

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Thorbiskope

and/or common John Elliot House

2. Location

street & number SR 2049 opp jct w/SR 2050 not for publication

city, town Bunn Level X vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Harnett code 085

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" 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 Gerald Allen

street & number 19 Union Square West

city, town New York vicinity of state N. Y. 10003

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harnett County Register of Deeds

street & number Harnett County Courthouse

city, town Lillington state N. C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Thorbiskope, situated close to SR 2049 and the Little River in rural Harnett County, and surrounded by cultivated fields, is the product of at least two distinct building periods. The rear ell was originally a ca. 1820 story-and-a-half Georgian-federal coastal cottage. It now sits perpendicular to the road and has a two-plane roofline reminiscent of the coastal architecture of eastern North Carolina, particularly of the Wilmington and New Bern areas. The roof was extended after the addition of the front section to accommodate an extension of the rear shed rooms and central enclosed porch. Evidence of this alteration can be seen in the ceiling of the second floor rooms, and in the floor and ceiling of the shed rooms. The siding of the rearmost section of the sheds is plain weatherboard, while the sides of the original block are beaded weatherboard. The principal facade is balanced by a full-facade engaged porch supported by replacement paneled posts. Roman numbering can be seen on the porch sill where porch decking has been removed. The facade is flush-sheathed, and pierced by two central six-panel doors with one nine-over-nine sash window to the south and a pair of nine-over-nine sash windows to the north. Two later gable dormers have been added to the front facade.

On the south wall are two paved double-shouldered chimneys with free-standing stacks, laid in 1:5 common bond brick. The chimney on the north wall has been incorporated into the later and larger Greek Revival front section. Originally the cottage had a Quaker floor plan, with one large room to the south and two smaller rooms with corner fireplaces on the north. An enclosed stair rises in the central wall. The winders have been replaced to form a straight flight which now opens onto the central section of the rear shed. The stairway is flush sheathed with a break where the door to the south room originally was. The finish is Georgia Federal with board-sheathed wainscot under plaster. The half-story contains two rooms with plaster over board-sheathed wainscot. Six-panel doors on H and L hinges open into the rooms from the top of the stair landing. The mantels in the two downstairs rooms and the attic rooms have been removed, but the current owner has documentary photographs and plans to replace them.

The Greek Revival front section was added about 1848 by John Elliot. It consists of a five-by-two-bay, two-story block under a low hip roof resting on a partial basement and piers. The plan consists of a center hall with one room on either side, with the exception of the west side of the second floor. This was divided into two rooms with corner fire-openings in a Quaker variation plan.

A common bond single paved shoulder chimney is at either end of the main block. Bays are nine over nine sash with original shutters and shutter hardware. The central entry bays on both first and second floors are sheltered under a two-tier gable roof portico supported by solid paneled columns with a balustrade on each level. The pedimented gable end is flush-sheathed. The entries on each floor are identical and consist of double leaf three-panel door with sidelights and transom. The facade under the portico is flush-sheathed.

The main hall is plastered over paneled wainscot. The stair rises from the back to front, allowing equal access from the front section or the rear section, which is reached by a door at the end of the hall. The room to the west is the most elaborately finished and was traditionally used as a dining room. It is plaster over paneled wainscot. There are two doors in the south wall, one opens into a butler's pantry in the shed addition of the earlier house, and the other opens onto the back porch. The room to the east is simply finished with plaster walls and wide molded baseboards. As in the older section, mantels have been removed, but documentary photographs will allow their reconstruction.

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The second floor rooms are finished similarly to the east room on the first floor. The eastern room is plaster with wide baseboards. To the west side are two rooms arranged in a Quaker plan, with corner fireopenings with plain mantels. One window in the rear room is partially covered by the pitch of the roof of the rear ell from an 1890s remodeling. There is a small door at the rear of the hall which opens into the attic rooms of the rear section. The once-exterior chimney of the rear ell is plastered over where it extends into the rear of the stair hall.

The rear of the original block has undergone several enlargements. It appears that there were early, and probably original shed rooms flanking a central porch. Beaded siding continues part of the way along the shed rooms, and it is obvious where it once broke to accommodate a lower pitched roofline. In addition, extremely wide flush boards sheath the walls of what was probably the central porch.

When the front Greek Revival section was added, an entry, complete with double three-panel dorrs, transom and sidelights, was placed on the porch, enclosing a portion of it to create a room. The northern shed room was shelved and made into a butler's pantry. A door leads from the pantry to the front west room which traditionally served as a dining room. About 1893, according to family history, the shed roof on the back of the house was extended and raised somewhat, covering a portion of the second floor window of the rear west room, to accommodate the enlarging of the shed rooms and a porch along the central and north shed rooms. The Greek Revival entry was moved further out to open onto the new porch. The beaded corner boards and Federal window surrounds were moved to the rear wall as well. The window in the western first floor room of the front section of the house was replaced by a door which leads onto the porch. A door was also added to the rear wall of the northern shed room to allow access to the porch. A kitchen was added and connected to the back porch by a gable roof walkway.

Also on the property is a commissary which is contemporary with the original dwelling. The side-gable-roofed structure is sheathed with beaded weatherboard and has a boxed cornice. There are paired central doors leading into two flush-sheathed rooms. The wide board doors are set in molded and mitered surrounds, and the door in the western room retains its wooden box lock.

Thorbiskope is similar in form to many other houses along the Cape Fear, and throughout the coastal plain of North Carolina. It is similar to the houses built by George Elliot (Ellerslie, ca. 1797, NR) and Henry Elliot (Cool Springs, ca. 1815, NR) nearby. There has been some degree of vandalism at this house, but the present owner, Mr. Gerald Allen, has undertaken an extensive and academic restoration of the dwelling which will return it to its former status and condition.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probably that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	<u>X</u> agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<u>X</u> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	___ commerce	<u>X</u> exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1820; ca. 1848 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

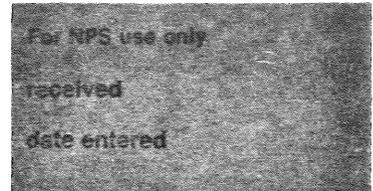
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Thorbiskope is one of three Elliot family homes built on the Lower Little River. George Elliot immigrated to North Carolina from Dumfries, Scotland, in the third quarter of the eighteenth century and he and his sons built prosperous plantations along the river. All three Elliot houses began as modest story-and-a-half coastal cottages with Georgian/Federal detailing. During the 1840s each owner built a more formal two-story house at one end of his cottage, creating a larger house more in keeping with his station as prosperous planter. Thorbiskope began as a ca. 1820 cottage and received a ca. 1848 Greek Revival addition which retains its one-bay portico and some of its interior woodwork, principally the formal parlor in the Greek Revival section which features paneled wainscot, as does the stairhall. Each of the three houses embodies the modest coastal cottage which was extremely widespread throughout coastal North Carolina throughout the second half of the eighteenth century and first half of the nineteenth century. As was the prevailing custom, during the nineteenth century, each house was enlarged by the addition of a two-story center hall plan house as family fortunes grew. John Elliot, the builder of Thorbiskope, which was named for an ancestral home in Scotland, owned 8,000 acres and 80 slaves in 1860, making him the third largest slaveholder in the county at that time.

- A. Is associated with the settlement of the Lower Little River, a tributary of the Cape Fear River, by Scots in the third quarter of the 18th century, and the development of this area by these families.
- B. Associated with John Elliot, of the locally prominent Elliot family, who was a landholder, slaveholder, and planter. Two other Elliot family homes survive.
- C. Typical of many dwellings, Thorbiskope was built in two stages and consists of a story-and-a-half coastal cottage (ca. 1820) with a more formal two-story Greek Revival dwelling (ca. 1848) added to create a home more in keeping with altered status and life-style of the family. Two other Elliot family homes survive nearby: Ellerslie (NR) built about 1790 by John Elliot's father, George Elliot, and enlarged in the 1840s by the addition of a two-story Quaker-plan Greek Revival section; and Cool Springs (NR) built about 1815 by George Elliot Jr., son of George Elliot of Ellerslie, and enlarged by the addition of a two-story, two-room plan Federal/Greek Revival section in the 1840s. The three houses make an interesting and closely related unit for the study of history and architectural development in the Little River area.
- D. The 2.92 acres on which Thorbiskope now sits are likely to yield information about the development and history of the site and a prosperous plantation in the nineteenth century.

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The John Elliot House, known as Thorbiskope, is located in southern Harnett County, near the border with Cumberland County (from which Harnett County was formed in 1855). The house was built by Elliot in the 1820s with considerable expansion around 1848. Elliot was a member of one of the area's most prominent families.¹

John Elliot was one of four sons of George Elliot. George Elliot was born in Dunfries, Scotland in 1753 and was educated at the University of Edinburgh. He settled in the Lower Little River section of Cumberland County and built a plantation house called Ellerslie around 1790. He married a widow, Mary Turner, in 1790. They had eight children in addition to her two children by her earlier marriage. Elliot's four sons, Henry, Alexander, George, and John were all educated at the University of North Carolina. George Elliot became one of the area's largest landholders and represented Cumberland County in the 1788 Hillsborough Constitutional Convention.²

John Elliot was born in 1805. He inherited large amounts of land upon his father's death in 1819. Census records show that he operated a large plantation. He owned 38 slaves in 1830 and 39 in 1840.³ By 1850 Elliot owned 8,000 acres valued at \$18,000. His livestock was valued at \$2,405; This included 11 horses, 40 milk cows, 175 sheep, and 380 swine. Elliot grew 3,500 bushels of corn with a labor force of 82 slaves.⁴ The 1860 census figures were similar, although Elliot had disposed of over 1,000 acres. His remaining 7,000 acres were valued at \$24,000 and his livestock was valued at \$3,300. He grew 2,500 bushels of corn, and 12 tons of hay. His 80 slaves made him the third largest slaveholder in the county in 1860.⁵ In both census years Elliot had relatively little land under cultivation and much of what he grew appears to have been for the purpose of feeding his slaves and large livestock holdings.

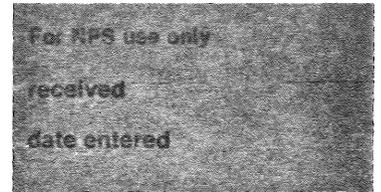
John Elliot and his wife Mary had at least seven children, Mary, George, Alex, William, James, Isabella, and Eliza.⁶ Unfortunately there are large gaps in Harnett County's records in the 1860-1890 period and it is not certain how John Elliot's land was disposed of after his death, nor is it certain when he died. He is not listed in either the 1870 or 1880 censuses. According to family tradition his immediate line died out in Harnett County.⁷ In 1895 Jonathan Elliot, a nephew of John Elliot, purchased the "old homestead . . . commonly known as the 'John Elliot place'" from an Annie E. Elliot. He paid \$2,000 for 1,400 acres.⁸

Jonathan Elliot was a prosperous and prominent landowner. He lived at Thorbiskope until his death in 1934 at the age of 85. He was described at his death as a "member of one of the Cape Fear sections oldest and most prominent families . . . /an/ extensive landowner /he/ had a variety of agricultural interests."⁹ He and his wife Alice Hall Elliot had eight children. Two of these children, A. H. Elliot and George W. Elliot became physicians.¹⁰

In 1942 the heirs of Jonathan Elliot sold Thorobiskope to Charles E. Leigh, who paid \$1,500 for 1,520 acres. He kept the property for only a short time before selling it to J. Bruce King, who sold it shortly thereafter to E. W. Grannis. Both of these transactions also took place in 1942. It was reported that Grannis paid "several thousand dollars" for the property.¹¹ Grannis sold the property to Barnes Haywood in 1947. Haywood sold it to John Sorrells, Jr. in 1949 and Sorrells sold it to Burford Mitchell in 1954.¹² The house has remained vacant for several years. In 1985 it was purchased by Gerald Allen who is a descendent of George Elliot of Ellerslie, bringing the property back into the family for which it was built.

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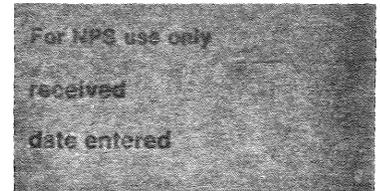
Page 2

The John Elliot House is one of several built in the upper Cape Fear area by that influential family. It has served as the seat of a large antebellum plantation and remains one of Harnett County's most important historical properties.

In addition to the historical significance of the Elliot family, Thorbiskope is important architecturally. The coastal cottage rear section, although somewhat altered, was prevalent in much of coastal North Carolina, especially along the Cape Fear River and its tributaries. The form is attributed by some to Caribbean sources. Brunswick Town, settled by planters and merchants from South Carolina and the Caribbean, had houses with piazzas as early as 1740. The rear sections of two other Elliot family houses, Ellerslie (1790s; NR) and Cool Springs (ca. 1815; NR) both in Cumberland County just across the river from Thorbiskope, are both modest coastal cottages with more formal two story front sections added in the 1840s. The finish of Ellerslie and Cool Springs is slightly earlier than that of Thorbiskope, but similarities in detail make the family tradition that all three front sections were built by the same builder plausible and probable. This building plan -- a one and a half story coastal cottage with later more formal two-story front section added later -- is found throughout the coastal plain of North Carolina.

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NOTES

¹According to the Elliot family the name "Thorbiskope" is believed to be a corruption of a Scottish name. Telephone interview with Mrs. William Elliot, Jr., May 11, 1982, hereinafter cited as Elliot interview, notes in file.

²Lucille Miller Johnson, Hometown Heritage (Fayetteville): The Colonel Robert Rowan Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1978), 21; North Carolina Biography, Volumes IV, V, and VI of History of North Carolina by R. D. W. Connor, William K. Boyd, J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, and others (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 6 volumes, 1919), V, 271. John A. Oates, The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear (Fayetteville: n.p., 1950), 828.

³Cumberland County Will Book A, p. 100; Fifth Census of the United States, 1830, Cumberland County, North Carolina; Sixth Census of the United States, 1840, Cumberland County, North Carolina.

⁴Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Cumberland County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule.

⁵Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Cumberland County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule; Malcolm Fowler, They Passed This Way: A Personal Narrative of Harnett County History (Lillington: Harnett County Centennial, Inc., 1955), 119.

⁶Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Cumberland County, Population Schedule.

⁷Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Harnett County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Harnett County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Elliot interview.

⁸Harnett County Deed Book J-2, p. 285.

⁹Fayetteville Observer, January 1, 1934.

¹⁰Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Harnett County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Elliot interview.

¹¹Harnett County Deed Book 281, p. 571; Book 286, pp. 193, 195.

¹²Harnett County Deed Book 310, p. 336; Book 313, p. 223; Book 357, p. 144.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.92 acres

Quadrangle name Manchester

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

1	1	7
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 Zone

6	9	1
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 Easting

3	2	0
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 Northing

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6	8	0
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B

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

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C

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 Zone

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H

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 Easting

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 Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See survey map enclosed. Property is outlined in red. The scale of the map is 1 1/2" = 100'

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title E. Virginia Oswald Jim Sumner, Researcher

organization Survey and Planning Branch date July 11, 1985

street & number 109 E. Jones St. telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh, state N. C. 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 J. Pinn

title State Preservation Officer date July 11, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

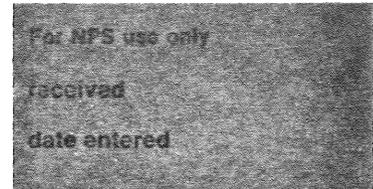
date

Chief of Registration

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

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MY

MANCHESTER QUADRANGLE
 NORTH CAROLINA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 NW/4 FAYETTEVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE

5254 IV
 (BUNNLEY)

LILLINGTON (JUNC. U.S. 421) 13 MI.
 ANDERSON CREEK 2.6 MI. 55'

690

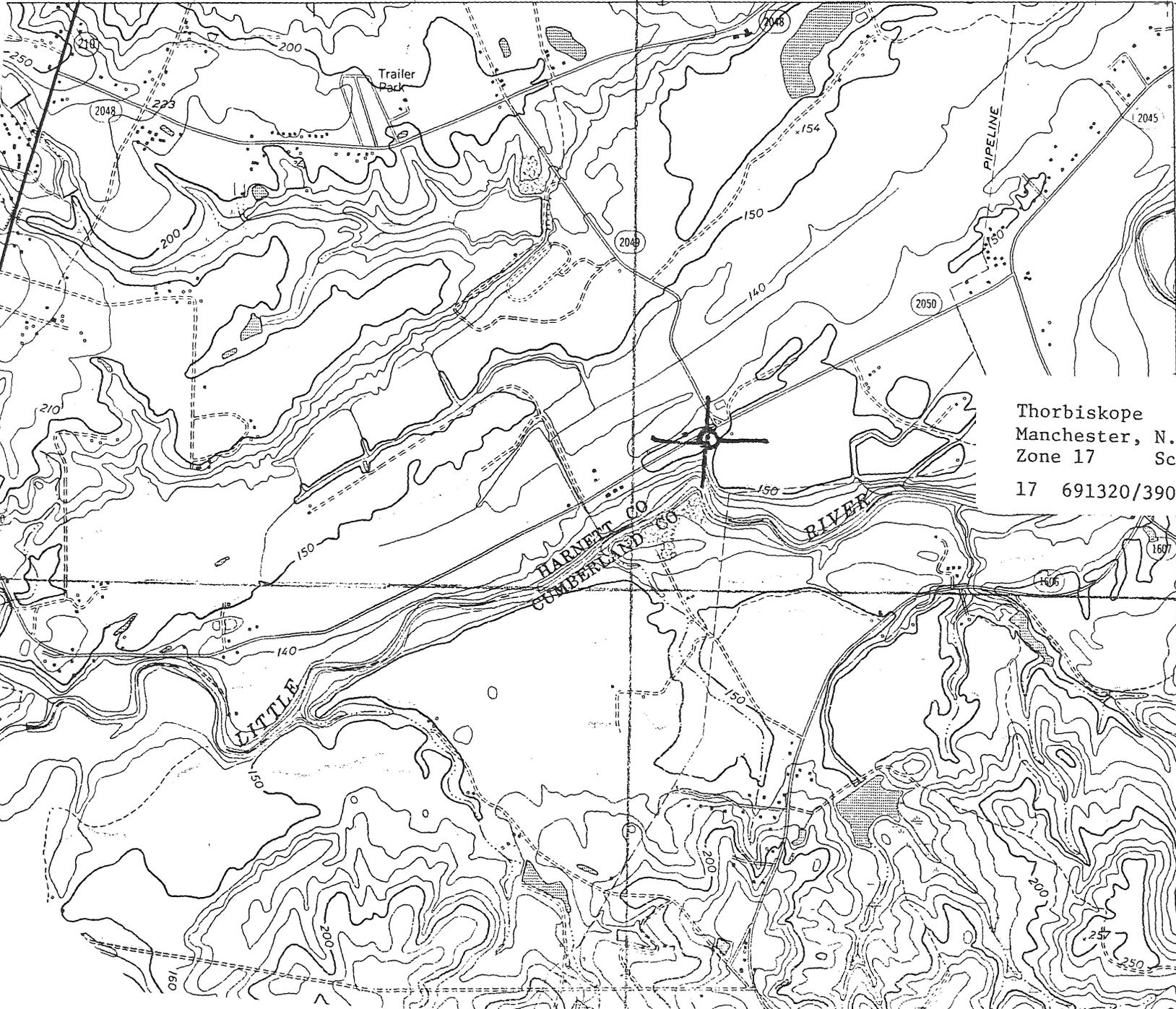
691

2 030 000 FEET

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693 78°52'30"

35°15'



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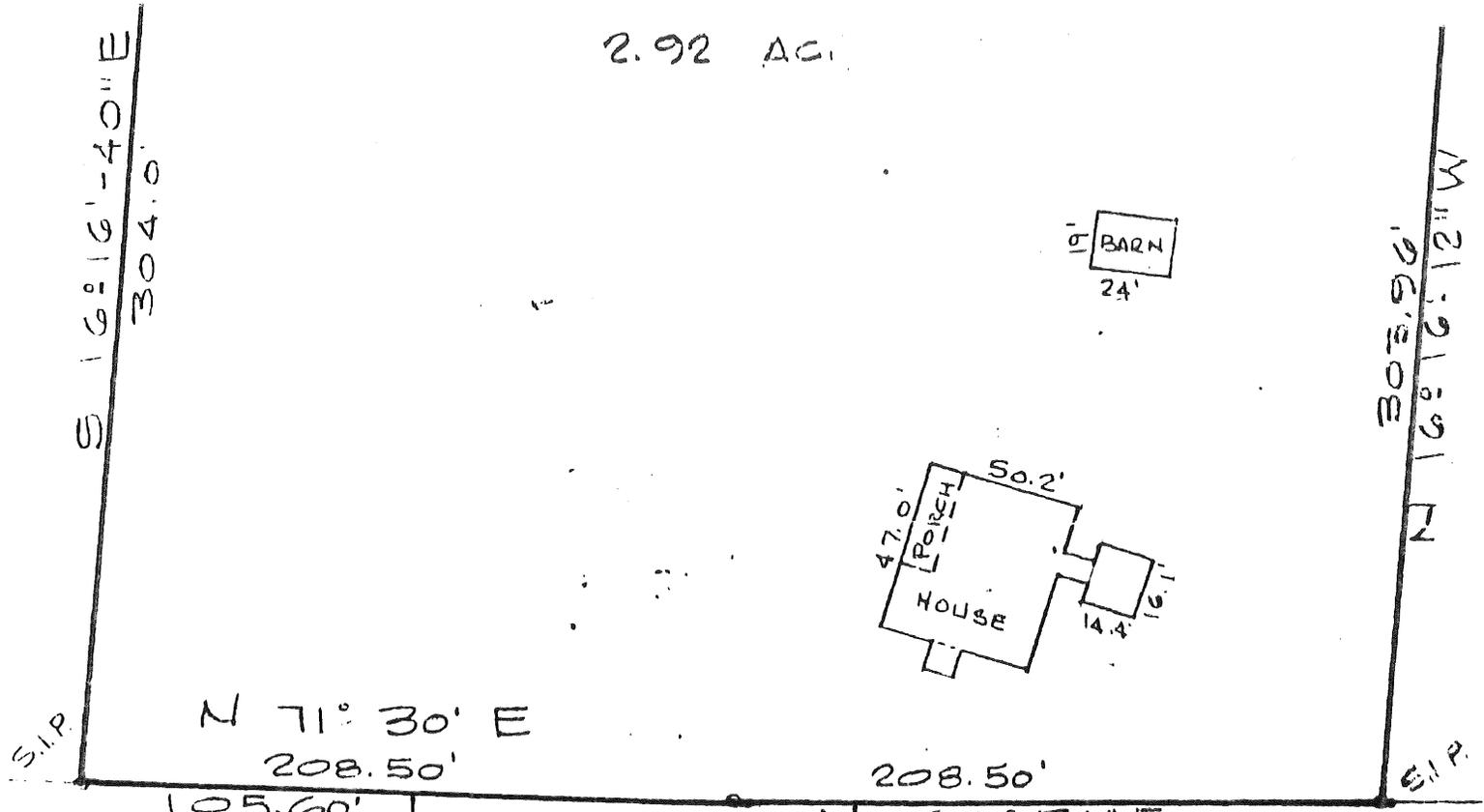
HT 20
 HT 21

Thorbiskope
 Manchester, N. C., Quadrangle
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000
 17 691320/3900680

5 MI. TO U.S. 401

3899

2.92 AC.



105.60'

N 69° 56" E

S.R. NO. 2050 60' R/W

S.R. NO. 2049 S 19° 00" E

SURVEYED FOR
HARNETT CO.
SCALE 1" = 60'
JIMMY BRUNCE

GERALD ALLEN
NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH, 1985
R.L.S. L-127

