

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 John Stigerwalt House

and or common

2. Location

Down a 0.15 mile private lane, entrance North side SR 1221 (Old Beatty Ford street & number Road), app. 0.2 mile west of Dutch Buffalo Creek not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of Bostian Heights

state North Carolina code 037 county Rowan code 159

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 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Heirs of Lillie Phillips Ketner Ridenhour
c/o Mrs. Robert H. Cross, Administrator
 street & number Route Two, Box 158

city, town Rockwell _____ vicinity of _____ state N. C. 28138

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Rowan County Office Building

street & number 402 North Main Street

city, town Salisbury, _____ state N. C. 28144

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title The Architecture of Rowan County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh _____ state North Carolina

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stigerwalt House is now located at the end of a dirt lane off the north side of SR 1221 (The Old Beatty Ford Road) a short distance to the west of Dutch Buffalo Creek.

At or about the time when the house was built the Beatty Ford Road ran immediately in front (south) of the house. The old roadbed is still clearly visible and forms both the southern edge of the property and the boundary of the front yard. It was intersected by a secondary road on the west side of the house whose roadbed also survives undisturbed lined with towering cedars and other trees which shade the house's west yard. This old roadbed serves as the house's drive from its junction with the earlier Beatty Ford Road and the present Old Beatty Ford Road. The drive is lined by thick vegetation of trees, shrubs, and vines--all natural growth. The front yard of the house has a pair of symmetrically planted crepe myrtles. On the east edge of the front yard are six pear trees which appear to have been planted around the turn of the century.

The house rests on a gentle knoll which falls away to the east and more noticeably to the north. The property on the east and north sides of the house are enclosed in a pasture whose fence extends from the southeast corner of the house. The fenced pasture connects on the west of the house to a fenced vegetable garden.

The exterior of the house is relatively intact although deteriorated. The present one story hipped roof front porch appears to be an early-20th century re-building of an earlier (original?) porch. Likewise, the one story frame shed carrying across the rear elevation is also an early-20th addition by the Ketners and contains the present kitchen, a small dining porch, and a bathroom. The house rests on a low fieldstone foundation which encloses a partial basement. The foundation is most visible on the east elevation--along the base of the great chimney--where the ground slopes away. The entrance into the basement is through an arch-headed opening in the center of the chimney's base. Three granite steps lead down. The wood surround in the opening is pegged and holds a short board and batten door into which an arrangement of six panes has been installed. The reveals of this arched opening were originally stuccoed--only portions of the stucco survive. Likewise the reveals of the ventilating basement openings, below the window bays on both the east and west elevations were also stuccoed. They are fitted with iron bars.

As noted in Waterman's description of the house the front (south) elevation has a two bay division. The entrance occupies the westernmost first story bay. It is fitted with a simple wood surround and a five pane glass transom. The present door, a 20th century replacement, has two rows of four panes above two horizontal wood panels. There is a window opening containing six-over-six glazed sash in the east bay. On the second story level there are window openings below flat arches in each of the bays. Both are fitted with six-over-six glazed sash. The top of the elevation is crowned by a projecting cornice of five rows of brick. The stone tablet is set in the center of the second story elevation just above the point from which the hipped roof of the porch splays outward. This placement of the tablet and its relationship to the porch roof encourages the theory that the present porch configuration and its hipped roof are likely replacements of the original porch. When rebuilt in the early 20th century the porch apparently rested on granite piers. Its foundation has more recently (?ca. 1950s) been replaced by a full foundation of inexpensive brick laid up in common bond. The replacement porch floor is of narrow boards. Simply molded posts, square in plan, are connected by a handrail carrying balusters, also square in plan. The porch posts rise to support a frieze formed by three rows of straight edge wood shingles. There is a bold stone stoop of irregular granite blocks preceding the porch. It has two broad stone steps to the south and shallower steps to the east and west.

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The east elevation of the house is symmetrically arranged with window openings in the basement, first-story, second-story, and attic levels. The basement openings are short and horizontal and have a lintel of header brick turned on end. The openings are fitted with metal bars. All of these survive in place except for those lost from the vent in the house's northwest corner. The window openings on the first story are the best finished and are surmounted by a flat-headed arch with a segmental intrados above the opening. The surrounds and reveals are wood and simply molded. The second story window openings have a soldier course lintel above the opening. There are no brick sills. All contain six-over-six glazed sash. At the attic level there are simply molded square openings holding a four pane sash. They have header course lintels. There are deteriorated remnants of a molded, tapering wood cornice along the flush eaves on the west elevation. These have been almost entirely lost on the east elevation where the upper half of the chimney stack has been replaced. The bay arrangement here repeat that seen on the west elevation.

The one story shed carrying across the rear (north) elevation is of frame construction and dated from about 1919. It was built on granite piers. These piers have more recently, ca. 1950s, been connected by an inexpensive brick foundation. The shed is covered with weatherboards and a shed roof. It contains a kitchen in the northeast corner with a dining porch immediately to the west. The space in the northwest corner is given to a bathroom and a closet. There is a six-over-six sash window in the east end of the shed addition and a square opening in the west end, illuminating the bathroom. There is a second six-over-six sash window, illuminating the kitchen in the east end of the shed's rear (north) elevation. A pair of like windows and a door are grouped toward the west end of the elevation. A pair of like windows and a door are grouped toward the west end of the elevation. They are sheltered by a shed porch of recent date. It is of simple standard sawn members.

The interior of the house was not completely finished by Stirewalt and was occupied in an unfinished state for the remainder of the 19th century. There are three principal rooms on the first story: a hall and two chambers. The hall extends the full depth of the house and occupies the western end of the dwelling. The earlier (original?) floor has been covered with narrow flooring. The partition wall between the hall and two unequal sized rooms to the east is formed by flush vertical boards crowned by the original two part molded cornice. The doors opening from the hall into these rooms have their three original part molded surrounds. The doors are replacements and have five horizontal panels and date from the Ketner rehabilitation. There are replacement surrounds on the front and rear doors; there are no wood surrounds at the windows. Apparently the south, west, and north walls of this room were unplastered brick until about 1919 when the present tongue-and-groove ceiling was installed by the Ketners. The mantel here is a simple affair consisting of a molded architrave around the arch-headed fire opening supporting a molded plain board frieze and a projecting shelf. The parlor, the larger of the two rooms in the east end of the house and occupying its southeast corner, has the most complete original finish. The outside walls have a flush vertical board wainscot below a molded chairrail. The mantel here is the most elaborate and features a wide three-part molded architrave around the fire opening. The frieze is in the form of an entablature with a molded architrave, a plain board frieze, and a shallow molded cornice

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which supports a projecting molded shelf. The window openings have three part moldings and flat-paneled splayed reveals. The smaller room in the northeast corner of the house retains the original three-part surrounds on the doors into the hall and the parlor.

There is a six-panel door closing the enclosed stair into the basement in the room's northwest corner. The modern door into the kitchen has a three-pane transom. The tongue-and-groove walls in this northeast room have been covered with inexpensive sheet paneling. The interior finish of the kitchen, dining porch and bathroom is also simple and inexpensive.

The stair connecting the first and second stories rise in the northeast corner of the hall in a northerly direction and then turns east and rises (enclosed) through the northeast first story room to the second story where it reaches a large hall occupying the northeast corner of the house. The second story has an irregular four room plan. Each of the three rooms is accessible from the hall. The finish of the second floor is modern and of little consequence. The walls are covered with inexpensive sheet paneling. The horizontal panel doors have plain board surrounds. The room in the northwest corner of the second floor has an enclosed stair to the attic. The room's ceiling was burned out in a fire on July 11, 1971.

The attic is unfinished. The flooring is laid down on the joists. The pegged rafters of the roof are exposed. The fire-damaged structural members were not all removed but were mostly replaced and re-enforced with new material.

There are eight outbuildings to the north and east of the Stigerwalt House which are located on property included in this nomination. All are of simple frame or concrete block construction and were erected in this century.

The frame smokehouse, immediately to the northeast of the house, is the most intact and probably the oldest (first quarter, 20th century) in the group. It is a small rectangular building covered with weatherboards. The gable roof is covered with sheet metal and projects on the south (front) elevation to shelter a door. A window opening on the south elevation is fitted with a six pane sash. A crude shed has been built across the north (rear) elevation. It is covered with horizontal sheathing and sheet metal and has a door on its west end and a window opening holding a re-used nine pane sash on the east end. There is a small rectangular frame garage, ca. 1920, standing due east of the house and about midway between the house and the barn. It is covered with vertical boards and a sheet metal gable roof. There are paired doors on the south gable front below a weatherboarded gable end. Crude pole sheds have been added to its east elevation. The simple frame corn crib, ca. 1920, and the large deteriorated barn are also in the pasture further east of the house. The crib is probably contemporary with the Ketner's acquisition of the house and is chiefly significant because on its southeast end it has a six, raised panel door which was probably removed from the house during the Ketner's rehabilitation of the house. The barn is a large gable roof frame structure built, in part, of reused timbers. It has a center passage on the north/south axis perpendicular to the east/west axis of the roof. There is a continuous crudely built

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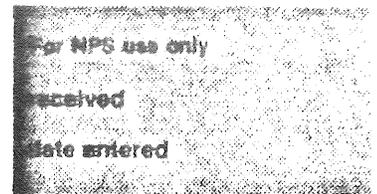
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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 3

shed on its west, north and east elevations. It is covered with mostly vertical boards. To the northwest of the house is a group of three chicken houses, two are simple frame buildings and the third is a larger rectangular cement block building, ca. 1960. Again, their only significance lies in the re-use of a second six panel door, apparently from the house, on one of the frame chicken houses. The eighth building here is a small cement block pump house at the northeast of the complex of chicken houses. It has a shed roof.

There are two final items on the grounds which should be mentioned. Immediately to the northwest of the house are the remains of a granite well base. It rises about fifteen to eighteen inches above ground level and is covered with a flat cap. In the hollow behind (north) of the house there is a carved granite spring-head which is inscribed with the initials "J.S.W." and some other illegible carvings. A pipe continues to carry water from the spring to the pump house and on to the house.

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The John Stirewalt House was built for John Stirewalt, Jr. in 1811, according to the inscription on the sundial in the south elevation.¹ The younger Stirewalt had acquired the 150 acre tract along Dutch Buffalo Creek on which the house was constructed from his father, John Stigerwalt [Stirewalt], Sr., in 1795.² Local tradition attributes a number of Rowan County structures to the talents of the Stirewalt family and one architectural historian has laid upon them the label of "master builders," but recent studies call such claims into question.³ The controversy may never be settled, but whether builders or substantial planters, the Stirewalts were an early and prominent family in the county.

For reasons unknown, John Stirewalt, Jr. never completed the interior of his house. He died in 1828 leaving the 150 acre farm and unfinished home to his son John N. Stirewalt, subject to the dower of his widow, Elizabeth. The sizable estate included over 700 acres of land (300 acres in Iredell County), four named slaves and their children, enough furniture for three households, tools for a blacksmith business, livestock, saw and corn mills along with their machinery, and shares in the State Bank. Of particular interest was the specific mention of a considerable library, house organs, two windmills, and a jackscrew.⁴ An inventory of his property depicts John Stirewalt, Jr. as a cultured, well-read gentleman skilled in the use of mechanical devices. He had the money, labor, and apparent skill, so the unfinished interior must have been a matter of preference.

John N. Stirewalt did not hold the home place long after his mother's death. On July 18, 1836 he sold the house and farm to the heirs of Neil Matheson who took only two days to transfer title to John Eddleman. Eddleman died in 1846 and his administrator sold both the home tract and mill tract to James Roseman.⁵

Roseman's income was derived primarily from his milling enterprises. He turned the improved farm acreage into grain production to supply his gristmill while timber from the forest land supplied his sawmill. The former produced 5,500 bushels meal annually (valued at \$2,200); the latter turned out 60,000 feet of lumber (valued at \$510).⁶ Losses during the Civil War and competition from technological advances in the years following the war drove James Roseman into bankruptcy. He probably continued to live in the house until his death in 1892, but he had long since given up title to the property.⁷

Title to the Stirewalt House changed hands seven times after James Roseman before settling in the hands of R. M. Ketner in 1914.⁸ Five years later, R. M. Ketner sold seventy-three acres known as "the Brick House Place" to his brother A. C. Ketner.⁹ A. C.'s widow, Lillie Mae Phillips Ketner (1893-1978) married E. E. Ridenhour in September, 1953, and was the last owner/occupant of the house.¹⁰

The John Stigerwalt House, a bold two-story with attic brick house, is an unusual brick Federal period house which shares a unique architectural history with the Germanic settlement of piedmont North Carolina and the translation of German cultural values and forms. The bold, nearly square, house has elevations laid up in Flemish bond with random glazed headers. While these are handsome enough the more pronounced features are the diamond patternwork decorations which carry on the faces of the west and the great east chimney--which occupies over half of the house's east elevation. In addition there are arches of glazed header brick enframing a carved stone clock-face/sun dial in the center of the south (front) elevation. This sun-dial features Roman numerals in a circle around the name "JOHN STIGERWALT", the builder of the house. At the base of the tablet is inscribed, "THIS 11th OCTOBER 1811". Thomas Tileston Waterman discussed and illustrated the house in his landmark The Early Architecture of North Carolina.

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Continuation sheet Historical Significance

Item number 8

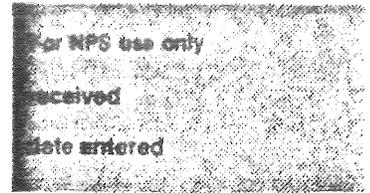
Page 2

In Rowan County, however, John Stigerwalt (now Stirewalt) house, there is a dramatic example of an external brick chimney containing end-to-end fireplaces. Here the chimney, which at the base is over half the width of the house, tapers toward the top by means of steep, lateral weatherings. The broad face has a double row of zig-zag, glazed, header brick, which together form a vertical row of superimposed lozenges. On the facade, which is only two bays wide, a lozenge brick pattern occurs in the center wall pier. Above it, at the second-floor line, is an arched panel containing a carved stone clockface below two concentric arches of glazed headers. The clockface itself is tombstone shaped, in the lunette of which appears the coat of arms of the United States. This is displayed against an eagle that clutches olive leaves and arrows in his talons, a scroll in his beak, and has seven stars displayed above his head. In addition to the clock numerals, Stigerwalt carved his name, the date 1811, "Rowan, N.C.", and spandrel ornaments of leafage.

Despite the fact that the house was never finished on the interior by Stigerwalt, remained unfinished throughout the remainder of the 19th century, and was finished in a simple fashion by the Ketners in the 20th century, the Stigerwalt House remains an important architectural landmark in Rowan County and piedmont North Carolina. The handsome exterior features of the house, never equaled inside, are a unique and signal expression of the translation of German culture and craftsmanship to North Carolina.

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Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8

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FOOTNOTES

¹Davyd Foard Hood, The Architecture of Rowan County: A Catalogue and History of Surviving 18th, 19th, and Early 20th Century Structures (Salisbury: Rowan County Historic Properties Commission, 1983), 235, hereinafter cited as Hood, Rowan Architecture.

²Rowan County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, Deed Book 16, p. 135, hereinafter cited as Rowan County Deed Book.

³Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1941), 179. Waterman is credited with the statement. For a full account of the tradition and its rebuttal, see Hood, Rowan Architecture, 85-86, 236.

⁴Hood, Rowan Architecture, 235, 236; and Rowan County Records, Original Wills, John Stirewalt (1828), State Archives, Raleigh.

⁵Rowan County Deed Book 33, pp. 135, 138; and Book 38, p. 143.

⁶Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: North Carolina, Rowan County, Agricultural Schedule, 389, and Industrial Schedule, 473.

⁷Rowan County Records, Estates Papers, James C. Roseman, State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Roseman Estate Papers.

⁸Rowan County Records, Record of Probates, of Deeds, of Mortgages, &c., State Archives, Raleigh; Roseman Estate Papers; Rowan County Deed Book 67, p. 354; Book 73, p. 90; Book 74, p. 106; Book 82, p. 242; Book 85, p. 330; and Book 138, p. 73.

⁹Rowan County Deed Book 157, p. 194; and Hood, Rowan Architecture, 235.

¹⁰Hood, Rowan Architecture, 235-236.

¹¹Johnston and Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina, 176.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hood, Davyd Foard. The Architecture of Rowan County: A Catalogue and History of Surviving 18th, 19th, and Early 20th Century Structures. Salisbury: Rowan County Historic Properties Commission, 1983.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 74.475 acres

Quadrangle name China Grove

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

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5	4	3	4	0	0
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3	9	3	0	6	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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3	9	3	0	6	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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5	4	4	0	0
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3	9	3	0	1	6	0
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3	9	3	0	2	0	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached plat map of the property.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

Architectural description, statement of significance, and criteria assessment by name/title Davyd Foard Hood; historical research by Jerry Cross and Davyd Foard Hood.

organization Division of Archives and History date October 29, 1984

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

city or town Raleigh state N. C. 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. King

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Oct. 31, 1984

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

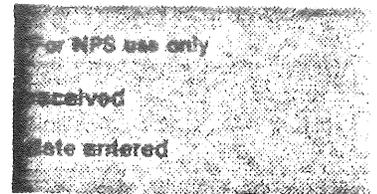
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet BIBLIOGRAPHY Item number 9 Page 1

Brawley, James S. Old Rowan: Views & Sketches. Salisbury: Rowan Printing Co., n.d.

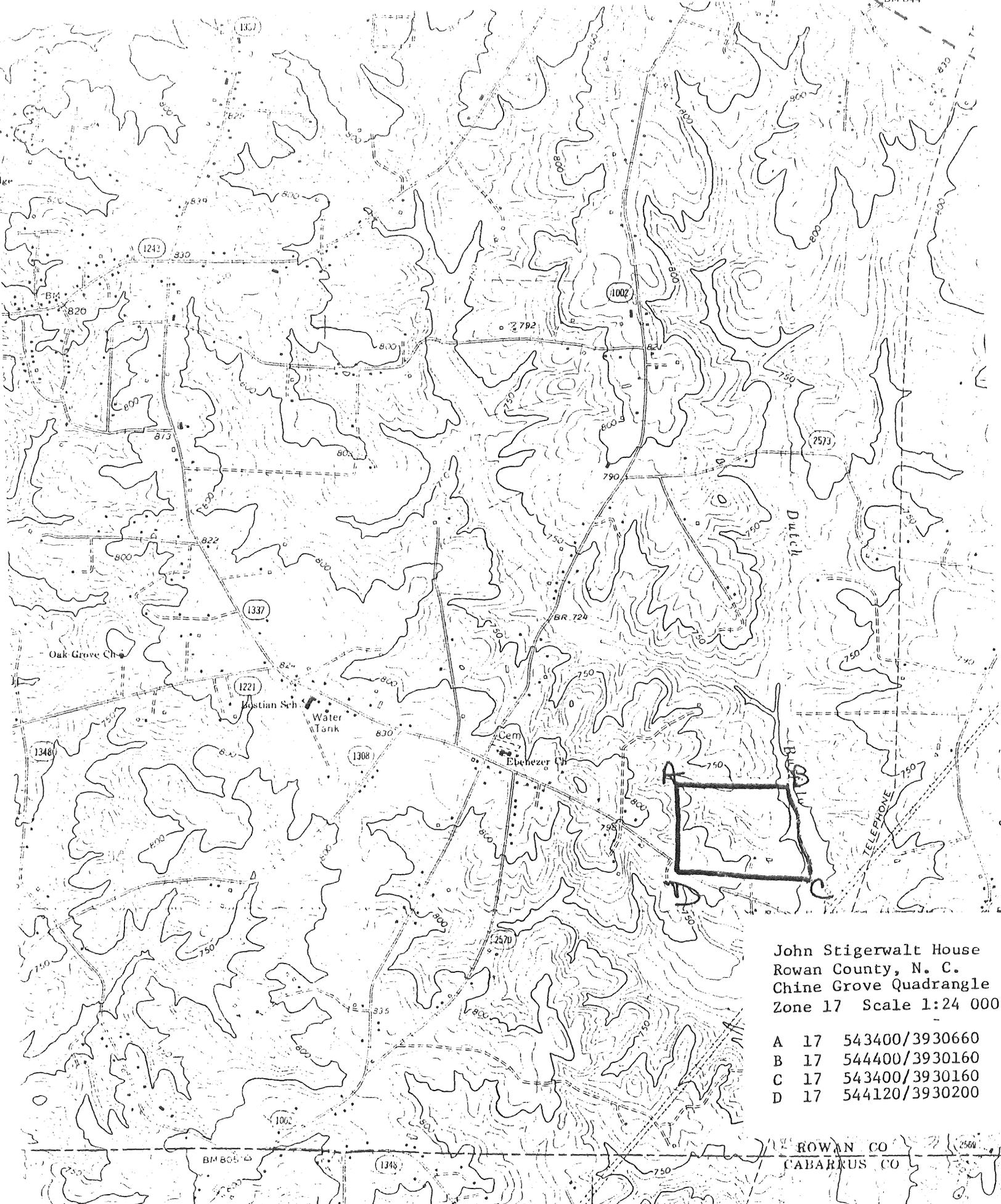
_____. The Rowan Story 1753-1953. A Narrative History of Rowan County, North Carolina. Salisbury: Rowan Printing Co., 1953.

Hood, Davyd Foard. The Architecture of Rowan County: A Catalogue and History of Surviving 18th, 19th, and Early 20th Century Structures. Salisbury: Rowan County Historic Properties Commission, 1983.

Johnston, Frances Benjamin and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1941.

Rowan County Records. State Archives.
Deeds
Estate Papers
Record of Probates, of Deeds, of Mortgages, &c.
Wills

United States Census Records. North Carolina: Rowan County, 1850.



John Stigerwalt House
 Rowan County, N. C.
 Chine Grove Quadrangle
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000

- A 17 543400/3930660
- B 17 544400/3930160
- C 17 543400/3930160
- D 17 544120/3930200

ROWAN CO
 CABARRUS CO

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1972-460-348/1
 544 5450000 E

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, Light duty road, hard or



41 541 32'30" 542 543

SLOOP PROP

OLD IRON BY STONE

S86°13'32"E (TOT 1955.00')

1925.00'

NEW IRON

POINT IN CENTER OF CREEK

S86°13'32"E OLD IRON (SLOOP CORNER)

230.00'

S10°50'08"E
191.66'

S4°18'01"W
95.14'

S50°01'22"E
92.30'

S8°21'09"E (60.16')

S73°26'35"E (51.77')

S13°24'10"E
75.99'

NOTE CALLS DOWN CREEK

S8°26'04"W
286.23'

BUFFALO CREEK

S7°08'10"E
152.71'

S17°48'09"E
112.41'

S21°09'38"E
148.91'

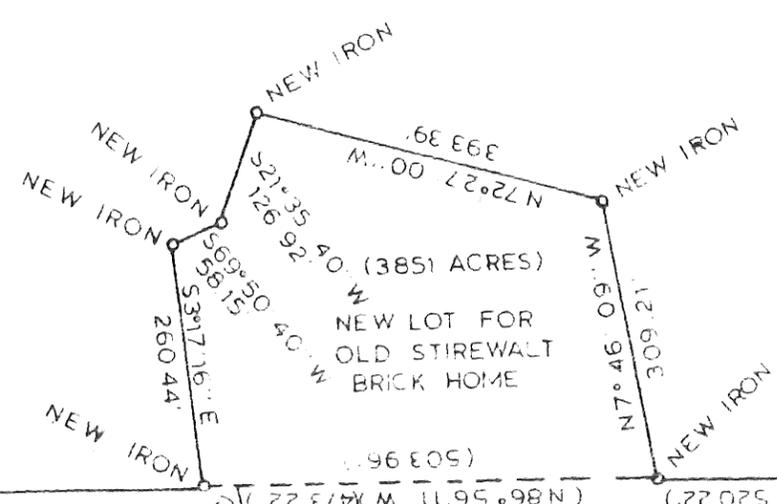
S13°11'18"E
336.43'

ROCK IN CENTER OF CREEK

70.624 ACRES
(WITH HOUSE LOT 74.475)

N3°46'56"E (TOT 1513.83')

1397.79'



NEW LOT FOR OLD STIREWALT BRICK HOME



R. CROSS PROP
(321-190)

KANIPE PROP
(266-58)

KANIPE PROP
(266-58)

BOUNDARY SURVEY OF

