

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bethune-Powell Buildings

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

120 - 118 East Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Sampson

CODE

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | <u>N/A</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| | | | <input 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. James C. Bethune (919) 738-7433

George E. and Jacklyn S. Wilson

STREET & NUMBER

206 E. 19th St.

P. O. Box 28

CITY, TOWN

Lumberton, NC 28358

VICINITY OF

Clinton, NC 28328

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Sampson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Clinton, NC 28328

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tom Butchko

Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

9-24-85

STREET & NUMBER

109 E. Jones St.

(919) 733-6545

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh,

STATE

N. C. 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

The robust application of pressed metal sheathing onto the storefronts of these two-story brick buildings transform them into the finest example of turn-of-the-century decorative arts in the area. The exuberance of details--the colonnade of pilasters which flank the second story windows, the garlanded frieze, and the heavy, modillioned cornices--on these two buildings stand in marked contrast to the typical commercial building in Sampson County: brick with corbeled details and possibly a metal cornice or decorative window surrounds. While the buildings are of different sizes and heights, they were built at the same time to replace buildings burned in the big July 1902 fire and are united by their similar facades. The first floor facades and the interiors of both have been substantially altered.

The front, northeastern facade of the Bethune Building, the larger of the two, is six bays wide. Across the second floor are six evenly-spaced one-over-one windows framed by engaged Corinthian columns resting on pedestals which are half the height of the window; the pedestals have two inset panels of stylized foliage. Blocks resting on the columns carry the large multi-banded frieze. The courses, from top to bottom and separated by molding stripes, consist of: a flat portion, a band of foliage spirals (resembling ram's horns) alternating clockwise and counterclockwise, and a row of evenly spaced circular medallions; the uppermost face of the cornice is delicately decorated with a series of foliage garlands. In the center of the facade, rising above the cornice, is the nameplate, spanning the center of two bays; it is no longer legible. The cornice terminates at each end with large, triangular brackets faced with anthemions; a pair of smaller brackets, taking the place of one of the modillions, is located under each end of the nameplate. The first floor facade, originally composed of two separate storefronts, has been replaced with large plate-glass display cases; the aluminum and glass double doors are off center towards the northwest. A flat metal awning is suspended from the storefront's transom lights which have been boarded over.

The Powell Building, located northwest of the Bethune Building, is only three bays wide and is about four feet shorter than the Bethune Building. It has essentially the same arrangement of elements, but because of its diminished size, the details are smaller in scale. Its three one-over-one sash windows are flanked by engaged Tuscan columns the full height of the windows; the bottom half of these columns are covered with floral and garland motif bands. Between each pair of windows is a panel--equal in size to a window--that is covered with a vertically-oriented pattern of urns and floral motifs. Crowning the three windows and these two panels is a series of five semicircular metal fanlight arches, intricately detailed and outlined; the overall effect is similar to an arcade. Above this are the two frieze courses, the upper being floral swags and the lower comprised of the same ram's horn spirals as seen on the Bethune Building. The cornice is smaller, less complex, with just a series of modillions supporting the molding. There is no central nameplate, but the cornice does terminate with the same anthemion-detailed brackets as does the Bethune Building. The Powell Building's first-floor facade has also been altered with replacement plate glass and its transom covered; there is no awning. At the southeast end of the building, at its junction with the Bethune Building, are the stairs to the now-vacant second floor offices.

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

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet Bethune-Powell Buildings Item number 7 Page 1

The interiors of both stores have been extensively altered with plasterboard walls, lowered ceilings, and the erection of frame partitions in the rear. As mentioned earlier, the Bethune Building was originally two separate stores, but the interior wall has been removed and metal posts put in its place. However, the upstairs still reflects the original arrangement. Walls are plastered and the original ceilings are bevel-edged sheathing. The upstairs of both buildings are vacant.

The only other difference in the two buildings is on the rear elevation, which has remained relatively unaltered. The six-bay Bethune Building is 7:1 and 8:1 American bond brick that has two-over-two sash windows with segmentally-arched lintels; the first floor sills are cement, the second floor wooden. There are two doors on the first floor, each flanked by windows. The smaller, three-bay Powell Building is 6:1 American bond brick, two six-over-six sash windows with flat lintels flanking the altered door. The bottom half of the first floor has been stuccoed, although not originally.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | | |
| <input checked="" 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. 1902 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bethune and Powell Buildings, two adjacent two-story brick commercial structures covered with ornate pressed metal sheathing in a robust pattern of colonnaded, arched garland friezes and modillion cornice, are the outstanding commercial structures in Sampson County. In a county where the typical commercial building is a plain brick storefront with corbelled cornice, these buildings stand out as architectural landmarks; no other building even compares with the vivaciousness of their detailing. The Bethune Building is the larger and more ornate of the two. They were built in 1902 to replace structures burned in the city's worst fire in July of that year, a blaze that destroyed much of downtown. The original use was a grocery/hardware store; the Masonic Temple was above the Bethune section. The longest tenant of the Powell Building was Sampson Ace Hardware; it moved to its present location about 1958. The two structures, both of which have had their first floor facades altered, are the dominant structures on the courthouse square. The Bethune Building is owned by the daughter-in-law of the original owner, L. A. Bethune (1868-1956). The Powell Building is now owned by Mr. George E. Wilson.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The buildings are associated with the commercial development of Clinton at the turn of the century, occupying an important site in the commercial district surrounding the central courthouse square.

- C. The buildings are excellent examples of the turn-of-the-century use of decorative pressed metal to sheath commercial structures, resulting in an exuberant building. In a county where commercial buildings of this age are plain and simple, these structures represent a bold introduction of style into the downtown area of the small town of Clinton.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Bethune-Powell buildings are commercial buildings located in the main business section of downtown Clinton. The adjacent, two-story brick buildings date from 1902 and both have had a number of tenants.

In 1902 a major fire destroyed much of the southern section of town, burning 43 structures. Earlier fires in 1877, 1892, and 1894 had also caused major damage in the town. The Powell and Bethune buildings were two of the many new structures built downtown to replace those lost in this latest conflagration. The Bethune Building, the larger of the two, was built by Lauchlin Alexander Bethune, one of Sampson County's business and civic leaders. Bethune was born in 1867 in Aberdeen. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Bethune taught school in Salemburg and worked on the staff of the Raleigh News and Observer before moving to Clinton. He moved to that city in 1894 to start the Sampson Democrat. Bethune became a booster of Clinton. He was president of the Bank of Clinton from 1901 until 1931, chairman of the Board of Education in Sampson County, chairman of the Sampson Board of Commissioners from 1928 until 1934, a member of the North Carolina Tax Commission from 1923 until 1934 and the founder of Bethune Insurance and Real Estate and Bethune Cotton Brokerage. He represented Sampson County in the North Carolina Senate in 1925. Thus Bethune's construction of a commercial building on the ashes of a recent fire was consistent with a lifelong devotion to the development of Clinton and Sampson County.

The original use of the Bethune Building was as a grocery/hardware store. The Masonic Temple was located upstairs. Bethune's son, James Cave Bethune, inherited the building from his father. It is still owned by the Bethune family. The Powell Building, owned by J. L. Powell, has also had a number of tenants, most notably the Sampson Ace Hardware Store.²

FOOTNOTES

¹Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983), 41-43, 304.

²Information supplied by owners; Sanborn Insurance Maps, Clinton, NC, 1915, 1926.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|----------|------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 17 | 74,425,0 | 3,875,45,0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property to be nominated is the store lots at 118 and 120 East Main Street in Clinton.

Royal-Crumpler-Parker House
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1"62 500

17 743425/3875850

Robert Herring House
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

17 744250/3876050

GARLAND QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA
MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

748 2 220 000 FEET | 750 78°15' 35°00'

College Street Historic Dist.
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

- A 17 745050/3875900
- B 17 745350/3876075
- C 17 745150/3876000
- D 17 745125/3875850

W. Main-N. Chestnutt Sts. HD
Garland and Coharie Quads
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

- A 17 743875/3876275
- B 17 744200/3875700
- C 17 743800/3875200
- D 17 743700/3876025

Pugh-Boykin House
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

17 744075/3875800

Powell-Bethune Building
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

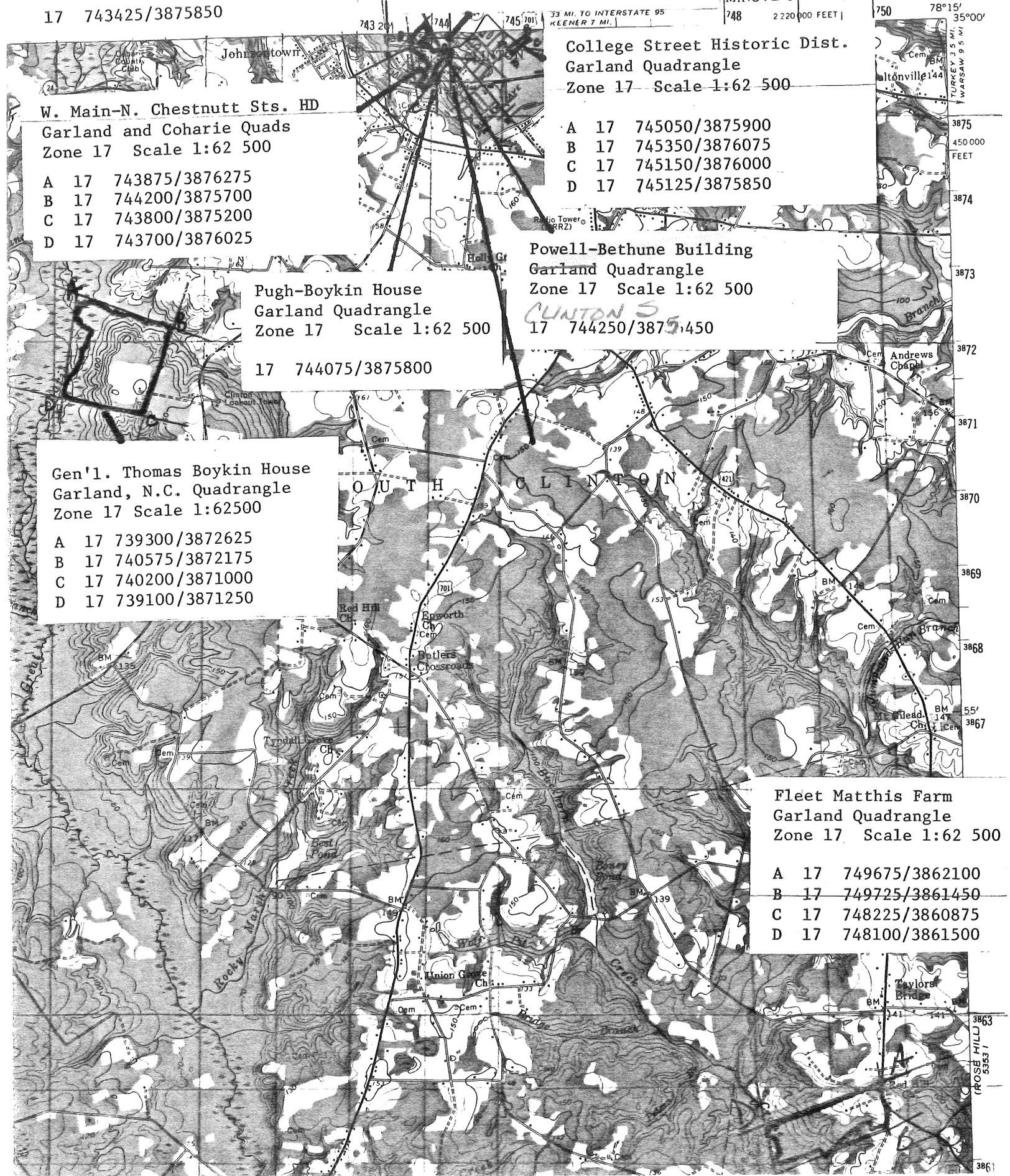
17 744250/3875450

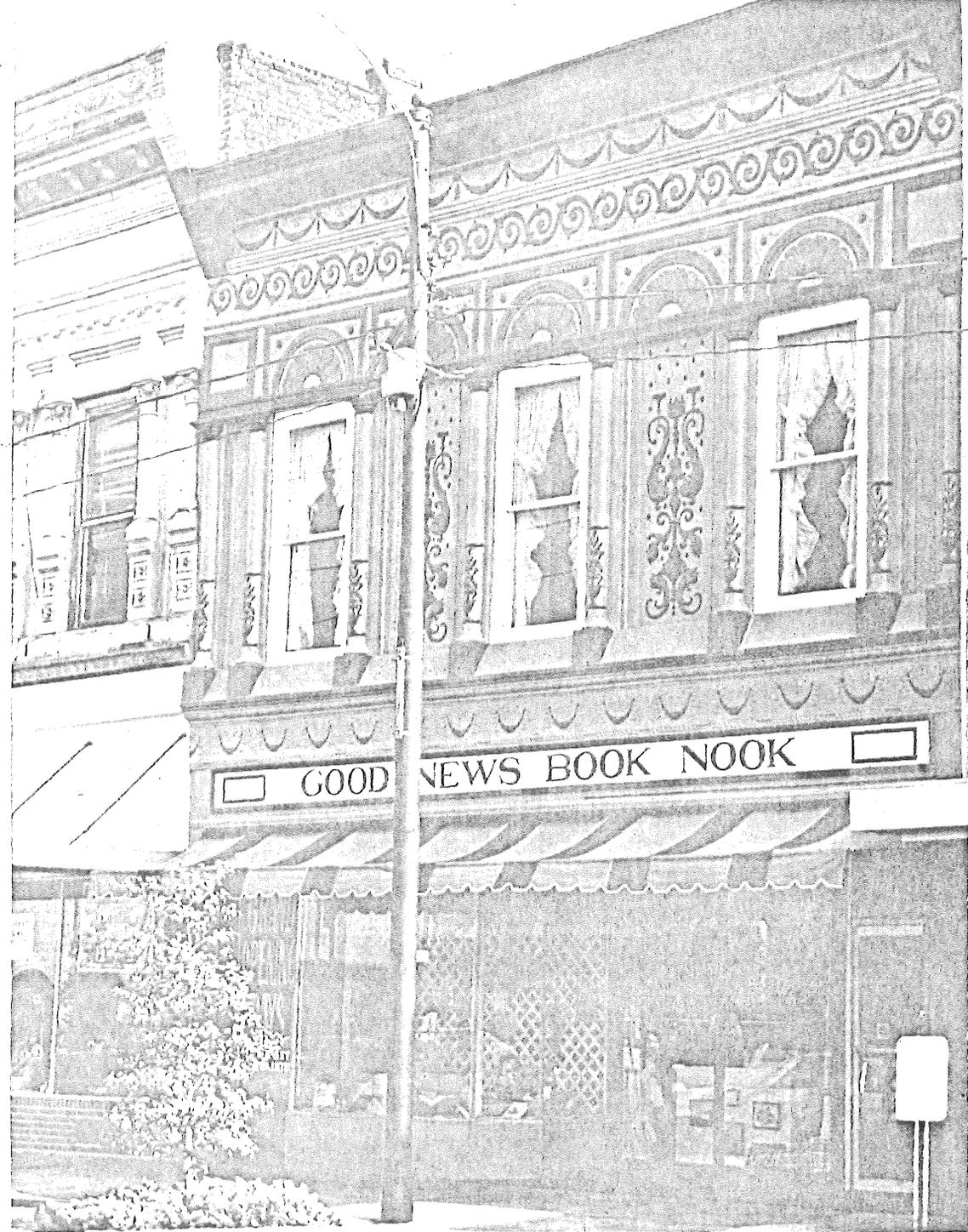
Gen'l. Thomas Boykin House
Garland, N.C. Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62500

- A 17 739300/3872625
- B 17 740575/3872175
- C 17 740200/3871000
- D 17 739100/3871250

Fleet Matthis Farm
Garland Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

- A 17 749675/3862100
- B 17 749725/3861450
- C 17 748225/3860875
- D 17 748100/3861500







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GOOD NEWS