

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 Bradley-Latimer Summer House

and or common

2. Location

street & number S. side SR 1411, 0.1 mile E. of jct. _____ not for publication
with US 76, Airlie vic

city, town Wrightsville Beach -X vicinity of Airlie

state North Carolina code 37 county New Hanover County code 129

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name James C. Fox, Jr.

street & number 220 Airlie Road

city, town Wrightsville Beach _____ vicinity of _____ state N.C. 28480

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 314 Princess Street

city, town Wilmington _____ state N. C. 28401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title New Hanover County Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date early 1970s _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office
N. C. Department of Cultural Resources

city, town Raleigh _____ state N. C. 27611

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

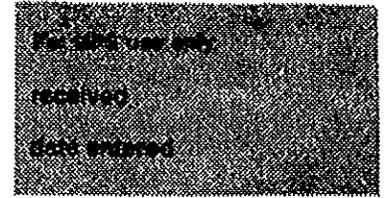
The Bradley-Latimer Summer House, situated in a grove of moss-draped oaks on a slope of ground overlooking Bradley Creek in the vicinity of Airlie Gardens, is a picturesque, two-story, hipped-roof dwelling, built circa 1855, three bays wide by two bays deep, with a broad, one-story veranda encompassing the entire structure. The dominant feature of the exterior is the massive solidity of the main block, lightened considerably by the airy character of the porch. Square posts and balustrades, beaded ceiling boards and wide tongue-and-groove floors constitute original features of the porch. Wide, 11 1/2" to-the-weather siding, plain edge corner boards and boxed eaves form the original features of the main block. Window and door openings have simple surrounds with six-over-six sash containing many original crown glass panes. Modifications done in 1934 and 1970 have not destroyed the integrity of the house.

As originally designed, the house had an open first story breezeway on the north-south axis, fifteen feet wide and thirty feet deep. The breezeway was enclosed, according to tradition about 1860-1870 by the installation of French doors at the south end, a four panel door flanked by triple sections of sidelights at the north end and blind transoms. Support for this period of construction is evidenced by the style of moldings in the panels beneath the sidelights. Similar moldings are found in Wilmington houses built just prior to the Civil War, such as the Oscar G. Parsley House, (1857), at 224 South Third Street. The original stair rises in a single run along the west wall of the hall and continues from the second story to the attic. Square newel posts, rounded-top railing and square pickets compose the contiguous balustrading. At the second level, the floor joists adjacent to the stair well are suspended by three round, iron rods. Similarly, the ceiling beams are supported by iron straps tied into the superstructure. This may have been an attempt by the early builder to render the structure storm proof or a modification of the framing at the time the lower hall was enclosed. The stair from the second level to the attic is not original but was installed by Herbert Latimer in 1934.

The house is two rooms deep with interior fireplaces in the south rooms at the first and second levels. The two original chimney stacks rise through the transverse walls and emerge from the steep roof midway between the eaves and ridge. An original, very simple Greek Revival style mantel, with side lintel, plain pilasters and angled cornice, is in the dining room at the southeast corner of the house. Other mantels in the parlor and bedrooms, installed in 1934, contain paneled architraves and molded fire openings. The hall fireplaces, also installed in 1934 when a third chimney was built, are modern. A new kitchen occupies the northeast corner of the first floor; the west side is given over to the parlor, master bedroom and bath. Floors throughout the house are original wide, tongue-and-groove pine. Walls

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Continuation sheet DESCRIPTION Item number 7 Page 1

and ceilings are plaster and were restored in 1970. The interior doors have a six-panel configuration and are double-leafed at the first level. These, together with chairrails in the first story rooms, were added in 1970.

The second floor consists of three bedrooms and a study, with closets and interconnecting baths between the chambers. A sleeping porch, enclosed on three sides by glass panels, occupies the south central bay of the house, supported by the porch framing and accessible from the upper hall. This room, installed in the 1970s, commands a fine view of the salt marshes, creek and sounds leading to the Atlantic Ocean and creates an aesthetically appealing contrast to the sheltering, enclosed effect of the first story veranda. All the bathrooms were originally installed in the 1930s and refitted with new fixtures in the 1970s. Closets also date to the 1930s.

The attic is a large, open space, with heavy, frame-sawn timbers and narrow, tongue-and-groove flooring, installed when the space was finished in the 1930s. The broad chimney stacks give evidence of having been repaired and rebuilt as a result of periodic storms, but are in character with robust, simple work found throughout the remainder of the structure.

The basement, containing a storage area beneath the north porch and a furnace room beneath the northwest rooms, was excavated in the 1930s. Brick piers supporting the heavy, framesawn house and porch framing, have been rebuilt in some areas and repointed and painted in others. Between the porch piers are wooden lattice grilles.

There are no outbuildings on 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Recreation |
| Specific dates | 1855 | Builder/Architect | unknown | |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bradley-Latimer Summer House, built circa 1855, is a rare surviving example of the unpretentious and commodious sound houses built by wealthy residents of Wilmington during the mid-nineteenth century. The two-story, hipped-roof dwelling, three bays wide and two bays deep, features a broad, one-story veranda encompassing the entire structure and originally had a wide, open breezeway through the center of the house. The house is situated on a knoll overlooking Bradley Creek, amidst a grove of towering, moss-draped oak trees in the vicinity of Airlie Gardens.

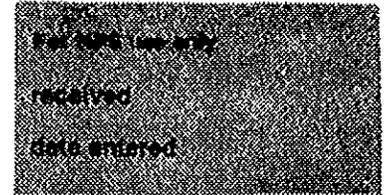
CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

A. The Bradley-Latimer Summer House was built during a period before the Civil War when the properties along the sounds near Wilmington were changing from farming, salt production and lumbering uses, to quiet summer retreats of prominent Wilmingtonians. It is associated with the development of the North Carolina sounds as summer resorts by wealthy eastern North Carolina families.

C. The house is an early survivor of a type and style of dwelling which incorporated a central breezeway and wraparound porches, and retains its original character despite periodic alterations, principally the enclosure of the breezeway, the addition of a sun room above the center of the south porch, the installation of new fireplaces and bathrooms in the 1930s, and a rehabilitation of the house in the 1970s.

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Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 1

The Bradley-Latimer Summer House is a rare surviving example of the large, unpretentious and commodious summer places built by wealthy residents of Wilmington along Greenville, Masonboro and Wrightsville. Sounds during the mid-nineteenth century.¹ It is significant both for its vernacular style and for its association with families important in the social and commercial development of the region.²

In 1808, Richard Bradley, (1769-1834), president of the Bank of Cape Fear, manufacturer and importer of salt, and partner in the mercantile company of John and Richard Bradley, purchased sixty-five acres of land on the north side of Lee (later Bradley) Creek from his³ brother-in-law, Joshua Grainer Wright, for the sum of five shillings. During the next fifteen years Bradley purchased more land along the marshes, mostly for the purpose of producing salt, but it was here on the north bank of Lee's Creek, away from the swarms of mosquitoes suffered elsewhere, that he built a summer residence in a colony populated by his peers.⁴ Bradley died of "dropsy of the chest" on March 30, 1834, leaving part of his estate to his daughter Eliza Hill, part to his son Richard, Jr., and the remainder,⁵ including the proceeds from a grist mill, to his widow Eliza.

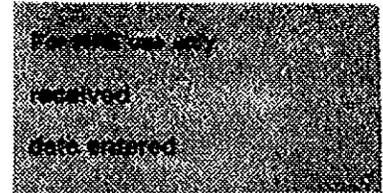
Eliza Bradley died in 1854, leaving the property to her son Richard, Jr., (1811-1892). It is thought that he built this house after acquiring title to the property. He was a partner in the Savannah lumber milling business of W. B. Giles and Company prior to and after the Civil War.⁶ In 1853, Bradley joined with friends to organize the Carolina Yacht Club,⁷ second only to the New York Yacht Club in age on the Atlantic coast.⁸ He became the first Commodore of the Carolina Yacht Club in 1858.

In 1855, Richard Bradley, Jr. sold the property, consisting of nine acres, together with a dwelling house,⁹ kitchen and outbuilding, which he had probably built shortly before, to Zebulon Latimer, (1810-1881), partner in the dry goods firm of William and Zebulon Latimer, director of the Commercial Bank of Wilmington and the Bank of Cape Fear, and president of the Wilmington Gas Company.¹⁰ The price paid for the property was \$3,500.00 and the deed contained reference to the structures on the site, as well as a plat showing boundaries, access road and building thereon. The framed plat is preserved in the house to this day.

The property remained in the Latimer family for the next hundred and fifteen years, passing to Zebulon's son, Herbert Russell Latimer, (1861-1887), and Herbert's son, Herbert Russell Latimer, Jr., (1885-1966), both prominent Wilmington businessmen.

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Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 2

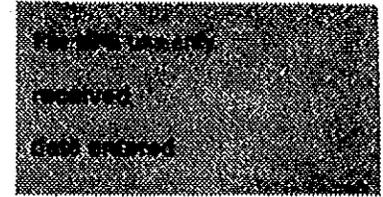
Herbert, Jr. was graduated from Princeton University in 1908, and Columbia University, in 1911. He joined the British Army during World War I, serving as Captain and was decorated at Buckingham Palace with the Victoria Cross.¹¹ In 1970, Mrs. Sara Latimer, widow of Herbert, Jr., conveyed the house and four acres of land to Louis K. Newton, a Wilmington attorney, who undertook a careful renovation of the dwelling.¹² Newton sold the place to James C. Fox, Jr., in 1979.¹³

Together with the lovely rural setting of Airlie Road, the Adjacent Airlie Gardens, the historic Mt. Lebanon Chapel, (1835) nearby and the quiet repose of Bradley Creek, the Bradley-Latimer Summer House preserves the character of mid-nineteenth century life which has become evanescent elsewhere in the region because of widespread development.

The period of significance continues from the date of construction of the house, ca. 1855, to ca. 1870 in order to encompass the enclosure of the breezeway by the first generation of the Latimer family and to reflect the mid-nineteenth century period during which the changeover from the use of sounds for income production to recreation occurred.

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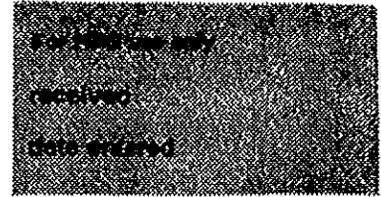
Page 3

FOOTNOTES.

1. McKoy, Elizabeth F., Early New Hanover County Records. (Wilmington, North Carolina, 1973).
2. Hall, Louis Philip, Land of the Golden River, Volume 1: Old Times on the Seacoast, 1526 to 1970. (Wilmington, North Carolina, 1975).
3. New Hanover County Register of Deeds Office, Wilmington, North Carolina, Book O, page 290.
4. Williams, Isabel M. and Leora H. McEachern, Salt - That Necessary Article. (Wilmington, North Carolina, 1973);
Interview with Mrs. Haskell Rhett, Wilmington, December 1985.
5. People's Press and Wilmington Advertiser, obituary, April 2, 1834;
New Hanover County Courthouse, Wilmington, North Carolina, Will Book AB, page 291.
6. Wilmington Star, newspaper, obituary, April 19, 1892.
7. Hall, op.cit.
8. Ibid.
9. Wrenn, Tony P. and William Edmund Barrett, Wilmington, North Carolina: An Architectural and Historical Portrait. (Charlottesville, Virginia, 1984).
10. New Hanover County Register of Deeds Office, Wilmington, North Carolina, Book MM, page 438.
11. Latimer family papers, Ida Brooks Kellam Archives, Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, Wilmington, North Carolina.
12. New Hanover County Register of Deeds Office, Wilmington, North Carolina, Book 895, page 600.
13. New Hanover County Register of Deeds Office, Wilmington, North Carolina, Book 1158, page 1558.

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Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Hall, Louis Philip, Land of the Golden River, Volume 1: Old Times on the Seacoast, 1526 to 1970. (Wilmington, North Carolina, 1975).

McKoy, Elizabeth F., Early New Hanover County Records. (Wilmington, North Carolina, 1973).

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Wilmington Star, newspaper, obituary, April 19, 1892.

Wrenn, Tony P. and William Edmund Barrett, Wilmington, North Carolina: An Architectural and Historical Portrait (Charlottesville, Virginia, 1984).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.3 acres

Quadrangle name Wrightsville Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property, 4.3 acres in size, with access to Airlie Road, is shown on the accompanying plat map with boundaries outlined in red.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward F. Turberg, Restoration Consultant

organization Contractor for New Hanover County date February 19, 1986

street & number 307 North Fifteenth Street telephone (919) 762-6301

city or town Wilmington state NC 28401

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. Frie, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 29, 1987

For NPS use only

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

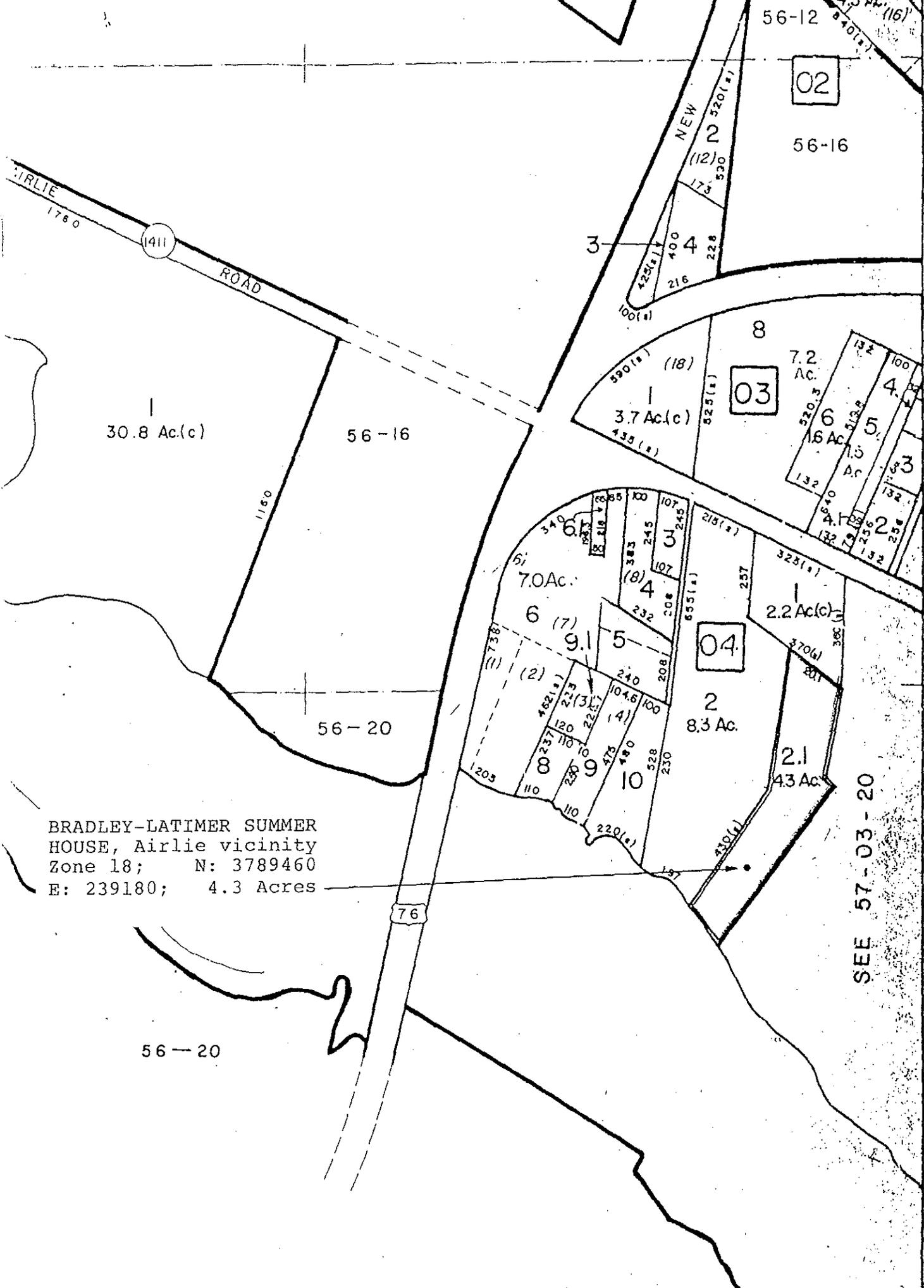
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



30.8 Ac.(c)

56-16

56-16

7.2 AC.

3.7 Ac.(c)

16 Ac.

7.0 Ac.

8.3 Ac.

2.2 Ac.(c)

2.1 Ac.

4.3 Ac.

BRADLEY-LATIMER SUMMER
 HOUSE, Airlie vicinity
 Zone 18; N: 3789460
 E: 239180; 4.3 Acres

SEE 57-03-20

56-20