

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic McRae-McQueen House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number SW corner of the jct. of US 501 and SR 1621 _____ not for publication

city, town Johns _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Eighth

state North Carolina code 037 county Scotland code 165

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" 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 Mrs. Fred W. Morrison

street & number 4965 Glenbrook Road, NW

city, town Washington _____ vicinity of _____ state DC 20016

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scotland County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Laurinburg _____ state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ 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 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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The McRae-McQueen House, dating from two major periods of construction in the 19th century, is a handsome and unusually well-preserved frame residential complex surrounded by large fields in the rural Johns community of Scotland County. Representative of vernacular frame construction in the region the house consists of three major blocks which are connected by one-story passageways. All rest on brick piers with lattice panels. The house and its front and side yards are enclosed by a picket fence, installed as a part of the restoration undertaken in 1967; the fence duplicates a 19th century fence seen in a turn of the century documentary photograph of the house. As the house was restored in 1967 as a single family residence the description of the complex will refer to the current uses of the various rooms which in most cases continue the historical use of the spaces.

The oldest block of the present residence is a rectangular one-story structure built for Peter McRae as his residence in the first quarter of the 19th century. According to family tradition the house, the seat of a farm established by McRae in 1791, was originally an L-shaped house; a subsequent addition gave the house its present rectangular plan. The north elevation of the large one story block was the front of Peter McRae's house. Here an off-center entrance lead into the interior which followed a center hall plan. (That entrance and portions of the flanking elevation were covered by the corridor constructed to connect the later two-story block to the earlier seat. There is a single window to the east of the above entrance (outside the corridor); two windows to the west suggest the interior plan where the room west of the center hall is larger than its pendant to the east. The interior of this Federal house has an unpainted natural finish on the pine sheathing and flooring and the vernacular, simply molded woodwork. The room to the right (west) of the hall has been fitted as the master bedroom. A fireplace flanked by windows is symmetrically positioned on the room's west elevation. A door in the center of the room's south elevation leads into a bathroom and dressing room complex fitted into the addition which expanded the original house's L-shape into a rectangle. To the left (east) of the hall is the dining room. An interior chimney provides a fireplace on the south elevation of the dining room and a fireplace for the bedroom located directly behind and south of the dining room. Access to the bedroom is gained through a door on its west elevation which opens into the house's back hall--slightly narrower than the front center hall. At the back of the hall a double two panel door surmounted by a four pane transom opens on the south elevation of the early 19th century house.

According to family tradition the present kitchen, located perpendicular to the east gable end of the main house, was constructed at a later unspecified date. Its shallow gabled roof stands in contrast to the main house's high gabled roof. The interior follows a two-room plan with a central chimney providing fireplaces for the structure's two rooms. The modern equipped kitchen is in the southern chamber while the northern room is fitted as a breakfast room. A passageway, connects the breakfast room with the dining room. There is no direct communication between the kitchen and dining room.

The younger Peter McRae inherited his grandfather's house in 1862. It is probable that he added the bracketed Italianate single pile block to the front of the older house in the years following the end of the Civil War and possibly in the 1870s. The house's weatherboarded elevations are enframed by cornerposts which rise from a sill band to a bracketed frieze continuous around the two story block; there are no brackets on the south (rear) elevation. The three bay front elevation is dominated by an airy two-tier pedimented porch which shelters entrances on each level. The porch is supported at each level by pairs of open, bracketed posts of thin verticals connected by a molded handrail and railing. The pent gable front feature brackets around its base and inside the gable. Here and at the gable

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRA use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 1

ends the base of the pediment is roofed as in a pent. The window openings, flanked by many of the original blinds contain six-over-six sash in molded surrounds with projecting moldings across the top of the opening. The east and west pedimented gable ends are a single bay deep. A one story bay projects from the east gable end. On the rear elevation a pair of chimneys rise on either side of the connecting one story corridor providing fireplaces on both stories.

The entrances behind the porches are composed of two leaf doors flanked by side lights and transoms. The main, first story entrance is somewhat larger and more impressive featuring arched panels on each leaf of the door. Not unexpectedly the interior of this block follows a center hall plan with simple well executed vernacular Greek Revival moldings, four panel doors, and simple mantels. At the back of the hall a five panel door flanked by side lights opens into the corridor connecting to the earliest block of the house--the senior Peter McRae's residence. The room to the east (left) of the stair hall serves as the living room. The room to the west (right) as the study. Both feature fireplaces on their south elevations with the mantels composed of simple pilasters rising to stylized capitals supporting a molded frieze board below a projecting shelf. The study is further distinguished by a molded plaster cornice incorporating an egg and dart motif and a handsome ceiling medallion composed of classical and foliated devices. The stair with its robust turned newel and shaped handrail rise to the second story where the center hall is flanked by bedrooms to either side. A bathroom and closet are fitted into the front (north) end of hall. The bedrooms are finished with woodwork similar to that found on the first story.

Except for the mule barn and the pack house the 19th and 20th century farm outbuildings on the property had fallen into disrepair by 1967 when Mrs. Morrison acquired the property. Those derelict buildings were pulled down.

The ten mule barn, a long rectangular two level frame building was restored and rehabilitated. A central entrance on its north gable end, surmounted by an opening to the hay loft, opens into the passageway which stretches from end to end of the building with troughs on either side for feeding the mules. Five doors are positioned on both east and west side elevations to provide access to the stables. A narrow ventilating band carries above the top of the doors. Rectangular openings for ventilation appear under the eaves and on either side of the front door.

A large frame building once used as a gin and later as a tobacco pack house was converted in 1967 for use as a residence for the property's care-taker. The only major new building on the grounds is a small rectangular frame gabled roof structure which contains the open garage with an enclosed room for mechanical services across its east end. It stands some thirty feet south of the earliest block of the McRae-McQueen house.

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/ 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The McRae-McQueen House, a large handsome frame residence, dates from two periods of construction in the 19th century for members of the locally prominent McRae family. The oldest portion of the present house, a one-story Federal residence, is typical of the early 19th century farmhouses of the region. It was built in the first quarter of the century for Peter McRae as the seat of his farm established on lands he acquired from Archibald Fairly in 1791. The family seat was considerably expanded by his grandson and namesake, Peter McRae (1829-1907), who acquired title to the home-place in 1862. McRae rose to prominence in both local and state politics and was instrumental in efforts to create Scotland County. Perhaps as a reflection of his growing prominence in the years after the Civil War McRae had the two-story block erected in front of his grandfather's by then old-fashioned Federal house. Its Italianate brackets and two-tier portico are characteristic of more substantial dwelling of the region in the mid-nineteenth century. The handsome residential complex continued as the family seat until 1904 when it became the residence of McRae's farm manager, Laurin McQueen, and his family. It remained McQueen's residence until his death in 1962. In 1967 the house and a ten-acre tract were acquired by McQueen's daughter, Emma Neal Morrison, who has completely restored the house and grounds of her childhood home preserving intact an important Scotland county residence.

Criteria Assessment:

- B. The house is associated with members of the locally prominent McRae family and especially the life of its owner Peter McRae (1829-1907), a political leader on both the local and state level who was instrumental in the efforts to create Scotland County.
- C. The vernacular Federal and Italianate blocks which comprise the family seat embody the distinctive characteristics of those styles of the 19th century and are among the best preserved examples of their type in Scotland County. Their felicitous combination here in one house provides them a particular importance.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 1

The oldest portion of the McRae-McQueen House is believed to have been built as a residence sometime between 1800 and 1820 in Richmond County, near the present day site of Johns, Scotland County. Its builder Peter McRae had obtained the property from Archibald Fairley in 1791. McRae died intestate in 1824 and the property was passed to his son Roderick McRae in 1835.¹ Little is known of these two McRaes except that they were among the many Scotch Presbyterian farmers who settled in the area in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Roderick McRae died intestate in 1838. He was survived by his wife Effie and two children Peter, born August 9, 1829 and Margaret. The 1850 census lists Effie's age as 51, while her two children were 20 and 16 respectively. Their farm was valued at \$2,000 with 100 of its 732 acres under cultivation. In 1854 Margaret married James Thomas John, Richmond County farmer for whom Johns was named. Peter McRae and Margaret McRae John divided their inheritance in 1862, with Peter taking title to the homeplace.²

Peter McRae married Jennie Patterson in April of 1858. They were to have five children.³ In the 1860 census Peter McRae's farm consisted of 77 acres under cultivation and 269 unimproved acres. It was valued at \$4,000. McRae grew 300 bushels of corn, 60 bushels of peas, 75 bushels of sweet potatoes, 40 bushels of wheat, 20 bales of cotton, and 3 tons of hay. McRae owned eleven slaves and two domestics lived in with the family.⁴

After the Civil War McRae became involved in politics. In 1866 he was elected as a member of the lower house of the legislature and served one term. He was also elected chairman of the Richmond County Court in 1866, 1867, and 1868.⁵ His wife died in the spring of 1869. In October of 1870 he married Mary Ann McKinnon.⁶ He continued to farm his tract which by 1870 had increased to 175 improved acres and 475 unimproved acres.

In 1878 McRae was elected to the Richmond County Board of Commissioners, and was also elected Chairman of the Board. He was to hold this position until 1890. While in this office he was known as a stern opponent of government spending. After his death one observer called McRae "a man of the type much needed in public affairs . . . the ideal chairman of a board of county commissioners," and the leader of an "administration that was a model in its purity, simplicity, and economy."⁸

After serving as chairman of the board for over a decade McRae was elected to the North Carolina Senate, as a Democrat, in 1892.⁹ He served only one term, but during that term established himself as one of the primary backers in the movement to create Scotland County. He introduced a bill to that effect and made a "most enthusiastic speech" on its behalf. The bill passed the Senate but did not get out of the House, and Scotland County was not created until later in the decade. While in the Senate McRae was a member of committees on Salaries and Fees (he was chairman of this committee), Finance, Propositions and Grievances, Claims, Agriculture, Railroads and Railroad Commissions, Public Roads, and Counties, Cities, and Towns.¹⁰

Peter McRae died in June of 1907.¹¹ His will left his property to his daughter Effie McRae and his son Daniel K. McRae.¹² Effie died in 1935 leaving her part of the homestead to her brother. From 1904 until the early 1960s Laurin McQueen and his wife Emma Kelley Wilkes McQueen lived on the farm, with Laurin McQueen serving as farm superintendent. This arrangement stayed in effect after McRae died intestate in 1945 and the property was passed to his nephew Harry W. Malloy.¹³ Mrs. McQueen died in 1961 and Mr. McQueen in 1962; Harry Malloy

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

died March 6, 1967.

In June, 1967 Mrs. Emma Neal McQueen Morrison, daughter of Laurin and Emma McQueen purchased the house and adjacent 10 acre tract from Harry E. Malloy.¹⁴ Mrs. Morrison and her husband, the late Fred Morrison, a prominent Washington attorney, established scholarships at the University of North Carolina, helped establish the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, and were instrumental in the restoration of historic Bath. While in Washington Mrs. Morrison was a national trustee of the Truman Library, president of the Women's National Democratic Club, and a successful Democratic fund-raiser. In North Carolina she is best known for her long chairmanship of the Roanoke Island Historical Association.¹⁵

In that Scotland County was formed so recently in North Carolina's history, in 1899, the architectural character and significance of the McRae and McQueen House has been studied and assessed on a regional basis. While the history of the south central region of the state from the 18th century through the antebellum period provides evidence of a planter society in the region--during that long period few of the large plantation seats remain. In Richmond County, of which Scotland County was a part from 1779 until 1899, only the seats of General Alfred Dockery, the Little family, the Powell family, and the Covington family are known to remain. The last named property was nominated to the National Register in April 1980.¹⁶ In that portion of Richmond County set aside as Scotland County--and named for the ancestral country of so many of the region's settlers--the Federal house built for the senior Peter McRae is one of the small number of houses which form the oldest identifiable group of domestic structures in the county. This house is the only one of the group which is occupied and in a high state of preservation.

While the role of the younger Peter McRae in the formation of Scotland County provides the McRae-McQueen House certain historical significance, his expansion of the family seat by the construction of the two-story Italianate block provides the residence a particular distinction as the embodiment of rural domestic architectural forms of both the Federal and post-war periods. Although the bracketed two-story, three-bay house form remains in greater numbers in the region, its uncompromised architectural integrity, maintenance, and conjunction with the earlier house in a residential complex make it unique in the county.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 3

¹Richmond County Deed Book E, p. 260; Book E, p. 261.

²Richmond County Deed Book Y, p. 137; State Officers and General Assembly of North Carolina, 1893 (Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 1893), 36, hereinafter cited as General Assembly, 1893; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Richmond County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule. The community of Johns was named for James T. John "owner of the land on which the railroad station was built." William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazeteer (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 254.

³General Assembly, 1893, p. 36.

⁴Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Richmond County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.

⁵John L. Cheney, Jr. (ed.), North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 335, hereinafter cited as North Carolina Government; General Assembly, 1893, p. 36.

⁶General Assembly, 1893, p. 36; The second Mr. McRae died in 1889.

⁷Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Richmond County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.

⁸General Assembly, 1893, p. 36; James E. and Ida C. Hunneycutt, A History of Richmond County (Rockingham, 1976), 393; News and Observer (Raleigh), June 22, 1907.

⁹General Assembly, 1893, p. 36; North Carolina Government, 472.

¹⁰General Assembly, 1893, p. 36. Journal of the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, Session 1893 (Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, 1893), 171, 175, 208, 251-252, 276. Scotland County was finally created in 1899; News and Observer (Raleigh), June 22, 1907.

¹¹News and Observer (Raleigh), June 22, 1907.

¹²Scotland County Will Book 1, p. 118.

¹³Scotland County Will Book 2, p. 203; Scotland County Record of Orders and Decrees, Book 7, p. 117. Letter from Mrs. Fred Morrison to Davyd Foard Hood, December 13, 1979, hereinafter cited as Morrison letter.

¹⁴Morrison letter.

¹⁵News and Observer (Raleigh), December 2, 1962.

¹⁶Covington Plantation House National Register Nomination.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Cheney, Jr., John (ed.). North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975.
- Honeycutt, James E. and Ida C. A History of Richmond County. Rockingham, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 10 acres
 Quadrangle name Johns Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The area nominated is shown within the red line on the attached plat map and represents the only undivided parcel still associated with the homeplace.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Architectural description - Davyd Foard Hood, Survey Specialist
 name/title Historical statement - Davyd Foard Hood and Jim Sumner, Researcher
Survey and Planning Branch
 organization Archaeology & Historic Preservation Section date June 1980
Division of Archives & History
 street & number 109 E. Jones St. telephone (919) 733-6545
 city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

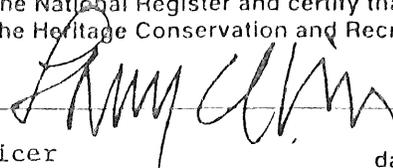
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 10, 1980

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

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 1

Journal of the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, Session 1893.
Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, 1893.

Morrison, Mrs. Fred. Letter to Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section,
Division of Archives and History. Letter in the files of the Survey and Planning Branch
of the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section.

News and Observer (Raleigh). June 22, 1907.

Powell, William S. The North Carolina Gazetteer. Chapel Hill: The University of North
Carolina Press, 1968.

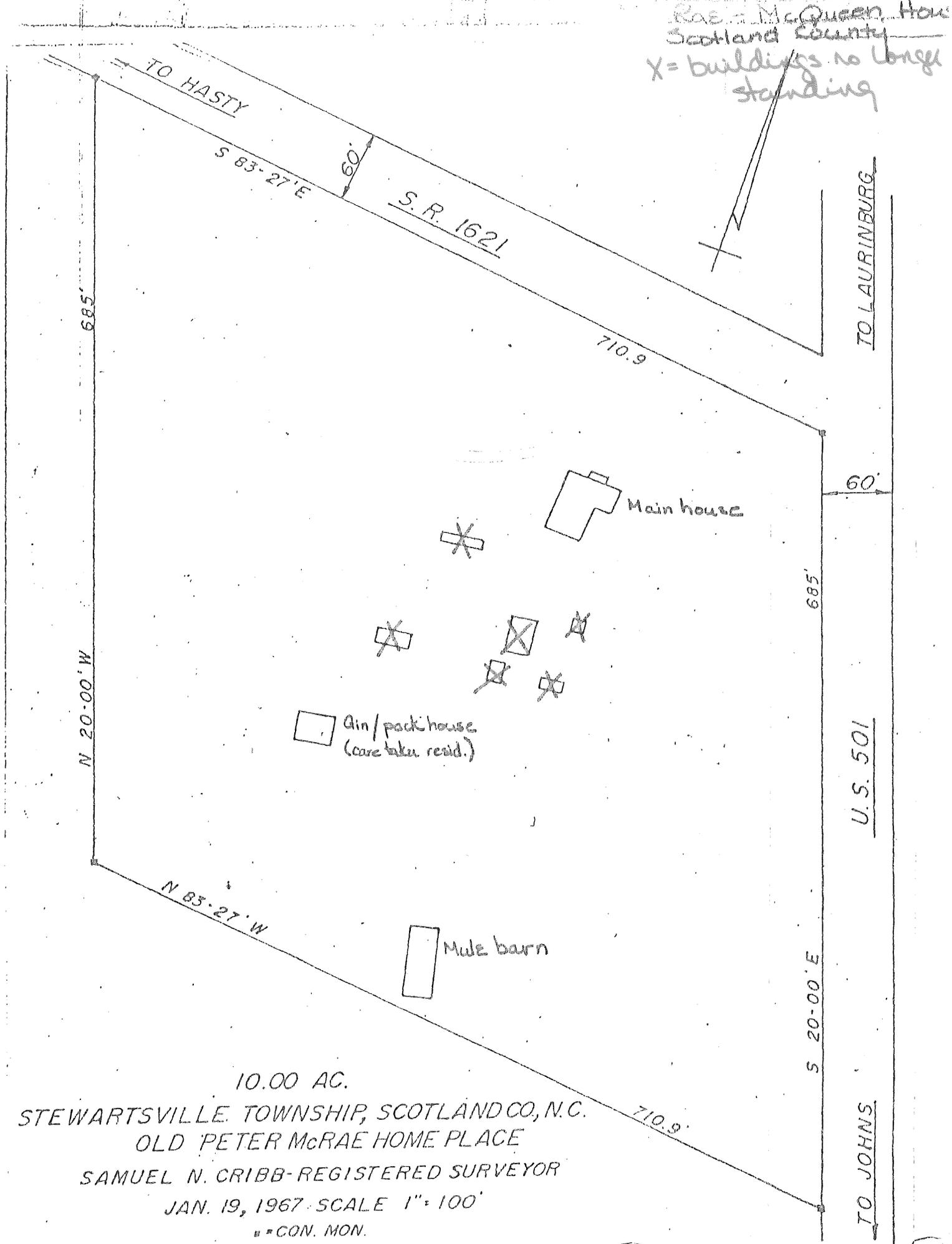
Richmond County Deed Books. Microfilm copies, Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

State Officers and General Assembly of North Carolina, 1893. Raleigh: State of North Carolina,
1893.

Scotland County Deed Books, Record of Orders and Decrees. Microfilm copies.
Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

United States Census Records. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Richmond County,
North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule; Eighth Census of the United
States, 1860, Richmond County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule,
Slave Schedule; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Richmond County, North Carolina,
Agricultural Schedule.

Rae - McQueen Hou
Scotland County
X = buildings no longer
standing



10.00 AC.

STEWARTVILLE TOWNSHIP, SCOTLAND CO, N.C.

OLD PETER McRAE HOME PLACE

SAMUEL N. CRIBB-REGISTERED SURVEYOR

JAN. 19, 1967 SCALE 1" = 100'

W * CON. MON.

