

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

White Lake & Atkinson QUAD

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Beatty-Corbett House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Jct. Sampson, Bladen, Pender County Lines NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Ivanhoe

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

037

Sampson

163

3 CLASSIFICATION

Pender County

141

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

N/A

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ms. Alice Stafford

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2, Box 367

CITY, TOWN

STATE

White Lake

VICINITY OF

North Carolina 28337

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Sampson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Clinton

North Carolina 28328

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas Butchko

Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Survey and Planning Branch

October 10, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 E. Jones St.

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Superbly sited on the east bank of the picturesque Black River at Beatty's Bridge, which was once a riverboat landing, the large, imposing Beatty-Corbett House looks through graceful moss-hung trees to a commanding view up and down the river. The original house, the southerly two-story, side-hall block, was built about 1850 for James L. Corbett, a member of the wealthy and prominent area Corbett family, who were large planters and active in the naval stores industry; the land was acquired from Hays White Beatty. Corbett's son, William Murphy Corbett, about 1900 added the northerly, two-story, double-pile house from which projects the stately two-story, northwesterly facing portico. A two-room ell was added on the northeast about 1920. Built at the junction of the Sampson, Pender, and Bladen county lines, the house itself, while actually located in Pender County, has always been associated with Ivanhoe; part of the front yard is in Sampson County while across the river is Bladen County. Prior to 1872, this southernmost section of Sampson County was still part of New Hanover County; Pender County was not created from New Hanover County until 1875. The most recent owner of the house, William Murphy Corbett, Jr., died in September 1981; the estate is now being settled. His son, who has lived in the house for several years, has maintained the house and eventually plans to completely restore the family homeplace or sell to someone who can.

The imposing northwestern facade extends for seventy feet and unites the front of the two sections. Both are weatherboard, sheltered under gable roofs of standing seam metal, and rest on a foundation of brick piers. Extending across the entire front facade, underneath the portico and continuing along the northeast elevation, is a porch supported by turned posts and connected with a railing of turned balusters.

The ca 1850, side-hall, Greek Revival gable-front block on the south has a returning cornice and bracketed frieze; a diamond-shaped, louvered vent is centered in the gable. In addition to the long porch on the northwest facade, a small side porch projects at the rear of the southwest elevation, having mill and sawn work of a heavier scale and finer detail than the front porch. Sash on this two-bay-by-three-bay block are six over six with flat two-part surrounds which have a peaked lintel enclosing a recessed circular medallion; the louvered shutters survive. The entrance, with a replacement Victorian door, has sidelights and the same surround. To the left of the front door is a projecting three-window bay. A handsome, turned baluster staircase rises from the front of the center hall. An apparent interior change during the ca 1900 enlargement was the moving of the interior chimney to interior end in order to accommodate the mantels of the new adjoining rooms. Wainscots in the hall and two parlors are multi-beaded, tongue-and-groove sheathing laid diagonally; similar sheathing is on the hall ceiling. The front parlor has a decoratively laid ceiling focusing on a wooden circular medallion in the center. A bathroom has been added at the rear of the hall.

The ca 1900 Classical Revival addition is dominated by the two-story portico that shelters the central bay of the five-bay, single-pile block. Supporting the projecting center gable of the cross gable are two pairs of pillars which have heavy molded banding at the corners of the pillar's four faces. This portico extends beyond the front porch, with each pillar resting on a large, stuccoed pier. A second-story porch, enclosed with a turned baluster railing with large corner newels, rests on the roof of the porch

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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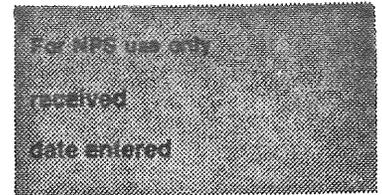
Continuation sheet Beatty-Corbett House Item number 7 Page 1

and is sheltered under the portico. The pediment has sheathing with applied Stick Style ornamentation surrounding a rectangular louvered vent. The northeast gable has a decorative spandrel. Sash are two over two with flat exterior surrounds; a majority retain their louvered shutters. The rear ell, said to have been added sometime about 1920, is identical in detail to the ca 1900 block. Extending to the southeast behind the northeast parlor, the two-room ell, with a chimney between the house and ell, has along its southwest elevation an attached porch that extends from the central, through hall until it terminates with a pantry. Also having turned posts and baluster railing, the porch is screened. The plaster interior of the Classical Revival house is representative of its period in rural Sampson County. The center hall, with a beaded, tongue-and-groove sheathed wainscot, focuses on the handsome dog-leg staircase, which has paired turned balusters carrying the heavy handrail, an oversized newel and decorative scrolls under the treads. The mantels are handsome examples of the Colonial Revival mantels readily available at the turn of the century; the only mirrored overmantel is in the former dining room, the first room of the ell.

The house's grounds are shaded with numerous moss-hung trees and the house site is surrounded by the river and extensive woods; the nearest dwelling is at least a half-mile away. Surviving outbuildings include a round-notched log stable, the smokehouse, the tool shed, and the washhouse. Rising to the northeast of the house is a sulfur spring which flows into the Black River. To the southwest of the house, near the side porch of the Greek Revival section, are several sections of ornate, Gothic-inspired, cast iron fence brought here from the Thomas Corbett cemetery several miles away.

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Continuation sheet Beatty-Corbett House

Item number 7

Page 2

Inventory of Outbuildings and potential archaeological sites:

- A. Smokehouse - A simple frame structure, with gable roof covered with standing seam metal and weatherboarded. The entrance is at the gable end. Mid-19th century.
- B. Tool room - a small four-by-four frame structure with sides of vertically laid wide sheathed boards. It has a gable roof with long projecting eaves. Mid-to-late 19th century.
- C. Washhouse - A simple frame building with gable roof. The structure is weatherboarded and one side is open, permitting access to the boiling pot with its common bond brick chimney. Mid-to-late 19th century.
- D. Log stable - a ten-by-twelve foot shelter constructed of round logs with round notching; the gable end is finished with weatherboards. The only opening is a board door in the gable end. Probably late 19th century.
- E. Sulfur spring.
- F. Tobacco Barn - a frame tobacco barn, typical of the region. Early 20th century.
- G. Corbett cemetery fence - an ornate iron fence consisting of ornate scallops, arches, knots and circles. Posts are also ornate with urn-shaped finials. Moved.
- AA Site of former turpentine still. At the turn of the 20th century Corbett operated a turpentine still here.
- BB Site of former riverboat landing. The site is known as Beatty's Landing, indicating that a landing was in operation here in the 1850s or earlier.
- CC Site of former cotton gin - Corbett operated a cotton gin here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

There are five contributing structures, one contributing object (the cemetery fence), the sulphur spring, and three potential archaeological sites, totaling 10 contributing features in this nomination.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL _____ STATE X LOCAL

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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

Ca. 1850-53

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elegantly nestled among the moss-hung trees overlooking the picturesque Black River at the junction of Sampson, Pender and Bladen counties, sits the imposing Beatty-Corbett House. The first section, a two-story, gable front, Greek Revival block, was built about 1850 possibly for William Henry Beatty or his son, Hays White Beatty, but more probably for James Corbett who acquired the land in 1853. The property was acquired around 1900 by William Murphy Corbett (1865 - 1944) and substantially enlarged with the erection of a large, imposing two-story Classical Revival wing with a pillared portico onto the previous Beatty House. At this time, Corbett owned approximately 10,000 acres, in addition to operating a nearby turpentine still, cotton gin, crate factory, wire-making shop and cooper shop. The private riverboat landing, known as Beatty's Landing, was important in the system of Black River landings that permitted easy access to the Wilmington markets for area products. The Beattys and Corbetts were two of the Ivanhoe area's most prominent pioneer families, and this house is a testimony to the gracious style of living enjoyed by the wealthy planters in southeastern North Carolina. The site, with the tranquil Black River drifting lazily by, is one of peaceful beauty unequalled in the area.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Beatty-Corbett House is important in the development of the river-oriented plantation economy of the mid-19th and 20th centuries. Its private riverboat landing was a significant stop during the heyday of riverboating on the Black River.
- B. The house and plantation are associated with two of the area's most prominent and early families, among the many thousands of Scotch and Scotch-Irish immigrants to settle in the Cape Fear River basin.
- C. The imposing house is exemplary of the quality of style and construction possible when the two sections were built. The marvelous siting adds immensely to the visual significance of the residence.
- D. The site is likely to yield information significant to the study and understanding of mid-19th and 20th century agriculture, rural industry and riverboating in southeastern North Carolina.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Beatty-Corbett House is located near the community of Ivanhoe, near the Black River at the conjunction of Sampson, Bladen, and Pender counties. Although the Corbett family has long association with southern Sampson County, the house itself is in Pender County, which was formed from New Hanover County in 1875.

It is not certain who built the house, which probably dates from 1850 to 1855. In 1853, James Corbett purchased the land on which the house sits from William Henry Beatty (1768-1853).¹ It is possible that the house was built by W. H. Beatty, although this seems unlikely due to his advanced age, or by his son, Hays White Beatty (1812-1897), or by Corbett after his acquisition of the property. Local tradition disagrees and the loss of a number of records make resolution of the problem difficult.

Corbett was a prosperous farmer. The 1860 census shows that he owned in excess of 4,000 acres, valued at \$2,000. He does not appear on the slave schedule, although there are pages missing from the New Hanover Slave Schedule. Corbett owned \$1,000 worth of livestock, including 100 swine, and grew 800 bushels of corn and 3 tons of hay.²

James Corbett died in 1902 at the age of 85. His wife, Mary, died in 1909 at the age of 83. Their son, William Murphy Corbett, acquired the house and land and continued to farm. He died in 1944 and left the house to his daughter, Mrs. Margaritte Eakins. It was subsequently acquired by her brother, William Murphy Corbett, Jr. (1904-1981) and is now owned by Alice Corbett Stafford.³

The Beatty-Corbett House is typical of the fine antebellum houses built by the area's planter class. It is located near the Beatty's bridge landing on the river and this association with river traffic further increases its historic importance.

FOOTNOTES

¹New Hanover County Deed Book LL, p. 301.

²Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, New Hanover County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.

³Sampson County Deed Book 576, p. 237.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New Hanover County Deed Book LL, p. 301.
Sampson County Deed Book 567, p. 237.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 115.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 7	7 5 2 4 5 0	3 8 6 2 6 1 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 1 7	7 5 2 4 5 0	3 8 6 2 6 1 4 0

A. Lat. 34° 33' 26"

Long. 78° 15' 17"

B. Lat. 34° 32' 55"

Long. 78° 15' 27"

B	1 7	7 5 2 4 5 0	3 8 2 7 2 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated is the 115.3 acres ± (16.88 in Sampson County and 98.42 in Pender County) as shown on the map of the Survey for William Murphy Corbett III (March 23, 1977) and registered in the Sampson County Register of Deeds Office, Map Book 11, Page 29. A copy of the map is enclosed. A copy of the deed from William M. Corbett, Jr. to Alice C. Stafford is also enclosed. (Book 567, p. 237.)

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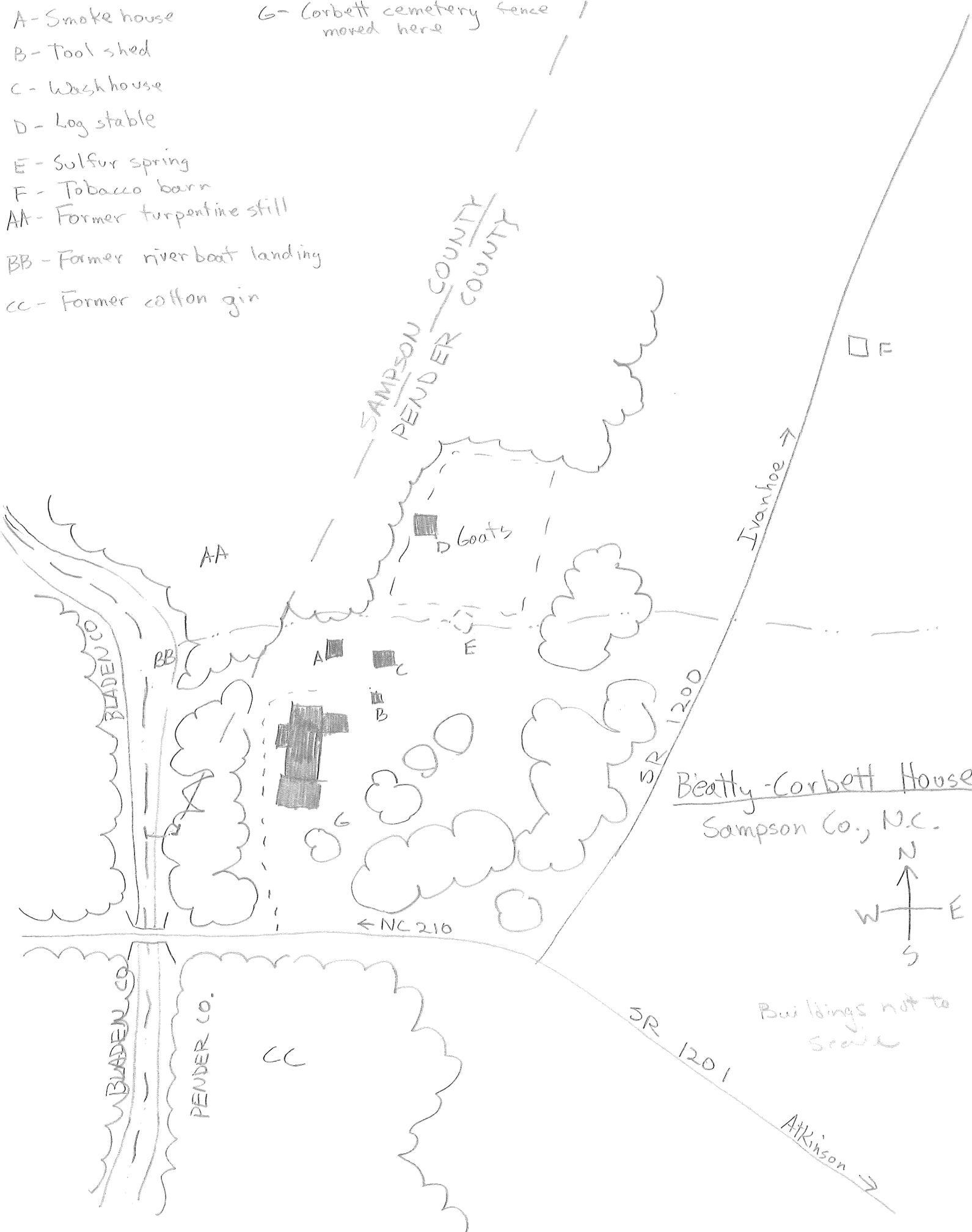
Continuation sheet Beatty-Corbett House Item number 10 Page 1

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

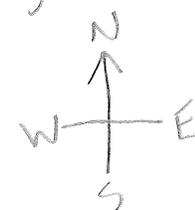
The Corbett family was able to amass 10,000 acres on which they lived, farmed, operated a number of industrial enterprises, including a turpentine still, cotton gin, crate factory, wire-making shop, copper shop and a private riverboat landing, known as Beatty's Landing. The 115.3 acres which are being nominated include the site of the house, a number of outbuildings, the landing and the sites of other enterprises, and this property has been associated with the Beatty and Corbett families since at least 1850. The acreage will also insure the tranquil and rural setting of the house, and will preserve a portion of the bank of the Black River.

- A - Smoke house
- B - Tool shed
- C - Washhouse
- D - Log stable
- E - Sulfur spring
- F - Tobacco barn
- AA - Former turpentine still
- BB - Former river boat landing
- CC - Former cotton gin

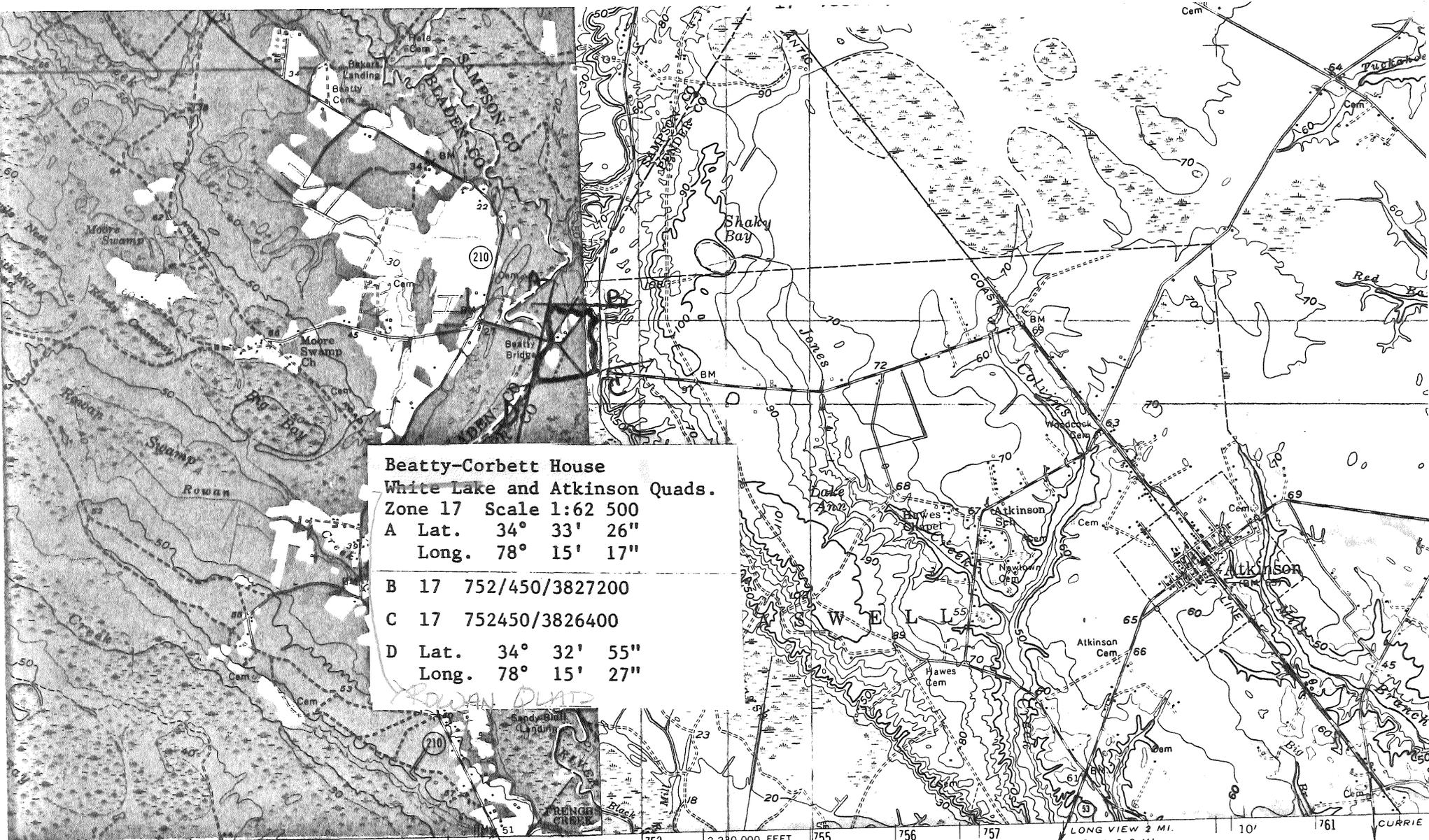
G - Corbett cemetery fence moved here



Beatty-Corbett House
Sampson Co., N.C.

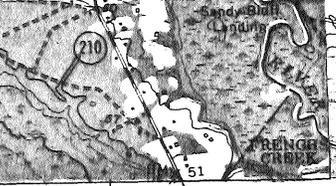


Buildings not to scale



Beatty-Corbett House
White Lake and Atkinson Quads.
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500
A Lat. 34° 33' 26"
Long. 78° 15' 17"

B 17 752/450/3827200
C 17 752450/3826400
D Lat. 34° 32' 55"
Long. 78° 15' 27"



INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.-1956-NS
 M R-0825

2.9 MI. TO N.C. 53
 COLLY 4 MI.

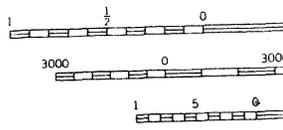
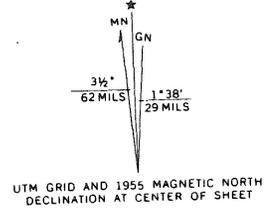
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
 Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
 U.S. Route State Route

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
 Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1951. Topography by planetable surveys 1954-1955
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 1,000-foot grid based on North Carolina coordinate system
 Short dashed blue lines indicate elliptical bay outlines
 as distinguished on aerial photographs
 1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue



WHITE LAKE, N. C.
 N 3430 - W 7815/15

1954



THIS IS
 FOR SALE BY
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING

N 23° 20' E - 60.00'
 N 35° 25' E - 180.94'
 N 35° 55' E - 410.00'
 N 26° 20' E - 435.00'
 N 06° 24' W - 330.12'
 N 28° 52' W - 197.06'
 N 51° 54' W - 102.66'

Lines (B) to (C) are traverse of CORBETT MILL RACE to S. R. 1200

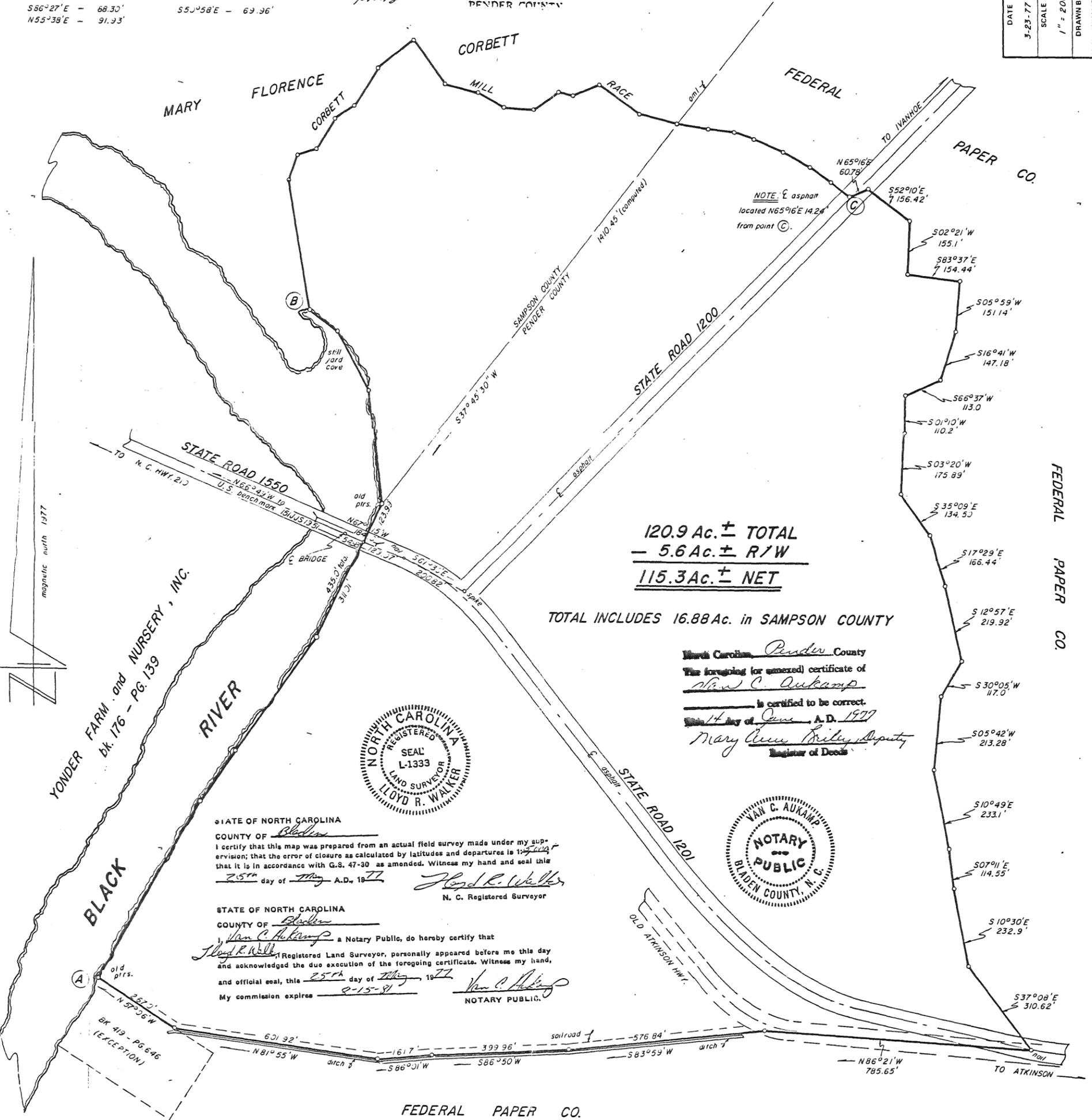
N 08° 46' W - 366.27'	S 76° 24' E - 44.12'
N 17° 15' E - 82.35'	N 66° 14' E - 84.75'
N 72° 20' E - 61.00'	S 54° 19' E - 144.55'
N 30° 20' E - 104.62'	S 75° 30' E - 117.85'
N 55° 56' E - 70.73'	S 80° 20' E - 34.38'
N 32° 36' E - 132.79'	S 83° 33' E - 75.90'
N 51° 32' E - 134.25'	S 63° 48' E - 59.40'
S 34° 43' E - 156.43'	S 66° 14' E - 93.06'
S 63° 23' E - 95.00'	S 60° 35' E - 91.38'
S 56° 06' E - 85.09'	S 56° 01' E - 75.90'
S 66° 27' E - 68.30'	S 50° 58' E - 69.96'
N 55° 38' E - 91.93'	

SURVEY FOR
WILLIAM MURPHY CORBETT, III
 SAMPSON and PENDER COUNTIES
 MARCH 23, 1977
 NORTH CAROLINA
 SCALE: 1" = 200'

Filed for registration on the 14 day of June 19 77 at 9:40 O'clock A.
 I registered in the office of the Register of Deeds
 Pender County in Book No. 15 Page 60
Hugh A. Aukamp, Jr.
 Register of Deeds for
 PENDER COUNTY

DEED REF. BK. 419 - PG. 646
 PENDER COUNTY REGISTRY

DRAWING	
DATE	3-23-77
SCALE	1" = 200'
DRAWN BY:	VAN AUKAMP
LLOYD R. WALKER Registered Land Surveyor WHITEVILLE - ELIZABETHTOWN NORTH CAROLINA	



NOTE: LINES (C) to (A) surveyed using old ground evidence as shown by WILLIAM M. CORBETT, JR.

