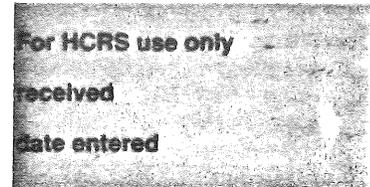


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Baker Farm

and/or common Perdue Farm

2. Location

street & number S side SR 1720 .20 mile E jct. with SR 1716 not for publication

city, town Bunn vicinity of congressional district 1

state North Carolina code 37 county Franklin code

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Charles M. Winston

street & number P. O. Box 31000

city, town Raleigh vicinity of state North Carolina 27622

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Louisburg state North Carolina

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

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Baker House sits on a slight rise in a large tree-shaded yard on the south side of State Road 1720. Cultivated farmland adjoins the house and yard on the west and south while pastures and wood appear to the east. The house site is at the northern end of a 235-acre tract of land used for breeding cattle.

The Baker House was apparently constructed in the first quarter of the nineteenth century as a three-bay, two-story frame house with a hall-and-parlor plan. In 1856 the house was reworked in the Greek Revival style, but the Federal-period proportions and form of the house survive as do the plank ceilings and several 9/9 and 6/9 sash. The two handsome paved single-shouldered stone chimneys supposedly replaced the original chimneys soon after the Civil War, and were constructed by freed slaves. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, a large two-story wing and porch was added to the rear of the house and several changes were made to the original front section.

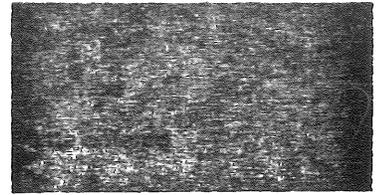
The exterior of the older section of the house has simply-detailed symmetrical trim probably dating from the 1856 renovation of the house. The late-nineteenth century changes to the exterior include a large pedimented gable with circular vent centered over the center bay of the facade, a double front door with elaborately etched glass panels, and a shed porch supported by four chamfered posts topped by scrollwork capitals beneath triple brackets on the porch cornice. On the interior, all of the woodwork appears to date from the 1856 changes. At this time a wall was put up in the large hall room to form a center-hall plan. Both floors of the house feature a wide baseboard, a one-part symmetrical molding around all openings, and two-panel doors. The mantel pieces are of Greek Revival construction but curiously imitate the composition of Federal-period mantels, having slender paired pilasters supporting two-and-three-part projecting friezes and shelves. Much of the woodwork has what appears to be its original grayish-beige paint, and one upstairs mantel retains its marbleizing.

The two-story rear wing dating from the late-nineteenth century consists of two large rooms per floor with an interior chimney between them, and is simply trimmed with a plain symmetrical molding, four-and-five panel doors with their original hardware, board-and-batten ceilings, and late-Greek Revival pilaster-type mantels. Attached to the rear of the wing is a kitchen and pantry finished off with narrow beaded sheathing. Running the length of the wing and originally opening from the hall of the older house is a two-story porch with chamfered posts matching those of the front porch; the porch projects out at one end to form a well house.

Recent changes to the exterior of the house have been minimal: a large bay window added to one of the rear wing rooms and a small portion of the rear porch enclosed for baths. On the interior, the enclosed winder stair and its supporting wall have been removed and a straight-run stair placed in the center hall, baths have been added in the hallway of the second floor, and the wall between the first floor room of the original house and the rear wing has been removed.

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Continuation sheet Description

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Of the surviving outbuildings, the oldest is probably a small two-room frame structure, most recently used as a smokehouse, with plank doors and box locks; this gable-roof building probably dates from the Federal-period construction of the house. The nearby store building, built shortly after the Civil War, is a story-and-a-half, three-bay, gable roof frame structure with 6/6 sash and a pine-sheathed interior with an open winder stair. Other outbuildings are the wood house, the wash house, two barns, a storage shed, and three tobacco barns, all apparently dating from the twentieth century.

The structure, of course, is 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 structure. 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.

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 checked="" 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 1856

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

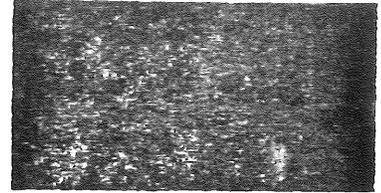
The Baker Farm is an example of a modest antebellum farm home. Belonging to the prosperous Baker family from the early 1820s until 1934, the house reflects characteristics of the Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian styles of vernacular architecture which resulted from the Baker family's changing tastes and needs in housing. The house also possesses a number of nineteenth and twentieth-century outbuildings once so necessary to the farming operations in eastern North Carolina.

Criteria:

- A. Associated with the economy and lifestyle of a middle-class antebellum farm family of Franklin County and eastern North Carolina.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of the antebellum farm house complex owned by a prosperous family.
- D. Is likely to yield information on the history of the antebellum farm economy.

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The Baker House was probably built in the early 1820s by James Baker (1792-1885). James Baker was the son of planter Henry Baker who died in 1823, leaving his son James the "land on the south side of Mocasas Creek whereon John Baker now lives."¹ Moccasin Creek forms part of the boundary between southern Franklin and northern Wake counties, and is about two miles south of the Baker Farm. In 1822 James Baker had purchased 450 acres of land just north of the present farm, and in 1825 he purchased an adjoining tract of 180 acres along the Louisburg-Tarboro Road which included the present house site, and he probably soon thereafter built his house.²

Baker must have prospered as a farmer for between 1825 and 1852 he was able to purchase 636 more acres of land adjoining his own.³ He evidently enjoyed a respected place in the community, being given power of attorney by several people and was referred to as "Esquire."⁴ At the time of the 1850 census Baker was listed as a farmer heading a nine-member household formed by his wife Martha, children Mary, Martha, Emily, James, John, Wily, and Jacob Read, a fourteen-year old free black. Baker owned 900 acres of land, 450 acres of it improved, valued at \$2,500 on which his twelve slaves raised 1,080 bushels of corn, 200 bushels of oats, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes, 80 bushels of peas, and 3 bales of ginned cotton. Baker also owned a substantial amount of livestock including 6 horses, 7 cows, 2 oxen, 45 sheep (which produced 40 pounds of wool), and 90 hogs.⁵

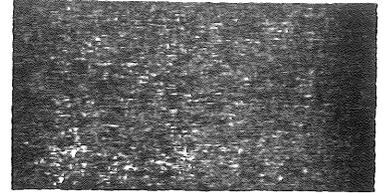
Perhaps after an especially good crop in 1856, Baker had the interior trim of his house reworked in the Greek-Revival style with simple woodwork, mantels, and two-panel doors replacing the Federal-period originals. During recent work on the house, the plaster was removed from a second floor bedroom to reveal the date "1856" and the names "J. P. Alford," "J. Dale," "JHB," and "R. J. Pearce" painted on the back of the weatherboarding; evidently these men were workmen engaged on the renovations to the house.

After the Civil War Baker built the small general store near his house supposedly for the benefit of one of his sons who had lost a leg at the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.⁶ The 1869 county tax list shows that James Baker paid \$66.72 in state, county, and special taxes on 907 acres in Bunn Township; his real and personal estate was valued at \$4,496.00.⁷

James Baker died in 1885, leaving to his daughter Mary Jane "three hundred acres where I now live with household and kitchen furniture, nules, all cattle, etc. . . , cart, wagon," but to his son John (1842-1919) was left all the balance of James Baker's land including "my dwelling house where I now live all the outhouses and appurtenances thereto belonging."⁸ It was probably at this time that the rear wing was added and other Victorian changes were made to the house. In 1891 John Baker purchased from his sister Mary Jane the land she had inherited from her father which apparently surrounded the house tract.⁹

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John Baker continued to live in the house until his death in 1919. At his death, Baker's personal and real estate, which included 1,149 acres, was appraised for inheritance tax purposes at \$33,223.25.¹⁰ In February 1920 Baker's land was surveyed and divided by lots for his five heirs; his son L. S. Baker received lot no. 3 containing 235 acres and the house.¹¹ In 1930 L. S. Baker gave the title to the farm in a deed of trust to the Chickamauga Trust Company; in 1934 Baker defaulted to the trust company and the property was auctioned off in May of 1934.¹² The property changed hands four times during the summer of 1934, finally being purchased by L. P. and Jessie E. Perdue in October 1934. The Perdue family farmed the land until the present owner purchased the farm in 1981 from the Perdue heirs.¹³

Although architecturally it is simply detailed, the Baker house is a representative example of the changing needs and tastes in housing of a prosperous farm family in eastern North Carolina over a long period of time. In addition, with its numerous outbuildings of the smokehouse, the store, the wood shed, the wash house, and several tobacco barns, the Baker house provides a good example of the once-typical farm complex which is rapidly disappearing from the landscape of rural North Carolina.

NOTES:

¹Will of Henry Baker, "Planter," 10 May 1818, probated June 1823, Franklin County Wills and Inventories, Book D, Office of the Clerk of Court, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg.

²W. T. Hollingsworth and John Carpenter to James Baker, 11 December 1822, Franklin County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg, Book 20, p. 154, hereinafter cited as Franklin County Deeds; William Harrison to James Baker, 21 February 1825, Franklin County Deeds, book 22, p. 66; these two deeds and subsequent purchases by Baker refer to Little Crooked Creek which flows about a mile north of the house, and the Louisburg or Hillsboro to Tarboro Road, present day state road 1720 which runs by the house, in the boundary descriptions.

³For Baker's land purchases see Franklin County Deeds, Book 28, p. 440; Book 29, p. 500; Book 31, p. 98.

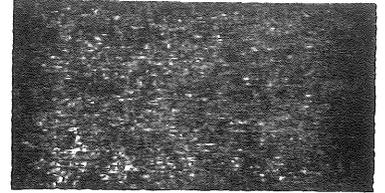
⁴See Franklin County Deeds, Book 27, p. 300; Book 32, pp. 392, 393.

⁵Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; Franklin County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, p. 321; Slave Schedule, p. 529; Agricultural Schedule, p. 103, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

⁶This information was provided the author by the present owner of the house

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who obtained it from interviews with members of the Perdue family. The Perdues were also told when they purchased the house that the house had been built in 1820 by the Baker family and that the stone chimneys had been built after the Civil War by freed slaves.

⁷1869 Tax list for Bunn Township in Franklin County List of Taxables, 1869-1871, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

⁸Will of James Baker, 7 March 1877, probated 24 August 1885, Franklin County Wills, Book U, 359, Office of the Clerk of Court, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg.

⁹Mary J. Baker to John A. Baker, December 1891, Franklin County Deeds, Book 88, p. 368.

¹⁰Estates Papers for John A. Baker, Franklin County Estates Papers, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

¹¹Orders and Degrees, Book 9, p. 236; Book 10, pp. 303-309, Office of the Clerk of Court, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg.

¹²L. S. Baker to Chickamauga Trust Company, 3 March 1930, Franklin County Deeds, Book 320, p. 99.

¹³See Franklin County Deeds, Book 320, pp. 99, 296, 297, 306; Book 802, p. 398.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 235 acres

Quadrangle name Bunn West

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification The Baker Farm consists of a 235-acre rectangular tract of land containing the house site and the surrounding fields, pastures, and wood traditionally associated with the house as shown on the attached map, "Property of L. P. Perdue & Wife, Jessie E." (Franklin Co. Orders & Decrees, Book 9, p. 236)

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------------	------

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marshall Bullock, Architectural Historian

organization

date June 1982

street & number P. O. Box 808

telephone 967-6986

city or town Chapel Hill

state North Carolina 27514

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 8, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

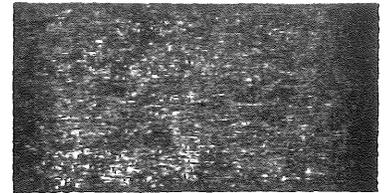
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Major Biblio. References

Item number 9

Page 1

Franklin County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Franklin County Courthouse,
Louisburg.

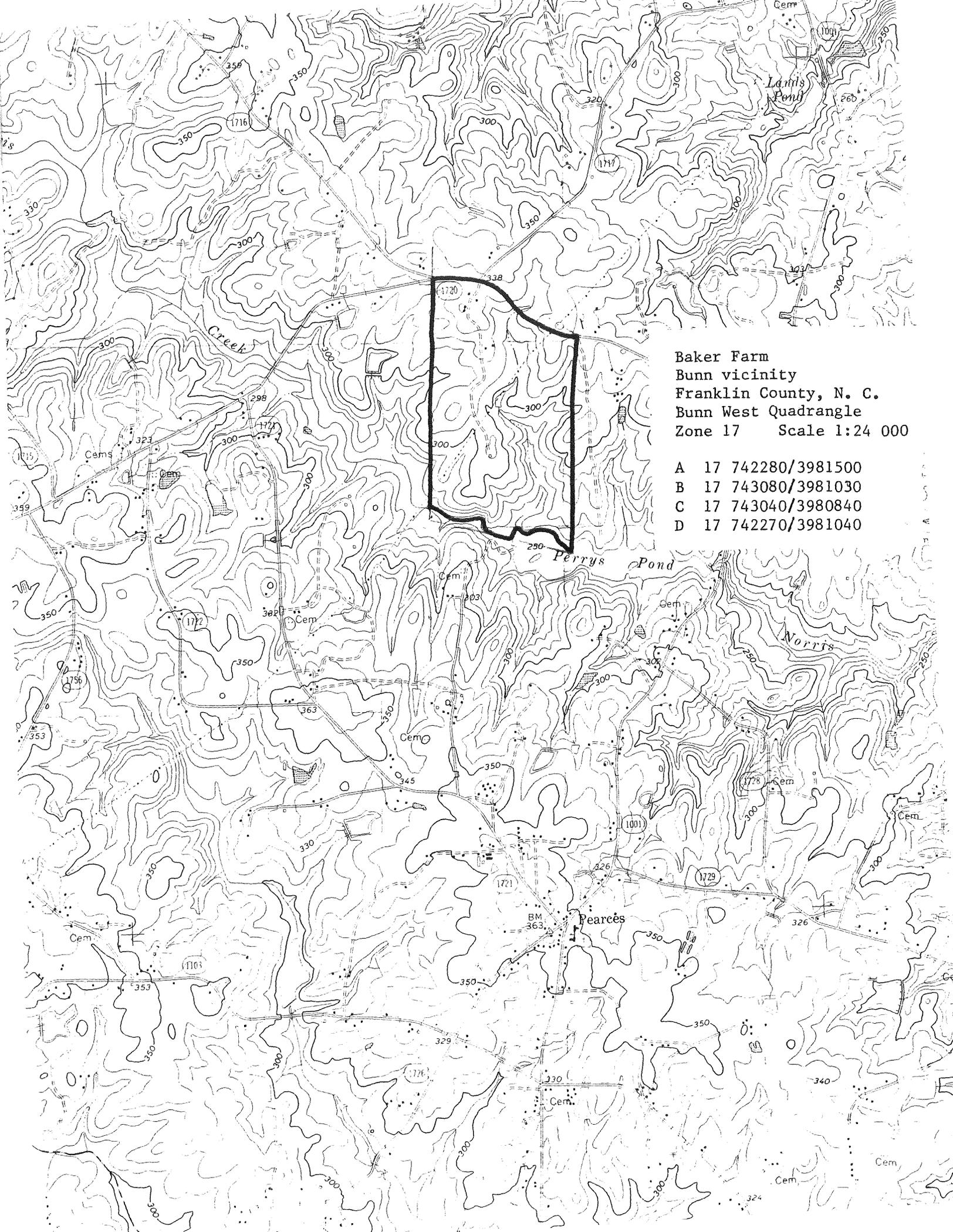
Franklin County Estates Papers, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Franklin County Orders and Decrees, Office of the Clerk of Court, Franklin County
Courthouse, Louisburg.

Franklin County Tax Lists, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Franklin County Inventories and Wills, Office of the Clerk of Court, Franklin County
Courthouse, Louisburg.

Seventh United States Census, 1850, Franklin County, North Carolina, microfilm of
National Archives manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History,
Raleigh.



Baker Farm
Bunn vicinity
Franklin County, N. C.
Bunn West Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000

- A 17 742280/3981500
- B 17 743080/3981030
- C 17 743040/3980840
- D 17 742270/3981040

