

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Jesse Benbow House II

and/or common

2. Location

street & number S. side of NC 150, 0.15 mi. E. of Jct. with SR 2018 (Willard Road) not for publication

city, town Oak Ridge vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Guilford code 081

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 checked="" 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 Irene V. Hall

street & number P.O. Box 407

city, town Oak Ridge vicinity of state North Carolina 27310

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Guilford County Courthouse

street & number 100 N. Eugene Street

city, town Greensboro state North Carolina 27402

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Architectural Resources: An Inventory of Historic Architecture, High Point
title Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford Co. this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records N. C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Surviving with little alteration, the second house built by prominent Guilford County landowner Jesse Benbow is set in a curve close to the road along Highway 150 in northwestern Guilford County, just west of the rural community of Oak Ridge. The vernacular Greek Revival structure commands a beautiful site with its surrounding pastures and farmland. Sheathed in plain weatherboarding and covered by a low hip roof, the two-story double-pile dwelling is, typically, three bays wide. Extending from the rear (south) of the main block at the west end is a long one-story gable-roofed ell, which was originally a separate structure. During a 1938 remodeling, the ell structure was extended to join with the main block of the house, connecting the two structures.

Resting on a low foundation, the house is treated with corner pilasters capped with simple applied moldings. Wide cornice boards and baseboards encircle the main block and the ell. A hip-roofed porch stretches across the front of the house, supported by four square columns capped with simple applied moldings identical to those on the corner pilasters. Two symmetrically placed interior chimneys pierce the roof of the main block, their square stacks corbeled at the top and finished in plaster. A single central stack with exposed brickwork and a corbeled top pierces the roof of the ell.

Set in simple surrounds, windows on the second floor of the main block and in the ell are six-over-six double-hung sash. Paired windows on the first floor of the main block are four-over-four double-hung sash. The facade windows retain louvered blinds. Enframed by a simple architrave, the entrance features a two-leaf door flanked by sidelights with an eight-light transom above. The four-light sidelights are set over panels. The two-leaf, four-panel door has a wide lock rail. At the rear of the main block is a centrally placed entrance, identical to that on the front.

The ell was originally a separate structure, with an engaged porch stretching across the east side. Columns identical to those on the front porch of the main block support the roof. Built as a part of the porch, the stone facing of the well is flush with the wood porch floor. At the south end of the porch, adjacent to the well, is an enclosed area accommodating a stairway to the "creamery" below. The creamery is constructed of stone. When the ell structure was extended to join with the main block of the house (ca. 1938), the porch was glassed-in to form a sunporch, with four-over-four and six-over-six double-hung sash windows filling the space between the porch columns, and eight-light transoms above, identical to the transoms lighting the entrances in the main block of the house. The west side of the ell extension is weatherboarded.

The original stone pier foundation of the house is underpinned with brick, and plastered and scored to resemble cut stone, possibly a late nineteenth century alteration. Probably at the time of the remodeling in 1938, the roof of the house was covered in metal. A standing-seam roof, it replaced the original wood shingles (some still extant and stored in a building on the property).

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The interior of the house follows a center hall plan two rooms deep, which is typical of substantial mid-nineteenth century dwellings in the region. Parlors open off both sides of the hall with a bedroom behind each, also opening off of the hall. There are four bedrooms on the second floor, the floor plan corresponding with that of the first. The original section of the ell structure has two rooms and contains a dining room and a kitchen. The sunporch connects the ell to the main block of the house through the original rear entrance.

Rooms in the house are spacious; the walls are finished in plaster and the ceilings with flush board sheathing. The simple interior trim includes deep baseboards and wide board floors. There is extensive polychrome wood graining and marbleizing intact on the first floor of the main block, primarily on doors, baseboards and woodwork. Doors throughout the house are of typical Greek Revival design, with two long vertical flat panels. Porcelain knobs and keyholes embellish the doors. Mantels are of simple post and lintel composition, the pilasters capped with a small molding and set on a simple base, with a wide lintel or entablature supporting a simple shelf. All are of identical design except the dining room mantel, which has a narrower lintel to accommodate a higher firebox opening. The mantel in the west parlor has a molded cornice below the shelf, stretching across the top of the lintel, and is marbleized in black. Woodwork in this room is grained in imitation of golden oak with baseboards marbleized in black, identical to the mantel. The east parlor has woodwork grained in imitation of burl walnut and baseboards marbleized in gray. Woodwork and mantel in the east bedroom are grained in imitation of birdseye maple with baseboards of tortoise shell, a 1982 restoration of the original paint colors which were badly damaged. An open string stair rises front to back in a single run in the front portion of the hall, against the east wall. The stringer is grained and trimmed with flat moldings. Slender rectangular-in-section balusters support a simple rounded rail. A knob tops the turned newel; identical newel posts are at the top of the stair. Rooms on the second floor are more simply finished, with lower ceilings. The mantel in the east front bedroom is partially marbleized in blue.

The dining room (now used as a kitchen) has a large fireplace with a warming nook built into it and an arm to hold cooking utensils. Although the room and its function have been altered, the integrity of its original features has not been compromised. The kitchen has undergone numerous alterations over the years and little original material remains. The east wall of the ell, now the west wall of the sunporch, has its weatherboarding intact and window and door openings remain. The west side of the extension connecting the ell to the main block encloses two bathrooms.

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The yard is well landscaped with large shrubs and trees, and six outbuildings dot the sizeable yard. A large horsebarn sits to the rear of a pasture to the east of the house, adjacent to the yard. The smokehouse is of log with half dovetail construction and sheathed in vertical rough-sawn boards and resting on a stone foundation. Long and narrow, the granary is sheathed in horizontal rough-sawn board and is fitted with a tongue and groove grain compartment inside. Both are nineteenth century structures, possibly contemporary with the house.

To the rear of the ell is a woodshed. Rough hewn posts with "Y" bracketing support a gable roof. Of mortise and tenon construction, the structure has no walls and is now used as a "summerhouse," its dirt floor now covered in concrete. A greenhouse with a fieldstone foundation is set into the side of a hill, its south wall filled with windows. The greenhouse was probably constructed in the early twentieth century; the roof and the windows have been replaced, but marble sills for the plants to rest on remain inside. Other structures include a shed-roofed chicken coop covered in composition siding and a garage covered in vertical board siding with doors of beaded board and a dirt floor. Both structures probably date from the early twentieth century.

The large barn, probably constructed in the late nineteenth century, is five bays wide. Covered with a gable roof, the structure has engaged sheds on three sides with exposed rafter ends; the shed to the rear of the barn is open, the roof supported by eight posts. Resting on a stonework foundation, the barn was originally covered in vertical board sheathing. During a 1982 renovation, battens were added to the siding, and the barn was capped by a two-stage cupola, a pent roof covering the first stage and a pyramidal roof topping it. A weather-vane sits at the terminus. Large sliding doors open at the center and at each of the side sheds on the front facade of the barn.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1858 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jesse Benbow House II is an important mid-nineteenth century structure. One of two well-preserved double-pile two-story frame Greek Revival dwellings extant in Guilford County, it features typical vernacular period detail and has extensive polychrome wood graining and marbleizing on the interior. Surviving with a minimum of alteration, the house was owned by Jesse Benbow's descendants until 1975. Benbow (1815-1900), a prominent landowner, built the house near Oak Ridge. Thought to have been completed about 1858, it was one of the largest houses built in the area during that period. Benbow also built an earlier house (ca. 1842) nearby. His family pioneered in the early development of the textile industry in North Carolina, as well as in internal improvements within the state. Jesse and his brother Thomas Benbow were among the founders of the Oak Ridge Male Institute (now Oak Ridge Military Academy) in 1850. Benbow also served as a trustee of New Garden Boarding School (now Guilford College), located in western Guilford County, for over twenty years. Members of his family were involved in the establishment, in 1837, and perpetuation of the Quaker school. The unspoiled character of the house and its setting, and the historical association with a prominent local family make this house important to Guilford County and piedmont North Carolina.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the antebellum development of Guilford County; representative of the agrarian society in the mid-nineteenth century; associated with the development of early educational institutions in piedmont North Carolina.
- B. Associated with Jesse Benbow, a locally prominent landowner. Of Welsh Quaker descent, the Benbow family were early settlers in the area, and were prominent in the development of Guilford County and the city of Greensboro.
- C. The house embodies characteristics in form, plan and construction techniques of typical vernacular architectural traditions. The two-story double-pile main block with a center hall follows a form typical of substantial dwellings of the period. It is representative of the restrained interpretations of the Greek Revival style prevalent in the piedmont, and is one of the few well-preserved examples of the style surviving in Guilford County. The interior features extensive original polychrome graining and marbleizing.

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Jesse Benbow (1815-1900) was a descendant of Welsh Quakers who settled in the Cape Fear region of North Carolina sometime during the middle of the eighteenth century. His grandfather, Thomas Benbow, migrated from Bladen County to Guilford County during the last quarter of the century, joining the New Garden Monthly Meeting of Friends there in 1778.¹ Charles and Mary Benbow, Jesse's parents, were among the original members of the Dover Monthly Meeting, established in 1815 five or six miles northwest of New Garden.² Charles Benbow built a substantial brick dwelling near Oak Ridge in Guilford County, an area settled in the mid-eighteenth century, mostly by Quaker families.³

In addition to his farm, brickyard and family tannery, Charles Benbow had a number of business interests centered primarily in Fayetteville. Among them was the Cross Creek Manufacturing Company, a cotton mill in which he was a partner.⁴ He also owned capital stock in the Bank of Fayetteville, the Fayetteville and Northern Plank Road, and in the "western Rail Road (sic)."⁵

Jesse Benbow was taught English and surveying by an Isaac Thornburg who lived at Hopewell Church, located halfway between Bruce's Crossroads and New Garden. It was there that Jesse met Anna Clark, the daughter of Jonathan Clark. Clark moved from Indiana, joining the Hopewell Monthly Meeting in 1836, and is thought to have had extensive land holdings in the northern part of the county.⁶

Jesse and Anna were married at Hopewell in October 1838 and first lived in his father's house. It is thought that Jesse Benbow built a nearby house in 1842.⁷ The hall and parlor plan dwelling with retarditaire Federal style detail is still extant and is sited on lands once owned by Charles Benbow.⁸

Jesse Benbow and his brother, Thomas, were among the founders of the nearby Oak Ridge Male Institute (later called Oak Ridge Institute) in 1850. The Quakers had opened the New Garden Boarding School just west of Greensboro in 1837, however, by 1850 the citizens of Oak Ridge felt the need to establish a local educational institution. Forty-three residents pledged a total of \$629 for the establishment of the new school, and Jesse Benbow's name headed the subscription list with a pledge of twenty-five dollars.⁹

Jesse and Anna Benbow had seven children who lived into adulthood, and it was perhaps because of a concern that their children receive a proper education close to home that Jesse decided to help establish the school.¹⁰ Oak Ridge Male Institute, a non-denominational school, opened in 1852. Charles Rufus Benbow (1843-1917), Jesse's eldest son, was the first student to be enrolled. It became a widely-known classical preparatory school, and later a high-ranking military school.¹¹

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Benbow began construction of a new and larger residence for his growing family in mid-century, and is thought to have moved into the new dwelling in 1858.¹² Built on his father's land, the house was located a short distance from his first house. Set along the old Danville-Salisbury stage road (now Highway 150), the double-pile two-story Greek Revival residence features simple period detail with polychrome wood graining and marbleizing.¹³ The house became known locally as the "mansion in the woods."¹⁴ It has some architectural similarities to the Elihu Mendenhall House (located just north of High Point), which was built during the same period. The two houses are the only well-preserved double-pile frame Greek Revival dwellings remaining in the county.

Charles Benbow died in 1869, leaving Jesse " . . . the piece of land where he now lives . . . and marked on the plot No. 1. Containing 150 acres of land . . . with all the improvements thereunto belonging to him. . . ." Jesse also inherited sixteen shares of capital stock of the Bank of Fayetteville from his father, as well as four shares of the Fayetteville and Northern Plank Road, and five shares of the "western Rail Road (sic)."¹⁵

Jesse Benbow had extensive land holdings--perhaps as many as 1300 acres of land in Guilford County. His occupation was primarily that of a farmer.¹⁶ Historian Katherine Hoskins says that Benbow was a "keen business man," although he was a "planter" at heart. She says that Benbow held lands in Kentucky and Indiana as well, however evidence has not been found to substantiate this.¹⁷ According to T. E. Whitaker, "he was a progressive farmer, and owned the first wheat drill used in the community as well as the first reaper, and as early as 1860 his fields were producing 20 bushels of wheat to the acre."¹⁸

Benbow was economically successful, as were many Quakers, however, he was not a prototypical Quaker. T. E. Whitaker calls Jesse Benbow "the Militant Quaker," because he not only was a slaveholder, but he also held a public office at one time, that of magistrate, both of which were against the beliefs of the Quakers. Records indicate that Jesse Benbow was "disowned" from the Monthly Meeting in 1847.¹⁹ The slave schedules of 1850 and 1860 list Benbow as a slave owner.²⁰ According to legend, Benbow purchased a slave in order to prevent him from being separated from his family. Since he was disowned or "read out of the Meeting" for this, he decided to buy more slaves. Records do not, however, show him as owning more than two slaves.²¹

The Benbow family may have been involved with the early abolition movement as were other Quakers. Jesse's father, Charles Benbow, was a member of the North Carolina Manumission Society during its existence (1816-1834); the societies "were most numerous and aggressive in Guilford County."²² Family tradition says that Kitty Bethea, who married Thomas Benbow (Jesse's brother) in 1848, brought a female slave with her while a student at Salem Academy. When she married Benbow, the family bought the slave and freed her, though she remained with the family as a servant.²³

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Jesse Benbow may have been a part of the "underground railroad" which helped slaves to escape to the free states of the North. One of the closets on the first floor of his house has a "trap door" in the floor, opening to the crawl space under the house. It is thought that escaped slaves were secreted there. Most of the activity of the underground railroad in Guilford County was centered around Jamestown, however, Benbow may have been active in it. His ownership of slaves could have provided a "cover" for him. Jonathan Clark, Jesse's father-in-law, may have been active in the anti-slavery movement, moving to North Carolina from Indiana to pursue those objectives.²⁴

Jesse Benbow was the first "post master (sic)" of Oak Ridge. T. E. Whitaker writes: "In those days the mail was brought from Greensboro once a week and kept in the table drawer at the Benbow home until called for."²⁵

The Benbow family has traditionally been involved in educational affairs. In addition to being a founder of Oak Ridge Institute, Jesse Benbow served as a trustee of New Garden Boarding School (now Guilford College) from 1871 to 1895. His father, Charles Benbow, was an original trustee (1832) and founder of the school, and his brothers, Paris and Dewitt Clinton Benbow, were also trustees of the school for more than twenty years. The Benbow family was represented at the school with students, trustees or faculty members from its opening day until 1926.²⁶

After the death of Jesse Benbow in 1900 and his wife's death in 1902, Charles Rufus Benbow (their eldest son) moved into the house in 1903. It is interesting to note that written on the wall of the closet under the stair it says that Jesse Benbow moved into the house on July 15, 1858 and that Charles Rufus Benbow moved into the house on September 13, 1903. Rufus Benbow and his sons James E. and J. Clark Benbow purchased the property from the other heirs (Rufus's siblings) in 1903.²⁷

Rufus first lived in his father's first house, moving into it "near the close of the civil war." He married Susan Starbuck in February 1870 and they had six children. He was primarily a farmer, although he also worked as a tanner and at a saw mill, as well.²⁸

Charles Rufus Benbow died in 1917, apparently intestate (no will or estate recorded). His son, A. Murrow Benbow, inherited the property, however.²⁹ Rufus's daughter Ella Benbow Merriman, a widow, and her two children continued to reside in the house, along with her sister Josie Benbow, and her brothers James E. and J. Clark Benbow. Another sister, Pearl Benbow, lived in Greensboro where she was employed during the week and stayed at the house on the weekends.³⁰

During the 1920s and 1930s the house was used as a "hunting lodge." Wealthy Northerners, primarily from New York and New Jersey, came down to hunt each season and stayed at the house, returning there each year.³¹ The development of the hunting lodge was a "phenomenon in (the) late nineteenth and early twentieth century rural Guilford County."³² Also

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during the 1930s, a par three, eighteen hole golf course, "The Oaks," was built in the pasture area to the rear of the house. A small fee was charged and people who did not belong to one of the country clubs in Greensboro or Guilford County would play there. Sheep were employed to "mow" the grass.³³

In 1950 Ella Benbow Merriman purchased the house and farm property from her brother, A. Murrow Benbow. It is in this deed transaction that it is stated: ". . . said land which the said A. M. Benbow inherited from his father C. R. Benbow."³⁴ Ella died in 1964, leaving the house to her daughter Lloyd Ella Merriman.³⁵ Lloyd Merriman died in 1974 and left the house and farm to her brother, Charles Benbow Merriman. The house and its contents were auctioned in 1975 as part of the settlement of the estate.³⁶

R. D. Hall, Jr. and his wife Irene V. Hall purchased the house and twelve acres of land. Since that time the Halls have acquired additional acreage. Irene Hall is the actual owner of the property.³⁷ Since the purchase, the Halls have undertaken a continuing renovation and restoration of the house.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Special Staff of Writers, History of North Carolina, vol. 6: North Carolina Biography (New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1919), p. 168; Stephen B. Weeks, Southern Quakers and Slavery (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1896), p. 71, 102, hereinafter cited as Weeks, Southern Quakers and Slavery; William Wade Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, vol. 1 (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1936), pp. 491, 526, 527, 586-587, hereinafter cited as Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy.

²Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, p. 587.

³Blackwell P. Robinson and Alexander R. Stoesen, History of Guilford County, U.S.A., to 1980 A.D., 1981, 1:136, hereinafter cited as Robinson and Stoesen, History of Guilford County.

⁴Greensboro Record, 13 October 1956, n.p.; Richard W. Griffin and Duffee W. Standard, North Carolina Historical Review 34 (April 1957): 162; see Cumberland County Deed Book 42, pp. 225 and 372; Deed Book 43, pp. 127, 128, 146, and 345; Deed Book 47, p. 347; Seventh Census, 1850: Industrial Lists--Cumberland County; and Eighth Census, 1860: Industrial Lists--Cumberland County.

⁵Greensboro Record, 13 October 1956; Guilford County Will Book D, pp. 383-386. The railroad stock is identified in Charles Benbow's will simply as "western Rail Road," in which he held ten shares.

⁶T. E. Whitaker, "The Militant Quaker," 1926, unidentified newspaper clipping in a family scrapbook in the possession of Willow Way Benbow Terrell, Oak Ridge, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as T. E. Whitaker, 1926. Willow Way Benbow Terrell is the grand niece of Jesse Benbow and the great granddaughter of Charles Benbow. Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, p. 605.

⁷Hinshaw, pp. 592 and 605; T. E. Whitaker, 1926; T. E. Whitaker, "Early Oak Ridge Settlers," 1925, also an unidentified newspaper clipping in a scrapbook, hereinafter cited as T. E. Whitaker, 1925. The articles probably appeared in the Greensboro Daily News to which Whitaker had contributed other articles over the years. Greensboro Daily News, 13 August 1939, n.p. Sixth Census, 1840. Charles Benbow was listed in the Cumberland County censuses in 1840 and 1850. He was said to have resided in Fayetteville during a part of each year. Jesse Benbow is listed in the Guilford County Census for 1840.

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⁸H. McKeldon Smith, ed., Architectural Resources: An Inventory of Historic Architecture (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1979), p. 150, hereinafter cited as H. McKeldon Smith, Architectural Resources. See also Guilford County Will Book D, p. 386. Located on plot. 1 as indicated in the will of Charles Benbow.

⁹See original document entitled Subscription List in the possession of Oak Ridge Military Academy. Oak Ridge Institute became Oak Ridge Military Institute in 1929 and Oak Ridge Military Academy in 1981. Blackwell and Stoesen, History of Guilford County, p. 136; Greensboro Daily News, 13 August 1939. Oak Ridge Military Academy is listed in H. McKeldon Smith, Architectural Resources, pp. 158-159. See also Sallie Walker Stockard, The History of Guilford County, North Carolina (Knoxville: Gaut-Ogden, 1902), p. 95, hereinafter cited as Stockard, History of Guilford County.

¹⁰Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, p. 587; Sixth Census, 1849; Seventh Census, 1850; Eighth Census 1860. Reasons for the establishment of Oak Ridge Institute lie for the most part in the desire for a local school as opposed to a boarding school in another locale. Distances being what they were due to the nineteenth century modes of transportation was a large factor in the decision to establish a local school. Children were often needed at home to help with the management of the farm, among other reasons. Quaker instruction may not have been important to the Benbows by this time.

¹¹Oak Ridge Male Institute Catalogue 1853-1854; special to the Winston-Salem Sentinel, 1917, obituary for Charles Rufus Benbow, "First Student of Oak Ridge Institute Dies," in Benbow family scrapbook.

¹²Greensboro Daily News, 13 August 1939.

¹³H. McKeldon Smith, Architectural Resources, p. 150. See also Guilford County Will Book D, p. 386, marked as plot 1.

¹⁴Greensboro Daily News, 13 August 1939.

¹⁵Guilford County Will Book D, pp. 383-386.

¹⁶Guilford County Deed Book 32, pp. 239, 285 and 312; Deed Book 37, p. 493; Deed Book 38, pp. 562 and 569; Deed Book 43, p. 392; and Deed Book 73, pl 576. Seventh Census, 1850; Eighth Census, 1860; Ninth Census, 1870; Tenth Census, 1880; and Twelfth Census, 1900. All list Jesse Benbow's occupation as a farmer. The 1860 census lists his real estate value at \$17,500.

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¹⁷Greensboro Daily News, 13 August 1939. Anna Benbow may have inherited lands in Kentucky and Indiana from her father Jonathan Clark.

¹⁸T. E. Whitaker, 1926. T. E. Whitaker was principal at Oak Ridge Institute from 1914 until his death in 1929. He was a former student at the school and a long-time teacher there before taking the position of principal.

¹⁹T. E. Whitaker, 1926; Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of Amercian Quaker Genealogy, p. 592; Greensboro Daily News, 13 August 1939. Hinshaw does not give the reason for the disownment in his compilation, however, that information would be included in the original Quaker records.

²⁰Seventh Census, 1850: Slave Schedules--Guilford County; Eighth Census, 1860: Slave Schedules--Guilford County.

²¹Greensboro Daily News, 13 August 1939; T. E. Whitaker, 1926; see the slave schedules. According to the slave schedules, Jesse Benbow did not own more than two slaves, unless he purchased slaves between 1860 and the emancipation of the slaves.

²²H. M. Wagstaff, ed., The James Sprunt Historical Studies, vol. 22: Minutes of the North Carolina Manumission Society, 1816-1834 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1934), pp. 24, 44; Weeks, Southern Quakers and Slavery, p. 234.

²³Joseph C. Goodman, "Brief History of the Benbow Family," 1976, a typed three page summary accompanied by a letter prepared by Joseph Goodman, one of the Benbow heirs, based on genealogy work done by the family, and on tradition generally accepted by the family. In the possession of Willow Way Benbow Terrell, Oak Ridge, North Carolina. Seventh Census, 1850; also Seventh Census, 1850: Slave Schedules--Guilford County and Eighth Census, 1860: Slaves Schedules--Guilford County. The 1850 census lists a free black woman living with the Thomas Benbows. The 1850 and 1860 slave schedules list Thomas Benbow as the owner of one female slave.

²⁴Interview with Charlie Benbow, Oak Ridge, North Carolina; interview with Irene Hall, Oak Ridge; Jerry L. Cross, researcher, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, comments, dated 6 April 1983. See also "How the Underground Railway Originated," Greensboro Daily News, 7 August 1932; Gertrude M. Beal, "The Underground Railroad in Guilford County," Southern Friend (journal of the N. C. Friends Historical Society), vol. 4, no. 2 (1982); and W. H. Siebert, The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom (New York: Russell & Russell, 1967).

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²⁵T. E. Whitaker, 1926.

²⁶Dorothy Gilbert, Guilford: A Quaker College (Greensboro: Jos. J. Stone and Co., 1937), pp. 18, 177-178, 230-231, hereinafter cited as Gilbert, Guilford: A Quaker College; Guilford College Bulletin, vol. 30, no. 2 (1937), pp. 5, 22-23, 112; Guilford College Bulletin, vol. 26, no. 5 (1934), p. 18; also, Stockard, History of Guilford County, p. 167. Guilford College is listed in Ruth Little-Stokes, An Inventory of Historic Architecture: Greensboro, N. C. (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1976), p. 67.

²⁷Guilford County Will Book G, p. 302; obituary for Jesse Benbow, 1900, unidentified newspaper clipping in Benbow family scrapbook. Guilford County Deed Book 152, p. 113; see also Deed Book 83, p. 417 for mortgage deed. Jesse Benbow had executed a mortgage deed with his brother, Dewitt Clinton Benbow for \$2650 in 1891. Jesse's children satisfied the mortgage and the accrued interest, a total of \$2970, in 1903 and then deeded their interest in the house to Rufus and his two sons, James E. and J. Clark Benbow. See also Greensboro Daily News, 13 August 1939.

²⁸T. E. Whitaker, 1925; T. E. Whitaker, 1926; Ninth Census, 1870; Tenth Census, 1880; Twelfth Census, 1900.

²⁹See Guilford County Deed Book 1348, p. 112; also, Guilford County Will Book Y (James E. Benbow, 1949 and J. Clark Benbow, 1950).

³⁰T. E. Whitaker, 1925; interview with Irene V. Hall, 4 February 1983, per Benbow Family letters now in the possession of Bob Benbow, Greensboro, North Carolina.

³¹Interview with Irene V. Hall, per Benbow family letters in the possession of Bob Benbow and upon recollections of Charlie Benbow, Oak Ridge, North Carolina, as told to Mrs. Hall.

³²H. McKeldon Smith, Architectural Resources, p. 32.

³³Interview with Irene V. Hall, upon recollections of Charlie Benbow as told to Mrs. Hall and Benbow family documents in the possession of the Halls.

³⁴Guilford County Deed Book 1348, p. 112.

³⁵Guilford County Will File 6807.

³⁶Guilford County Will File 74-E-460.

³⁷Guilford County Deed Book 2757, p. 44; and Deed Book 2952, p. 98 (1979).

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 15.21 acres

Quadrangle name Belews Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>589</u> <u>530</u>	<u>400</u> <u>2250</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>17</u>	<u>589</u> <u>900</u>	<u>400</u> <u>2590</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>17</u>	<u>589</u> <u>570</u>	<u>400</u> <u>2180</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>17</u>	<u>589</u> <u>950</u>	<u>400</u> <u>2460</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

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 Paul E. Fomberg, Consultant

organization _____ date _____

street & number 4712 Middleton Drive telephone 919-674-0026

city or town Greensboro state North Carolina 27406

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Rice, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 26, 1983

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

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National Park Service

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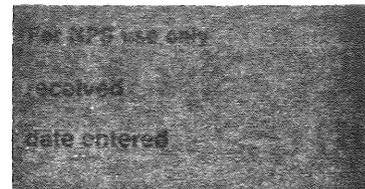
Page 1

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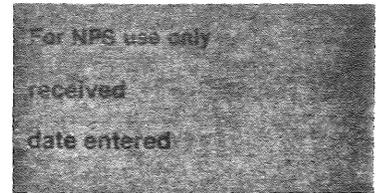
Stockard, Sallie Walker. The History of Guilford County, North Carolina.
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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

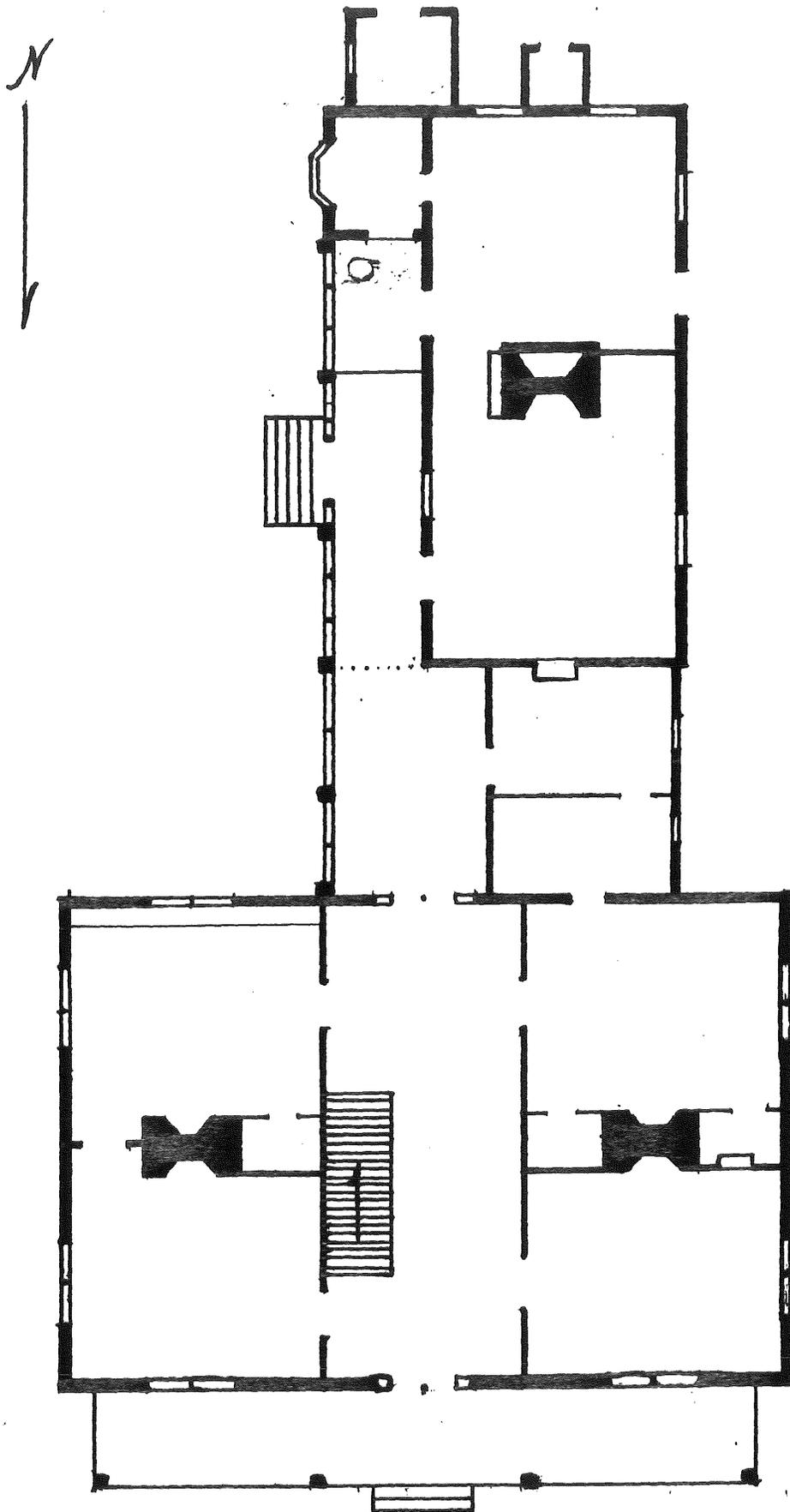
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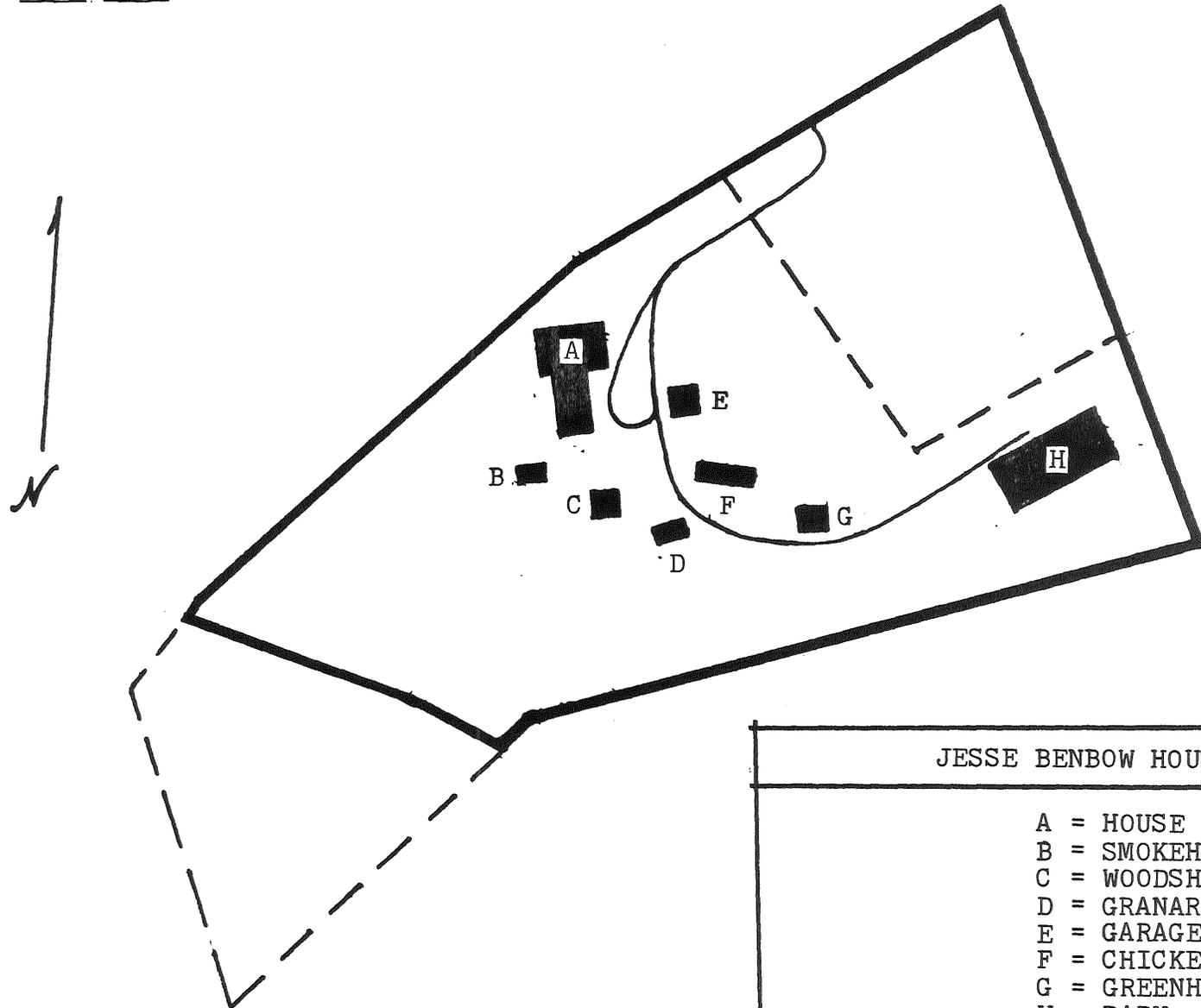
Beginning at the southwest corner of the junction of NC 150 and SR 2025 (Billet Road), and running in a westerly direction approximately 1250 feet with NC 150, along the northern boundaries of parcels 39 and 31 to a row of trees. Continuing along the row of trees approximately 500 feet in a southeasterly direction and then following the southern boundary of parcel 31 approximately 840 feet in an easterly direction to the corner of the parcel. From this point continue along the eastern boundary of parcels 31 and 39 approximately 740 feet with SR 2025 to the beginning.

The area nominated encompasses the visual boundaries of the yard and the pastures surrounding it, and includes all of parcels 31 and 39 except the southwest corner of parcel 31 which is visually and physically separated from the remainder of the property by a row of trees.

JESSE BENBOW HOUSE II



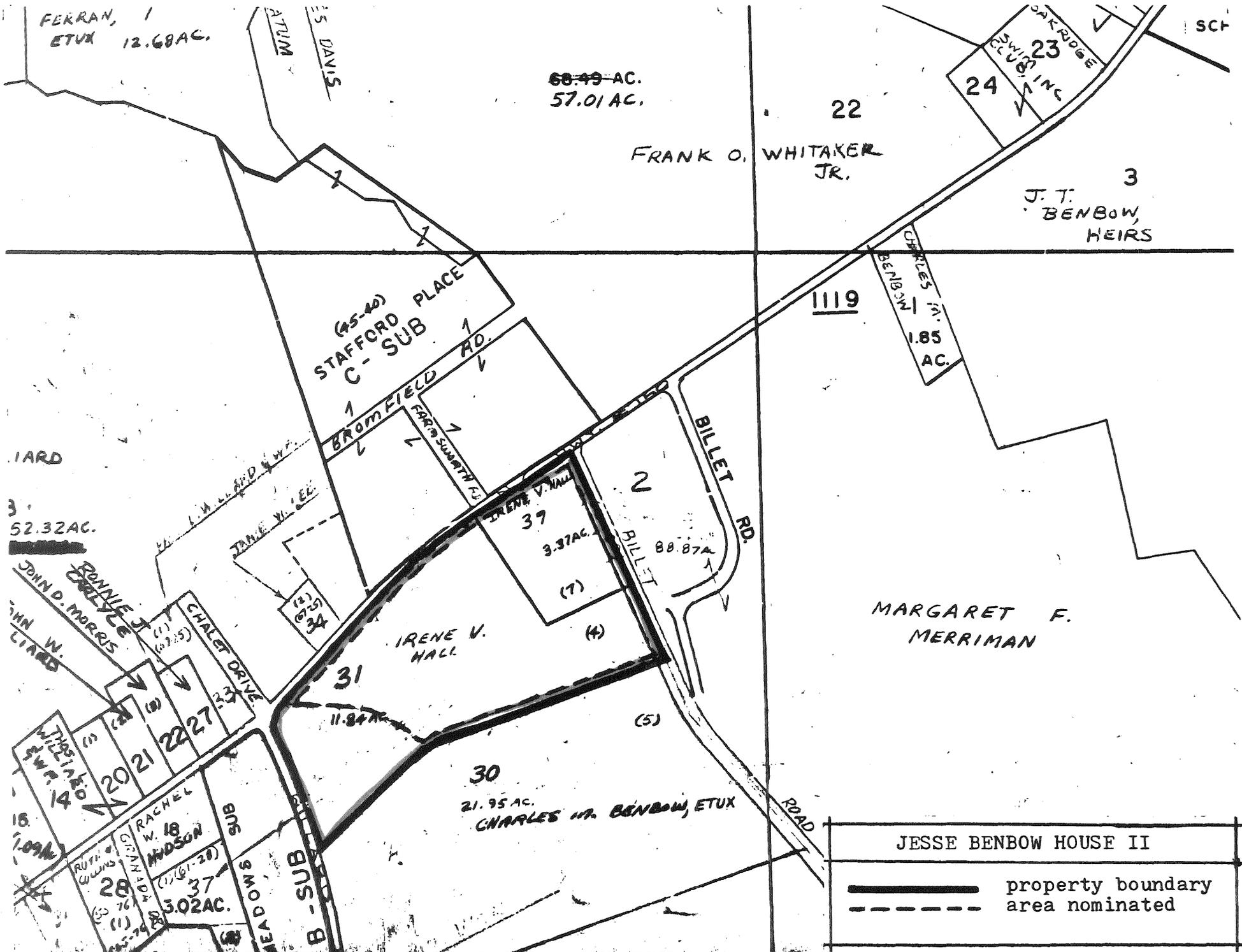
SITE PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)

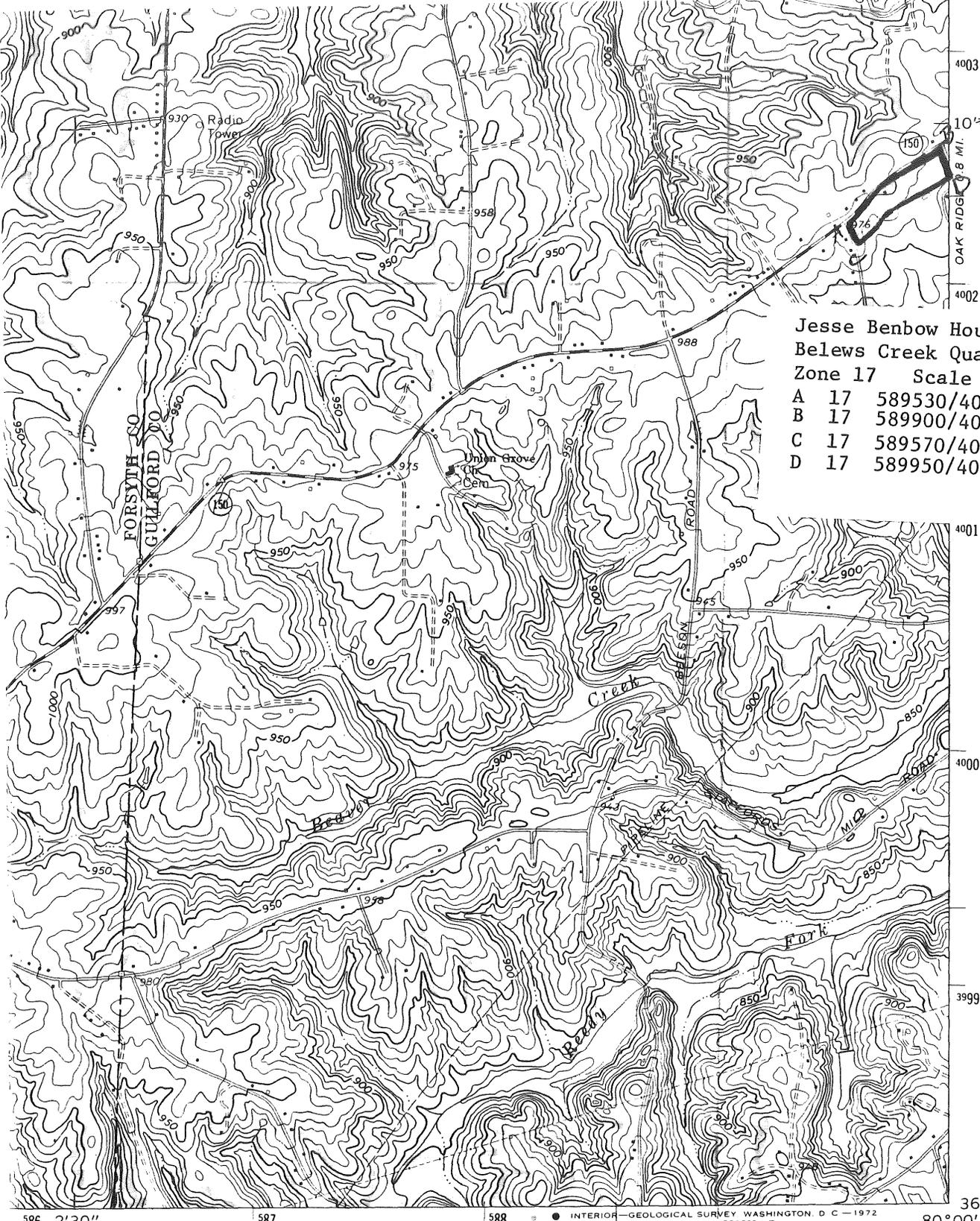


JESSE BENBOW HOUSE II

- A = HOUSE
- B = SMOKEHOUSE
- C = WOODSHED/SUMMERHOUSE
- D = GRANARY
- E = GARAGE
- F = CHICKEN COOP
- G = GREENHOUSE
- H = BARN

----- PROPERTY LINES
————— AREA NOMINATED





Jesse Benbow House II
 Belews Creek Quadrangle
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24000
 A 17 589530/4002250
 B 17 589900/4002590
 C 17 589570/4002180
 D 17 589950/4002460

586 2'30" 587 588 589000m E 36°07'30" 80°00'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BELEWS CREEK, N. C.
 N3607.5—W8000/7.5

1969

(GUILFORD)
 3056 II SW

B18

