

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, Bryan Whitfield, Farm

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number North side SR1311, 1 mile East of junction with SR1302 not for publication

city or town Calypso vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Duplin code 061 zip code 28365

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources 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.)

Jasper Crow SHPD 10/3/01
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper _____	Date of Action _____
<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): _____	_____	_____

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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

"Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina, ca. 1790-1943."

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls wood
roof wood
other

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1850

Significant Dates

ca. 1850

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Bryan Whitfield Herring Farm
Name of Property

Duplin County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 28

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	761680	895430
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	17	761840	3895380

3	17	761820	3894700
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	17	761430	3894720

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 Edward F. Turberg
organization Architectural Historian date May 1, 2000
street & number 307 North 15th Street telephone 910-762-6301
city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28401-3813

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 Patricia J. Denise
street & number 260 Virginia Johnson Road telephone 919-658-4204
city or town Mt. Olive state NC zip code 28365

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Bryan Whitfield Herring Farm, Duplin County, NC

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION.

Built circa 1850 and located near Calypso in a fertile farm belt in the northwestern corner of Duplin County, North Carolina, the Bryan Whitfield Herring House is one of a group of highly significant, ante-bellum, Greek Revival style homes that were built within a radius of about five miles from the economic and cultural center of Faison for a select society of interrelated, wealthy, ante-bellum planters whose holdings remain in the ownership of descendants into the late twentieth century.

State Route 1311, a short transverse road that runs northwest between Calypso and the Sampson County border, passes in front of the house before descending down to Goshen Branch, a feeder stream flowing into the great Goshen Swamp near the center of the county. The 169-acre property lies on the north side of the road and east of the branch, extending in all directions to border tree lines of pines and swamp oaks. A sandy path turns into the front yard where evidence indicates the location of a semicircular drive and the archaeological remains of several brick dependencies.

A. The House. The handsomely proportioned residence is resplendent with fine architectural details, centered on the double-story entrance porch and four massive gable-end chimneys. Despite a tornado in 1984 which destroyed the upper chimney stacks, outbuildings, and 180-panes of glass from the windows; and heavy damage caused by two hurricanes in 1996, the house remains virtually intact, and the owners have recently installed a new, period, wood shingle roof.

1. The Exterior.

The Bryan Whitfield Herring House is a two-and-a-half-story, gable-end, frame house in the Greek Revival style. Five bays wide and four bays deep, the south front elevation is dignified by a double-story entrance porch incorporating four robust, square posts and two pilasters, each with molded caps and bases, supporting an architrave and low-pitched frieze. Originally the porch was one story high, but in 1854 the upper tier was added by the application of flooring over the sloping roof rafters. The sides of the lower porch are enclosed by balustrades with wide footboards, square pickets and round handrails. The gallery replicates the Greek Revival posts at slightly smaller dimensions, and introduces two new stylistic elements: Gothic Revival pointed-top balustrades, and Italianate brackets of curvilinear form and acorn motifs upholding deep soffits.

The exterior walls are sheathed with plain-edge weather boards terminating at wide corner pilasters. Ovolo molded caps are formed by the extension of eave fascias set beneath the roof soffits. The east and west gabled elevations have flush verge-boards that are a derivation of the Georgian architectural tradition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Bryan Whitfield Herring Farm, Duplin County, NC

Windows contain six-over-six sash and square moldings that project outward into crossetted lintels, another Georgian throwback. Entrances at the first and second levels have four-panel doors with triangular, Greek Revival style moldings and multi-light transoms. Tall sidelights flank the lower door and transom. A one-story, shed-roofed attachment extends across the rear elevation and is of unique arrangement: small porches occupy the central and corner bays, while the second and fourth bays contain piazza rooms. Robust corner posts, similar to those at the front of the house, mark the porch corners, and the central bay contains two paneled posts. Doors open into the corner chambers, central hall, and east shed room. Windows in the attic gables have four-over-four-pane sashes centered in east and west facades.

An outstanding feature of the house is the presence of four massive, 5:1 bond, exterior chimneys, two stepped-shoulder sentinels standing at each gable end between close-coupled windows. The east chimneys have stuccoed lower sections and rebuilt upper stacks. The west chimneys are stuccoed halfway into the second story, their stacks destroyed by recent hurricanes.

2. The Interior.

A wide central hall runs through the lower level of the house. Doors with chamfered architraves open into four spacious rooms containing well-executed paneled mantels, high strip molded baseboards, plaster walls and ceilings, and wide pine floors. Along the west wall of the hallway are mirror image open-string staircases with square newels and balusters, and rounded handrails. The stairs commence just inside the front and rear entrances, rise to separate landings at the center of the house, then make full turns and end their runs in small foyers outside the second floor bed rooms. The four chambers have doors with plain architraves and mantels, and other finishes duplicating those at the first level. Above each mantel and in the halls are boards with clothes hooks. A continuous partition wall in the upper story bisects the house, each sector being served by a separate staircase. A supposition for this rare floor plan is that the Herrings were determined to keep their sons' and daughters' quarters separated. A third staircase of similar design rises in a straight run from the northeast chamber up to an intact board-and-batten door and into the expansive attic. The attic walls and sloping ceiling are finished with plaster applied to hand-split lath.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Bryan Whitfield Herring Farm, Duplin County, NC

Historical Background

Settlement of the upland area of Duplin County increased dramatically after the construction of railroad transportation through the region in 1838. Among the successful planters who moved into the region during the early nineteenth century were Herrings, Hickses and Faisons, whose adjacent holdings formed the basis of the early wealth and social intercourse of the region northwest of the county seat at Kenansville.(4) In 1819, John Beck sold two tracts along Fryers Branch on the north side of Goshen Swamp, totaling 903 acres, to his cousin, William Herring, a native of Lenoir County and progenitor of the Duplin Herring line.(5) In 1833, Herring purchased two tracts on Goshen, encompassing 120 acres, from William Hurst.(6) Six years later, in 1839, Herring bought four acres on Indigo Branch from Hurst, enlarging the plantation to 1,027 acres.(7) All this property was eventually inherited by his fifth son, Bryan Whitfield Herring.(8)

Bryan Whitfield Herring was born in Lenoir County on June 21, 1812. On January 21, 1834, he married Penelope Simms, who was born in Edgecombe County on May 26, 1815. Their marriage produced ten children, all of whom grew to prominence in the Old North State and elsewhere. The eldest child, William Alexander Herring (1834-1903), studied civil engineering at the University of Virginia, served as Captain in Company G, 40th North Carolina Regiment during the Civil War, and sat in the post-war Mississippi House and Senate. The second child, Benjamin Simms Herring (1837-1922), graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, served on the *Merrimac* during the Civil War, and died at the age of eighty-five in Tallahassee, Florida. A third son, Needham Bryan Herring (1839-1923), was educated at Belmont, North Carolina, and became a successful and respected surgeon. Fourth in line was Robert Simms Herring (1841-1914), who attended the Franklin Academy at Louisburg, North Carolina, joined Company G, 40th NC Regiment with his brother, and after the war moved to Carol County, Mississippi. The fifth child--and first daughter--was Elizabeth Vaiden Herring (1843-1921). She married John Cromartie Wright in 1867. Her interest in education manifested itself in her leadership of the Coharie School in neighboring Sampson County, and directly influenced her son, Robert Herring Wright, who became president of East Carolina University at Greenville. The sixth child, Louis Whitfield Herring (1847-1896), ran the plantation after his father's death, and ensured that the house and land remained in the family. Bryan Whitfield Herring, Jr. (1849-1907), the seventh child, known as "Buck", was a distributor for the Steiff Piano Company in Wilmington, and is credited for giving the railroad market town near the Herring plantation the name Calypso, for the hero in Homer's epic, *Ulysses*. The eighth child, a daughter, Della Barnes Herring (1851-1917), attended finishing school in New Orleans, and returned to Duplin County where she married Elias Faison Hicks, member of another prominent regional family. James Simms Herring (1853-unk.), the ninth child, spent his professional adult life in Little Rock, Arkansas. The last child, Mary Faison Herring (1856-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 Bryan Whitfield Herring Farm, Duplin County, NC

1948), called "Mollie", attended Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia where she achieved the highest grades in school. She married Mordecai Witherington, of a distinguished Duplin line.(9)

Bryan Whitfield Herring and his family prospered on the plantation for nearly a quarter of a century after constructing the handsome, Greek Revival style home on its 1,027 acres of productive agricultural land. In addition to his agricultural pursuits, he was involved in politics as a member of the North Carolina state senate for terms in 1850, 1852 and 1854. He died on October 18, 1874 at the age of 62; and his widow continued the farm operations with the help of her son, Louis. After her death, on July 31, 1887, the estate passed to a daughter, Della; and her husband, Elias Faison Hicks. In turn they bequeathed the property to their only child, Mary Faison Hicks (1873-1909); and her husband, Thomas Pigford (1872-1910). They willed the property to their only child, Virginia Pigford; and her husband, Edward Herd Johnson. Subsequently, Patricia Johnson; and her husband, Frank Denise, received the house and 169 acres of land surrounding it as her inheritance. Thus a direct line of descent of the Bryan Whitfield Herring plantation extends down through six generations, from William Herring to his great-great-granddaughter, Patricia--a period of 180 years. Among the traditional crops still produced on the farm are cotton, sweet potatoes and tobacco.(10)

Endnotes

1. Jennifer Martin, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina, ca. 1790-1943," p. E-1; William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer*. (Chapel Hill, N.C., University of North Carolina Press, 1986), p. 152.
2. C.J. Puetz, *North Carolina County Maps*. (Lyndon Station, WI, County Maps, n.d.), p. 50.
3. Martin *op. cit.*, p. E-2.
4. Duplin County Census Records, 1790-1850.
5. Duplin County Deed Book 7-A, p. 231-232 (1819).
6. Duplin County Deed Book 7-B, p. 46 (1833)
7. Duplin County Deed Book 7-B, p. 105 (1839).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Bryan Whitfield Herring Farm , Duplin County, NC

8. Correspondence from Christopher B. Denise, descendant of Bryan Whitfield Herring.
9. *Herring Family Genealogy III*. (Privately printed, 1993), p.106+.
10. *Ibid.*; Denise, *op. cit.*
11. Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1966), p. 416-418.

Major Bibliographical References

Bishir, Catherine W. and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1996).

Duplin County Census Records, 1790-1850.

Duplin County Deed Books, v. 7-A, 7-B (1819-1839).

Herring Family Genealogy III. (Privately printed, 1993).

Martin, Jennifer Martin, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina, ca. 1790-1943." (National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1994).

Powell, William S., *The North Carolina Gazetteer*. (Chapel Hill, NC, University of North Carolina Press, 1986).

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bryan Whitfield Herring Farm , Duplin County, NC

Major Bibliographical References

Bishir, Catherine W. and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1996).

Duplin County Census Records, 1790-1850.

Duplin County Deed Books, v. 7-A, 7-B (1819-1839).

Herring Family Genealogy III. (Privately printed, 1993).

Martin, Jennifer Martin, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina, ca. 1790-1943." (National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1994).

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

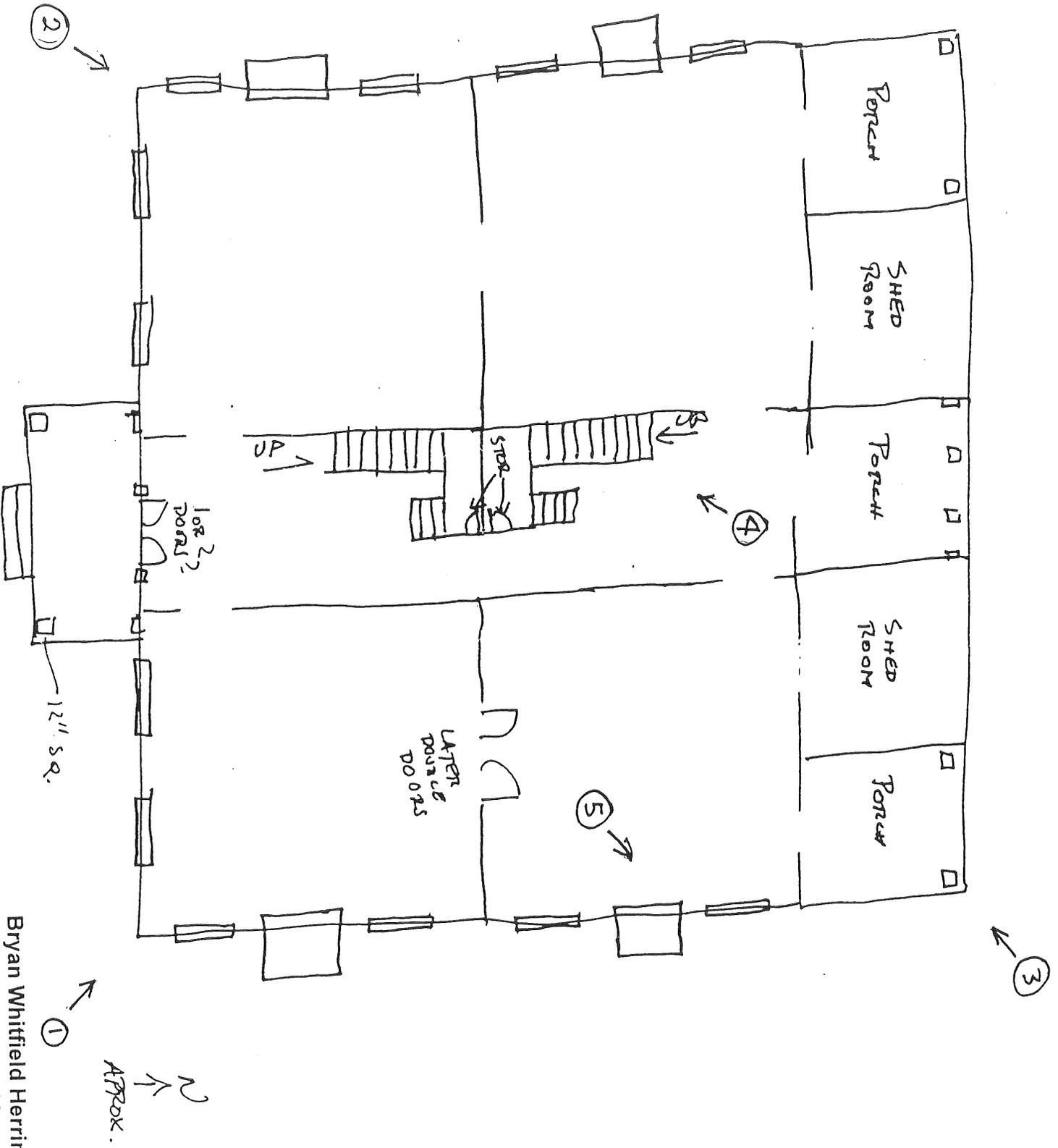
Section number 10 Page 1 Bryan Whitfield Herring Farm , Duplin County, NC

Verbal Boundary Description

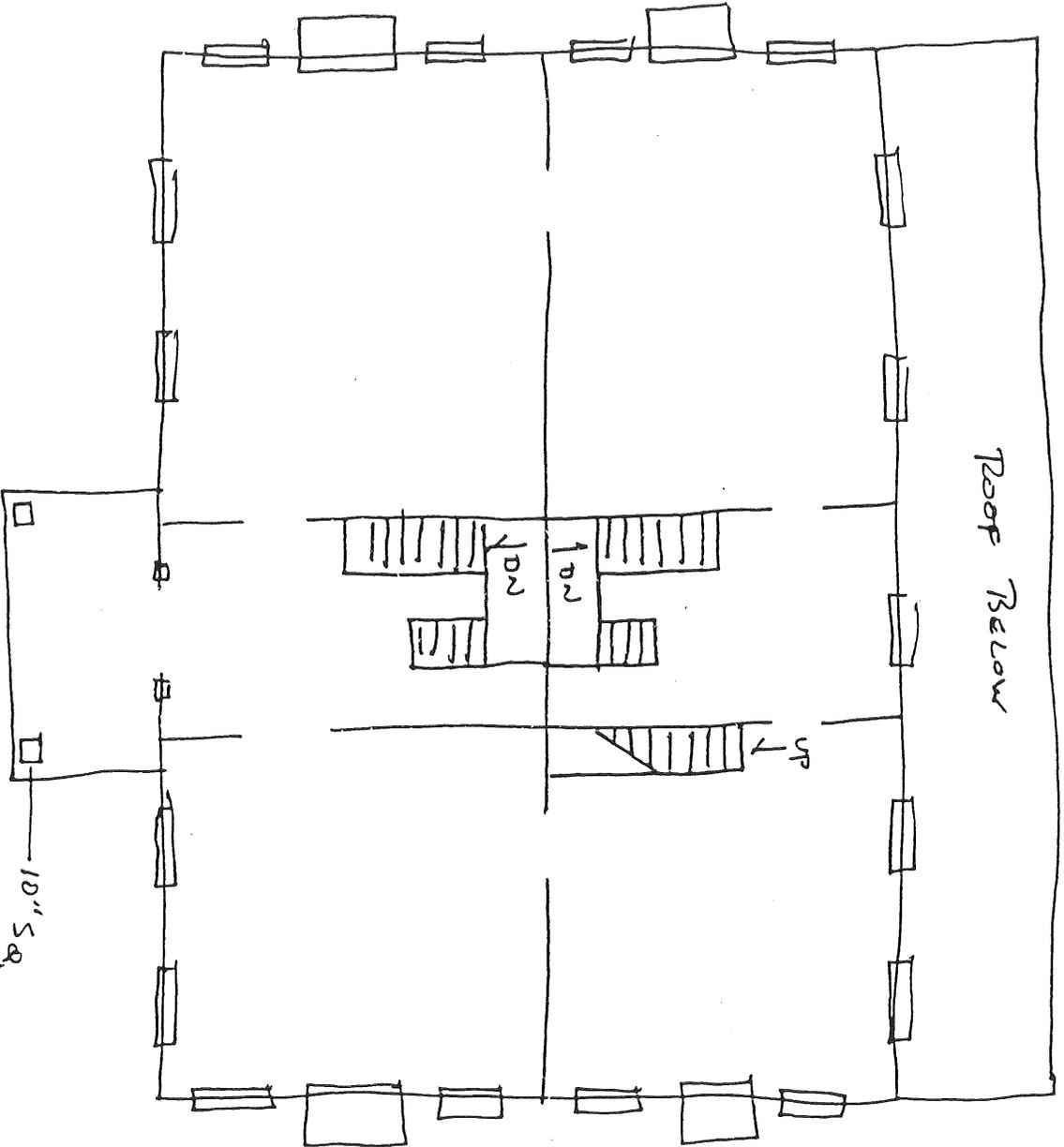
The property being nominated consists of the southeastern 28 acres of the +/- 169.26-acre Tract 1 of the Virginia P. Johnson Estate, Map 2, Faison Township, Duplin County, NC, bounded on the north by the run of Little Goshen Swamp (also known as Fryars Branch), on the east by old farm road running southwest from the edge of the creek to SR-1311, on the south by SR-1311, and on the west by a farm pond, springs, and a line parallel to the eastern boundary line to the beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes a twenty-eight-acre section of the historic farm, and it incorporates the farm complex, two springs, and a pond on the west that were crucial components of the farm operation. The property then extends to the north to the historic farm boundary at Fryars Branch, with the eastern boundary following an early farm road, and the western boundary drawn to include historic cultivated fields, as well as border trees used as wind breaks.

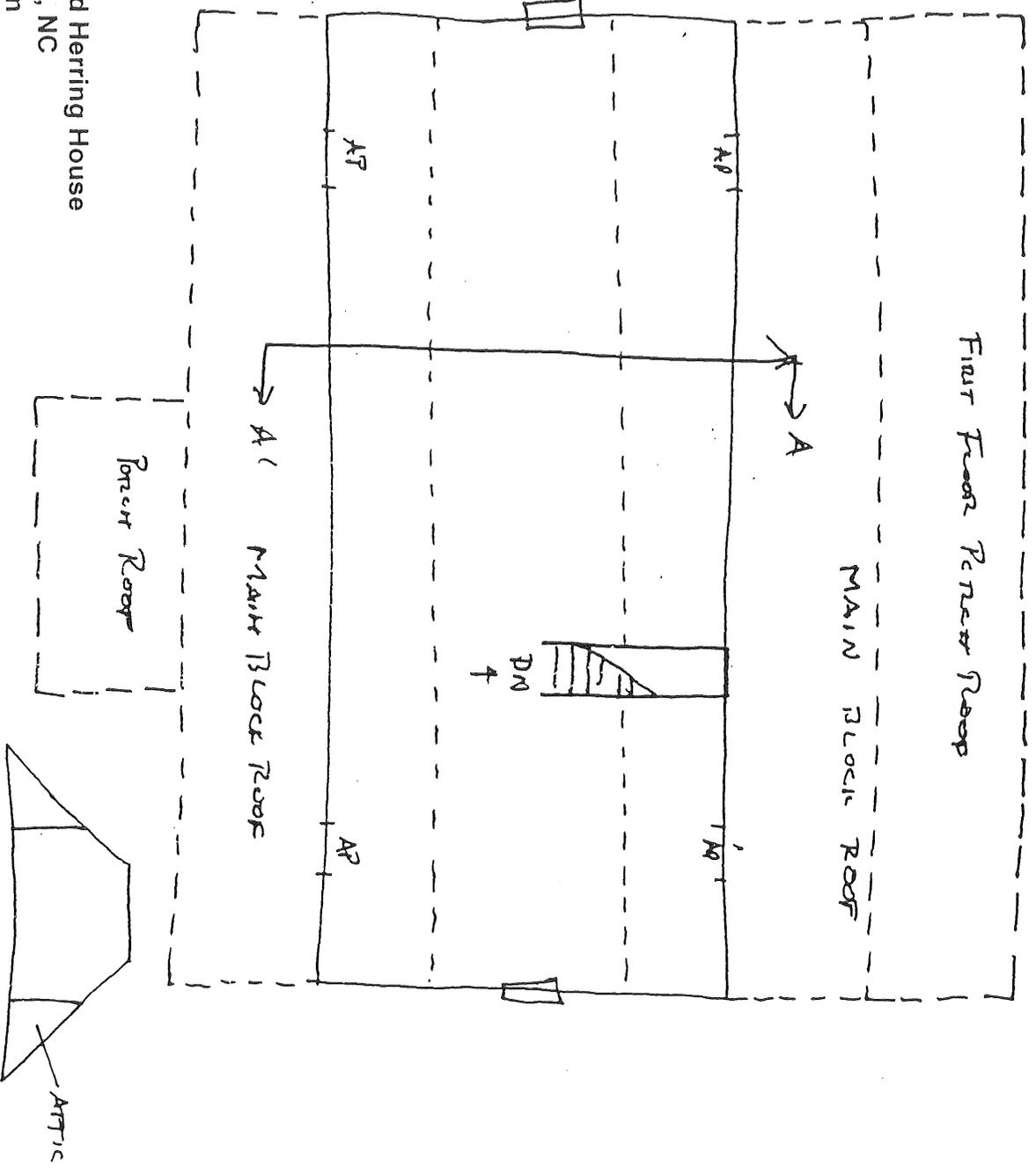


Bryan Whitfield Herring House
 Duplin County, NC
 First floor plan



Bryan Whitfield Herring House
Duplin County, NC
Second floor plan

Bryan Whitfield Herring House
 Duplin County, NC
 Third floor plan



SECT A-A'
 HTS

N.C.S.R. NO. 130.

RUN OF LITTLE GOSHEN SWAMP
SEE TRAVERSE TABLE E NO. 1

0.13 MILES TO INTERSECTION
WITH N.C.S.R. NO. 1302

BRYAN WHITFIELD HERRING FARM
N side SR-1311

TRACT NO. 3 OF THE
THOMAS PIGFORD ESTATE
MAP BOOK 1 PAGE 62

ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE

169.26 ACRES ±

FIELD
28 ACRES

Boundary of
Nominated
Acreage

OLD FARM ROAD

47.9 AC

Bryan Whitfield Herring Farm

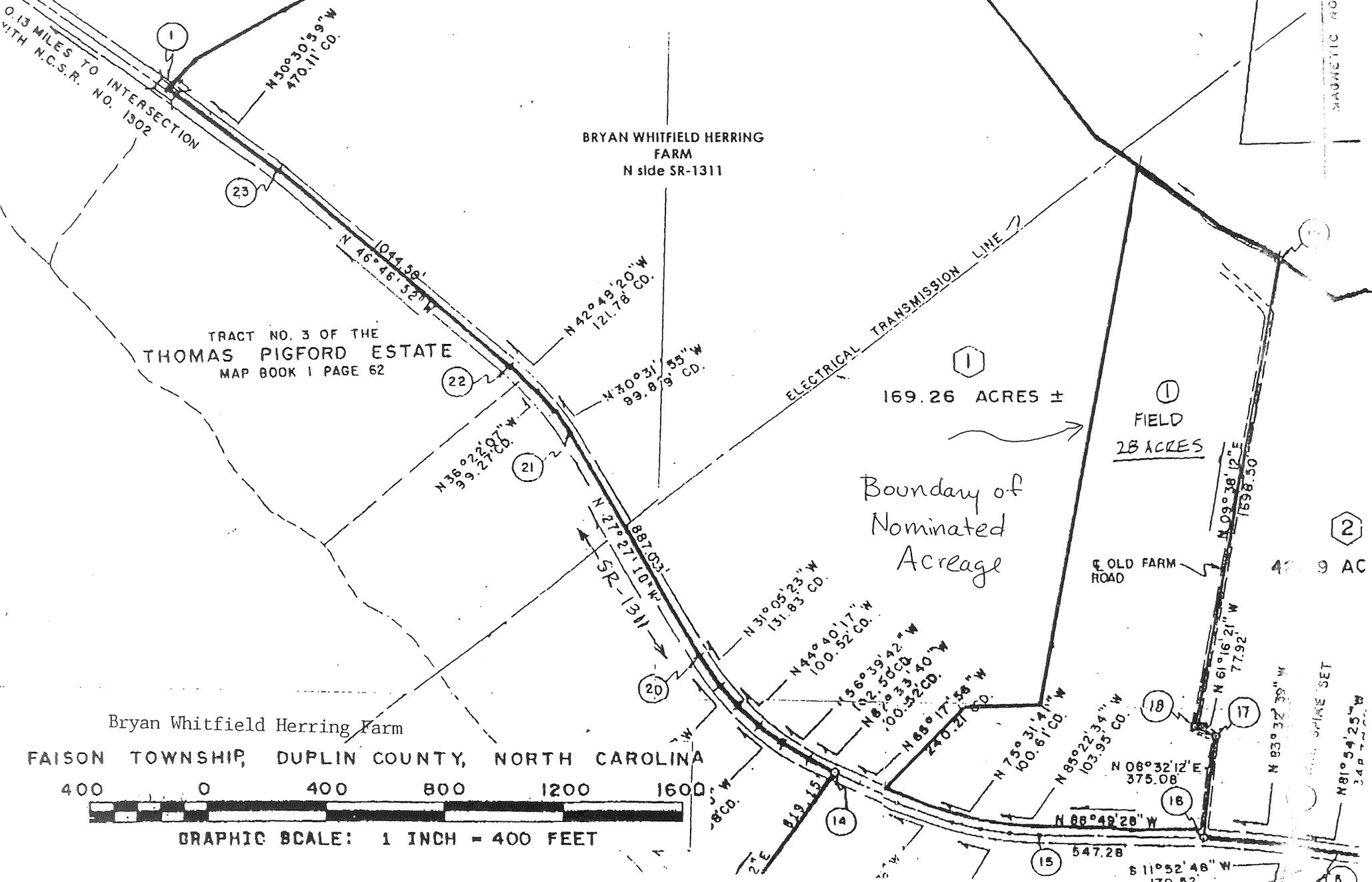
FAISON TOWNSHIP, DUPLIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

400 0 400 800 1200 1600



GRAPHIC SCALE: 1 INCH = 400 FEET

MAGNETIC NORTH — APRIL, 1971



N30°30'39"W
470.11 CO.

N 16°46'52"W
1044.50'

N 42°49'20"W
121.78 CO.

N 30°31'53"W
99.89' CO.

N 36°22'01"W
99.27 CO.

N 27°27'10"W
887.03'

N 31°05'23"W
131.83 CO.

N 44°40'17"W
100.52 CO.

N 56°39'42"W
102.50 CO.

N 62°33'40"W
100.52 CO.

N 85°17'58"W
240.21 CO.

N 75°31'41"W
100.61 CO.

N 89°22'34"W
103.95 CO.

N 06°32'12"E
375.08'

N 09°38'12"E
1638.50'

N 83°32'39"W

N 81°54'25"W
348.72 CO.

N 88°48'26"W

547.28'

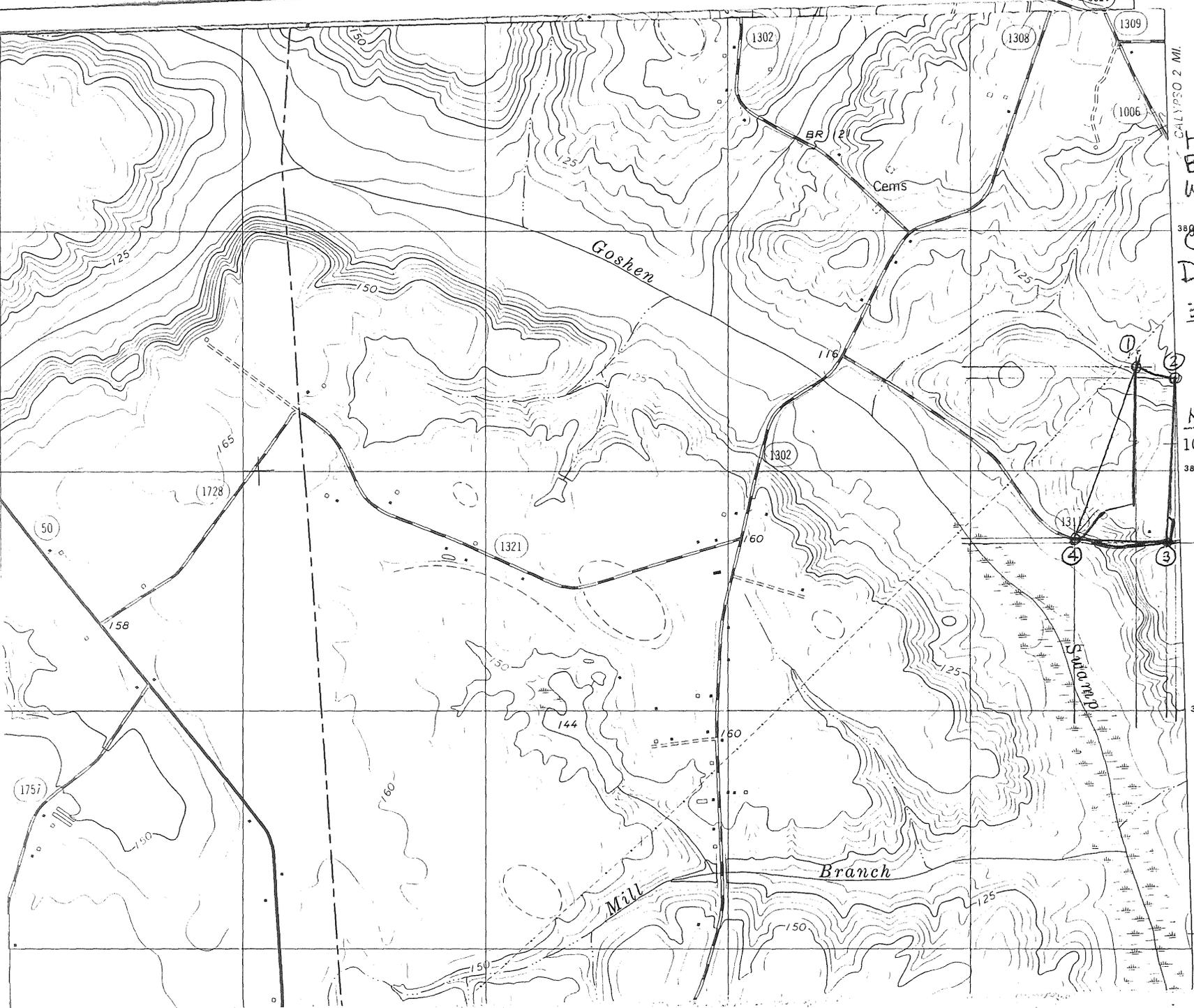
S 11°52'48"W
170.82'



- 3893 3894
- 10' ① 3875 430
 3895 ② 3895 385
 ③ 3894 700
 ④ 3894 720
- NOTHING
- 3895
 ① 761 680
 ② 761 840
 ③ 761 820
 ④ 761 430

DOBBSVILLE
 QUAD.
 ZONE 17

3895 CALVERO 2 MI.
 Herring,
 Bryan,
 Whitefield,
 Falwell
 Calypsovic,
 Dupon Co.



GALYPSO 2 MI.

Herring,
 Bryan
 Whitfield,
 Farva
 Calypsovic,
 Dupkin Co.

POINTS

- ① 761 680
- ② 761 840
- ③ 761 820
- ④ 761 430

NORTHING

- 10① 3895 430
- 3895② 3895 380
- ③ 3894 700
- ④ 3894 720

DOBBERVILLE
 QUAD.

ZONE 17

3894

3893

