

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB 1024-0018

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DATE ENTERED
12-31-84

**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

King-Casper-Ward-Bazemore House

AND/OR COMMON

Cling Bazemore House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side NC 11 at jct. with NC 42

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ahoskie

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Hertford

CODE

091

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: undergoing restoration

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Overton

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 67

CITY, TOWN

Ahoskie

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27901

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bertie County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Windsor

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Determined eligible: No

TITLE

N/A

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

N/A

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1980</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(very moderately)	(see clause in deed)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The King- Casper-Ward-Bazemore House is a two-story, three-bay frame house of the Federal period. The exterior of the house is intact, with the two-part architrave trim of the fenestration and the beaded siding being original. Nine-over-nine sash appears on the first floor, while that of the second floor is six-over-six. A molded box cornice, with scrolled pattern boards and curious fretwork of vernacular design, appears on the front and rear elevations of the house. The two chimneys are of common-bond brickwork with tumbled single-shoulders and free-standing stacks. A shed porch, supported by tapered sawn posts, runs across the front of the house. This type of porch post can be found on several other Federal-period houses in Bertie County. Remnants of an unusual scalloped trim survive at several places on the porch. Beaded flush sheathing covers the house beneath the porch. The rear of the house has two original shed rooms on either side of an open porch.

The interior of the house originally featured a hall-and-parlor plan with an enclosed winder stair opening from behind the front door. At some point in the house's history, a partition wall was put in the larger room to create a narrow center hall; the stair was moved opposite its original location so as to open behind the back door. One shed room opens from behind the parlor while the other can only be entered from the rear porch. Two rooms open on either side of the stairway on the second floor.

The trim of the interior is intact except for three mantels; the handsome three-part Federal mantel in the larger first floor room, apparently taken from the smaller room, is the only mantel original to the house. The house is consistently trimmed throughout with two-part mitered architrave trim around all openings, molded baseboards and chair rails. It also retains its raised six-panel doors, several with original hardware. The smaller first floor room features the finest work in the house, with the molded baseboard and chair rail having a narrow inlaid band of reeding. The chair rail of the second floor is also reeded. This decorative device and other features of the house are similar to four other nearby houses in Bertie County. The shed rooms are finished with trim to match the rest of the house. The rear porch is covered with flush sheathing.

Originally, the house stood surrounded by farmland near a dirt road on the west side of NC 305 in Bertie County. In 1980 the house was moved to a 3 acre rural site surrounded by farmland and a wood north of the intersection of NC 11 and NC 42 west of Ahoskie, Hertford County. To facilitate the move, the chimneys, porch, and part of the second floor were removed; the latter two features will be restored and the chimneys rebuilt. Present plans call for the rear shed rooms to be raised to house baths and closets on the second floor. The kitchen will be placed in one of the shed rooms and a small addition to the rear will house laundry facilities. A master bedroom wing to the west end of the house is planned for the future.

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 Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Bunch Family (Carpenter/builders)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The King-Casper-Ward-Bazemore House is thought to have been built by Henry Slade King before his death in 1805. Purchased by Thomas Casper, a prosperous planter in 1810, the house remained in the Casper family until 1886. The house was owned by the Ward and Bazemore families until acquired by the Historic Hope Foundation in 1980, which sold it to the present owners. The house has been moved (stipulated by deed) to Hertford County where it is under restoration.

The house is a finely detailed three-bay, two-story frame structure. The scalloped porch trim and reeded woodwork of the interior are trademarks of the Bunch family, carpenters and builders who worked in Bertie County from the late eighteenth century until the Civil War. Six other Bertie County houses, including the 1806 Bunch House, are very similar in detail to the King-Casper-Ward-Bazemore House.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the small-scale plantation unit typical of antebellum eastern North Carolina.
- B. Associated with the Bunch family, a family of carpenters and builders working in Bertie County in the antebellum period.
- C. Embodies the distinct characteristics of a prosperous plantation dwelling, and also exhibits the vernacular architectural trademarks of the Bunch family, a group of carpenter-builders responsible for several other houses in Bertie County.

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The King-Casper-Ward-Bazemore House may have been built by Henry Slade King before his death in 1805.¹ King was probably a son or grandson of the wealthy William King whose brick gambrel-roof house (King House-NR), built in 1763, stood nearby.² Henry King was also probably related to Charles King who built a house, ca. 1808, nearby which is similar to the King-Casper-Ward-Bazemore House.³ The 1790 census records Henry King as head of a six-member household owning 5 slaves; by 1800 his household had increased to 9 and the number of his slaves to 12.⁴ Judging from the number of slaves, King was probably the owner of a small plantation. King's heirs, Rueben and Betsey Parker, sold the "land and premises" of King to Thomas Casper in 1810; Casper later purchased more land from other King heirs.⁵

Thomas Casper, a well-to-do farmer, had lived next to the King property since 1796; the 1810 Census reveals he owned 4 slaves. It seems likely that Thomas Casper purchased the King property for his eldest son, William. In 1822 Thomas gave his eight children equal shares in his property on the condition they would provide for him and his wife for their lifetime.⁶ In his will, probated in 1828, Thomas gave "my son William the tract of land whereon he now lives estimated at 75 acres;" William was the only one of six sons noted in the will as maintaining his own household.⁷

If William Casper was living in the King House by 1828, his was a long residency for he was living in the house at his death in 1876. Census figures provide all known information on William Casper, and indicate he was a prosperous farmer. In 1840 Casper headed a 13-member household which included 3 free black males and 3 slaves; 5 members of the household were engaged in agriculture.⁸ The 1850 census lists Casper as a 52 year-old farmer with property valued at \$2,000; Casper owned four slaves and 1,700 acres of land with 120 acres being improved.⁹ Casper raised 750 bushels of corn that year and owned 100 head of swine, 20 cows, and other livestock worth \$600.¹⁰ By 1870 Casper's real estate, which included 200 acres of improved farmland and 200 acres of woodland, was valued at \$2,400; his personal property was valued at \$400.¹¹ Casper owned livestock worth \$300 and the annual value of his farm's production, mainly in corn and sweet potatoes, was \$483.¹²

At his death in 1876, William Casper left his wife Margaret a life interest in his entire estate which was then to be divided at her death among her surviving children.¹³ Margaret Casper evidently lived in the house until her death, and her children sold their interest in the house and farm to Littleton T. Ward, a local farmer and large landowner, in 1886.¹⁴ Nothing is known about the house during Ward's residency, but it was probably during his ownership that three of the four original mantels were removed and replaced by simple vernacular mantels. Ward died after the turn-of-the-century and his heirs leased the house and farm to C.D. Bazemore until it was sold at auction on 28 April 1934 to W.C. Askey.¹⁵ Two days later, Askey sold the "L.T. Ward Homeplace" to T.N. Peele who, on the same day he purchased it, sold it to Hattie Bazemore.¹⁶ In 1960 the heirs of Hattie Bazemore sold the house to Dalmus Bazemore who owned it until selling it in December 1977 to Milton Ward.¹⁷ In June 1980 Milton Ward deeded the house to the Historic Hope Foundation, Inc., an organization which maintains "Hope" (NR), the nearby Federal-period home of Governor and Congressman David Stone. Mr. Ward's deed stipulated that the Historic Hope Foundation "shall have a period of two years in which to remove said dwelling house from lands of the parties of the first part to a location satisfactory to the party of the second part."¹⁸

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Historic Hope Foundation sold the house to the present owners who moved it in December 1980 to a rural site outside of Ahoskie in Hertford County. The owners are being advised by Richard Andrews of the Restoration Branch, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, as well as by an experienced private restorationist.

The historical significance of the King-Casper-Ward-Bazemore House rests not on its past occupants but on its architectural qualities. With its handsome vernacular scalloped porch trim and fretwork cornice on the exterior, and the finely molded and reeded woodwork of the interior, the house is a fine example of early Federal domestic architecture in eastern North Carolina. More importantly, on the basis of stylistic evidence the house can be attributed as the work of the Bunch family, a family of carpenters working in Bertie County from the late eighteenth-century until the eve of the Civil War. Jeremiah Bunch died in 1809 leaving an inventory of many carpenter and turner's tools.¹⁹ His two sons, Jeremiah and Nehemiah, took apprentices to the carpenter's trade in 1811 and 1812.²⁰ Nehemiah Bunch died in 1844 and his estates papers reveal that he and Jeremiah were partners in a large woodworking establishment producing flooring, lathing, scantling, and plank.²¹ Jeremiah Bunch died in 1858 and his inventory lists many tools of the carpentry trade as well as a copy of "The Builder's Assistant."²² Elijah Bunch, perhaps a council or brother to Jeremiah and Nehemiah, also died in 1858 leaving an inventory of many carpenter's tools; N. Neremiah Bunch, undoubtedly another relative, died in 1863 and his estate papers list an extensive holding of carpenter's tools.²³

If it can be assumed that the Jeremiah Bunch House, initialed and dated 1806 in the chimney, was built by a Bunch carpenter, then several other similar houses in Bertie County can be attributed as their work. The King-Casper-Ward-Bazemore House, the King-Freeman-Speight House (ca. 1808), the Henry Bazemore House, and the Moses Gillam House all have similar floor-plans to the Bunch House, but the treatment of the mantels, chair rails, stairs, and the reeded woodwork undeniably attest to the work of the same builder or builders.²⁴ The King-Casper-Ward-Bazemore House is an important product of this Bertie County school of vernacular architecture in that it is mostly intact and is to be restored. The woodwork of the Moses Gillam house has recently been stripped, the King-Freeman-Speight House was extensively remodeled in 1907, and the future of the other houses in this group is uncertain.

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¹Estate Papers for Henry Slade King, Bertie County Estates Papers, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Bertie County Estates Papers.

²See Anastatia Sims, "The King House of Bertie County," October 1976, unpublished typescript, Research Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

³See National Register nomination for the King-Freeman-Speight House, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

⁴Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: North Carolina (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 13; Second Census of the United States, 1800: Bertie County, North Carolina, 58, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, subsequent census references will be to this microfilm source.

⁵Rueben and Betsey Parker to Thomas Casper, 13 February 1810, Bertie County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor, Book V, 223, hereinafter cited as Bertie County Deeds; Hester Lee to Thomas Casper, 15 February 1814, Book W. 146; George King to Thomas Casper, Nov. 1818, Book Y, 186, Bertie County Deeds.

⁶Thomas Casper to Kenneth Casper et al, 23 Sept. 1822, Book BB, 63, Bertie County Deeds.

⁷Will of Thomas Casper, 2 March 1827, probated February 1828, Bertie County Wills, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Bertie County Wills.

⁸Fifth Census of the United States, 1840: Bertie County, North Carolina, 112.

⁹Sixth Census of the United States, 1850: Bertie County, North Carolina, Population schedule, 1; Slave schedule, 410.

¹⁰Sixth Census, Bertie County, Agricultural schedule, 257.

¹¹Eighth Census of the United States, 1870: Bertie County, North Carolina, Population schedule, 4.

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¹²Eighth Census, Bertie County, Agricultural schedule, 257.

¹³Will of William Casper, 13 August 1874, probated Feb. 1876, Bertie County Wills.

¹⁴J.J. Casper et al to Littleton T. Ward, 6 January 1886, Bertie County Deeds, Book 57, 429.

¹⁵J.H. Matthews, Commissioner, to W.C. Askew, 28 April 1934, Bertie County Deeds, Book 289, 56.

¹⁶W.C. Askew to T.N. Peele, 30 April 1934, Bertie County Deeds, Book 289, 57; T.N. Peele to Hattie Bazemore, 30 April 1934, Bertie County Deeds, Book 289, 63.

¹⁷Adelaide B. Jenkins et al to Dalmus Bazemore, 22 August 1960, Bertie County Deeds, Book 546, 153; Dalmus Bazemore to Milton Ward, 29 December 1977, Bertie County Deeds, Book 606, 752.

¹⁸Milton Ward to Historic Hope Foundation, Inc., 1 June 1980, Bertie County Deeds, Book 622, 365.

¹⁹Estates Papers for Jeremiah Bunch, 1809, Bertie County Estates Papers.

²⁰James H. Craig, The Arts and Crafts in North Carolina, 1699-1840 (Winston-Salem, North Carolina: The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Old Salem, Inc., 1965), 330, 332.

²¹Estates Papers for Nehemiah Bunch, 1844, Bertie County Estates Papers.

²²Estates Papers for Jeremiah Bunch, 1858, Bertie County Estates Papers.

²³Estates Papers for Elijah Bunch, 1858; N. Jeremiah Bunch, 1863, Bertie County Estates Papers.

²⁴Files for all these structures can be found at the Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 3 acres Scale 1: 24 000
 UTM REFERENCES Quadrangle Name Union, N. C.

A	1, 8	3, 1, 5, 8, 1, 0	4, 0, 1, 6, 4, 3, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

House has been moved, per clause in deed, to three acre site similar to the original rural, agricultural siting. See enclosed survey map outlined in red and deed, with appropriate clause regarding the moving of the structure also marked in red.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Marshall Bullock, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section

April 9, 1981

STREET & NUMBER North Carolina Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

(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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William S. Price, Jr.

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ONE
E

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Bertie County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor.

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

Bertie County, survey files, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Bertie County Wills, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Craig, James H. The Arts and Crafts in North Carolina, 1699-1840. Winston-Salem, N.C.: The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Old Salem, Inc., 1965.

Eighth Census of the United States, 1870: Bertie County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Fifth Census of the United States, 1840: Bertie County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

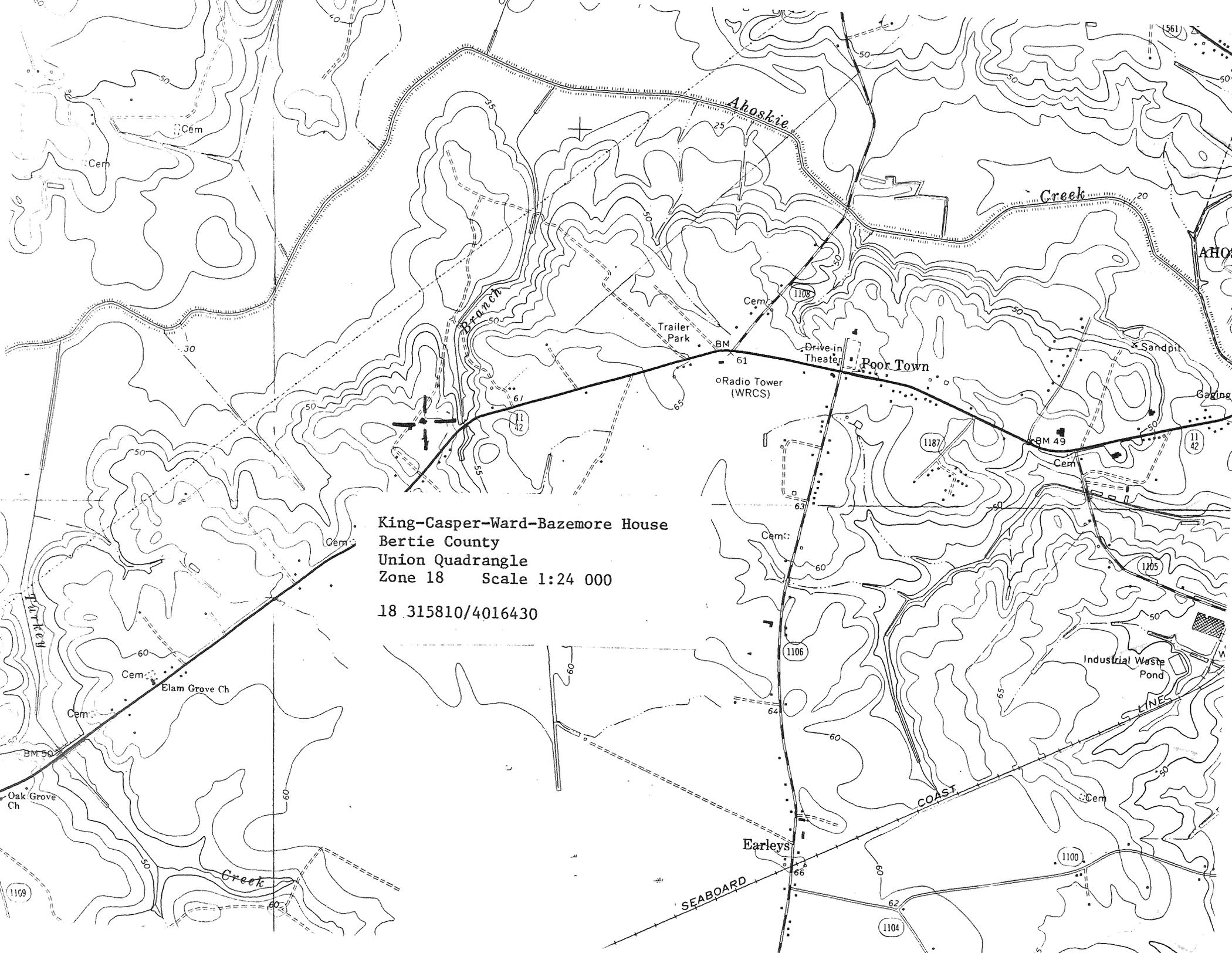
Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: North Carolina. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908.

King-Freeman-Speight House, National Register nomination. Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Second Census of the United States, 1800: Bertie County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Sims, Anastatia. "The King House of Bertie County." October 1976. Unpublished typescript, Research Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Sixth Census of the United States, 1850: Bertie County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



King-Casper-Ward-Bazemore House
Bertie County
Union Quadrangle
Zone 18 Scale 1:24 000
18 315810/4016430

