

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 any 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.

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name **Taylor, Archibald, Plantation House**

other names/site number **N/A**

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number **N. side SR 1521, 0.6 mi. N of jct w/ US 158**
(5632 Tabbs Creek Road) N/A not for publication
city or town **Oxford** vicinity
state **North Carolina** code **NC** county **Granville** code **077** zip code **27565**

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Brown SHPO
Signature of certifying official

8/17/01
Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville County, North Carolina

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Domestic** Sub: **single dwelling**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Domestic** Sub: **single dwelling**
 Agriculture **storage**
 Agriculture **processing**
 Agriculture **agricultural outbuilding**
 Agriculture **animal facility**

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Federal
 Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **brick**
roof **metal: tin**
walls **wood: weatherboard**
 wood: log
other **asphalt**
 concrete block
 stone

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

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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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance ca. 1840

Significant Dates **ca. 1840**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation **N/A** _____

Architect/Builder **Unknown**

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: **Wilson Library, NC Collection, Chapel Hill, NC**

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 10

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	17	720560	4022364	3	17	720760	4022105
2	17	720760	4022364	4	17	720560	4022105

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title **Patricia S. Dickinson , consultant**

organization _____ date **April 2, 2001**

street & number **4606 Hunt Road** telephone **919-732-5439**

city or town **Hillsborough** state **NC** zip code **27278**

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Additional Documentation

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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)

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Property Owner

=====
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Michael Currin**

street & number **931 Washington Street, #202** telephone **919-821-5714**

city or town **Raleigh** state **NC** zip code **27605**

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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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington,
DC 20503.

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Archibald Taylor Plantation House
Granville County, NC

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7. Narrative Description:

The Archibald Taylor Plantation House is located on the east side of SR 1521, 0.6 miles north of the junction with US 158 (5632 Tabbs Creek Road) near Oxford, North Carolina. It is surrounded by mature deciduous trees and stands at the east end of a long (2,250 feet) straight, gravel driveway amid open farmland in east-central Granville County. The tall, two-story frame c. 1840 late Federal and Greek Revival-style gable-roofed house with a one-story rear ell faces west and stands on a full-height brick basement. It is a notable example of a mid-nineteenth century plantation house which exhibits late-Federal and Greek Revival transitional features. There are two exterior end brick chimneys on the north elevation and a brick chimney on east end of the rear ell.

Currently undergoing a total rehabilitation of the main block and expansion of the rear ell, the house and adjacent ten, tobacco-related outbuildings are located on a ten-acre tract given to owner Michael Currin by his mother, Edith Wilkerson Currin, who continues to own the surrounding 100-acre farm. The farm, was once in tobacco production, but currently is used for pasturing cattle. Michael Currin, a landscape designer, also uses some of the fields along the driveway for propagating nursery plants and trees for his business.

The Archibald Taylor Plantation House is nearly identical to the Colonel Richard P. Taylor House (NR, 1988) located about a mile north. Richard (1812-1870) and Archibald (1820-1885) were half-brothers and both houses were built on a large tract of land owned by their father, Robert Taylor (1777-1847). The houses differ in only a few details. The pedimented gable front of Richard's house, with its lunette-topped window, handsomely finished with a projecting keystone and capitals, denticulated moldings and delicate tracery, is its most prominent feature; on Archibald's house this decorative gable is located on the south (side) elevation rather than on the main elevation. It is as if Richard's house had been rotated 90° and built with a side wing, rather than the rear wing found on Archibald's house. Archibald's house is only two bays wide and deep, as opposed to the Richard's three-bay-wide house.

The Archibald Taylor Plantation House displays the same deftly finished woodwork, as found in his older brother's house.

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The Archibald Taylor Plantation House retains much of its original material including the large ten-over-fifteen windows on the first floor and ten-over-ten windows on the second floor. The window surrounds are topped with an entablature, composed of an architrave, frieze board, lintel, and heavy molded drip cap with two corner blocks supported by a three-part casing. The casing is composed of a single five-inch plank edged with a one-and-one-half-inch trim piece applied on either edge. The window sill is a squared, heavy board. The window casings compliment the fluted corner boards of the main block. The windows were removed in the mid-twentieth century, but remained stored in the attic until they were reinstalled in the winter of 2001. It is interesting to note that the original windows in the Richard Taylor House have nine-over-nine sash, one of the major differences in the near-twin houses. The Richard Taylor House is thought to have been constructed in the 1830s, but Archibald's house may have been built slightly later, accounting for larger, more Greek Revival-style windows.

The side-hall plan interior of the Archibald Taylor Plantation House is ornamented with transitional Federal and Greek Revival decorative motifs. The stairs in the hall are finished with delicate scalloped ends and have slender balusters and handrails. A three-foot tall wainscot sheathes the walls of the entry hall. Fireplace mantels in the two adjoining first floor rooms have engaged fluted columns with cornerblocks; the mantels are thick, plain boards with a simple scallop. The mantel in the adjoining downstairs room is plainer with no fluting. Both rooms, like the hall, have flush sheathed wainscot. The house originally had front and rear Greek Revival-style double doors with incised corner blocks; the rear doors survive intact, but the front doors were replaced in the mid-twentieth century. The original doors were replicated during the 2001 restoration. The front porch is also a replication of the original Federal-style pedimented porch. The replication is based on ghost marks of thickened paint which survive on the siding, protected by the shed-roof porch which was added in 1954 when Hurricane Hazel did great damage to structures in Piedmont North Carolina.

The rear wing may have been moved to the site and attached to the house in the 1850s. There is evidence of recycled timbers being used in this wing. The timbers were revealed when the back porch and the interior wall in the service wing were removed in preparation for the new rear wing, designed by architect, Ellen Cassilly and built by restoration contractors,

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Archibald Taylor Plantation House
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Patrick Schell & Associates. When completed, the new rear wing will contain a new kitchen and sitting room. It will follow the general footprint of the original and will not be visible from the road. The original kitchen, with plaster walls and a working fireplace was in the basement. Access to the basement kitchen is from a door on the exterior north facade and from an interior doorway under the main staircase in the hallway.

There are three rooms on the second floor: one is a small room without a fireplace, in addition are two sizable adjoining rooms with eight inch tall baseboards and the same fireplace mantels as those found on the first floor. A five-panel door encloses a steep flight of stairs to the attic. Floors throughout the house are made of pine. Some carpenter rim locks survive, stamped with the English manufacturer's name, J. Tildslay.

There are ten outbuildings located next to the house in a field on the south side of the driveway. All are in good condition, and in use for storage for farm machinery and animal housing. (see following Inventory List) Four of the outbuildings (# 2, 3, 4, and 10) all date from the first decade of the twentieth century. Five of the other outbuildings (# 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) date from c. 1950s and 1960s; the strip house (#11) was built in 1970, and the dog run/pen (#5) was constructed in the 1990s. The ten-acre site retains a high degree of integrity and reflects the continuing use of the property as a farm from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. It retains the seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. For the purposes of this nomination in which the mid-nineteenth century architectural style is claimed for the plantation house and not the agricultural history of the property, all of the twentieth century outbuildings fall outside the period of significance and thus are evaluated as non-contributing resources. They do, however, provide an appropriate setting for the house and are included in the nominated property.

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Section number 7 Page 4 Archibald Taylor Plantation House
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Inventory List

1. Archibald Taylor Plantation House
c. 1840

Two-story frame late Federal and Greek Revival style house is currently undergoing a total restoration and expansion of the one-story rear wing. Federal-style features include interior side-hall plan, delicate scalloped stair ends and pedimented gable ends. A fanlight is found in the south (side) gable with delicate tracery, projecting keystone and capitals. The window openings had been partially filled, but the ten-over-fifteen and ten-over-ten sash windows survive, stored in the attic, and have been reinstalled in the winter of 2001. A rear kitchen ell added in the late-nineteenth century will be demolished and replaced with a new kitchen. The original pedimented front porch, refashioned in the mid-1950s with a shed roof, will be replicated. Greek Revival style features include corner blocks and double doors, and flush panel wainscot.

2. Storage shed
c. 1900

Two-story gable-roof frame storage shed approximately 20'x36' with open shed roof at the rear for vehicle/equipment storage. Stands on wooden piers; two plank doors at upper story; interior stairs located in corner. Building is sheathed with green asphalt siding.

3. Stable
c. 1900

Gable-roof frame stable set on rock foundation and covered with green asphalt siding. A shed roof extends at each end to shelter equipment

4. Corn Crib
c. 1900

Small (thirteen feet x thirteen feet) gable-roofed frame corn crib set on replacement brick piers. Tin-covered roof; plank door on east elevation.

5. Dog pen
c.1990

Cyclone fence enclosed dog pen and dog house, located behind the main house at the east.

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6. Tractor shed
c. 1980

Three-bay gable-roof open frame tractor shed.

7. Storage building
c. 1980

One-and-a half story gable-roofed cinder block storage building with pull-down stairs providing access to upper story. Shed roof extend on two elevations to shelter machinery.
c. 1980

8. Storage building
c. 1980

Frame, gable-roof building with cinder block foundation; shed roofs extend on three sides to cover farm equipment and firewood.

9. Tobacco barn
c. 1960

Tall, frame, gable-roof tobacco barn on cinder block foundation with shed-roof extension.

10. Log tobacco barn
c. 1910

Gable-roof, V-notched, round log tobacco barn with standing seam metal roof.

11. Strip house
c. 1970

Frame, gable-roofed tobacco strip house with rock foundation and shed-roof open extensions on three elevations.

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance:

Summary: The Archibald Taylor Plantation House is locally significant under Criterion C. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The historic context and architectural significance of Archibald Taylor Plantation is discussed in Section E, "The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1756-1865" and Section F, "Georgian and Federal Style Dwellings and "Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings" in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation form entitled "Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville County, North Carolina." The house also meets Section F Registration requirements for Federal and Greek Revival style dwellings as outlined in the above documentation form.

The Archibald Taylor Plantation House is a largely intact mid-nineteenth century farmhouse built c. 1840 by prosperous Granville County planter Robert Taylor for his son, Archibald. It is very similar to the house Taylor built for his older son, Richard (Richard Taylor House, NR, 1988). The subject of this National Register nomination is being termed the "Archibald Taylor Plantation House" to distinguish it from the "Archibald Taylor House" located in Franklin County and previously listed on the National Register in 1975. Both houses exhibit features of the late Federal, transitional Greek Revival style including a pedimented gable pierced by a lunette-topped window handsomely finished with projecting keystone and capitals, denticulated moldings and delicate tracery. The interior of the Archibald Taylor Plantation House displays window and door surrounds ornamented by decorative corner blocks. The mantels have cornerblocks and slender columns, and the stairs, finished with scalloped ends, have slender balusters and handrail. Archibald Taylor lived here with his wife, Mary until c. 1855 when they moved to neighboring Franklin County and to a grand Italianate-style house built by fashionable architect/builder, Jacob Holt (Archibald Taylor House, NR, 1975).¹ Taylor's Plantation House in Granville County was rehabilitated in 2000-2001 by landscape designer, Michael Currin, the current owner.

An examination of the Granville County architectural survey publication, Heritage and Homesteads, reveals several properties comparable in terms of date and high style details (see, for instance, Rose Hill, Abram's Plains, and the Marcus Royster House), but Archibald Taylor's Plantation House, with its side-

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Archibald Taylor Plantation House
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hall plan, window surrounds, and roof pediment distinguishes it from all but his brother Richard's house.

Historical Background:

Archibald Taylor was born on January 22, 1820 in Oxford, North Carolina. He was the son of Robert Taylor and Mildred Lewis Kennon. Archibald's father, Robert Taylor, was a prosperous Granville County landowner and tobacco planter, who provided his sons Richard and Archibald with plantations and slaves. Richard and Archibald were half brothers. Richard's mother was Susan Pelham (death date unknown), and Robert Taylor's second wife, Mildred Lewis Kennon, was the mother of sons Charles (1818-1902) and Archibald. The Taylors were a wealthy tobacco-rich family who built stylish houses in both neighboring Granville and Franklin Counties. Archibald's Franklin County house is much altered, but the both Archibald's and Richard's Granville County houses survive largely intact. Richard Taylor's Granville County house was built c. 1830, when he was about eighteen years old. It seems likely that Archibald's plantation house would have been constructed c. 1838-40 when he would have reached maturity. The later construction date might also account for details more typical of the Greek Revival style, such as the large size of the windows and the double front and rear doors. Robert Taylor's 1845 will confirmed Archibald's ownership of the Granville County farm.²

Little is known about Archibald's early life, but he is listed as bondsman for four different Granville County marriages between 1840 and 1851, including that of Charles H. Parham and Harriet Suit.³ The Parham family were apparently distant relatives and close friends of the Taylors and the family would later own Archibald's plantation in the late-nineteenth century.

Archibald married Mary Boddie Perry of Franklin County in 1847 and they had five children: Georgianna (1850-1852); Archibald Lennox (1859-1879); Lucy Williams (1861-1882); Mildred Kennon (1864-1939); and Robert Perry Taylor (1866-1947).⁴ Archibald's wife, Mary, was a member of a numerically, socially, and economically dominant Franklin County family, descended from seven Perry brothers⁵ who settled there in the mid-eighteenth century.

According to the 1850 Population Census of Granville County, Archibald was then thirty-six and Mary, twenty-two.

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Archibald was listed as a farmer and the Slave Census of the same year records his ownership of forty slaves. The 1850 Agricultural Census reveals his plantation had 500 improved acres and 500 unimproved (including woodland) acres with a cash value of \$4,000 with \$140 worth of machines. He owned nine horses, twelve milch cows which produced 200 pounds of butter, four oxen and fourteen "other" cattle. Other stock, valued at \$543, included fifteen sheep, and seventy-five swine. He grew ninety-six bushels of wheat, 1,500 bushels of corn, 5,400 pounds of tobacco, ten bushels of peas and beans, twenty-five bushels of Irish potatoes and fifty bushels of sweet potatoes.⁶

Apparently Archibald and Mary Taylor lived on their Granville County plantation no more than ten years before moving to neighboring Franklin County. In 1850 Taylor bought a 120-acre tract of land in the northeastern part of that county.⁷ That same year, Archibald and Mary's first child, Georgianna was born. She died in infancy and is buried on the Granville County plantation.⁸ In 1855 Taylor bought a much larger (2,400 acres) tract on Shocco Creek in Franklin County near his wife's family.

Shortly after this land purchase, they began construction of an elaborate Jacob Holt-designed, full-blown Italianate plantation house which was completed in 1858. Holt was a fashionable Virginia architect-builder who practiced in Warrenton, North Carolina from the mid-1840s until c.1860. Holt built a number of stylish houses in the tobacco-rich counties that border Virginia including Granville, Franklin and Warren counties.⁹ It is evident from the style and finish of his Holt-built house that Taylor was a substantial planter. Archibald is listed in the 1860 Franklin County census as owner of 800 acres of improved and 1,633 acres of unimproved land, which produced 40,000 pounds of tobacco, placing him in the upper echelon of farmers in a county made up primarily of small farmers.¹⁰ The Civil War, and helping his brother Charles out of his financial difficulties, ruined Archibald and he returned to Granville County after he went bankrupt in 1871. He died in 1885 and is buried in the Old Town Cemetery in Oxford.

Taylor's Granville County house apparently passed through the hands of several owners and/or tenants before James Benjamin Parham (1817-1897) and his wife Emma Jane (Hunt) Parham (1850-1905) purchased the property which they occupied until 1876. It passed out of the Parham family early in the twentieth

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century. The Critcher family bought it next. According to undated and unsigned hand-written genealogical notes now in possession of Michael Currin (current owner), it was bought by William Critcher who gave it to his son, Robert Critcher. Robert's daughter Ruth Critcher (seventy-six years old when the notes were compiled) was born in the Archibald Taylor Plantation House in 1922. Robert Critcher built the log cabin (#10) while he owned the farm and also added two back rooms and a back porch to the main house. The farm was sold at auction by Critcher's widow in 1940 to Ben Averette. Ben's widow sold it to Wilbur Yeargin. Yeargin sold the 110-acre farm to W. Frank and Edith W. Currin in 1951.¹¹ Edith Currin gave Michael Currin the Archibald Taylor Plantation House, and ten acres which includes the ten outbuildings south of the plantation house, and she gave a log house and a barn, located elsewhere on the farm, to her daughter, Susan Currin Lankenau.¹²

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Archibald Taylor Plantation House
Granville County, NC

End Notes

1. Marvin A. Brown, Heritage and Homesteads: The History and Architecture of Granville County, North Carolina (Charlotte: Delmar Co., 1988), pp. 173-176, 318-320.
2. Photocopy of this will is in the possession of Michael Currin.
3. Brent H. Halcomb, Marriages of Granville County 1853-1868 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981). See also, Worth Ray, Colonial Granville County and Its People (published by the author, 1945).
4. Genealogical information compiled by various Taylor and Currin family members located in the vertical files of the Richard Thornton Library, Oxford, NC.
5. National Register nomination form, "Archibald Taylor House" prepared by Catherine W. Cockshutt, 1975. Copy located in North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC.
6. United States Population, Slave Population, and Agricultural Censuses of Granville County, 1850. Located in the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
7. Cockshutt, "Archibald Taylor House."
8. Grave marker rubbing in possession of Michael Currin.
9. Catherine W. Bishir, et al., Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), pp. 147-162.
10. United States Agricultural Census, 1860.
11. Notes in possession of Michael Currin.
12. Telephone interview with Michael Currin, 9/9/00.

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9. Major Bibliographical References:

Bishir, Catherine W. Architects and Builders in North Carolina:
A History of the Practice of Building. Chapel Hill: The
University of North Carolina Press, 1990.

Brown, Marvin A., Heritage and Homesteads: The History and
Architecture of Granville County, North Carolina.
Charlotte: Delmar Co. for the Granville County Historical
Society, 1988.

Cockshutt, Catherine W., National Register nomination form,
"Archibald Taylor House" Franklin County, 1975.

National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property
Documentation Form. Historic and Architectural Resources
of Granville County, NC. 1988.

United States Census Bureau. Various Population and Agricultural
Censuses as cited in text.

10. Geographical Data

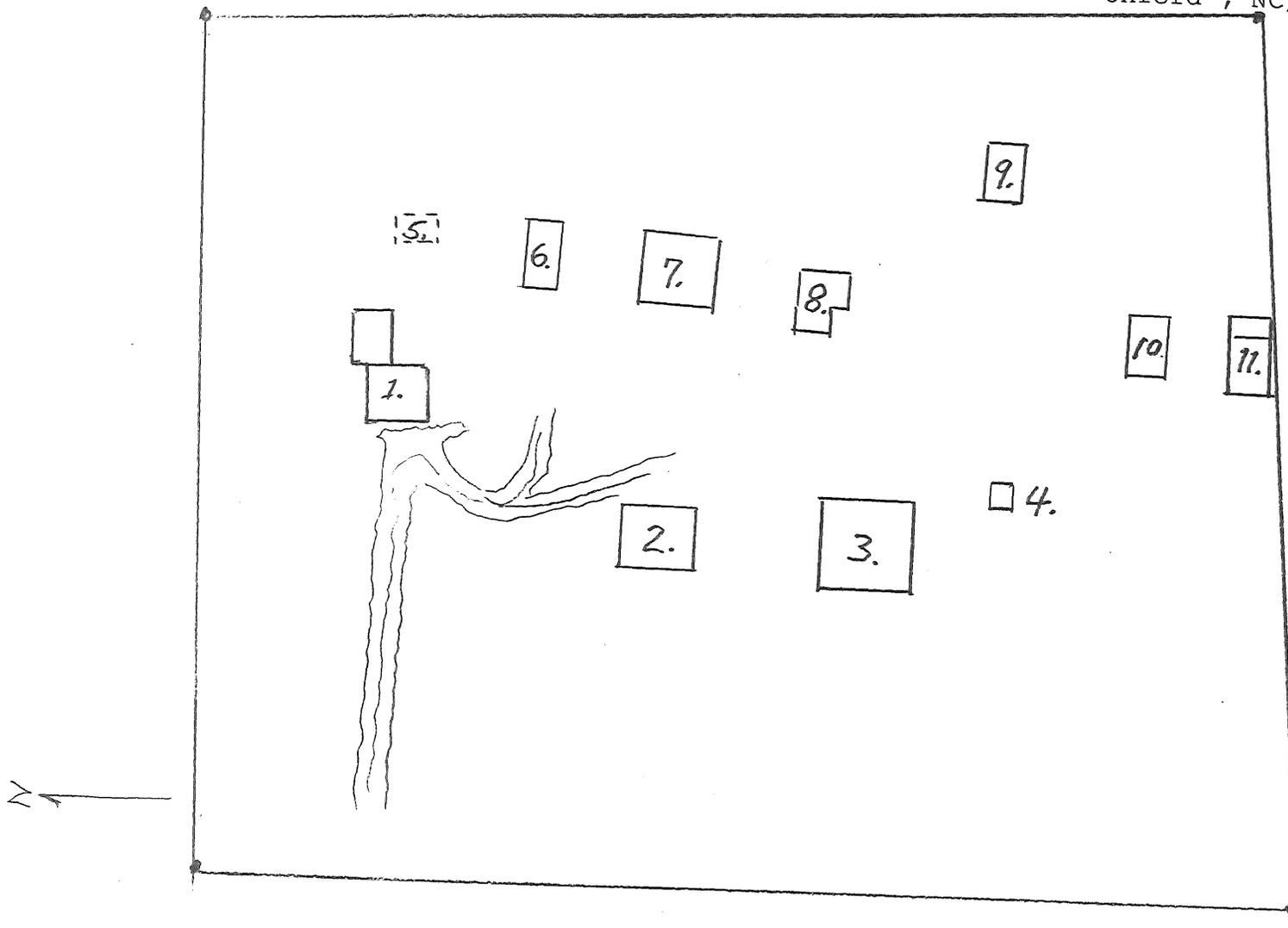
Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the ten-acre nominated property is delineated
by the rectangular-shaped cleared property around the house and
outbuildings. The boundaries of ten-acre nominated property
are drawn on the Granville County Tax Map Number 1933.02

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include the historically cleared property around
the Archibald Taylor Plantation House demarcated by the woodland
to the east and south and the single tree line to the north
and west.

Archibald Taylor Plantation House
E side SR 1521, 0.6 mi. N of jct. w/ US 158 (5632 Tabbs Creek Road,
Oxford , NC)



MATC

N 937.000

A

B

1933.01

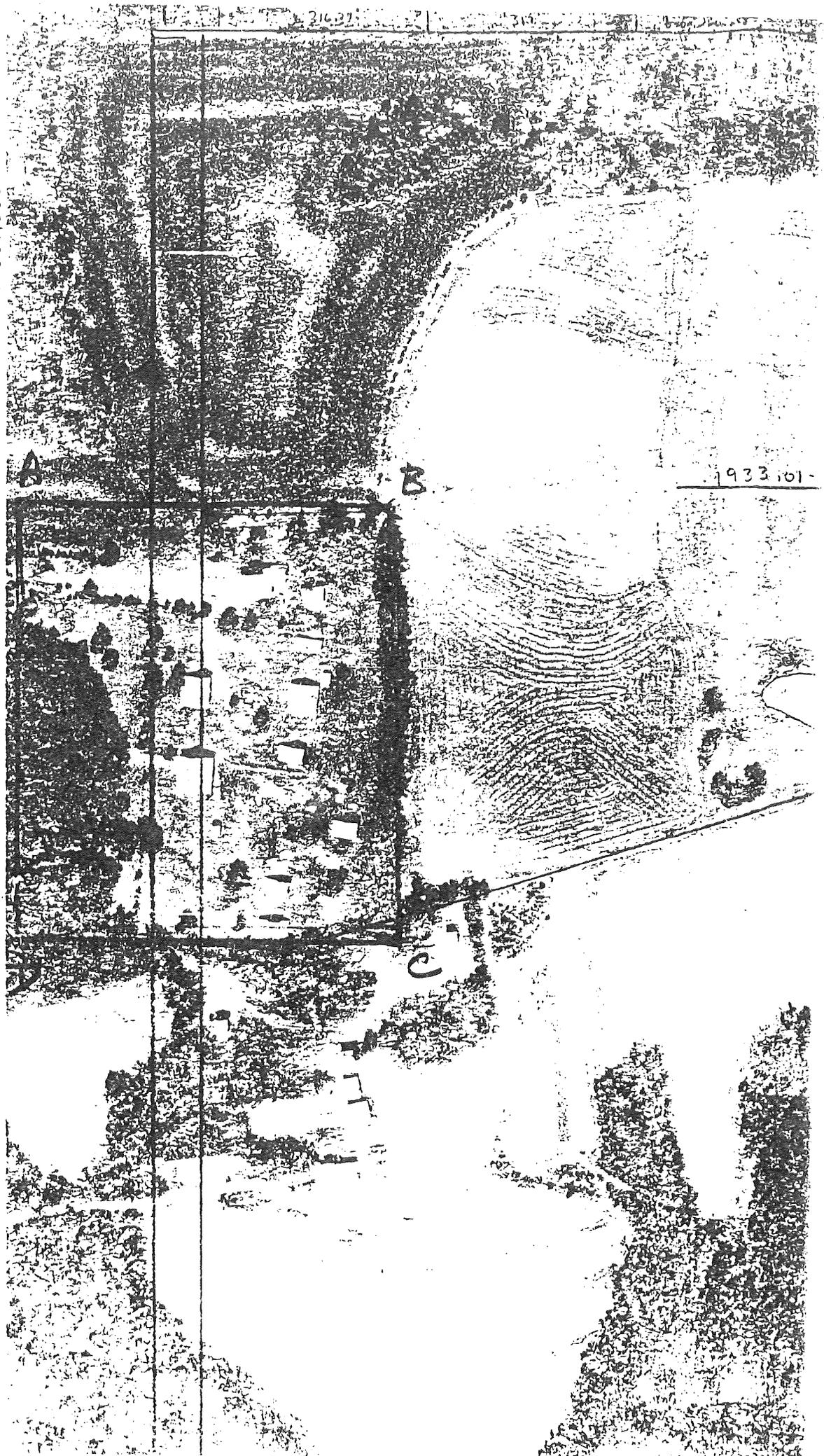
Archibald Taylor
Plantation House
Granville County, NC

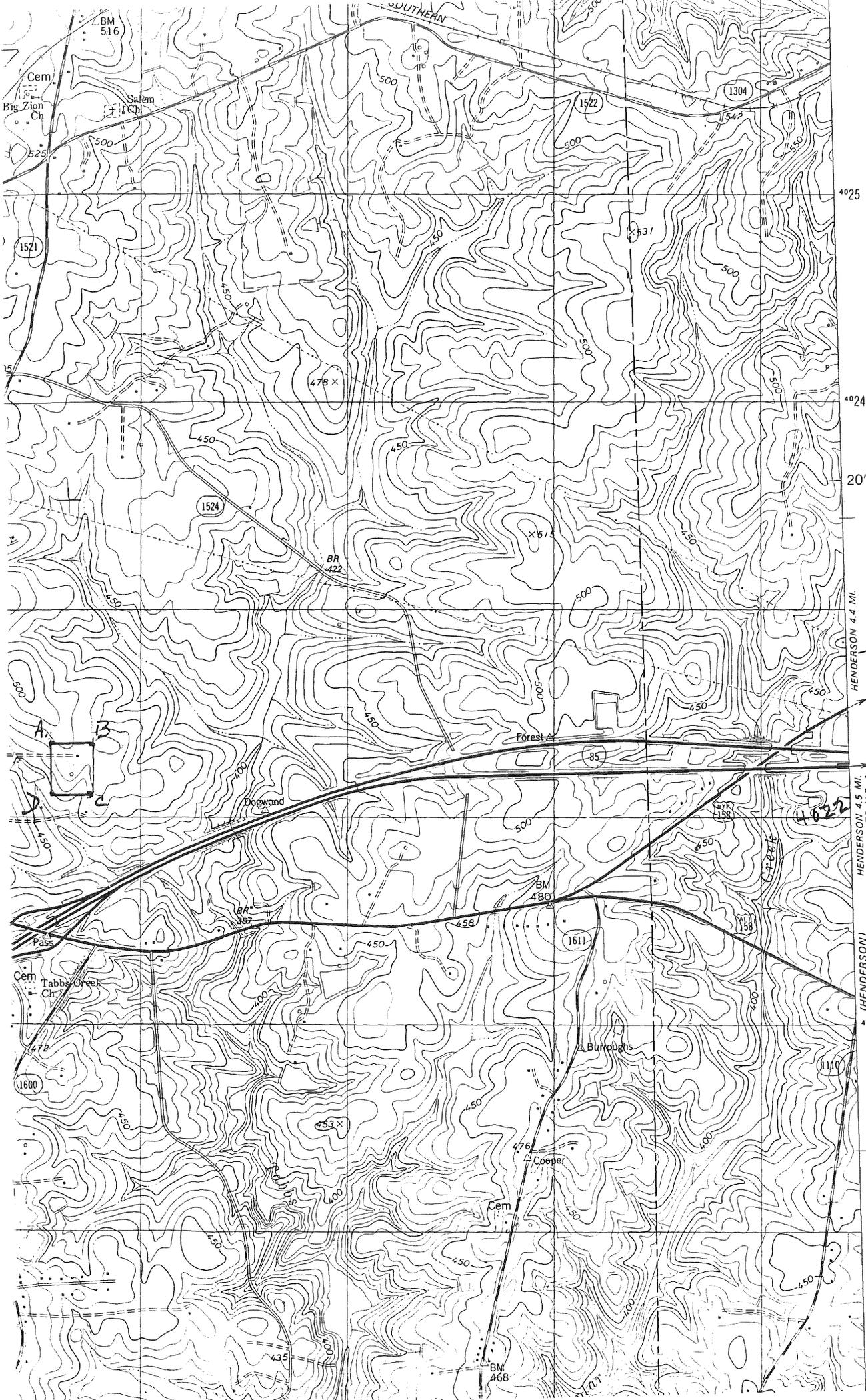
Granville County
TAX MAP
No. 1933.02



N 936.000

C





40°25'
40°24'
20'
HENDERSON 4.4 MI.
HENDERSON 4.5 MI.
24 MI. TO U.S. 1
HENDERSON
5356 IV SW
40°21'
40°20'

Archibald
Taylor Plantation
House
zone 17

N 4,022,236.4

A, E 7205,601

N 4,022,236.4

B, E 7207,601

N 4,022,105

C, E 7207,610

N 4,022,105

D, E 7205,610

Oxford Quad
Granville Co
NC

