

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

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 The Cedars  
T. E. Browne House  
and/or common

2. Location

street & number N side SR 1167 .4 mile S jct. with NC 11 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Murfreesboro  vicinity of congressional district 1  
state North Carolina code 37 county Hertford code 091

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name The Planters National Bank and Trust Company, Trust Department  
street & number P. O. Box 1220  
city, town Rocky Mount \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state North Carolina 27801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hertford County Courthouse  
street & number King Street  
city, town Winton \_\_\_\_\_ state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_  
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    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cedars stands on a slight rise surrounded by large oak trees and is approached by a long drive lined with thirteen large cedars on each side. The house and yard is situated on the north side of North Carolina secondary road 1167 in a rural area of Hertford County south of Murfreesboro. Cultivated farmland surrounds the site on three sides.

Architecturally, the exterior of The Cedars is among the most impressive examples of Federal architecture in the county. The house is a well-proportioned frame structure with a hip roof. A pedimented double portico supported by eight tapered columns shelters the doorway and the window on either side. A handsome curved modillion block cornice runs across the facade of the house and outlines the pediment of the portico. Large reeded blocks, a vernacular interpretation of triglyphs, also appear in the pediment. The nine-over-nine sash of the first floor and the six-over-nine sash of the second floor are framed by two-part architrave molding and retain working louvred shutters. Beaded siding covers the exterior of the house and a tumbled single-shoulder chimney with a free-standing stack appears at each end of the house. The first floor entrance consists of double doors beneath a handsome fanlight of eighteen panes divided by eleven radiating mullions; the second floor door opening onto the portico is a smaller version of the same design. At the west end of the rear of the house is a two-story Greek Revival wing with a hip roof. The wing features nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-six on the second, paneled cornerposts, and a stepped single-shoulder chimney. The north and west sides of the wing have received an unobtrusive one-story shed addition housing a modern kitchen and den. A shed porch runs along the east side of the wing.

The plan of the Federal house consists of a center hall, slightly offset to the west, flanked by a single room on each side. An open stair rises from the rear of the hall in one flight against the west wall. The stair is trimmed with square newels with molded caps, two square balusters per tread, and scrolled brackets. The woodwork of the hall is like that throughout the first floor, consisting of a high molded baseboard, molded chair rail, and two-part architrave molding around the openings. The front door retains a large iron box lock with brass knob, while the rear double doors have never received any hardware, being secured only by a cross bar fastened into iron supports on each side of the doorway.

The parlor, or east room, is a large, well-proportioned room with the finest trim in the house. The fielded wainscot is trimmed with a molded baseboard and a wide reeded and molded chair rail. The handsome mantel features engaged reeded columns supporting a wide frieze with projecting end blocks and center block beneath an elaborately molded broken shelf. The mantel is ornamented with reeding, gouge-work detailing, and bullet-profile molding. The west room has simpler trim, with a handsome three-part mantel with reeded pilasters. A large walk-in closet has been built against the east wall of the room.

The plan of the second floor was originally like that of the first floor, but only the west room survives intact. The east room was divided into three very small rooms early in the present century. The original mantels do survive, and each consists of a three-part architrave surround beneath a plain frieze supporting a narrow molded shelf. The plan of the Greek Revival wing consists of a single large room and cross hall with an open winder stair on each floor, and is attached to the north wall of the west rooms.

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Description

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The first floor room of the wing received new trim in the Colonial Revival period, while the second floor room retains its original simple woodwork.

The flooring throughout the house appears to be original, and the molded six-panel doors of the Federal house survive with much original brass hardware. The hall and parlor have early twentieth-century wallpaper of a large floral design in good condition.

Two outbuildings survive to the rear of the house. A large frame structure with a central interior chimney appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century and has been expanded in this century. A large gable-roof plank smokehouse, with its original batten door, survives with several shed additions; beneath the shed on the rear wall of the smokehouse is the inscription in large script letters, "1842 Nov."

## 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 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

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

With its handsome interior woodwork and fine exterior trim, most notably the pedimented double portico, The Cedars is a significant example of vernacular domestic architecture in northeastern North Carolina dating from the Federal period. The house was the childhood home of Gen. William Deanes Barnes, C. S. A. (1830-1896), who served in the Florida legislature, as the comptroller of Florida from 1880 until 1890, and as a Florida state judge from 1890 until 1896. The Cedars was owned many years by William T. Browne (1834-1904), chairman of the Hertford County Board of County Commissioners from 1890 to 1896. The house was inherited by his son Thomas E. Browne (1881-1965), superintendent of the Hertford County public school system and the first state director of vocational education in North Carolina public schools. The house is still owned by the Browne family.

### Criteria:

- A. Associated with the large-scale agricultural plantation unit of antebellum eastern North Carolina.
- B. Associated with the lives of Gen. William D. Barnes, C. S. A., a prominent Florida politician, and with Thomas E. Browne, a noted North Carolina educator.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a large antebellum plantation home, as well as provides a notable example of vernacular domestic architecture of the Federal period.
- D. Is likely to yield important information on the household activities of an antebellum plantation.

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With the destruction by fire of the Hertford County courthouse in 1830 and 1862, identification of the builder of the Cedars is impossible. The first known owners of the property were Thomas and Sarah Deanes Barnes, who lived in the house a considerable length of time prior to 1847.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Barnes was the daughter of Thomas Deanes, sheriff of Hertford County from 1802 until 1812.<sup>2</sup> The Barneses were the parents of William Deanes Barnes (1830-1896), who served as a brigadier general in the Civil War, and afterwards in the Florida legislature; Gen. Barnes also served as the comptroller of Florida from 1880 to 1890, and as a state judge from 1890 until his death.<sup>3</sup>

The Barnes family moved to Florida in 1847, and the house was purchased by William Dunning, a well-to-do planter.<sup>4</sup> The 1860 census records Dunning owning 1,141 acres of land valued at \$4,600 on which he produced 1,875 bushels of corn and 2 bales of ginned cotton, and raised livestock worth \$1,410.<sup>5</sup> Dunning's daughter Virginia married William Thomas Browne of Bertie County in 1860, and The Cedars has since remained in the Browne family.<sup>6</sup>

William T. Browne (1834-1904) was the son of Joshua and Elizabeth Browne of Bertie County; his birthplace, Pineview, still stands near the village of Roxobel and remains in the Browne family.<sup>7</sup> Browne was a prosperous farmer who served as the chairman of the Hertford County Board of County Commissioners from 1890 until 1896.<sup>8</sup>

At Browne's death in 1904, the property was inherited by his son Thomas E. Browne, (1881-1965), a 1902 graduate of Wake Forest College. Thomas E. Browne served as the superintendent of the Hertford County public school system until his appointment in 1917 as the first State Director of Vocational Education in the North Carolina public high schools; Browne also served for many years as the director for the Department of Education at North Carolina State College (now University) in Raleigh.<sup>9</sup> Browne retired from the directorship in 1946 having won wide recognition for the development of agricultural training in public high schools.<sup>10</sup> The house is currently held in trust for the heirs of the three sons of Thomas E. Browne.

The Cedars is an unusually pretentious example of vernacular domestic architecture for northeastern North Carolina. The five-bay facade with its fanlighted doorways, the modillion block cornice, the rare hip roof, and the pedimented double portico exemplify the best traits of Federal-period domestic architecture in the region. Although the interior has received alterations, woodwork of high quality survives.

The structure is, of course, 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.

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## Notes:

<sup>1</sup>Benjamin B. Winborne, The Colonial and State History of Hertford County, North Carolina (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1906), 180.

<sup>2</sup>Winborne, Hertford County, 149; 180.

<sup>3</sup>Winborne, Hertford County, 180.

<sup>4</sup>Winborne, Hertford County, 274.

<sup>5</sup>Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Hertford County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, 3, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

<sup>6</sup>Winborne, Hertford County, 274.

<sup>7</sup>Lucy Elliott Hollowell, comp., The Descendants of Dr. Samuel Browne of Bertie, Northampton, Hertford Counties, North Carolina (Woodland, N. C.: n. p., 1972), 49-50.

<sup>8</sup>Winborne, Hertford County, 274.

<sup>9</sup>The High School Journal, XXIX (no. 1, 1946), titlepage.

<sup>10</sup>Hollowell, Descendants, 50.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Hertford County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 7.5 acres

Quadrangle name Murfreesboro

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UMT References

A 

1	8	3	1	5	1	5	0	4	0	2	8	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The area included in the Cedars nomination is bounded on the south by SR 1167 and includes approximately 7.5 acres. This represents the original tract of land associated with the house, its outbuildings, the barns to the rear of the house, and the lane leading to the house from the highway.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marshall Bullock, Consultant to the Mid-East Commission

Survey and Planning Branch

organization Archaeology & Historic Preservation Section

Division of Archives & History date August 1980

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 919-733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

# 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 *Ray G. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 16 October 1980

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	

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Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 9 Page 1

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Hollowell, Lucy Elliott, comp. The Descendants of Dr. Samuel Browne of Bertie, North-  
ampton, Hertford Counties, North Carolina. Woodland, N. C. n. p., 1972.

Winborne, Benjamin B. The Colonial and State History of Hertford County, North Carolina.  
Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1906.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Hertford County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

# 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 419 acres

Quadrangle name Murfreesboro

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

**UMT References**

A 

1	8	3	1	4	4	0	0	4	0	2	9	4	3	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	8	3	1	5	8	5	5	4	0	2	8	4	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	8	3	1	4	5	8	5	4	0	2	7	3	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	8	3	1	3	7	4	0	4	0	2	9	0	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The area included in the Cedars nomination is bounded on the south by SR 1167 and includes approximately 419 acres. This represents the original tract of land associated with the house, its outbuildings, the barns to the rear of the house, and the lane leading to the house from the highway.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

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Archaeology & Historic Preservation Section  
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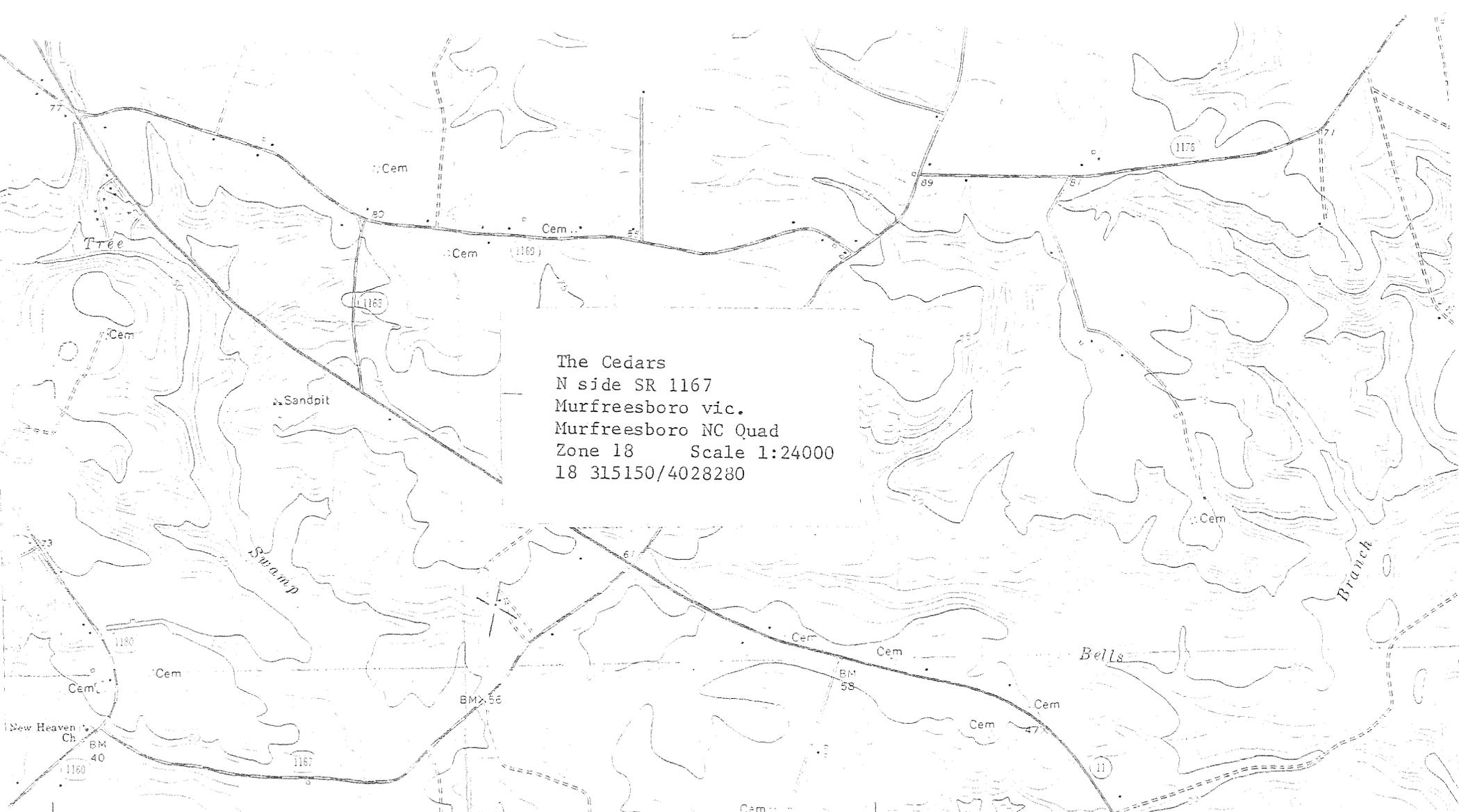
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Lucy C. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

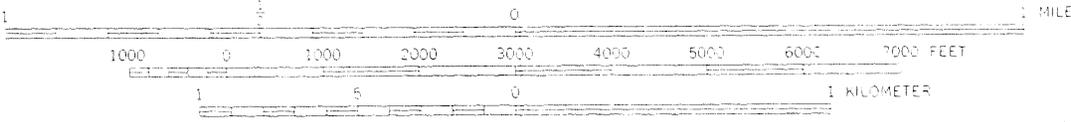
date 16 October 1980

<b>For HCRS use only</b>	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	



The Cedars  
 N side SR 1167  
 Murfreesboro vic.  
 Murfreesboro NC Quad  
 Zone 18 Scale 1:24000  
 18 315150/4028280

(UNION)  
 5556 / SF  
 SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

- ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Interstate Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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