

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 "River Daniel" Blue Home

and/or common Highlanders Farm

2. Location

South side of Rural Road No. 1836, .5 miles west of junction with N.C. 22,
street & number Eureka community, McNeills township not for publication

city, town Rt. 4, Carthage X vicinity of old Blue's siding (railroad depot)

state North Carolina code 037 county Moore code 125

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence (has be
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name J. Sam Blue, Sr. (Phone 919 949-2562)

street & number Rt. 4, Box 84

city, town Carthage Hillcrest
vicinity of community state N. C.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds Office, Moore County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Carthage 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

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 checked="" 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

About 1810 an unidentified writer said of the housing stock of Moore County: "The Major part of our buildens are Log Houses—but there a Number of Elegant & commodious buildens in the County, & a taste for improvements in this ways is becoming universal."¹

The abundance of pine trees in the sandhills area of North Carolina made the use of log construction the most expedient and inexpensive. However, as the more "elegant" buildings became popular, many log structures were abandoned or allowed to decay. One of the log houses of this period which has survived is the River Daniel Blue House built ca. 1795. The house derives its name from the Scot settler who purchased it in 1804 and whose descendants have owned it and farmed the surrounding land ever since.

The two-story, gable-roof log house has probably always been weatherboarded. Underneath the hall and parlor with loft log section are pegged, hand-hewn sills supported by lightwood blocks set on large stones. This early expedient construction technique was once widely used due to the availability and durability of the pine logs. Probably soon after the original part was built, a room was added to the south elevation and a shed across the rear. These rooms are finished with wide pine boards, continuing to make use of abundant Moore County lumber. A third building period occurred in 1918 when a kitchen/dining room ell was added, the loft was finished and partitioned, and a sleeping room was added on the second story facade.

The house has two gable-end single, stepped-shoulder chimneys laid in random bond. It is very possible that these were added at a later date as many log buildings originally had stick chimneys. The front facade is three bays wide with a simple central entrance and two windows on either side; however, repair of the interior woodwork of the south room indicates that there may have been a door there at one time. A porch extends across the length of the facade supported by simple square posts. Pilasters define the corners of the front portion of the house. Most of the sash in the house are 9/6 and many of the windows retain their original panes. Surrounds vary with some being very plain while others have projecting corner blocks.

The interior finish varies from room to room. As previously stated the south room and the shed addition are sheathed with wide heart pine boards. The later additions have narrow boarded sheathing. The upstairs rooms were sheathed in 1918. Until then family members recalled the exposed logs.

The downstairs mantels are simple post and lintel, perhaps added in 1918. The upstairs mantel has an upper and lower shelf separated by a plain frieze. Two slender colonnettes supporting the lower shelf rise from a square base.

The stair which rises from the center hall is composed of square balusters and a molded handrail anchored by a square newel post. It rises to a landing, makes a ninety degree turn, rises to a second landing and makes another ninety degree turn before rising to the second floor.

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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 1

Several notable outbuildings exist on the property. One is known in the family as the "old kichen" but was most likely never really used as a kitchen since it lacks a fireplace and chimney. One family member recalled when the old kitchen was torn down. The present building is board and batten and was partitioned in later years for use as a tenant house. The sash is 9/6 and the surround has the same corner block as some of those on the house. The other outbuilding near the house is a one-room log structure with v-notching and a dirt floor. Also on the property is a small frame building which was once used as a depot by the rail line which ran through the property and was used to ship turpentine.

Though the house is empty now, it was occupied by the present owner's mother until her death in 1980. The Blues live in a brick ranch adjacent to the log house, but they hope one day to see the home place occupied again either by themselves or by one of their children.

Footnote:

¹A. R. Newsome, ed., "Twelve North Carolina Counties," North Carolina Historical Review VI (January, 1929): 285.

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 checked="" 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/
<input checked="" 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)

Specific dates ca. 1795 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The River Daniel Blue House in Moore County is a weatherboarded log structure with later additions and changes indicative of the house's evolution. Built ca. 1795, it has been owned by Blues since 1804 having been bought in that year by Daniel Blue. The house, with its heart pine interiors, pegged log sills, and twentieth century additions is one of a few surviving log houses of the period and is a study in the architectural development of an early structure. Along with the farm, it represents an ever decreasing number of farmsteads maintained and operated by successive generations of the same family.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the farm economy of North Carolina which played such an important part in the state's economic development; and with the immigration of the Scots Highlanders into the Sandhills region.
- B. Associated with River Daniel Blue, an early successful Scot settler in the region and with his descendants, who have continued to farm the land.
- C. Representative of early log structure and indicative of the evolution of such a structure.
- D. Likely to yield important historical data.

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Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 1

The "River" Daniel Blue House takes its name from the progenitor of the family that has owned it since 1804. The house, however, appears to have been built about a decade earlier by a Presbyterian licentiate named John Warner. Warner arrived in Moore County in the early 1790s and bought a tract of land from Jason Wadsworth who owned over 500 acres on McDeeds (later Wads) Creek in the Lower Little River basin.¹ Warner built his two-story log house northeast of Wadsworth's home and was residing there in 1800.² In 1804 he sold the house to Daniel Blue, Sr., when, according to the Blue family tradition, he was called to the pastorate of Friendship Church and moved to be closer to his congregation.³

Daniel Blue, Sr., known as "River" Daniel Blue to distinguish him from other Daniel Blues in Moore County, had recently immigrated to Moore County from the Isle of Jura in Scotland with his wife Christian and several small children.⁴ Almost immediately the family affiliated with Union Presbyterian Church in which "River" Daniel served as a ruling elder for forty years.⁵ By 1815 he owned the house and 250 acres valued at \$250 which at that time earned him a comfortable and respectable status in Moore County society.⁶

Though Moore County was primarily a land of small, non-slaveholding, independent farmers in the early years of the nineteenth century, there were some prosperous settlers who tended to locate in the northern section and on the fertile bottom lands along Little River, Nick's Creek, Cain Creek, and McDeed's (Wad's) Creek.⁷ A contemporary writer described the society in 1810:

We have not many that may be truly said to be men of Wealth, we have considerable /sic/ Numbers in affluent, and still more in easy circumstances, but take us in the aggregate, and we may be considered in that Medicum, that neither feels the fettering trammels of Indigence; nor the Licentious freedom of pampered Wealth--but we have Surely more below than above Mediocrity.⁸

Within this descriptive framework, "River" Daniel Blue started out in "easy circumstances" and built up to "affluent" if not a position of "wealth." In 1815, he owned 250 acres valued at \$250, but by 1836 he had expanded his farm to 800 acres, growing primarily corn, cotton, and wheat. In a letter to his brother, Blue stated, "cotton is the only article we raise for market, its price at this time is seventeen dollars per hundred--wheat is from ten to twelve shillings per bu. corn 75 cents . . ." From Blue's own words, a glimpse of his home life in 1836 can also be captured:

I endeavor now to let you know the circumstances of myself and my family, as to myself I enjoy as good health as I could expect /66 years old/. My youngest daughter Sarah lives with me and one black woman and five children, and one black man which furnish me with the necessaries of this life. . . .

By the late 1840s, "River" Daniel's health had declined and he went to live with his daughter Mary and her husband Kenneth Black in the vicinity of Union Church. He died there in 1858 at the age of eighty-eight and was buried in the church cemetery.¹⁰

"River" Daniel's only surviving son, Daniel Blue II (1804-1882), moved into the homeplace and established it as the center of his large estate. By 1850 he owned 1,050 acres of land but only had 100 acres in cultivation. He continued his father's agricultural pursuits while adding a sizable livestock operation consisting largely of hogs

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and sheep. He had married a relative, Annie Blue, and they produced eight children.¹¹ The large family and growing prosperity possibly prompted enlargement of the home by Daniel Blue II, but it seems certain that the house took on many of its present characteristics during the occupancies of "River" Daniel Blue and his son.

The Blue family's continuous ownership and occupancy of the house has just entered its 179th year. The present owner, J. Sam Blue, Sr., is the great, great grandson of "River" Daniel Blue. Four successive generations have preserved the agricultural heritage begun by the immigrant father.¹² Tobacco was a later addition to the traditional crops of corn, cotton, and grains, and a turpentine industry evolved for a brief period in the late nineteenth century. To help the local farmers get the turpentine to market, a railroad from Carthage to Pinehurst was constructed, the tracks of which passed through the Blue property. A siding, called "Blue's Siding," allowed residents along Wad's Creek to take advantage of the rail service until it was discontinued in the early 1900s.¹³

Nineteenth century farm complexes usually were complemented by a number of outbuildings. Of particular interest on the Blue farm is the house now used for storage that stands parallel to the oldest portion of the main house. It appears architecturally to have been built about the same time, and while its original function cannot be positively established, it was converted to a kitchen when the original one (stood behind the main house) burned. It served in that capacity until 1918 when John William Blue, the present owner's father, constructed an L addition, containing a kitchen and dining room, to the main house.¹⁴

The Blue House today stands as a representative of the transition of Moore County society from frontier to the modern age. Built when the county was barely a decade old, the structure embodies the change and evolution of a farmhouse as it approaches two centuries of continuous occupancy. For nearly 180 of those years, the farm has been worked by the Blue family and land use patterns have changed very little. The "River" Daniel Blue House links past and present in unbroken continuity, providing a historical context seen rarely in present day North Carolina.

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FOOTNOTES

¹A copy of the original deed from Warner to Daniel Blue is in the possession of the Sam Blue family, current owners of the house. See Mrs. Sam Blue, "The Family of River Daniel Blue and Christian Lamonds Blue" (typescript, 1977), 1, hereinafter cited as Blue, "River Daniel Blue Family." For Wadsworth's holdings, see Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, Deed Book C, 81; and land grants to Jason Wadsworth listed in Rassie E. Wicker, Miscellaneous Ancient Records of Moore County, N.C. (Aberdeen: Moore County Historical Association, 1971), 81, 83, 91, 109, 110, hereinafter cited as Wicker, Miscellaneous Ancient Records. Moore County was cut from Cumberland in 1784. A major courthouse fire in the 1880s destroyed the early Moore County deeds; consequently, Wadsworth may have owned more land than indicated.

²Rassie E. Wicker, Miscellaneous Ancient Records, 124, 335; Blue, "River Daniel Blue Family," 1; and Second Census of the United States, 1800: North Carolina, Moore County, Population Schedule, 44. Census records hereinafter cited by number, date, schedule, and page. John Warner did not appear in Moore County in the 1790 census but was then a resident of Cumberland County.

³Blue, "River Daniel Blue Family," 1.

⁴Three daughters and a son were born in Scotland. The son died in the crossing. A second son, Daniel II, was born aboard ship, according to the tradition, but the census records list him as being born in North Carolina. See Blue, "River Daniel Blue Family," 1; and Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, 166.

⁵Douglas F. Kelly, The Scottish Blue Family From Carolina to Texas (Privately printed, 1982), 232-233, hereinafter cited as Kelly, The Scottish Blue Family; and Blackwell P. Robinson, A History of Moore County, North Carolina 1747-1847 (Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Association, 1956), 171, 173, hereinafter cited as Robinson, Moore County History.

⁶Wicker, Miscellaneous Ancient Records, 465.

⁷Robinson, Moore County History, 136; and Wicker, Miscellaneous Ancient Records, 475.

⁸Author unknown. Quoted in A. R. Newsome, "Twelve North Carolina Counties in 1810-1811." The North Carolina Historical Review, VI (July, 1929), 285.

⁹Letter dated April 14, 1836. Original in papers of John Sam Blue of Eureka. Quoted in Kelly, The Scottish Blue Family, 234-236.

¹⁰Blue, "River Daniel Blue Family," 1, 2.

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¹¹Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, 166; Agricultural Schedule, Daniel Blue; and Kelly, The Scottish Blue Family, 233, 235.

¹²Blue, "River Daniel Blue Family," 2-5.

¹³Wicker, Miscellaneous Ancient Records, 335; and Blue, "River Daniel Blue Family," 2.

¹⁴Data provided by J. Sam Blue, Sr. See notes in "River" Daniel Blue Home, Moore County files, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property + 178 acres

Quadrangle name Carthage

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	6	4	2	7	4	0	3	9	0	4	5	8	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

B

1	7	6	4	2	8	0	0	3	9	0	5	9	4	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

C

1	7	6	4	3	6	2	0	3	9	0	5	9	0	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

D

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

See Continuation Sheet.

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 JoAnn Williford, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History;
Jerry L. Cross, Research Branch, Division of Archives and History

organization Division of Archives and History date April 14, 1983

street & number 109 East Jones Street telephone 919 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina

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. King, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 2, 1983

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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Continuation sheet BIBLIOGRAPHY Item number 9 Page 1

- Blue, Mrs. Sam. "The Family of River Daniel Blue and Christian Lammonds Blue." Typescript, 1977.
- Corbitt, David Leroy. The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950.
- Cumberland County Deed Books. Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville.
- Kelly, Douglas F. The Scottish Blue Family From Carolina to Texas. Privately printed, 1982.
- Moore County files. "River" Daniel Blue House. Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
- Newsome, A. R. "Twelve North Carolina Counties in 1810-1811." The North Carolina Historical Review, VI (July, 1929), 281-309.
- Robinson, Blackwell P. A History of Moore County, North Carolina 1747-1847. Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Association, 1956.
- United States Census Records, 1790-1850. Moore County, North Carolina.
- Wicker, Rassic E. Miscellaneous Ancient Records of Moore County, N. C. Aberdeen: Moore County Historical Association, 1971.

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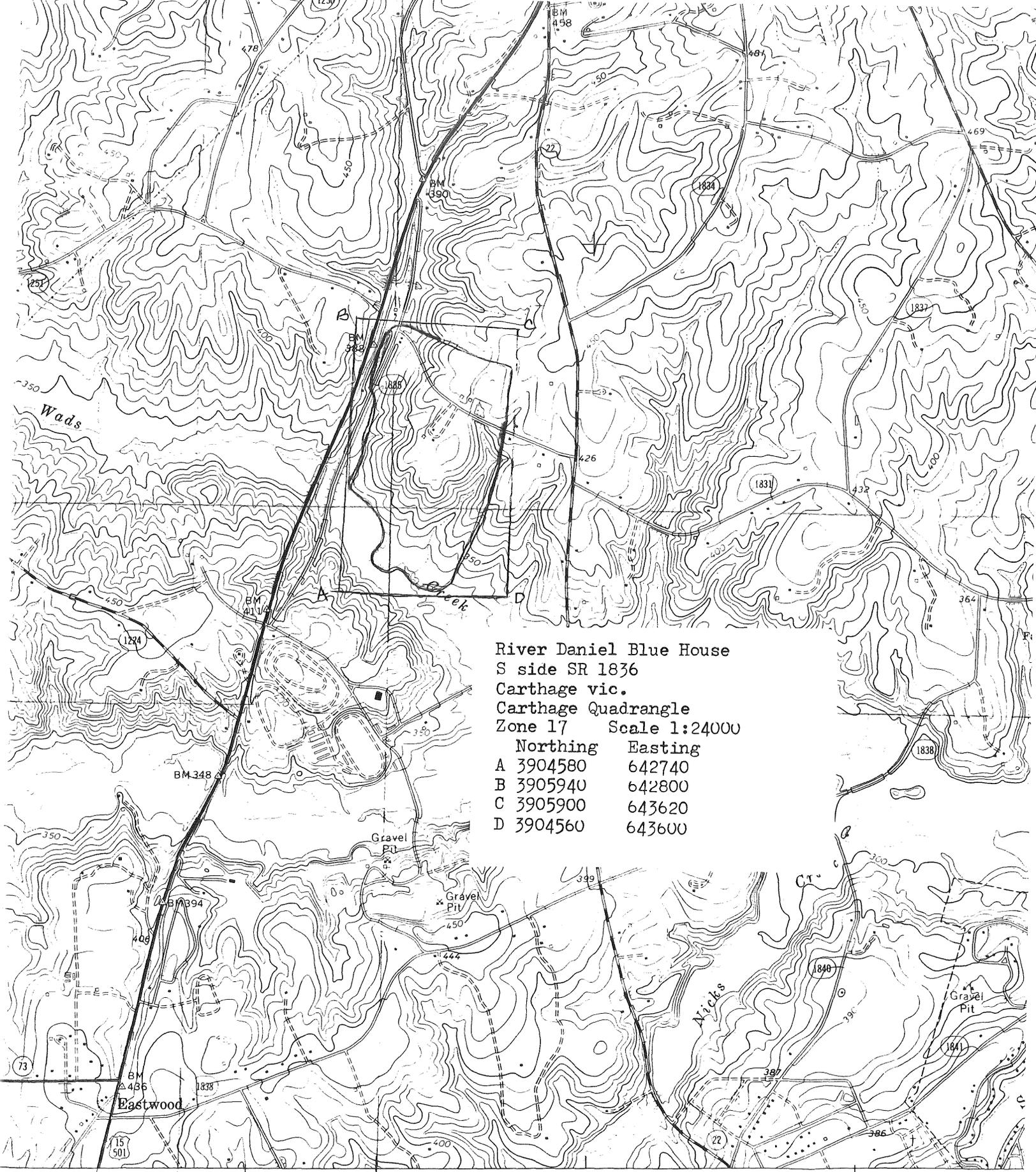
date entered

Continuation sheet Verbal boundary description Item number 10

Page 1

The nominated property is believed to be that tract of land purchased by Daniel Blue in 1804.

Beginning at a stake two pine pointers S. D. Blue's corner and a corner of 200 acres; running thence with the line of two hundred acres S. 20 W 45 chains to its corner by a hickory pointer, thence with S. D. line S. 22 West 6.75 chains to his corner; thence with his line S 37 W 3.25 chains to a white oak and pointers, S.D. Blue's corner on bank of Wads Creek; thence up the channel of Wads Creek to the mount of Dry Fork Creek thence up the channel of Dry Fork Creek to the line of the 200 acre tract; thence with the line S 70 E to the beginning. Containing 178 acres more or less. Registered in Deed Book 98 at page 519 which said deed is duly recorded in the Office of Register of Deeds for Moore County.

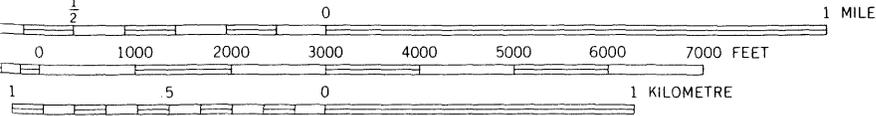


River Daniel Blue House
 S side SR 1836
 Carthage vic.
 Carthage Quadrangle
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24000

	Northing	Easting
A	3904580	642740
B	3905940	642800
C	3905900	643620
D	3904560	643600

ERDEEN 9 MI | (SOUTHERN PINES) | 643 | 644 25' | 645 | 646

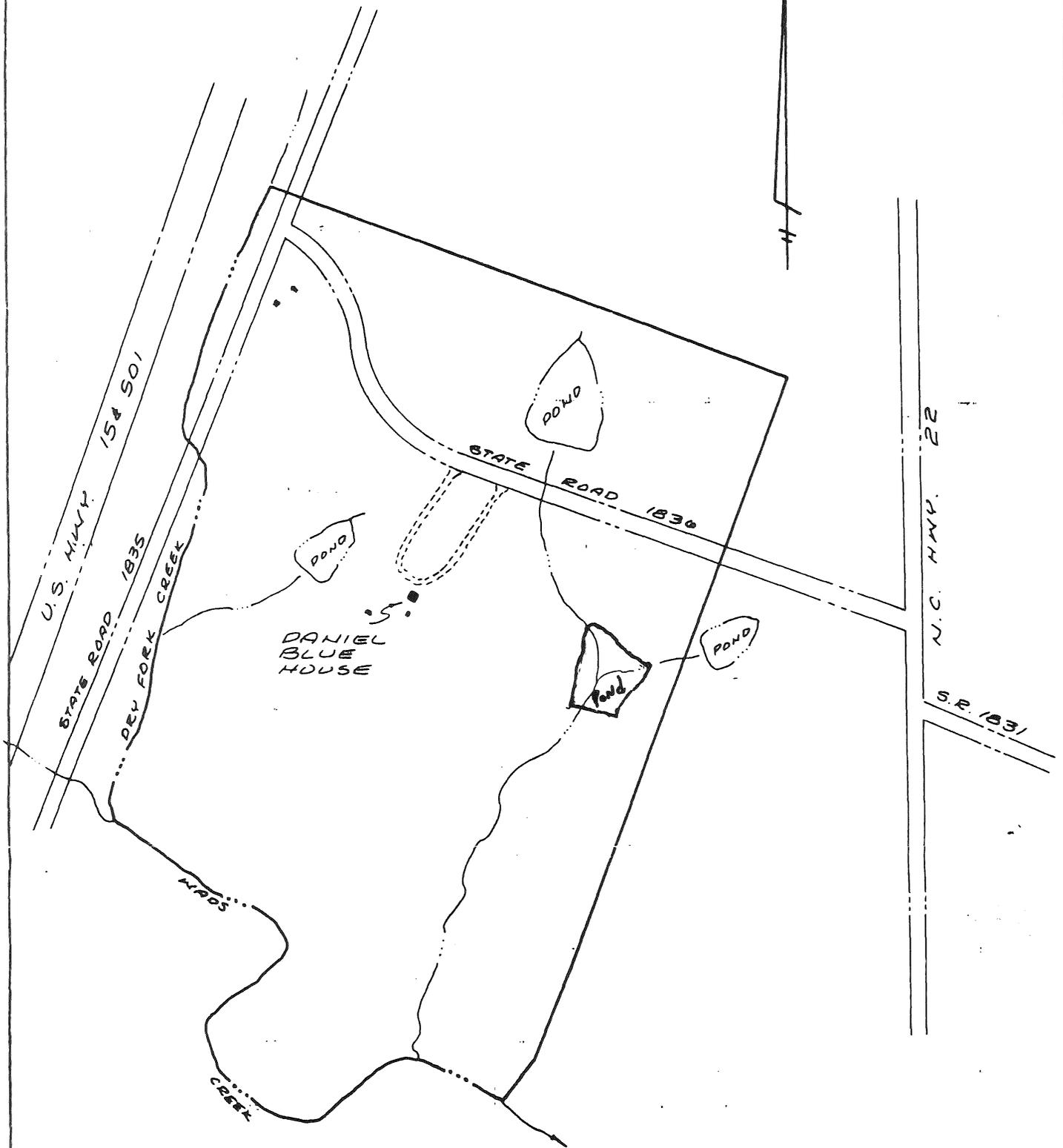
SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

Primary highwa
 hard surface
 Secondary high
 hard surface
 Interst:

REFERENCE: DEED BOOK 98, PAGE 519, 178 AC. TGT.
MOORE COUNTY, REGISTRY.



PLAT SHOWING
DANIEL BLUE HOME & PROPERTY
MCNEILLS TOWNSHIP, MOORE COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA
MAPPED FROM DEEDS & AERIA PHOTOS
MARCH 7, 1983 SCALE ~ 1" = 660'
C.H. BLUE & ASSOC., SOUTHERN PINES, N.C.

