

DV-7

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Davidson COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Southmont, N.C. QUAD

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Beallmont

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER S side of SR 1133 just W of SR 1135

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Linwood

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Davidson

CODE

057

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Luther Pickett

STREET & NUMBER Route 1, Box 2

CITY, TOWN

Linwood

VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina 27299

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Davidson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE
North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Ruth Little, Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Survey and Planning Branch

DATE
February 28, 1983

STREET & NUMBER
Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE
919/733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE
North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Moore-Beall House, known as Beallmont, is a charming picturesque two-story frame farmhouse, located on a gentle open rise of land near the Yadkin River in south Davidson County. The ancient boxwood borders, planted in the shape of hearts and other geometric patterns, which surround the house on three sides, extend the elegance of the architectural design out into the landscape. The small two-story main block has a one-story front porch, a two-story rear wing, and a one-story east side wing, all of different architectural periods.

The original structure is a two-story hall and parlor house of Federal design, although surviving details on the exterior are so subtle that it appears at first glance to date from the mid-nineteenth century. The first story facade, sheltered by a picturesque one-story porch, a large bay window on the west gable end, and the chimneys and gable roof eave treatment are prominent mid-nineteenth century alterations which transformed the house into an approximation of Andrew Jackson Downing's "cottage" style. The main entrance, in the east bay of the facade, and the two floor-length nine-over-nine sash windows are sheltered by the full facade porch. The flush wall sheathing sets off the ornate symmetrically molded surrounds with corner blocks. The double, raised panel front doors are flanked by sidelights with elegantly contrasting wide and narrow panes of glass. Wide latticework posts, with delicate sawnwork brackets, support the porch's hip-roof, which has an arched ceiling resembling a parasol. The latticework forms a continuous screen across the entire west end of the porch. Highlighting the west gable end is a polygonal bay accented by bracketted wide overhanging eaves. The floor-length paired windows on each side are protected by louvered shutters. All of the other openings with the exception of the twentieth century alterations have simple Federal surrounds, six-over-six sash, and flat-paneled doors of the Federal style.

The one-story frame wing extending from the east gable end was added during the mid-nineteenth century remodeling. According to circa 1900 documentary photographs, it was originally sheltered with a latticework full-length porch like that of the main facade. The present small central portico is a twentieth century replacement. Added successively in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the two-story rear wing of log construction and the one-story frame rear wing have similar but not identical Federal window and door treatment. Both wings were, according to family tradition, originally Federal period free-standing buildings which were later incorporated into the main structure. The entire structure is covered with plain weatherboard. The three tall brick chimneys, two located on the interior and one on the exterior, appear to be of mid-nineteenth century vintage. The only other significant alterations on the exterior are the enclosure of the rear wrap-around porch in the mid-twentieth century.

Like the exterior, the interior contains dramatic picturesque style architectural features displayed on a background of quiet Federal surfaces. All of the walls and ceilings, with the exception of the plastered dining room, have Federal period vertical sheathing. Most of the doors are flat-paneled Federal style designs. The

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private areas of the first floor and the second floor retain their original Federal surrounds which extend to the floor to form aprons beneath the windows. The architectural trim of the public areas was replaced during the remodeling by robust Greek Revival woodwork. An inventory of the furniture made shortly after this remodeling names each room by function, distinguishing public from private areas. The first floor contained a hall, a parlor, a dining room, a "private passage below," a "lower bed room," and a "back Piazza." In addition, the second floor contained an upper passage, a "large upper room," a "small bedroom," and "Aunt Mary's Room." The 1840s remodeling was concentrated in the hall, parlor, dining room, stair and stair passages, and the large upper room. Here are found symmetrically molded surrounds with ornate cornerblocks similar to those of the porch facade, high molded baseboards, and bold mantels of Greek Revival designs. The open-string stair has strongly curved stair brackets, a lovely flat-paneled wall enclosing the closet beneath the stair, and a gracefully ramped handrail with slender balusters. The mantel in the parlor, which is the architectural focus of the interior woodwork, is a complete surprise, for the original Adamesque Federal style mantel was so beautiful that it was retained rather than being replaced during the remodeling. The wide raised panel frieze, with dentil and rope cornice moldings, is flanked by pilasters with capitals featuring applied fluted sunbursts. This mantel was originally located in the west gable end, but was moved to its present rear wall location to make way for the bay window.

Although the two-story brick kitchen which appears on the east side of the house in documentary photographs was demolished about 1913, a matching brick smokehouse still stands behind the house. The random common bond brick, batten door with ovolo-molded trim, and wooden ventilators with heavy horizontal rails set diagonally, are probably similar to the detailing of the kitchen. Brick outbuildings are rare in Davidson County. A large dairy barn, built in 1913, and assorted support structures, are immediately behind the smokehouse.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ STATE

 LOCAL

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) 19th century rural medical education and practice	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beallmont, an architectural gem in the Jersey Settlement of southern Davidson County, is both a representative example of an early nineteenth century farmhouse and a unique example of a fashionable mid-nineteenth century picturesque "cottage." The original small two-story frame house was built by either Doctor Robert Moore, the original grant holder, or his son Ebenezer, in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Ebenezer's son-in-law Burgess Lamar Beall, prominent physician and politician, transformed the house into a fashionable picturesque villa in the late 1840s. Beall family descendents still live in the house.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- B. Seat of three generations of country physicians, the Moores and Bealls, from the founding period of settlement in the eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century.
- C. Embodies typical early nineteenth century Davidson County domestic architectural configuration and detailing, yet overlaid with stylish details reflecting the picturesque movement, a rarity in Davidson County.

The visible architectural evolution of the structure, continuous family tradition, and voluminous historical records make Beallmont one of the best-documented early houses in Davidson County. The original owner of the property, in the Jersey Settlement near Jersey Baptist Church, was Dr. Robert Moore, who acquired the first tract in 1763.¹ At his death about 1813 his three sons inherited his lands. One of them, Ebenezer, also a physician, received that portion which apparently contained the homeplace.² Burgess Lamar Beall, a medical student who came to "read" medicine with Ebenezer, remained and married Ebenezer's daughter Ellen in the early 1830s. In 1833, prompted by "natural love and affection," and "desire for the maintenance of his daughter Ellen," Ebenezer gave "the Cunningham tracts of land on which the said B. L. Beall now lives," to him. Then in 1837 Ebenezer's widow Elizabeth sold Beall her dower tract, which probably contained the Moore homeplace.³ During the 1840s, Dr. Beall, who represented Davidson County in the state legislature in the sessions of 1838 and 1840 and became, by 1850, one of the four wealthiest farmers in the county, transformed his house into a fashionable country seat.⁴ Although Beall could have transformed the house in which he was living in 1833 into Beallmont, family tradition relates that the original section of the house is the old Moore homeplace. In 1844, according to oral tradition passed to the present owner by Dr. Beall's daughter Margaret before her death in the 1930s, a nearby log house which had belonged to another member of the Moore family (perhaps Burgess' first residence) was moved and incorporated as the rear two-story wing.⁵ In 1848 Beall purchased a large amount of residential building materials, including lath, weatherboarding, "railing," ceiling boards, and weatherboarding totaling almost \$1,000,⁶ and probably completed the remodeling at this time. The inventory of the household furnishings conducted in December 1853 after Dr. Beall's death gave a tantalizing glimpse into the life style of the family following the renovation. Elegant pieces of furniture, probably purchased from major urban centers, were dispersed throughout the house. The kitchen, the "kitchen upstairs," and the medical shop (where a bed, bedstead and other furniture were located), were also mentioned.⁷ The unusually early appearance of the picturesque movement in Davidson County may have been due to the influence of Blandwood, the grandiose Italianate villa designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in the 1840s for Governor John Motley Morehead in Greensboro. Beallmont's picturesque design may be a local carpenter-builder's interpretation of Blandwood's modern features.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 8 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	559710	3955930	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of lot 8, Map 19, Davidson County Tax Office, bounded on the north by S.R. 1133 (Belmont Road), on the east by S.R. 1135, on the south by lot 25, and on the west by the adjacent lot, as outlined in red on map.

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Dr. Beall left his wife his "mansion House & out buildings," and at her death their son Thomas B. Beall inherited the place.⁸ Thomas lived in Salisbury, and lost the house in 1880 following a business failure. His brother James Franklin Beall bought Beallmont at public auction in the same year, for \$1,500, and he and his wife Cornelia raised their family there.⁹ At Cornelia's death in 1927 the home passed to their two children, Caroline Beall Calvert and James L. Beall. James moved away, and Mrs. Calvert's daughter, Angelene Beall Calvert Pickett inherited the house in 1963 and still resides there with her own family.¹⁰

Footnotes

¹The grant is in the possession of Angelene Beall Calvert Pickett. Rowan County Deed Book 6, p. 64 refers to "Dr. Robert Moore."

²Rowan County Deed Book 24, p. 792.

³Davidson County Deed Book 6, p. 126; Book 6, p. 64.

⁴M. Jewell Sink and Mary Green Matthews, Pathfinders Past and Present: A History of Davidson County, North Carolina (High Point, N.C.: Hall Printing Company, 1972), p. 401; United States Census Records, 1850. Davidson County, North Carolina. Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule.

⁵Interview with Angelene Beall Calvert Pickett, January 25, 1983.

⁶Receipt dated 1846 and 1848, Acc. 1042, Folder #3. Beall Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

⁷Estate Inventory of B. L. Beall Estate, 1853, located in estate file of R. L. Beall, Davidson County Estate Records, State Archives, Division of Archives and History.

⁸Burgess L. Beall Will, 1853. Davidson County Wills, State Archives, Division of Archives and History.

⁹Davidson County Deed Book 17, p. 422; Book 27, p. 385.

¹⁰Interview with Angelene Pickett, January 25, 1983.

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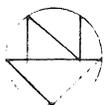
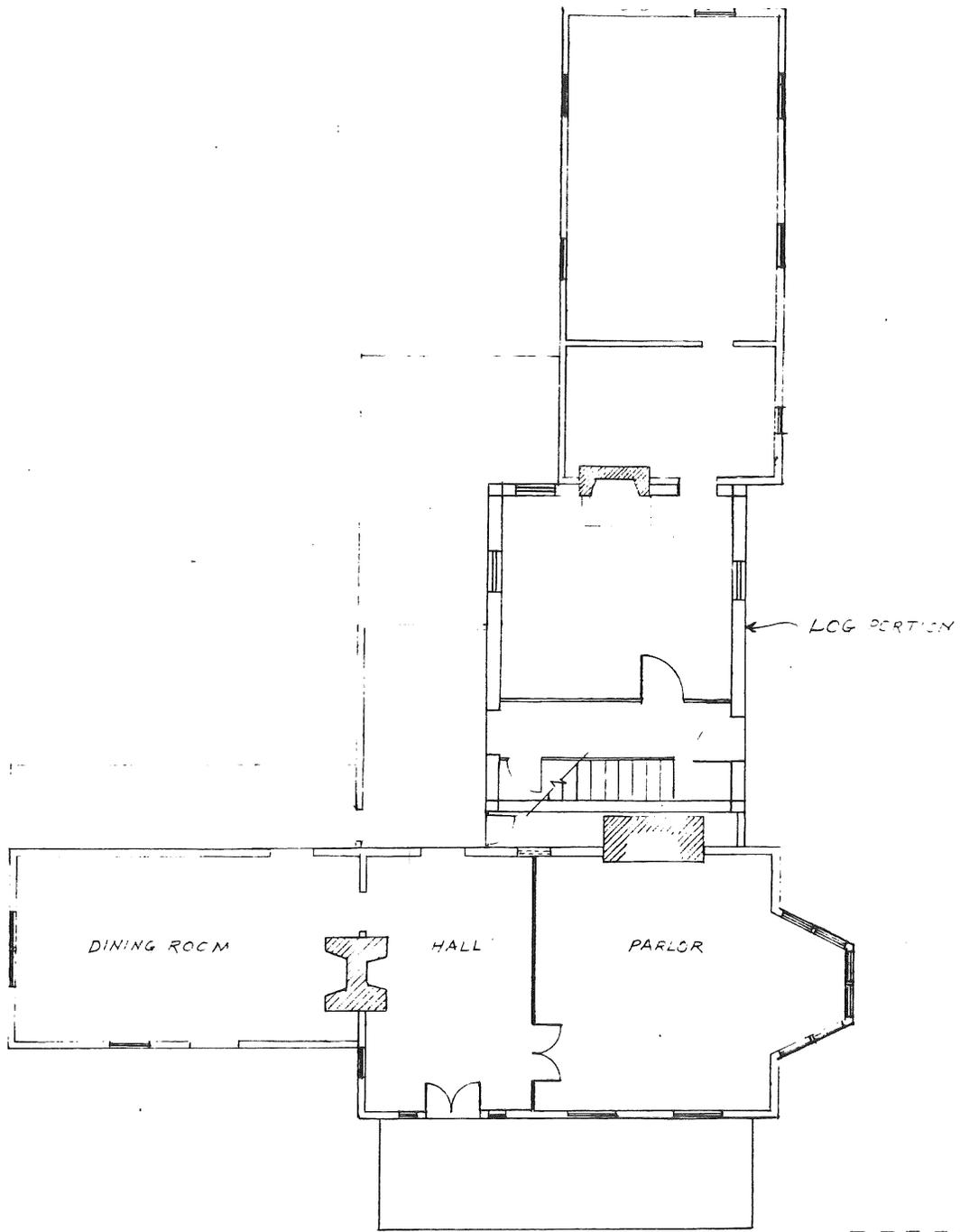
Page

Pickett, Angelene Beall Calvert. Interview with. January 25, 1983. Notes in file.

Rowan and Davidson County Records. Deed Books, Willis, and Estates Papers. Originals and Microfilm copies, in State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

United States Census Records. 1850, Davidson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule. Microfilm copies at the State Archives, Division of Archives and History.

Beall Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection. Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Folder #3, Acc. 1042.



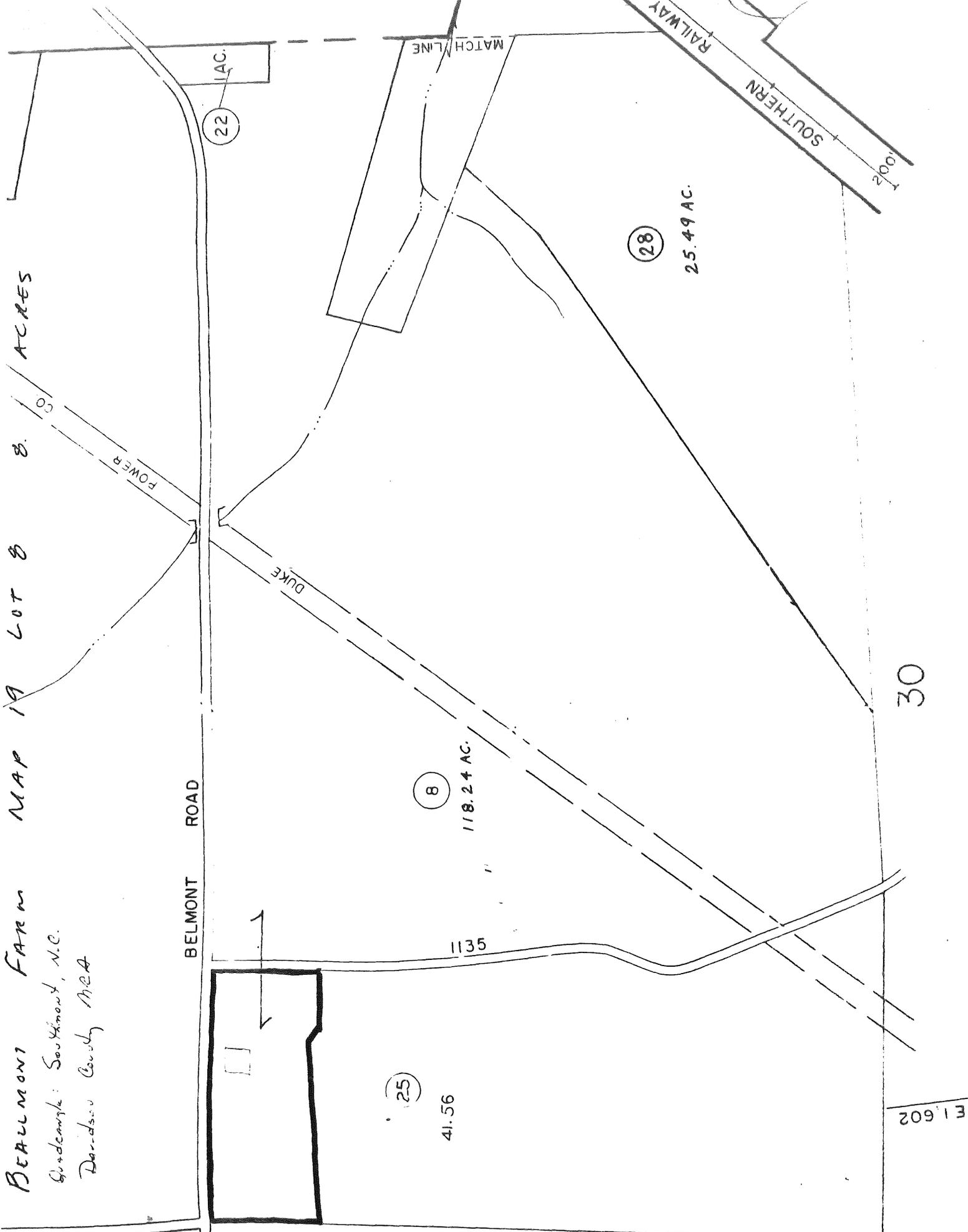
LY-7 BEALLMONT NR LINWOOD c. 1800

1/8" = 1' PBT

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BELMONT FARM MAP 19 LOT 8

Granting: Southern, N.C.
Davidson County N.C.A



22
1.1 AC.

MATCH LINE

28
25.49 AC.

8
118.24 AC.

25
41.56

30

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
200'

POWER

DUKE

BELMONT ROAD

1135

AC.

NE

E 1.602

