

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Black River Presbyterian and Ivanhoe Baptist Churches

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
SR 1102, 0.1 mi E of SR 1100

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
Ivanhoe

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE  
North Carolina

CODE  
037

COUNTY CODE  
Sampson 163

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Black River Presbyterian Church Ivanhoe Baptist Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Ivanhoe, NC 28447

VICINITY OF  
Ivanhoe, NC 28447 STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Sampson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

STATE

North Carolina 28328

**6 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Thomas Butchko Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Survey & Planning Branch Research Branch

DATE

June 14, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh,

STATE

NC 27611

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Across SR 1102 from each other, just south of Ivanhoe, are two handsome, frame church structures--Black River Presbyterian Church and Ivanhoe Baptist Church. The Black River Church is the more significant of the two. As the earliest and most numerous settlers in this area were Highland Scots, the Presbyterian Church, the predominant church of these immigrants, has always served an important function in the area's history. The congregation was organized in 1740, and this stately Greek Revival temple-front edifice is the congregation's fourth building; it was built in 1859 and features an impressive pillared portico. Across the road and 500 feet southeast is the Ivanhoe Baptist Church, built in 1893 or 1895 at the time of the church's organization. Combining traditional late 19th century rural gable front form with vernacular triangular-pointed Gothic arches, the relaxed formality of the Baptist Church is a perfect compliment to the studied austerity of the Presbyterian's temple front portico. Both frame structures are sheltered in pleasant groves of moss-hung trees. Each has its own cemetery, with numerous excellent stones at Black River marking the resting places of many of the area's pioneers and leaders.

#### Black River Presbyterian Church

The austere Greek Revival style Black River Presbyterian Church is a one-story frame edifice resting on a brick-infilled foundation of brick piers. The five-bay-by-four-bay structure is covered with weatherboard and a standing seam metal roof. The shallow pedimented portico is engaged under the front gable roof. Four tall pillars with molded Doric capitals and bases support the boxed cornice and frieze which extends along the side elevations. The plain west rear elevation has flush eaves and a replacement straight brick flue stack. Simple cornerboards rest on the wide bottom boards. The twelve-over-twelve sash are covered with the louvered shutters. On the east front facade are three entrances separated by windows. The center one, with double four-panel doors encased in a flat three-part surround, is flanked by two single similar doors which open on stairs to the former slave gallery. As was the tradition, there was no direct access to the slave gallery from the church's interior.

Entrance into the plastered interior is through a small vestibule from which side doors lead to the double aisle sanctuary; the lateral pews abut the side walls. The pulpit sits upon a raised platform along the west wall with the altar in front and is flanked by two of the windows which, because they are constantly shuttered, permit a soft filtered interior illumination. The balcony, which extends across the rear and along both lateral walls, is supported by eight simple posts and is fronted with a continuous rail with molded, recessed panels. The simply but solidly-built pews are original to the building and have slightly recessed end panels.

To the north of the church building is a cement block church hall, built in the 1950s or 1960s with a front roof. North and northeast of the church is the cemetery containing many handsome stones dating from the early 1800s to the present. Of special interest are two paling fence enclosures with pointed corner stakes and several raised tablet graves. Buried here, shaded by numerous trees hung with Spanish moss, are families who were instrumental in the area's industrial, agricultural, and architectural development, among them the Bannermans, Corbetts, Kerrs, Robinsons, and Sellers.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

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Ivanhoe Baptist Church

The Ivanhoe Baptist Church, also frame and weatherboard, has front lateral wings containing church school rooms that expand the gable front north facade to five bays; the church is four bays deep. A porch is covered by a slightly diminished gable roof and carried by four slender pillars. Cornerboards with simple capitals carry the returning boxed eaves. Fenestration is six-over-six, with triangularly pointed, vernacular Gothic Revival arched transoms having a two-part surround with a molded edge. The similarly shaped louvered shutters are kept closed. The front central entrance is a wonderful example of academic style adaption by local craftsmen. The triangularly pointed opening is fitted with double doors, with each door containing half of the door's pointed arch. At the rear of the church block is a ground level shed addition which joins a ca. 1945 one-story church school annex on the rear southeast.

The center hall interior has seen several remodelings, but the plastered sanctuary retains much of its original character. Upon entering, one is first in a shallow vestibule that spans the width of the portico and then passes through a similar set of arched double doors into the sanctuary. The major stylistic features are the pointed windows of clear glass, now kept shuttered. A celotex ceiling was added about 1960; changes about 1970 included a new simulated paneling wainscot and replacement pews. At the northwest and northeast front corners of the building are small, individual, square classrooms which retain the original plaster and baseboard. In the northwest room is the church bell's rope.

The Baptist cemetery is much smaller than the Presbyterian and contains a variety of stones dating from 1880 to the present. Family names represented here include the Moores and Sikes/Sykes.

The two churches have a common boundary for approximately 165 feet and are surrounded by fields, woods, and individual residences. Sheltered by numerous moss-hung oaks and surrounded by their graveyards, the churches lie 350 yards east of the Black River and form a picturesque grouping of significance in the religious and social lives of the area's pioneers, especially the Highland Scots.

There are four contributing elements to this joint nomination.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL

\_\_\_\_ STATE

XX

\_\_\_\_ 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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**

1859/ca 1893 or 1895

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

Unknown

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The church was often the only organized social organization in the early rural areas of North Carolina and it became an integral and important aspect of a community's growth and sense of being. The Black River Presbyterian Church was organized in 1740 by the early Highland Scot immigrants who came to this vicinity by boat up the Black River from Wilmington. As were most of these Scots, they were staunchly Presbyterian and the Black River Church became the area's dominant organization--the meeting place of the many Scot families. This edifice, the congregation's third, was erected in 1859 in the bold and austere temple form of the Greek Revival. Its handsome pedimented portico and the cool, inviting, slave-galleried interior is the region's prime example of the suitability and monumentality of the Greek Revival style for the construction of rural churches and was indicative of the important role played by the church in a community lifestyle. Nearby and across the land is the Ivanhoe Baptist Church, organized and erected in 1893 or 1895. Because of the less-influential nature of the area's Baptists in the community's affairs, the congregation was much later in its organization. The building, less imposing than the Presbyterian's, is nonetheless a prime example of the application of ecclesiastical Gothic Revival elements--in this case, vernacular, triangularly-pointed transoms above the windows--onto the traditional classical form of the late 19th century church in Sampson County. The Ivanhoe Baptist Church is an excellent turn-of-the-century example of the bold gable front porch form of the Greek Revival that was popular in the county from about 1850 to 1900, patterned after the temple form of the Greek Revival, of which the Black River Presbyterian Church is a prime example. Surrounding both structures is their respective cemeteries containing numerous excellent stones. Especially significant are the mid-19th century

**CRITERIA ASSESSMENT**

- A. The two churches, especially the Black River Presbyterian, are indicative of the importance given the church in rural areas. The Black River Church is directly associated with the immigration of the thousands of Highland Scots that came to the Cape Fear River area in the 18th century. These Scots were among the most successful and prominent citizens of the Ivanhoe vicinity.
- B. The Black River Presbyterian Church is a superb example of the Greek Revival temple-form edifice so popular among rural churches in the 19th century. The Ivanhoe Baptist Church is one of the finest examples of the front gable porch form, a bold local adaption of the Greek Revival. Their respective cemeteries contain numerous stones that well illustrate the skill of the 19th century stonecutter.
- C. Although no investigation has been done, the sites are likely to yield information about 19th and early 20th century life.

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gravestones in the Presbyterian cemetery, several large stones raised on brick piers like tables, and two excellent cypress grave fences. These fences are the finest to survive in the county. These two churches and their cemeteries, located near the picturesque Black River, form a group of great religious, social, and architectural significance in the Black River and Cape Fear River area.

Criteria Exceptions:

- A. Black Creek Presbyterian is perhaps the best example of Greek Revival-Temple form antebellum religious architecture in Sampson County, and is being nominated on its architectural merits. Ivanhoe Baptist Church, located across SR 1102 from Black Creek Presbyterian Church, is an fine example of the vernacular, traditional building styles of the late nineteenth century. Together the two provide a picturesque, intact example of two widely popular styles.
- D. Both Black Creek Presbyterian Church and Ivanhoe Baptist Church have attendant cemeteries which are included in this nomination. Ivanhoe Baptist Church cemetery has a number of fine gravestones dating from the early twentieth century. Black Creek Church cemetery has a fine and unusual collection of earlier, mid-nineteenth gravestones as well as two excellent cypress grave fences.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Black River Presbyterian Church is located adjacent to the Black River near the Sampson County community of Ivanhoe. The congregation dates from 1740, making it the oldest active church congregation in the county. The present church structure was completed in 1859 and is the congregation's fourth home.

The members of the congregation met at the courthouse (New Hanover County) until 1768 when the first church building was completed. It burned shortly afterwards and was replaced about 1770 with the second building. Prior to 1770 the area around the church was sparsely settled and services were irregular. Around 1770 an influx of settlers from Arran Island in Scotland filled the area out somewhat but the Revolution stopped immigration. It wasn't until 1790 that the church was able to employ its first full-time pastor, Reverend Colin Lindsay, who came to the region from Scotland. A controversial figure, Reverend Lindsay stayed only a short period at Black River. In 1799, Robert Tate became pastor, a position he held until 1834. It was during his tenure in 1818 that the third building was completed, replacing the recently-burned 1770 structure. Samuel C. Alexander was pastor when the present building was constructed in 1859. The 1818 building remained standing for some time and was used for educational purposes. <sup>2</sup>

The Black River Presbyterian Church has continued as an active church. The grounds now hold newer buildings such as the church hall constructed in the 1950s. A cemetery is also on the grounds.

Highland Scots were a fairly sizeable component in the early settlement of what became Sampson County. The Black River Presbyterian Church was an important focal point for that community during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In a context as rural and isolated as that of Sampson County, a church such as Black River served a variety of functions. It was the religious, social, cultural, and educational center of the community.

The Ivanhoe Baptist Church is located about five hundred feet from the Black River Presbyterian Church. The church was founded about 1893. The present building was constructed about that time and has continued to house the congregation.

During the period immediately after the Civil War, the Baptists became the largest denomination in Sampson County. Ivanhoe Baptist Church was one of a number of Baptist churches created during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Adjacent to the church is a cemetery containing graves dating as early as the 1910s. A school annex building was completed in 1945.

The Black River Presbyterian Church and the nearby Ivanhoe Baptist Church combine to form a complex important to southern Sampson County's religious and social history.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McEachern, Leora. Pender County, North Carolina Gravestone Records, Including Some Adjacent New Hanover County and lower Sampson County Gravestone Records (privately published), 1974.

Bizzell, Oscar M., ed. The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina. Winston-Salem: 1983.

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## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 7

### UTM REFERENCES

Black River Presbyterian

Ivanhoe Baptist

A | 1, 7 | 7, 5 | 3, 0, 7, 5 | 3, 8 | 3, 2 | 3, 2, 5 |

B | 1, 7 | 7, 5 | 3, 2, 2, 5 | 3, 8 | 3, 2 | 2, 5, 0 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property to be nominated is that property currently owned by the two congregations, including their cemeteries and any adjacent woodlands owned by the churches.

See sketch map enclosed

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National Park Service

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Footnotes

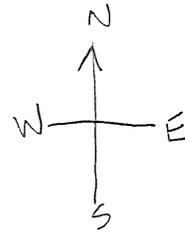
<sup>1</sup>Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Heritage Publishing Company for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983), 76 hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County.

<sup>2</sup>Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 76-77.

<sup>3</sup>Leora McEachern, Pender County, North Carolina Gravestone Records, Including Some Adjacent New Hanover County and lower Sampson County Gravestone Records (privately published, 1974), 32-37, hereinafter cited as McEachern, Pender County, North Carolina Gravestone Records.

<sup>4</sup>McEachern, Pender County, North Carolina Gravestone Records, Vol. V., p. 38-40; Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 84.

Black River Presbyterian and  
Ivanhoe Baptist Churches  
Sampson Co., N.C.



Scale: 1" = approx 200'

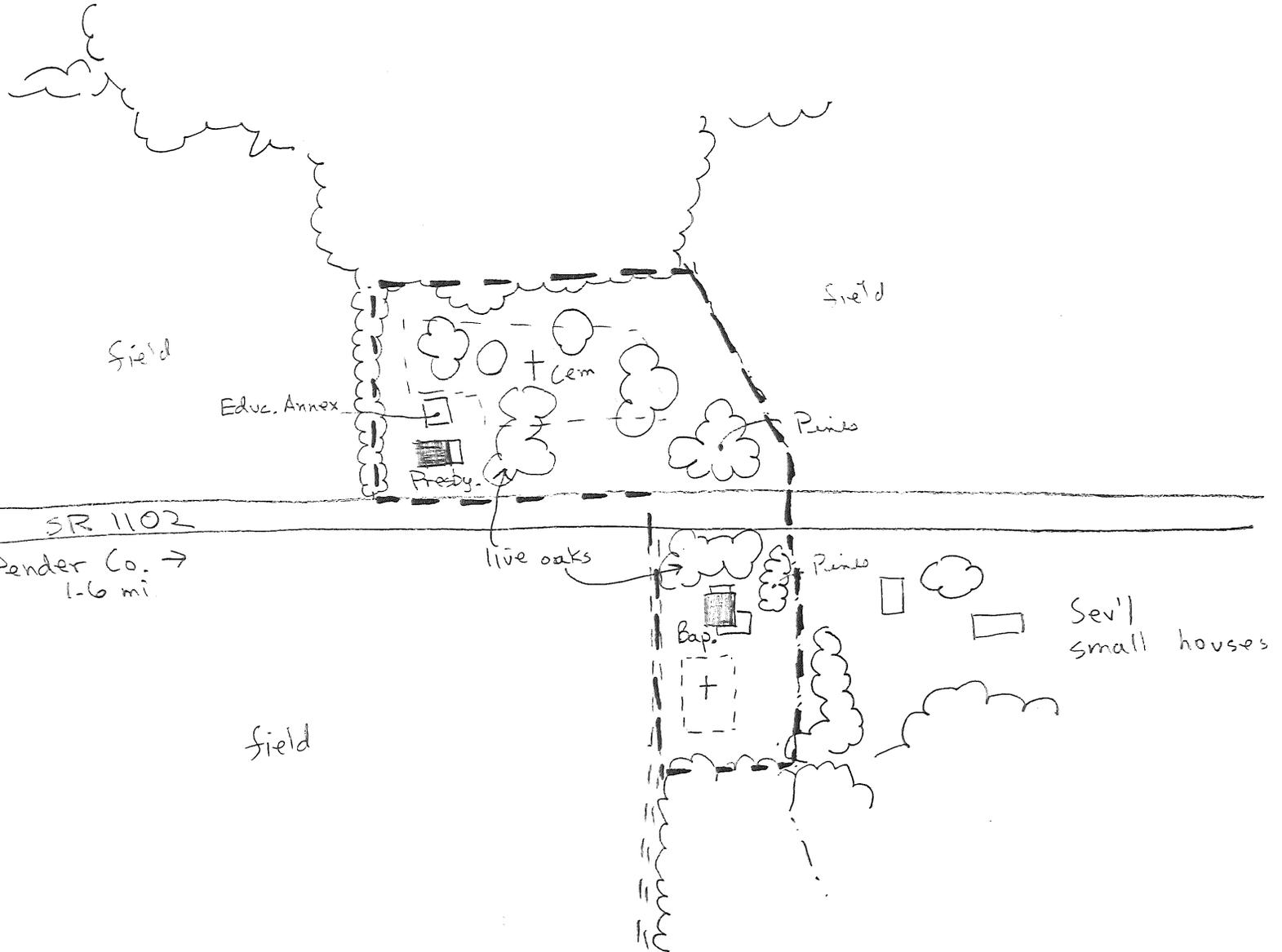
Ivanhoe 0.2 mi →

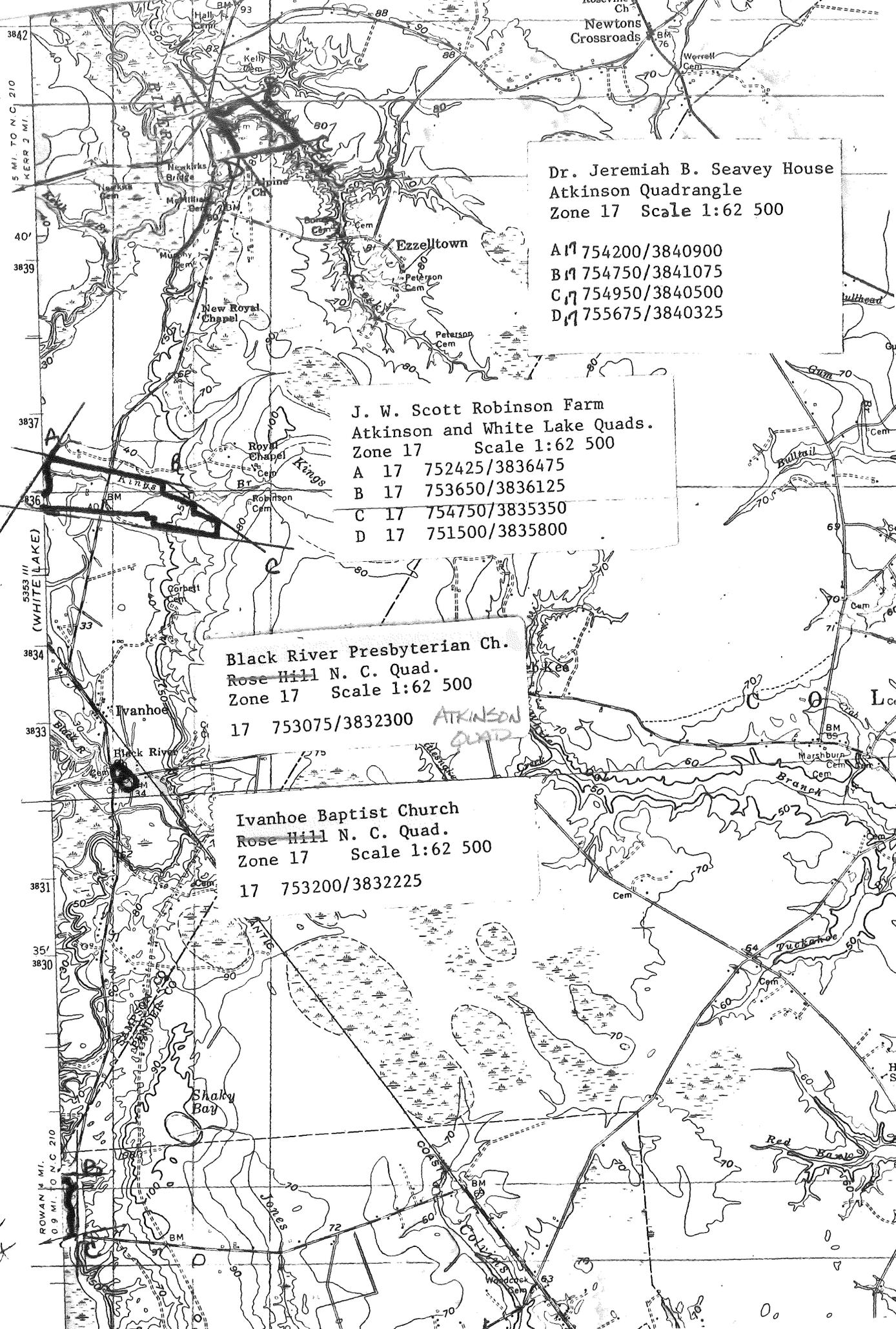
SR 1100

SR 1102

Pender Co. →  
1.6 mi

← 2.2 mi Pender Co.





Dr. Jeremiah B. Seavey House  
 Atkinson Quadrangle  
 Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

- A 17 754200/3840900
- B 17 754750/3841075
- C 17 754950/3840500
- D 17 755675/3840325

J. W. Scott Robinson Farm  
 Atkinson and White Lake Quads.  
 Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

- A 17 752425/3836475
- B 17 753650/3836125
- C 17 754750/3835350
- D 17 751500/3835800

Black River Presbyterian Ch.  
 Rose Hill N. C. Quad.  
 Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

17 753075/3832300 **ATKINSON QUAD**

Ivanhoe Baptist Church  
 Rose Hill N. C. Quad.  
 Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

17 753200/3832225

*Black-Carroll*

