

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

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

1. Name

historic Alfred Dockery House

and or common

2. Location

street & number East side SR 1005, 0.1 mi south of jet with SR 1143 not for publication

city, town Rockingham X vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Richmond code 153

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input 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 Mr. and Mrs. James Pickett Leak III Mr. Robert E. Leak

street & number Box 421-A, Route 3 3301 Landor Road, Raleigh N.C.

city, town Rockingham N.C. state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richmond County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rockingham 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 checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

An oak-lined drive leads to the house, which stands amid magnolias and other plantings. The two-story, hipped roof structure presents a perfectly symmetrical five bay, front (southwest) facade laid in Flemish bond. The current brick stoop and second-level wrought iron balcony are later replacements of an original two-tier porch. Nine-over-nine sash windows surmounted by lintels with plain cornerblocks retain their apparently original louvered blinds. The house rests on a brick foundation.

Entries on both levels of the primary facade are identical, composed of handsome double-leaf doors flanked by sidelights and surmounted by multi-paned transoms recessed in heavy fluted and crosseted surrounds. Both entries exhibit paneled soffits and reveals. Crowning the house and emphasizing the straightforward elegance of the primary facade is a fine entablature featuring the triglyphs, guttae and metopes of formal Doric design.

Interior end chimneys pierce the low hip roof on the northwest and southeast elevations, both two bays wide with nine-over-nine sash on both levels. Adjoining the house on the rear (northeast) elevation are two ells which, like the side elevations, are laid in a combination common and Flemish bond. The consistency of bonding patterns, finish, and form indicate that the ells were likely original. A clearly defined seam in the exterior brick, as well as an obvious change in the quality of finish, in the south ell indicate that an addition (kitchen) was made, probably sometime in the 19th century, creating an asymmetry to the south ell. The once-open space between the ells was also enclosed, probably also during the 19th century.

Family tradition holds that Alfred Dockery built his house between 1827 and 1830. However, physical evidence on the interior of the house seems to support a slightly later date of construction, possibly ca. 1840. Interior finishes illustrate what appear to be two major early periods of finish. This is most evident in the hall, living room, and dining room, where fairly simple early finishes had been enhanced by the addition of fanciful decorative work. The character of this work indicates that the changes were made fairly early. Alfred Dockery was at the height of his political and economic success in the years of the 1830s through 1850s. Perhaps it is reasonable to assume the elaboration of his house coincided with these years of his success and the changes were reflections of the family's status among the planter elite.

The interior of the house, by then in disrepair, underwent a sympathetic restoration in 1951. Changes made at that time involved modernization of bathrooms and kitchen, replacement of the dining room mantel, installation of chair rail, and the replacement of rear hall door and window surrounds. These modifications in no way detract from the overall integrity or significance of the original and early form and finishes, which were carefully retained throughout.

The interior of the main block of the house follows a center hall plan. A simple but graceful paneled, open string stair rises in the hall from front to rear, forming a landing along the rear wall before turning upward to the second floor. A large nine-over-nine sash window lights the landing. The stair's balusters are plain and square and the rounded handrail terminates in a simple scroll curve with no newel. Bespeaking the elaboration of the original finish are delicate carved brackets decorating the stair

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ends and recalling a popular design by 19th century craftsman Owen Biddle, whose book The Young Carpenter's Assistant (1810) was a popular source for building in the mid-19th century. A fine plaster ceiling medallion of circles enclosing a floral border and center design completes the finish of the main hall.

Flanking the hall on the right is the present living room, entered from the hall through an original six-panel door with (possibly) original hardware. Centered on the southeast wall is a very simple but typical Greek Revival post and lintel mantel. Six flat-panel doors and nine-over-nine windows are set in heavy crosseted surrounds; flat panels appear above the doors and below each window. The windows are recessed, with paneled soffits and reveals. All of these rather unelaborate elements, as well as wide molded baseboards, recall what seems to have been the original (or very early) character of the house. Simple though well-executed, this finish was quite consistent with the era of the house's supposed construction.

The highlight of the living room is an array of fine plasterwork ornamentation, again illustrating the elaboration of original finishes. An ornate cornice encircles the room and its design employs a variation, a local interpretation, of the classical Greek anthemion. Tracing the room on the ceiling are plaster moldings which accent each corner with an elongated diamond-type design. Crowning the room is a formal ceiling medallion which displays a combination of Greek motifs, again liberally interpreted, using grapes and leaves as a border with a central design of anthemia, or alternately open and closed buds. The medallion, along with much of the rest of this room, was damaged somewhat by fire in the late 1950s, but the plasterwork was exquisitely repaired.

Flanking the central hall opposite the living room is the dining room. Here again, plain crosseted surrounds, paneled overdoors, and wide baseboards reminiscent of the original period coexist with a fanciful array of later ornamentation. Remarkably similar to the decoration of the living room, the ceiling medallion, ceiling trim, and cornice are only slightly different here, though the overall feeling is one of complete consistency. Unlike the living room, however, the dining room fireplace is formal and Colonial Revival in nature; it was apparently installed, along with the chairrail which appears throughout the house, during the 1951 restoration.

The high quality of the plaster work in the living room, dining room, and stair hall contributes a great deal to the overall architectural importance of the house. The skilled craftsmanship, use of formal details with obvious individual interpretations, and consistency of design elements give the work a stylistic and aesthetic appeal which provides a significant focus to a house already rich in architectural interest.

The secondary first floor rooms, in the two ells, include the modern kitchen, a bedroom and bath in the north ell and a den, bedroom (formerly a kitchen), and furnace room in the south ell. Although the finish of these rooms is entirely different from that in the main rooms, it is consistent and appropriate. The den, adjacent to the living room, has a small fireplace with plain mantel, typical Greek Revival molded

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door and window surrounds with cornerblocks, and a simple narrow cornice. An original six-panel door leads from here into a curious space finished with a sub-level floor, rough plaster walls, and a vented interior window. Now used as a furnace room, this space may originally have been a storage pantry. At the rear of the south ell is a former kitchen, now a bedroom. Roughly finished, the room is dominated by a massive, walk-in size fireplace. Portions of this room have been partitioned for a modern bath and closets.

In the north ell, adjacent to the dining room, is a modern kitchen. An original six flat-panel door indicates this room may have served as a plantation office or for some similar use. A fine, partially enclosed paneled stair, with simple but well-executed applied brackets, runs up the northwest wall and leads to the second floor. Adjoining the kitchen at the rear of the north ell are a bathroom and bedroom which repeat the typical Greek Revival finish of the rear ells.

A center hall was created by enclosure of the former courtyard between the ells. Six panel, double doors encased in a crosseted frame lead from this hall into the rear of the front stair hall. Along the interior walls of the rear hall are ghostmarks of earlier, probably original, doors and windows, all with the frames, proportions, and cornerblocks of openings found throughout the rest of the two ells. During the 1951 restoration, all of these frames were replaced copies of the crosseted ones found in the front of the house; some of the replacements were made from old wood salvaged from area buildings.

Upstairs the house features two large bedrooms flanking the central hall. A modern bath was installed at the head of the stairs across the entry to the second level exterior balcony. Both bedrooms exhibit the same Greek Revival finishes as the secondary rooms below, though the cornerblocks, door and window moldings vary just slightly from room to room upstairs. In general, the rooms are simply finished and have retained remarkable integrity, as has the entire house.

A modern brick well house and studio apartment are the only outbuildings now associated with the house. Prior to the 1951 restoration, whatever original outbuildings then remaining were apparently removed.

A reconnaissance level archaeological survey of the immediate environs of the extant structure was conducted by a staff historic archaeologist of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Several archaeological features relating to the house and the operation of the plantation were discovered as a result of this investigation. Although not all the available resources were located, a sufficient number were found to indicate the presence of intact archaeological remains which should be considered.

Surface indications of two features were located in the rear yard of the house. A small square depression was located 22 feet from the present rear door of the house and three feet from the present well house. The location and configuration of this

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feature, combined with informant information, suggests that the depression is the surface indication of an early well. A second depression was located 80 feet east of the southeast corner of the house. The location and configuration of this feature suggests the presence of the remains of an outbuilding. A surface scatter of early-to-mid-19th-century artifacts was found in a field 80 feet to the south of the house. The majority of the material noted was kitchen debris and may represent primary deposition of material from the house.

The remains of a water powered mill were located 800 feet northwest of the structure, which oral tradition ascribes to a cotton gin. The visible remains consist of a brick and stone machinery mount and a small brick and stone foundation. Both the mount and the foundation exhibit evidence of two building periods. While the size of the mill and its primary function were impossible to determine from a surface investigation, proper archaeological research should provide that information. The location of the mill and the oral tradition indicate that it was a part of the original plantation and provided a portion of its economic base.

Evidence gathered from this survey indicates that archaeological resources are present which directly relate to the plantation, and specifically to the main structure. Therefore, related archaeological resources should also be considered eligible.

Just west of the house and separated from it by a cleared field is the family cemetery. It contains the remains of Alfred and Sarah Dockery and ten of their children, as well as various other members of the extended family. The stones are relatively recent and the graveyard is well maintained by the family.

The brick house is, thus, the only standing evidence of the antebellum prosperity of the Dockery plantation, one of Richmond County's largest farms. The house is considered to be of the highest quality, the region's finest example of early brick construction. It is among but a handful of houses which remain to recall the height of the plantation culture in piedmont North Carolina.

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

Specific dates ca. 1840, 1951 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Alfred Dockery House is one of the finest early brick antebellum plantation houses in North Carolina, where few of its genre survive at all. The house is clearly reflective of the architectural ambition and sophistication of the small planter class in the 19th century. Stylistically, the house is a noteworthy example of early Greek Revival work with outstanding plaster finishes. The overall integrity of the house was preserved in a sensitive restoration in 1951. The house is also significant as a cultural artifact, the product of a unique social system where the supra-local orientations of its builder, his experiences, contacts, and individual interests were responsible for the existence of a house so different from the typical buildings of its region. In the Dockery House and its landscape are reflected a number of key themes in southern history, particularly those related to the economics of the plantation system dependent upon slave labor and the social attitudes, customs, practices, and cultural patterns of the planter society itself. The house is associated with one of the piedmont's most important families, and especially with Alfred Dockery, who held state and national political office and who was particularly known as a strong supporter of internal improvements for North Carolina, preserving the Union, and black suffrage. Dockery also contributed significantly to the Baptist Church movement in the piedmont, was instrumental in the founding of Wake Forest College, and served his community throughout his life. The statewide significance of the Alfred Dockery House is based upon its architectural excellence and comparative rarity, strong historical associations with one of the state's leading 19th century citizens, and for its symbolism of the 19th century plantation culture as it existed in piedmont North Carolina.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Alfred Dockery House and its associated landscape illustrate major social, economic, and agricultural themes peculiar to southern plantation history, particularly the distinctive social and cultural patterns of the planter society, the economic diversity of the plantation and interests of its owner, and the dependence of plantations upon slave labor for economic success.
- B. The Alfred Dockery House is associated with the prominent Dockery family, and particularly with Alfred Dockery who was an eminent 19th century politician, religious, and civic leader with statewide acclaim.
- C. The Dockery House is considered among the finest brick residences of its region, an early and notable example of the Greek Revival style. Outstanding interior plasterwork and overall outstanding integrity contribute substantially to the architectural interest of the house. It is a unique example of its type of in a county and region where the majority of the built environment is more typical of mainstream architectural development in North Carolina.

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D. Surface archaeological investigations have identified remains associated with the historic use of the property. These investigations have determined that it is likely additional information exists which will be crucial in understanding more fully the history, use, and function of the piedmont plantation.

The south central piedmont of North Carolina was settled in the mid-18th century, largely by emigres from the Mid-Atlantic colonies, particularly Pennsylvania and Maryland. Over-crowded conditions there, and cheap, available land in North Carolina, drew thousands of Scotch-Irish, German, and other peoples southward via the Virginia valley. Anson County was formed in 1750, as a result of this vast immigration; Richmond County was created out of Anson in 1779.¹

It was during this period of immigration that the Dockery family first came to North Carolina. Colonel Thomas Dockery, Sr., with his family, moved to Anson County from Queen Anne's County, Maryland, in 1769.² Dockery received his first land grants in April, 1777 for acreage on the Pee Dee River and Cartledge Creek.³ The 5,000 acres he eventually assembled became the home of one of the county's professionally, socially, and economically prominent families, one which was a member of the elite planter class with its distinctive traditions and practices. The vast plantation was one of the county's foremost farms, and the basis of the family's economic and political status.

Colonel Dockery was active in local civic, educational, and religious activities, but is best remembered as an early leader in the Baptist movement and founder of what would later become Cartledge Creek Baptist Church, with which the Dockery name has remained synonymous. The congregation organized in 1774 and by 1800, under Dockery's leadership, had built the Baptist Meeting House, the first of four structures on the site with which the Dockery family would be involved.⁴

Colonel Dockery died in 1800, willing his estate to his wife Ann and his five children. He also specifically provided in his will that his slaves not be separated from their families, that they continue to be taught to read and write, encouraged to read and learn the Bible, and that they were to be freed as soon as possible.⁵ Thomas Dockery, Jr. (d. 1853) lived on the original estate after his father's death, continued to farm the tract, and was active in the Baptist Meeting House. He was a trustee of the second church building, which was erected ca. 1826 and became known as Dockery's Meeting House.⁶

Thomas Dockery, Jr. was married to Nancy Covington, of the nearby Covington plantation, and fathered nine children. At his death in 1854, Thomas willed his estate to the children, his wife having died before him, including all land and slaves.⁷

The most prominent of Thomas Dockery, Jr.'s children was Alfred, born December 11, 1797 on the family plantation. Although he lacked a formal education, Alfred Dockery became one of the state's renowned 19th century citizens. His diversified interests, involvement in local, state, and national affairs, and his prominent social position assured Dockery's role as a typical southern planter.

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He began his political career in 1822 at age 25 when he was elected to serve in the House of Commons from Richmond County. In 1835 he was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, where he took strong stands for black suffrage and increased power for western counties in state government. He emerged from this convention as one of the state's leading Whigs and ran for state Senate as such in 1835. He served six senate terms, maintaining strong beliefs in the need for internal improvements and general reforms for North Carolina. Dockery was vocal in his convictions, despite being villified for his views, particularly on black suffrage. In 1845 Dockery defeated his party's candidate, Jonathan Worth, by 900 votes in the race for U. S. Congress. He was re-elected for the 1851 session, despite having run as an avowed Unionist and despite his support for federal military action against pro-secessionist South Carolina (which bordered Dockery's home county) if that state attempted secession. When North Carolina finally seceded and war was imminent, Dockery did not hesitate to support the South, and sent six sons (John, Oliver, James, Thomas, Benjamin, and Alfred) into the Confederate army, all as officers. All survived the war except John, who died in service.

By 1854 the Whig party was on the decline and Dockery was defeated in the gubernatorial race of that year by Thomas Bragg, a Democrat. Dockery, like many Whigs, joined the Know-Nothing Party and continued to push for a platform of internal improvements. In 1866 Dockery again ran for governor and lost, though he had been nominated against his will and did not campaign. His last political jobs included serving in the post-war Reconstruction Government as a member of the State Convention and as president of the Board of Directors of the State Penitentiary.

In addition to a prominent political career, Dockery was a strong supporter and leader of the Baptist Church. Locally, Alfred continued the family's involvement with Cartledge Creek Church and it was he who was responsible for the third rebuilding of the church after the Civil War, carefully saving timbers from the old structure for the new. Dockery enjoyed statewide recognition when he was elected president of the Baptist State Convention for the first time in 1834. He would eventually serve in that capacity for 15 years. His major interest and contribution while in office was his involvement with the founding of the Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute, later Wake Forest College. Meeting at Cartledge Creek Church in 1833, the Baptist Convention voted to establish the school. Dockery helped obtain the original charter for the school from the state legislature that year and was a charter life member of the board of trustees. Chartered as a manual labor school, it was the intent of the institution to teach improved farming methods. Wealthy planters, Dockery among them, sent their sons to the school for agricultural training. However, the school was never successful in this effort and in 1838 the charter was changed; the Manual Labor Institute became Wake Forest College. Dockery continued to support the school until his death and today is considered one of its foremost early leaders.

Despite his wide acclaim in the political and religious arenas, Dockery's real love was the family plantation. Although he considered himself just a "plain dirt farmer," his business and agricultural skills were such that his farm's industrial and commercial activities were among the county's most successful.

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The Dockery estate had early on been established as one of the county's foremost plantations. Alfred's tenure on his parcel of the family land saw the southern plantation society, economy, and agricultural practices at their peak during the early and mid-19th centuries.

It is not known exactly when Alfred built the brick house which was the seat of his 3200 acre plantation. Family history holds that the house was built between 1827 and 1830 (though this is unsubstantiated in written material or physical evidence). Dockery had married Sarah Lilley Turner of Anson County in 1823; by 1830 his household numbered 7, so it is possible that the house could have been built around this time. At any rate, Alfred Dockery was in the early years of his prosperity by 1830, engaged in farming, industry, and operating a store. By 1850 his family had grown to 10 (Alfred, Sarah, John, Ann Eliza, Martha, Mary, Benjamin, Alfred Jr., James, and Henry) and Dockery's real estate was valued at \$30,000. It is reasonable to assume the brick house was built between 1830 and 1850. It was during these years that Dockery was achieving acclaim in the national and state political arenas, a position which afforded him considerable contact with fellow members of his social class outside his own local domain. The expanded orientation, experiences, and contacts which Dockery enjoyed as a result of this were translated into the home and farm he developed in Richmond County. The result was a home physically and culturally different from the majority of the buildings in the region, evidence that Dockery's supra-local position was an important factor in the plantation's character and significance.

By 1850 the plantation was engaged in the cultivation of staple crops, particularly corn, oats, wheat, sweet potatoes, and some cotton. These were the piedmont region's most abundant crops in the mid-19th century. At the Dockery plantation 500 of 2500 total acres were cultivated in 1850; the farm was valued at \$15,000. Between 1850 and 1860, when cotton was becoming the south's major cash crop, Dockery's production of cotton increased from 75 bales to 80 bales, but corn, wheat, and sweet potatoes continued to be his largest crops. The value of Dockery's farm in 1860, when 650 acres out of a total 3300 were in cultivation, was \$20,000.

Critical to the productivity of the farm was the ownership of slaves. In 1830 Alfred owned 15 slaves; by 1850 he had 48; and in 1860, he housed 59 slaves in 11 houses on the plantation. (Family history holds that Dockery owned 7,000 acres and several hundred slaves, an exceptional number for even the largest landowner in North Carolina in the 19th century. Census data for Richmond County does not support this claim. However, Dockery did have extensive lands in other counties and in other states and it may be reasonable to assume his total holdings may have equaled as much.)

Since Dockery was not dependent solely upon labor-intensive cotton production, it is reasonable to assume that his slaves were employed in activities other than farming in which Dockery was also involved, including milling and fisheries. Nevertheless, the plantation's overall economic success was dependent upon slave labor, a major aspect of southern plantation agricultural practice in the 19th century.

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Besides operating the vast farm, Dockery was also engaged in industrial and commercial pursuits, a diversification of interests which was typical of the planter class. On December 28, 1833 the state legislature chartered the Richmond Manufacturing Company in Rockingham, of which Alfred Dockery, along with Walter and Francis Leak and William Cole, was an original incorporator.²¹ The group invested \$60,000 and the yarn mill started up in 1836-1837. Powered by the Great Falls Dam, the manufacturing company produced coarse yarn for weaving.²² In 1850 the mill was producing 180,000 pounds of yarn, 100,000 yards of osnaburg and 80,000 yards of cotton bagging. The mill employed 60 workers in 1850. By 1860, 41 workers were producing 200,000 pounds of yarn and 4,800 yards of osnaburg.²³ On March 10, 1865, scouts with Sherman's Union troops burned down the two-story frame mill; it was rebuilt on the site as a four-story brick building and renamed Great Falls Manufacturing Company in 1869. Although Dockery was not listed as an organizer of the second mill, he was apparently still a stock-holder, for he willed his holdings in the mill to his daughter Mary in 1873.²⁴

Besides the manufacturing company, Dockery also owned interests in fisheries on the Yadkin River, some of which had been established by his grandfather and father, and other grist and textile mills in Richmond and nearby counties. He also operated a store/post office at his plantation. The post office was the county's second and operated until the later 19th century.²⁵

Unlike many Southern planter families, the Dockerys fared relatively well in the post-Civil War period. In 1870 Alfred still owned 3,200 acres; 200 were cultivated and the farm was valued at \$11,000.²⁶ At his death in 1873, estate records indicated that Alfred Dockery had amassed again a considerable fortune, including roughly 7,500 acres in North Carolina and 600 acres in Mississippi, as well as several mills and fisheries.²⁷ In 1880 Alfred's widow, Sallie, retained 920 acres, 125 in cultivation with corn and oats remaining the largest crops.²⁸

Tenancy was practiced on the Dockery lands after the war, as it was throughout the South. The practice allowed for continuation of agriculture after the war and provided labor and livelihood for numbers of landless, moneyless people. The 1870 census indicates that a significant number of blacks named Dockery remained in the vicinity of the plantation after Emancipation and worked as farmers.²⁹ Family history holds that Dockery set up a sharecropping system whereby he gave work animals, feed, and food enough for one year to blacks to plant and cultivate crops, one half of the returns going to him.³⁰

Alfred Dockery died December 3, 1873, leaving the majority of his 3,000 acres on Cartledge Creek to his wife Sallie. The rest of his vast holdings were divided among his seven surviving children.³¹ Sallie lived out her life at the Dockery House, but at her death on June 29, 1881, the house passed to son Henry C. Dockery and his wife Fannie. Henry Dockery followed in his father's footsteps and served two terms as a U.S. Senator and as a U. S. Marshal under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. He was also on the Board of Trustees of Wake Forest College.³² (Another son, Oliver Hart, was also prominent politically. He served in the House of Commons in 1858, in Congress in 1867-1868, and as consul general to Brazil from 1888-1893.)³³ Henry and Fannie moved to Rockingham in 1883 and in 1903 willed the old homeplace to James M. and

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Helen P. Dockery, James being the son of Henry's brother Benjamin F. Dockery. James and Helen Dockery gave the Federal Land Bank of Columbia, S.C. a deed of trust for the house and acreage in January 1934 as security for a loan. In March of that year they deeded the land, excluding the family cemetery, to Eleanor McNinch Williams, Elizabeth Williams Covington, and James D. Covington, nieces and nephew of Jim Dockery. In October 1942, Cornelia and James Pickett Leak³⁴ acquired the deed, assuming responsibility for the loan taken out by Jim Dockery. Jim remained in the house until his death in 1950. At his death, Cornelia and James Pickett Leak restored the then-deteriorated house and moved in 1951. James P. Leak lived there until his death, Cornelia Leak until the early 1980s. The current owners of the Alfred Dockery House are their sons, James Pickett Leak, III, and Robert E. Leak, Alfred Dockery's great, great grandsons.

FOOTNOTES

¹David L. Corbett, The Formation of North Carolina's Colonies 1663-1943 Raleigh: N. C. Division of Archives and History, 1969), p. 181.

²James E. & Ida C. Honeycutt, A History of Richmond County (Rockingham, N.C., 1976), p. 67.

³May Wilson McBee, compiler, Anson County, N.C. Abstracts of Early Records, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), p. 226.

⁴Honeycutt, p. 313.

⁵Richmond County Wills, Will of Thomas Dockery, Sr., N.C. State Archives.

⁶Honeycutt, p. 314.

⁷Richmond County Wills, Will of Thomas Dockery, Jr., N.C. State Archives.

⁸William S. Powell, Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Volume 2, D-G (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1986), p. 87.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Dr. Oscar Haywood, "Old Dockery House and Its Builder Made History," (Charlotte Observer, September 14, 1941), n.p.

¹²Powell, p. 87.

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¹³G. W. Paschal, "General Alfred Dockery," (Wake Forest Student, Vo. 46, 1929-1930), p. 113.

¹⁴Paschal, p. 115.

¹⁵Robert C. Lawrence, Here in Carolina, (Lumberton, N.C., 1939), p. 134.

¹⁶1830 Census, Population Schedule.

¹⁷1850 Census, Population Schedule.

¹⁸1850 Census, Agricultural Schedule.

¹⁹1860 Census, Agricultural Schedule.

²⁰Fifth, Seventh, and Eighth Censuses, 1830, 1850, 1860, Slave Schedules.

²¹Honeycutt, p. 351.

²²Papers of Isaac London, N.C. State Archives.

²³1860 Census, Industry Schedule.

²⁴Richmond County Wills, Will of Alfred Dockery, N.C. State Archives.

²⁵Honeycutt, p. 314.

²⁶Ninth Census, 1870, Agricultural Schedule.

²⁷Will of Alfred Dockery.

²⁸Tenth Census, 1880, Agricultural Schedule.

²⁹Ninth Census, 1870, Population Schedule.

³⁰Haywood, n.p.

³¹Will of Alfred Dockery.

³²Lawrence, p. 135.

³³Powell, p. 88.

³⁴Richmond County Deeds, Books 255, 215, 221, & WWW.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 130

Quadrangle name Ellerbe

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

117	6018	11210	318	714	41210
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B

117	6018	81610	318	714	41610
Zone	Easting		Northing		

C

117	6018	61610	318	714	31410
Zone	Easting		Northing		

D

117	6018	01210	318	714	41110
Zone	Easting		Northing		

E

117	6017	81210	318	714	61410
Zone	Easting		Northing		

F

117	6018	01410	318	714	61010
Zone	Easting		Northing		

G

117	6018	01710	318	715	01610
Zone	Easting		Northing		

H

117	6017	91010	318	715	11210
Zone	Easting		Northing		

Verbal boundary description and justification

I

117	6017	81310	318	715	31210
Zone	Easting		Northing		

The nominated property is shown on the attached survey map. The acreage includes the last undivided tract associated with the house since the ownership of the original builder.

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 Beth Thomas, Survey Specialist

organization Survey and Planning Branch
N.C. Division of Archives and History date Sept. 1, 1986

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

city or town Raleigh state N.C.

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. King, Jr.

title date

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Alfred Dockery House

Item number 9

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Alfred Dockery House

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Page 2

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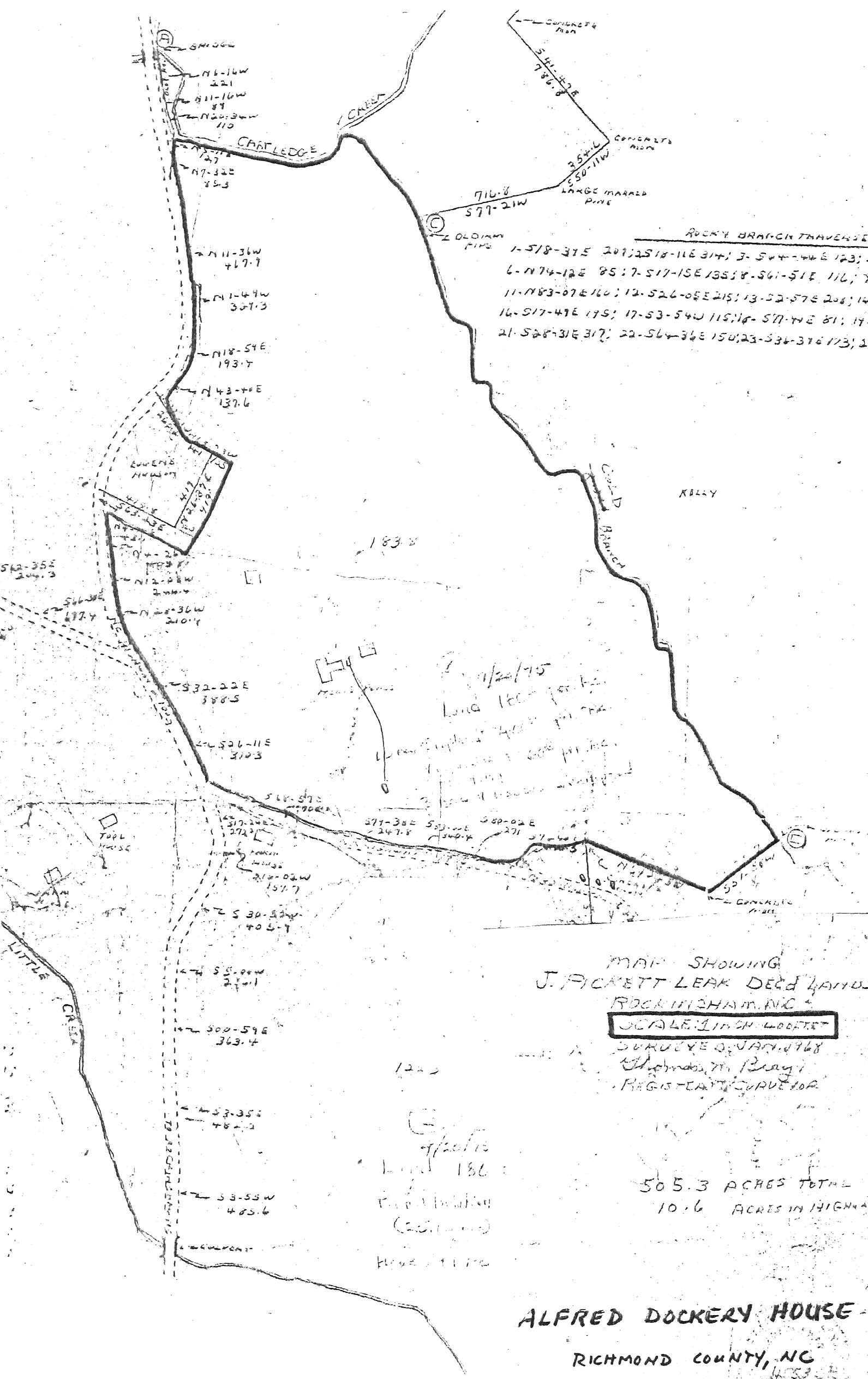
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 - 11-N83-07E 160; 12-S26-05E 215; 13-S2-57E 208; 14-
 - 16-S17-49E 175; 17-S3-54W 115; 18-S17-42E 81; 19-
 - 21-S28-31E 317; 22-S64-36E 150; 23-S36-37E 173; 24-

MAP SHOWING
 J. PICKETT LEAK DEC'D LANDS
 ROCKINGHAM, NC
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 40 FEET
 SURVEYED JAN. 1968
 Wm. H. Ray
 REGISTERED SURVEYOR

505.3 ACRES TOTAL
 10.6 ACRES IN HIGHWAY

ALFRED DOCKERY HOUSE
 RICHMOND COUNTY, NC

