1. Herring papers, collection of William Dallas Herring, Rose Hill, N.C.
2. ibid.
3. University of North Carolina Alumni Directory, 1795-1953. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1953, p. 399.
4. Herring papers.
5. Duplin County Deed Book 16, p. 29, June 6, 1842;
Duplin County Deed Book 15, p. 440, June 15, 1842.
6. Herring journal, copy in collection of William Dallas Herring, Rose Hill, N.C.
7. Herring papers.
8. Pattie Herring Lofton, granddaughter of Needham Whitfield Herring. Letters to Lynn Dail Davis, June 22 and July 26, 1993.
9. Duplin County Census, 1850; Herring Cemetery records.
10. Herring papers; Herring Cemetery records; Duplin County Deed Book 39, p. 542, March 8, 1889.
11. Lofton.
12. Duplin County Deed Book 123, p. 303, November 3, 1909;
Duplin County Deed Book 169, p. 438, January 26, 1916.
13. Lofton.
14. Duplin County Deed Book 1041, p. 504, July 26, 1990.

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Herring, N. W., House
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9. Major Bibliographical References.

Duplin County Census, 1850.

Duplin County Deed Books 15, 16, 39, 123, 169, 1041.

Herring, Needham Whitfield, Journal, 1844 to 1853 (unpublished), copy in collection of Pattie Herring Lofton, Raleigh, N.C.

Herring papers (unpublished), collection of William Dallas Herring, Rose Hill, N.C.

Lanier, Joe and Leslie Gruber, "Our Town. Past and present merge in Kenansville." Wilmington Star, August 7, 1978.

Lofton, Pattie Herring, letters to Lynn Dail Davis, June 22 and July 26, 1993.

Puetz, C.J., North Carolina County Maps. Lyndon Station, WI (n.d.).

University of North Carolina Alumni Directory, 1795-1953. Chapel Hill, NC:
University of North Carolina Press, 1953, p. 399.

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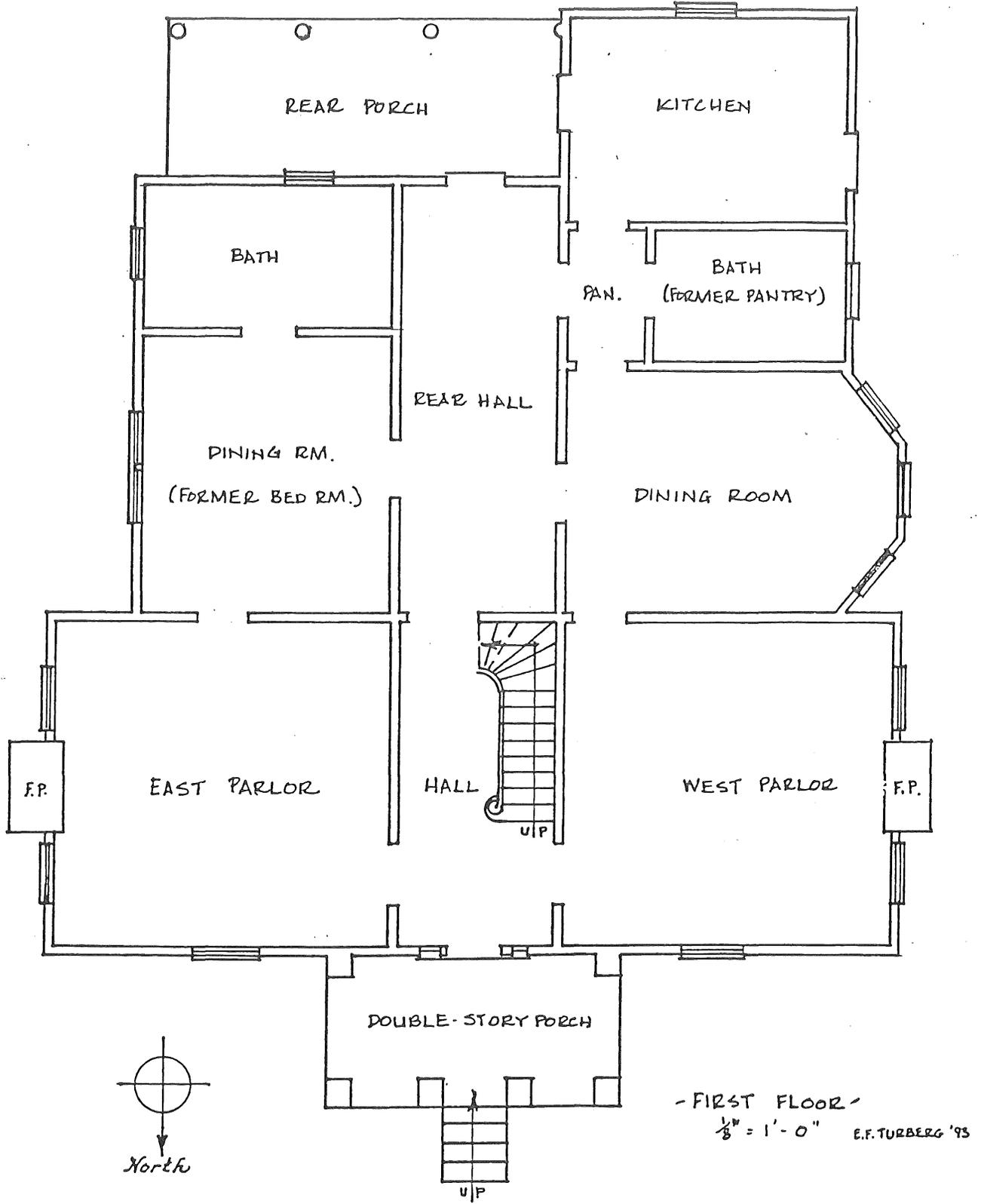
10. Verbal Boundary Description:

The property is a rectangular parcel that begins at a point 2844.44 feet northwest of N.C.G.S. station "Carey" in the right-of-way of NC Highway 24-50, and runs southwest four hundred and seventy-one feet, thence northwest four hundred and seventy feet, thence northeast four hundred and seventy-one feet, thence southeast and parallel to NC Highway 24-50 four hundred and seventy feet to the beginning, containing 5.46 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification:

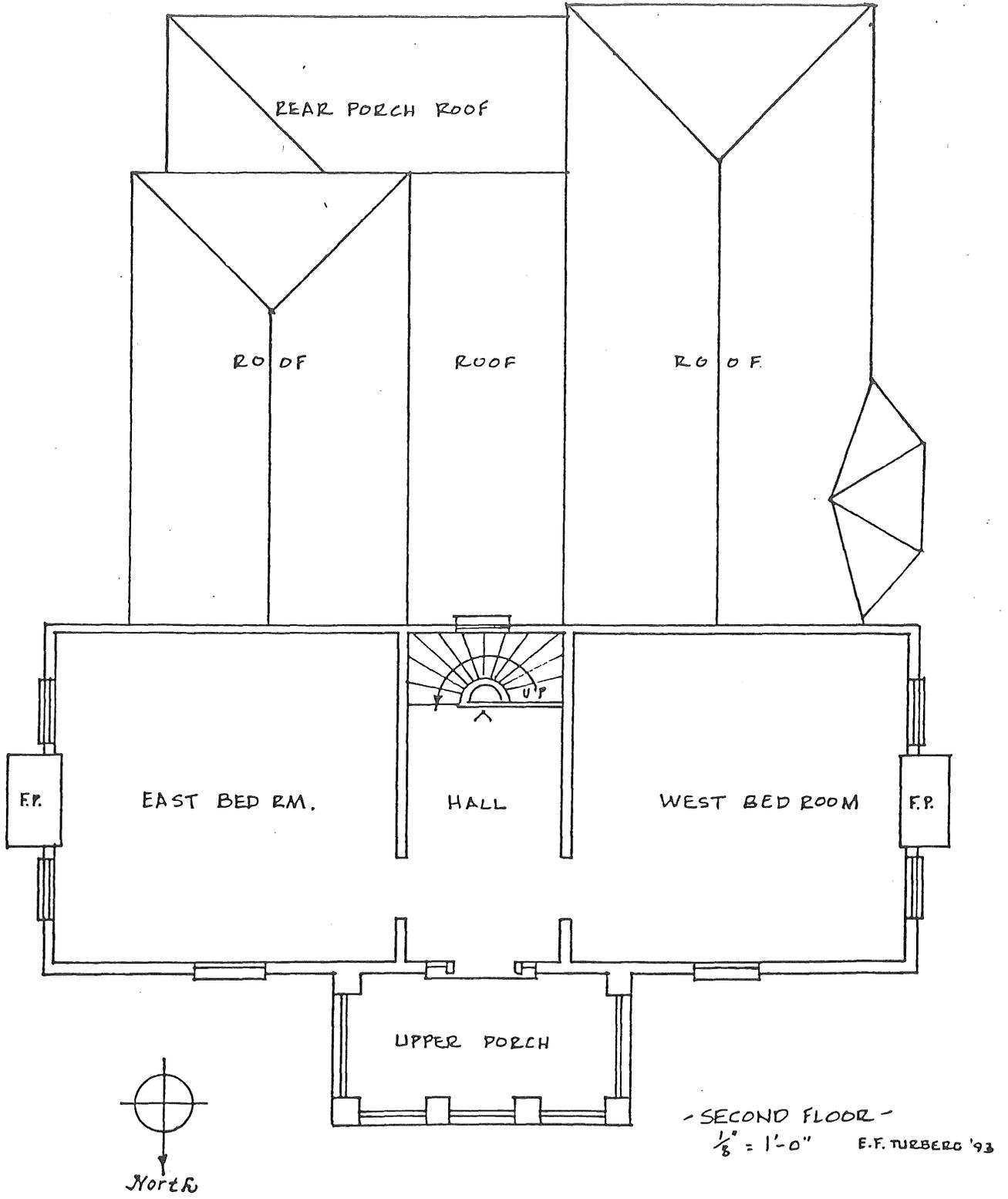
The boundaries encompass property historically associated with domestic complex of the plantation, house and outbuildings that provide an appropriate and adequate setting for the structures.

EXHIBIT A.



NEEDHAM WHITFIELD HERRING
HOUSE (1853; c.1890)
201 NC Highway 24-50
Kenansville, North Carolina
Duplin County

EXHIBIT A.

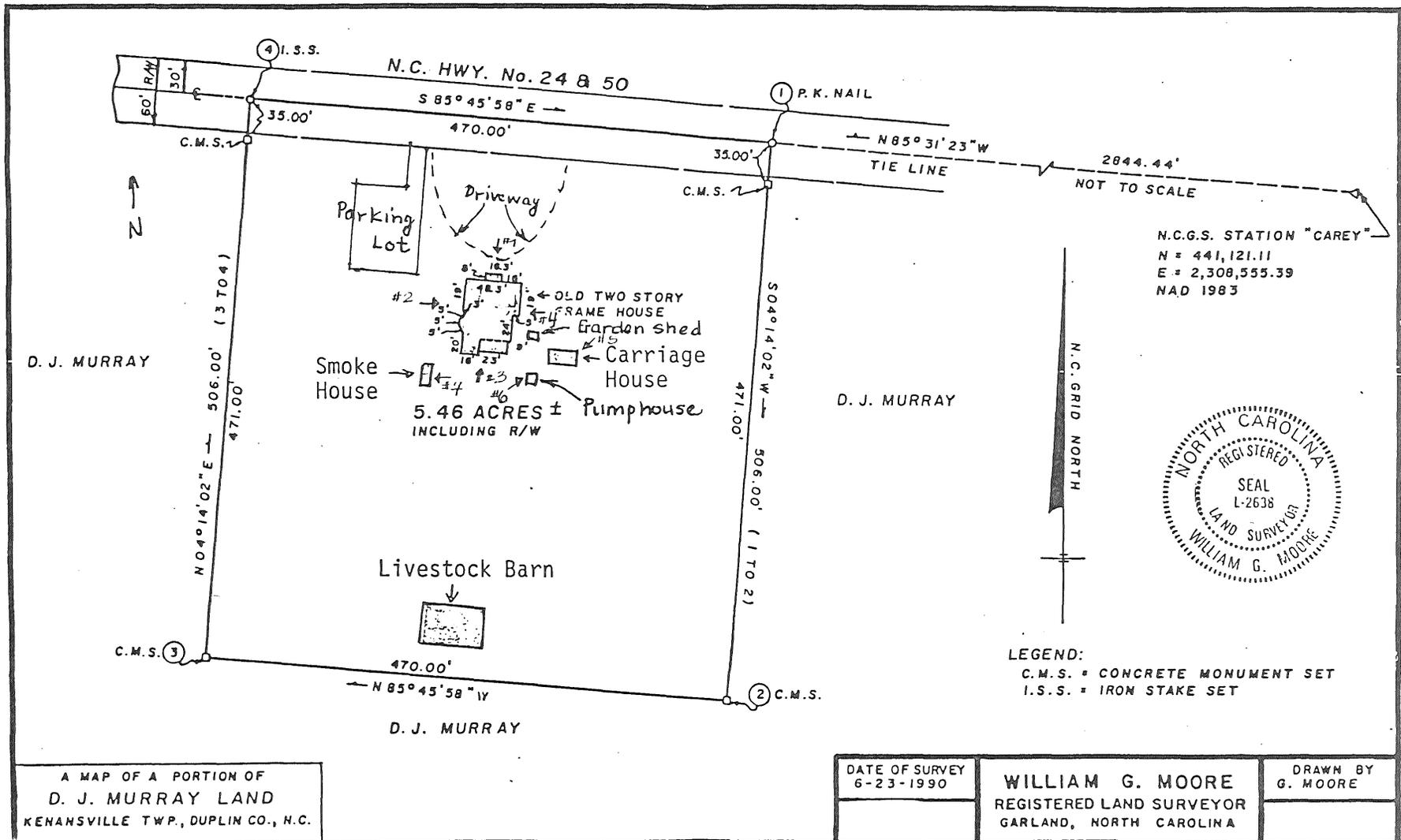


NEEDHAM WHITFIELD HERRING
HOUSE (1853; c.1890)
201 NC Highway 24-50
Kenansville, North Carolina
Duplin County

NEEDHAM WHITFIELD HERRING HOUSE
AND OUTBUILDINGS

201 NC HWY 24-50
KENANSVILLE, DUPLIN CO., NC

→ indicates vantage point of photograph and photograph number



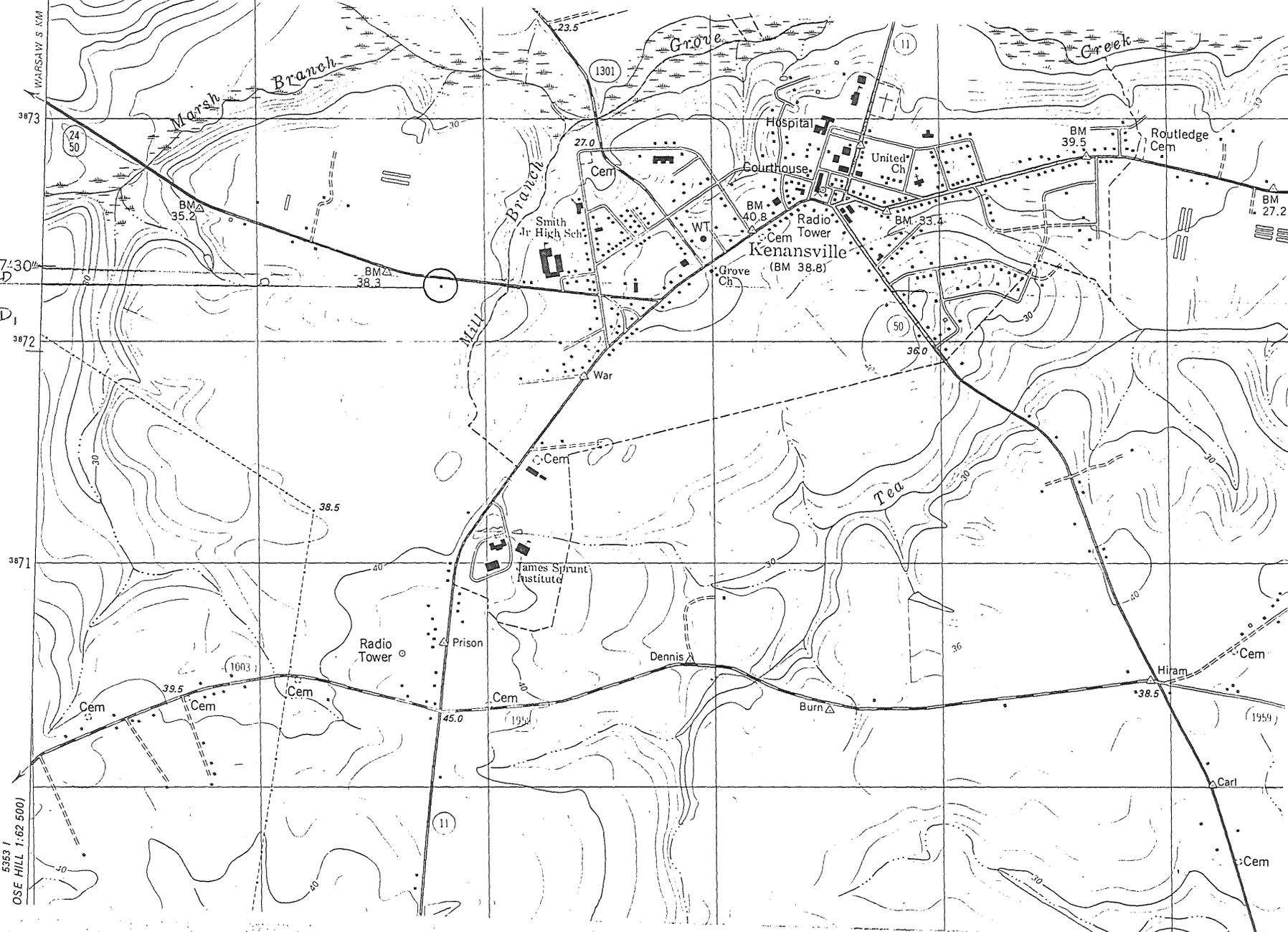
A MAP OF A PORTION OF
D. J. MURRAY LAND
KENANSVILLE TWP., DUPLIN CO., N.C.

DATE OF SURVEY
6-23-1990

WILLIAM G. MOORE
REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR
GARLAND, NORTH CAROLINA

DRAWN BY
G. MOORE

NEEDHAM WHITFIELD
HERRING HOUSE
KENANSVILLE QUAD,
DUPLIN CO, NC
LITM REFERENCE:



5353 /
OSE HILL 1:62 500

NEWSPAPER PHOTO HEAD REVERSE HOUSE # 201 MAY 24-30 KENANSVILLE, N.C.

