

#863

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

for HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

**1. Name**

historic Stallings-Carpenter House

and/or common Bend of the River

**2. Location**

street & number End of SR 1713, 1.0 miles from Jct. W/SR 1700 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Clayton  vicinity of congressional district Third

state North Carolina code 037 county Johnston code 101

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Albert Theodore and Patricia Lee Strupler

street & number Route 3, Box 41

city, town Clayton  vicinity of state North Carolina 27520

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnston County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Smithfield state North Carolina

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records none

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Stallings-Carpenter House sits at the end of SR 1713 in rural Johnston County near the town of Clayton. It is a two-story, three-bay double-pile house covered with weatherboards and a very shallow hipped roof with brick interior end chimneys.

The original nearly full facade two story frame porch has been reconstructed with about one third of the original trim being reused and the rest of the detailing carefully matched. The porch is supported on square posts which are repeated in reeded corner pilasters at all corners. The second story of the porch has similar posts and is tied together with a plain balustrade with molded handrails. The rear one-bay portico has been replaced by a one-story porch with balustraded deck. The front and rear facades both feature identical entrances on both levels consisting of a door with four light transom and sidelights set in paneled and molded surrounds with plain corner blocks. The window openings are tall narrow double windows with 4/4 sash set in molded surrounds with corner blocks which match those at the doors.

Doors on the first story open into a wide center hall with two rooms on each side. The walls of the hall have pegged rails along both long walls. The plain stair rises to the rear along the south wall of the hall in one flight. The newel post is short and square with an arched top. Under the stair is a small closet. The four rooms are identically and simply finished. The diagonally set corner fireplaces have simple post and lintel mantels with shallow molded shelves.

All doors are the two-panel Greek Revival type set in molded surrounds with plain corner blocks. Window openings contain narrow paired 4/4 sash set in molded surrounds with corner blocks. The surrounds extend to the floor to enframe a single panel set beneath.

The second floor is finished identically to the first. The center hall is wide and has coat rails along the wall opposite the stair. At each end of the hall are entrances identical to those downstairs--double panel doors with four light transoms and three light sidelights. Each of the four rooms has a corner fireplace with the same simple Greek Revival mantels as are found on the first floor.

Returning to the first floor, the northeast rear room has been converted into a modern kitchen while retaining the original trim and fireplace. Opening off the north side is an addition which contains an entry, a sunroom and a bathroom. The finish, both interior and exterior, is carefully copied from that of the original block of the house.

The present house tract is approximately ten acres, surrounded by woods and fields which remain in the agricultural production and maintain the rural setting of the house. A late-eighteenth century kitchen stood nearby until several years ago. Other outbuildings, later than the house, are nearby, and include a barn, pack house and shed. The sites of several early buildings are on the grounds.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which are 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 remains may be an important component of the significance of the structure. This should be considered in any development of the property.

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

<b>Specific dates</b>	Unknown	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown
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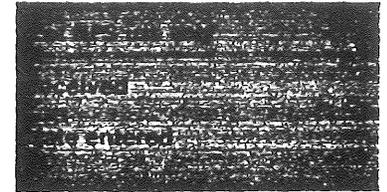
**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Stallings-Carpenter House, built circa 1850, is a substantial three-bay double-pile Greek Revival house under a replacement tin-covered low hip roof. The house has corner fireplaces with identical simple post and lintel mantels throughout. It is representative of an ante bellum house type once common to piedmont North Carolina farms of some substance.

Criteria for Assessment:

B. Associated with James Stallings for whom Stallings Station, present-day Clayton in Johnston County, N. C., was named when incorporated in 1869. Stallings owned a nearly-1200 acre plantation nearby. Stallings served in the Civil War and returned home to farm until the end of the century.

C. Embodies substantial ante bellum housing of the piedmont area of North Carolina. It exhibits the symmetry of plan and simplicity of detail so integral to vernacular Greek Revival architecture of the area and remains in a high state of preservation.

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The Stallings-Carpenter House is located near the Johnston County community of Clayton. The house served as the home of the James B. Stallings family for the second half of the nineteenth century. It is believed to have been built by Stallings shortly after his purchase of 426 acres from prominent Raleigh attorney and financier George Washington Mordecai.

The Mordecai family was one of Wake County's most distinguished. They owned a considerable amount of land in adjacent Johnston County, however. In 1821 Moses Mordecai (1785-1824), a successful lawyer in Raleigh, acquired land in the Clayton area from John Bryan. Mordecai died in 1824 and willed this portion of his land to his then four year old daughter Ellen, who would take over ownership of the land at 21 only if married. If not her uncle and guardian George Washington Mordecai would sell it for her. The Mordecais lived in Raleigh, but visited this Johnston County land frequently.<sup>1</sup> Ellen Mordecai later recounted that the plantation had "a nice log house with two rooms and comfortably built."<sup>2</sup> This house is no longer standing.

Ellen Mordecai was not married at age 21. In 1850 she married a cousin Samuel Fox Mordecai of Mobile, Alabama. That same year Mordecai sold the property to Stallings and his wife Elizabeth Jones Stallings for \$1,065. There is local tradition that Mordecai began construction of the house as a gift for his niece, who married and moved away before its completion. There is no conclusive evidence for this however, and the purchase price of barely two dollars per acre suggests that the property purchased by Stallings could not have contained a completed Greek Revival mansion.<sup>3</sup>

James and Elizabeth Stallings had twin sons, Joseph and William, born in 1849. A daughter Elizabeth was born in 1856. The 1850 census lists Stallings as the owner of 14 slaves. His real estate was valued at \$1,500. He grew 550 bushels of corn, 350 bushels of peas and beans, 8 tons of hay, and lesser amounts of oats, sweet potatoes, and Irish potatoes. His farm contained livestock valued at \$350, including 42 swine, 5 horses, 4 cows, 2 oxen, 6 sheep, and 8 other cattle. Stallings owned 14 slaves. He was 27 and his wife was listed as 22.<sup>4</sup>

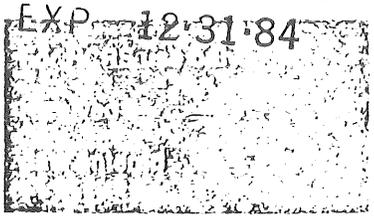
Stallings added to his plantation and owned almost 1,200 acres in 1860. His real estate was valued at \$5,500 in that year and his personal estate at \$14,617. He grew over 10,000 pounds of cotton, 1,175 bushels of corn, 200 bushels of peas and beans, 400 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 8 tons of hay on what could now be called a plantation. His considerable livestock holdings were valued at \$1,257. This included 83 swine, 36 sheep, 4 horses, 7 cows, 4 oxen, and 10 other cattle. His farm produced 250 pounds of butter, 100 pounds of honey, and 25 pounds of wool. Stallings owned 24 slaves. His agricultural operation was typical of Johnston County's self-sufficient antebellum plantations. The census also reveals that Stallings's two twin sons were being called Thadeus and Alpheus. Local tradition suggests that this change was the result of Stallings's fondness for classical Greek culture.<sup>5</sup> By 1870, however, the sons were back to being Joseph and William.

Stallings joined the Confederate Army in 1862, enlisting in Company C of the 50th North Carolina infantry. He was a private and apparently had an undistinguished military career.<sup>6</sup> After the war he resumed his farming activities. The depressed state of postwar agriculture in the area can be seen in the fact that the Stallings farm was valued at \$3,000 in 1870, barely half of its 1860 value. His personal estate was \$4,515. The farm produced 2,700 pounds of cotton, 3 tons of hay, 275 bushels of corn, 200 bushels

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of oats, 150 pounds of butter, and 150 pounds of honey. Stallings still owned a substantial amount of livestock, including 60 swine and 25 sheep.<sup>7</sup> By 1880 the farm had surpassed its prewar value, and was valued at \$6,000. Stallings grew 12 bales (5,400 pounds) of cotton, 200 bushels of corn, and 800 bushels of apples. His livestock was valued at \$530.<sup>8</sup>

Stallings continued to farm until the end of the century. Tax records show that his property had a value in the \$4,000 to \$5,000 range throughout the 1890s.<sup>9</sup> He and his wife both died in 1902. His property was divided equally among his three children with daughter Elizabeth (Bettie) Myatt receiving the house tract. Estate records show that Stallings had accumulated enough money from a lifetime of farming to own substantial amounts of stock in the Clayton Cotton Mill (\$1,500), the Clayton Bank (\$850), and the Bank of Smithfield (\$400).<sup>10</sup> The town of Stallings Station, present-day Clayton, was incorporated in 1869 and named for Stallings.<sup>11</sup>

Bettie Myatt died intestate shortly after the death of her father. In 1904 John Walter Myatt, guardian of her four children, was permitted by Superior Court to sell the property to Ashley and Charles Horne for \$6,500.<sup>12</sup> Ashley Horne was one of the wealthiest citizens in Johnston County in the early twentieth century. Horne (1841-1913) was a capitalist and entrepreneur who had interests in financial institutions, insurance companies, industrial sites, and other corporations around the state. As a state legislator Horne was active in the struggle to create North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College (now North Carolina State University) and was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1908. Horne's ownership of the Stallings House was strictly a business proposition. He rented the house and on several occasions leased timber rights for the property to J. A. Vinson.<sup>13</sup> After Horne's death the property continued to be owned by his estate until 1936 when it was purchased by the Goodrich Corporation.<sup>14</sup> In 1938 Henry G. (Pete) Carpenter purchased the house and 294 acres from Goodrich.<sup>15</sup>

Carpenter (1886-1974) continued to farm the land, growing mostly cotton. He married Wake County resident Ella Buffalo in 1910. They had one child, Nolie, who is now married to P. H. Everitte.<sup>16</sup> Carpenter sold the house and nine acres to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Theodore (Ted) Strupler in 1974. Prior to that the house had been vacant for about seven years. Mr. Strupler, a graduate of North Carolina State University, has been an insurance agent in the Raleigh area since 1953. His wife, the former Patricia Lee, is a native of Kansas City, Missouri and was a dress designer in Kansas City and Atlanta. They have been married since 1943 and have three married daughters and five grandchildren. The Struplers are in the process of restoring their home to its antebellum appearance.<sup>17</sup>

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FOOTNOTES --

<sup>1</sup>Johnston County Deed Book L-2, p. 224; Wake County Will Book 19, p. 132. Grady Lee Ernest Carroll, Sr., They Lived in Raleigh: Some Leading Personalities From 1792 to 1892 (Raleigh: n.p., 1977), 83, 139. George Washington Mordecai was Moses Mordecai's half brother. In addition to his legal career George was president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, president of the State Bank of North Carolina and co-founder and first president of Raleigh's Oakwood Cemetery.

<sup>2</sup>Ellen Mordecai, Gleanings From Long Ago (Savannah: Braid and Hutton, 1932), 33.

<sup>3</sup>Johnston County Deed Book W-2, p. 333; Patricia Strupler, "Historical Sketch of Land at the Bend of the River," Unpublished typescript, copy in file, hereinafter cited as Strupler, "Historical Sketch."

<sup>4</sup>Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Johnston County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule. Elizabeth Stallings was listed as 22 in 1850, 33 in 1860, 44 in 1870, and 56 in 1880. The 1900 Census lists her birthday as January 1825. Her husband's birthday was in October, 1822. Her husband's age is consistent from census to census. Twelfth census of the United States, 1900, Johnston County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.

<sup>5</sup>Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Johnston County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule; Strupler, Historical Sketch.

<sup>6</sup>Compiled Service Records of the Confederate Army.

<sup>7</sup>Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Johnston County, North Carolina Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule.

<sup>8</sup>Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Johnston County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule.

<sup>9</sup>Johnston County Tax Lists, 1890-1892, 1897-1898.

<sup>10</sup>Johnston County Will Book 4, p. 397; Johnston County Estates Papers, James B. Stallings.

<sup>11</sup>William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer (Chapel Hill, N.C.: The University of N. C. Press, 1968), 108.

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<sup>12</sup>Johnston County Estates Papers, Bettie Myatt; Johnston County Deed Book X-8, p. 349.

<sup>13</sup>North Carolina Biography, Volumes IV, V, and VI of History of North Carolina by R. D. W. Connor, William Boyd, J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, and others (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 6 volumes, 1919), VI, 88; Johnston County Deed Book D-9, p. 154, Book Y-10, p. 292.

<sup>14</sup>Johnston County Deed Book 352, p. 215.

<sup>15</sup>Johnston County Deed Book 386, p. 203.

<sup>16</sup>Strupler, "Historical Sketch"; News and Observer (Raleigh), April 28, 1974; Telephone interview with Mrs. Nollie Everitte, March 1, 1982, notes in file.

<sup>17</sup>Strupler, "Historical Sketch"; Smithfield Herald, October 14, 1975.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9.22

Quadrangle name Clayton Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UMT References

A 

1	7	7	3	0	0	6	0	3	9	5	2	4	0	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

See plat map outlined in red.

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 Architectural description: E. Virginia Oswald, Survey Specialist  
Significance: Jim Sumner, Researcher

organization Survey and Planning Branch  
Archeology and Historic Preservation date March 23, 1982

Division of Archives and History

street & number 109 East 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 William S. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 8, 1982

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

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National Park Service

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet

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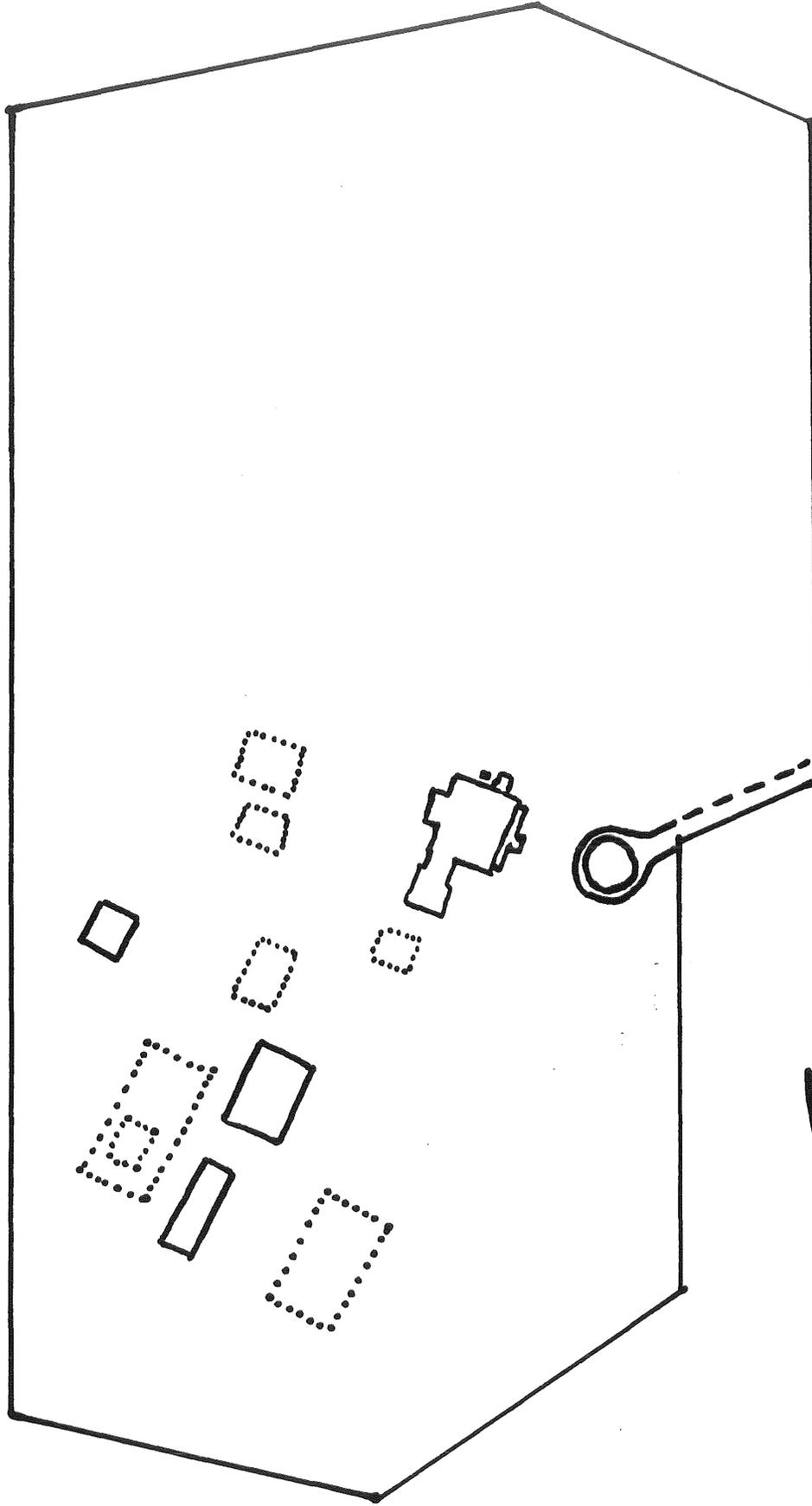
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Wake County Records. Will Books. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

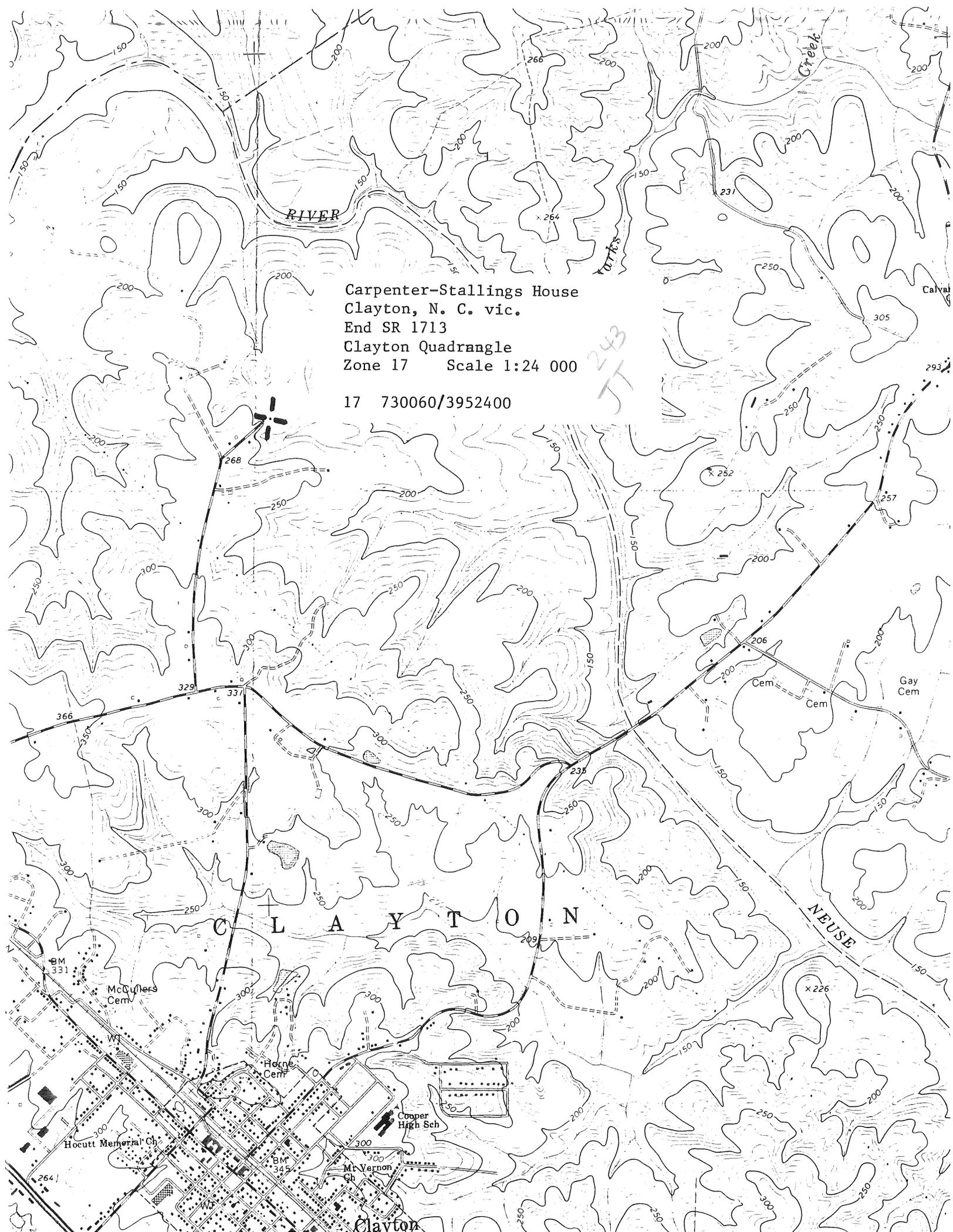


100'

N

- EXISTING BUILDING
- ⋯ SITE OF DEMOLISHED BUILDING

CARPENTER-STALLINGS HOUSE  
JOHNSTON COUNTY



Carpenter-Stallings House  
Clayton, N. C. vic.  
End SR 1713  
Clayton Quadrangle  
Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000

17 730060/3952400

CLAYTON

NEUSE

McCuillers Cem

Hocutt Memorial Ch

Hogne Cem

Cooper High Sch

Mt Vernon Ch

Clayton

BM 331

BM 345

Gay Cem

Cem

Cem

x 226

x 252

x 257

x 264

x 266

x 231

x 305

x 293

243

