

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Graves-Stewart House

and/or common Offices for First American Federal Savings and Loan Association

**2. Location**

street & number 600 College Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Clinton \_\_\_ vicinity of

state N.C. code 037 county Sampson code 163

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name First American Federal Savings and Loan Association

street & number 2406 East Ash Street Post Office Drawer G

city, town Goldsboro \_\_\_ vicinity of state N.C. 27530

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Sampson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Clinton state N.C. 28328

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Sampson County Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes \_\_\_ no

date March 1980 \_\_\_ federal  state  county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records North Carolina Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state N.C. 27611

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>early 1880s; 200 feet</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Graves-Stewart House (now offices for the First American Federal Savings and Loan Association) is a grandly-scaled, two-story, double-pile, temple form frame structure impressively finished with Greek Revival elements. The weatherboarded five bay-by-three bay house is distinguished by a large pedimented roof (covered with red cedar shingles), the tympanum of which is sheathed with flush boarding and contains a shuttered window. Enframing the pediment on the northwest facade and continuing along the northeast and southwest elevations is a boxed cornice with simple frieze. Handsome paneled pilasters accent each corner. An interior brick chimney laid in common bond with corbeled cap pierces each slope of the roof. The house rests on a recently rebuilt foundation of common bond brick piers with intervening sections of latticework.

Across the front facade extends a handsome three-bay, one-story porch, sheltered by a hip roof and carried by sturdy pillars. These pillars, paneled only on their front faces, rest on molded bases and use Doric capitals to carry the porch's heavy entablature; two identical pilasters assist the pillars. A balustrade with heavy, urn-shaped, turned balusters supporting the molded handrail connects the pillars.

The central entrance is especially handsome and follows a form popular in Clinton's surviving Greek Revival residences. Enframing the uncharacteristically short transom and the sidelights is a molded surround that features a peaked lintel, dog-ear cross-ettes, and slightly battered sides. Similar surrounds, but without the battering, are used at the six-over-six sash windows of the house, all of which have louvered blinds.

Extending from the eastern portion of the southeast (rear) elevation is a thirty foot long ell which engages a porch along its southwest elevation. Carrying this porch are three plain pillars (with molded capitals) that are connected by a balustrade of square, slender spindles. Along the northeast elevation of the ell is a shallow, two-foot deep projection enclosing a former porch that was added onto the ell in the early twentieth century. Extending from this is the roof of the drive-in window; the window itself is flush with the wall. A single shed room occupies the rest of the rear elevation.

The plastered, center hall plan interior is finished with the simple elements that are characteristic of many stylish Sampson County Greek Revival houses: two and four-panel doors, heart pine floors, simple baseboards with a molded edge, simple moldings at the cornice, and two-part surrounds. Mantels follow a simple classical form--a plain, wide frieze supported by simple pilasters. The west parlor mantel is enframed by a beveled two-part molding which forms dog-ears at the frieze and rests on battered pilasters that echo the exterior entrance surround. Rising from the front of the hall along the southwest wall is the open stringer stair. The rounded handrail begins at a large turned newel and is carried by paired, square spindles. The wall's baseboard continues to carry with the rise of the stairs to the second story; the ascent of the stairs is noticeable comfortable.

Four large bedrooms comprise the second floor. The mantels are similar to those downstairs, with the one in the front bedroom having dog-ears and battered pilasters (but not as pronounced as that directly below). From the rear of the hall rises a steep, enclosed stair (with winders) to the unfinished attic. A small half bath was added in the south corner of the rear east bedroom in the 1950s, with access from the rear of the hall.

The only alterations undertaken during the house's conversion to banking offices occurred in the rear two rooms of the first floor and in the rear ell. The south room was converted into the manager's office and was sheathed with heart pine paneling with raised Georgian panels. This paneling, the desk, and the bookshelves were made from wide heart pine boards that were taken from the ceilings when the original plaster

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

was removed and replaced with sheetrock (the millwork was done by the Baisden Mill Works of Goldsboro, North Carolina). The dividing wall between the rear east room and the hall was removed to create a large lobby area. The ell, which formerly contained the kitchen and pantries, was extensively, but sympathetically, converted into the teller cages, which were finished with the same raised heart pine panels, rest rooms, a staff lounge/kitchen, and the vault. The rear shed room was opened up into the lobby for use as an outer lobby/work area.

The only surviving outbuilding is the three-part carriage house, a frame, twenty-one foot-by-eleven foot, weatherboarded structure sheltered beneath a hip roof (red cedar shingles). The center portion of the building is occupied by a six-foot wide pull-through with round arched portals. The pull-through is flanked by two storage sheds, one six feet wide and the other nine feet wide, the latter having two, one-pane windows contained in two-part flat surrounds. Batten doors to the sheds are located on the exterior ends. The carriage house was moved from its original location along Eastover Street to facilitate better traffic circulation and parking, and because a city ordinance regarding set-back lines would have necessitated the carriage house's demolition had it not been moved. Two later outbuildings, a small raised shed and a garage, were removed from the site.

An extensive and sympathetic restoration/renovation of the house was undertaken in the spring of 1981 under the direction of the B.S. Bridgers Construction Company of Goldsboro, North Carolina. At that time the grounds were landscaped to include automobile traffic for the drive-in window and rear parking. The owner, in recognition of the restoration of the Graves-Stewart House, was honored with the presentation in 1981 of one of the Governor's Business Awards in the Arts and Humanities.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 1

The construction date of the Graves-Stewart House is uncertain. While architecturally it appears to date from the 1840s, a period when several impressive Greek Revival dwellings were built in Clinton that display the same peaked lintels and battered dog-ear surrounds as does the Graves-Stewart House, it is possible that Graves had the house built soon after his arrival in Clinton about 1854 as the principal of the Clinton Female Institute. In 1819 the state general assembly incorporated the Clinton Academy<sup>1</sup> and in 1826 the trustees were given two acres of land along present College Street.<sup>2</sup> That tract, the site of the present College Street Elementary School, was expanded until it contained 6.66 acres in 1859, the name having been changed to the Clinton Female Institute. It is on a corner of this 6.66 acre site that the Graves-Stewart House stands.

Luke C. Graves was born in 1814 in Vermont and is known to have been in North Carolina by 1850 when he shows up in the census as a teacher in the Warrenton Female Collegiate Institute<sup>3</sup>, where his brother, N.Z. Graves, was the principal.<sup>4</sup> (N.Z. Graves later taught in the Clinton school and was, for a brief period, the minister at the Clinton Presbyterian Church.<sup>5</sup>) L.C. Graves first appears in Clinton in November 1854 when he is listed as an elder in the Presbyterian Church, where he served several terms as clerk of the session and as one of the ruling elders until his death.<sup>6</sup> In 1859 he purchased the Clinton Female Institute from the stockholders for the sum of \$8000, including "all the houses, outhouses, priviledges, and appertenances thereunto belongong"<sup>7</sup>

The 1860 Census, Population Schedule for Sampson County lists Luke C. Graves, age 46, as the Principal of the Institute, owning \$8000 of real property and \$8700 of real property. Included in his household are his wife, Charlotte (age 49, born in Delaware), and their children: Thomas H. (age 16, born in Maryland), son N.Z. (age 10, born in North Carolina), daughter Virginia (age 7, born in North Carolina), and son H.B. (age 3, born in North Carolina). Boarding with the Graves were the three female teachers from the school. In the 1870 Census two Graves family members are teaching at the school, son Thomas and brother Nelson Z., the latter also being a minister.

L.C. Graves<sup>8</sup> died on January 20, 1869 and his widow died in Philadelphia on September 27, 1876.<sup>9</sup> Both are buried in the Clinton town cemetery alongside two daughters, Sallie Henry Graves (1852-1859) and Katurah Henry Graves (1855-1856).<sup>9</sup>

Jonathan Lafayette Stewart, who acquired the school and the Graves House in the late 1870s, was born on June 5, 1835 near Aberdeen in Monroe County, Mississippi, the eldest son of Moody Biry and Catherine Yocumbe (Crosby) Stewart.<sup>10</sup> He came as a student to the University of North Carolina from Centerville, Mississippi and was graduated with an A.B. in 1857.<sup>11</sup> Among his classmates were prominent North Carolinians Colonel Robert Bingham, Judge A.C. Avery, Colonel Thomas Kenan, and Judge B.F. Grady<sup>12</sup>; the latter founded the Clinton Male Academy in 1868. On his graduation day in 1857 he married Emilie Mildred Cave (born 1835), the daughter of Dr. Judson M. and Delia Cave of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.<sup>13</sup> He read law at the University under Dr. Samuel Phillips<sup>14</sup> and received his LL.B. in 1858.<sup>15</sup> In the 1860s Stewart moved to Clinton where he entered actively into the practice of law.<sup>16</sup> In 1870 he is listed in the census as a lawyer and a minister, owning \$3000 of real estate and \$1000 of personal property.<sup>17</sup> He and Emilie had five children.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

The property of the Clinton Female Institute, including the Graves-Stewart House, was sold in March 1873 to the Trustees of the Clinton Female Institute by the Graves heirs "to be used perpetually for school purposes."<sup>18</sup> J.L. Stewart served as president of the school from 1874-1878<sup>19</sup>, and by 1880 he had completed purchasing the entire school property from the trustees.<sup>20</sup> To Stewart is given much of the credit for the school's survival until it became a public supported school around the turn of the century. An advertisement in the November 4, 1886 issue of The Clinton Caucasian lists his daughter, Miss Maggie Stewart, as the assistant principal at the Clinton Female Academy.

Stewart was an active and talented man, being, in addition to a lawyer and teacher, an active minister in the Missionary Baptist Church, having entered the ministry in the 1860s. He served many churches in Sampson County and was for about thirty successive years the moderator of the Eastern Baptist Association, composed of parts of Sampson, Duplin, and Wayne counties.<sup>21</sup> As a lawyer, "he was regarded as one of the ablest in the State in his day. He combined with great legal ability unusual gifts as an advocate and was a power before a jury. His scholarly attainments were recognized at the time of the establishment of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Raleigh (in 1887, now North Carolina State University) when he came within one vote of being elected the first president of that institution, a position he did not seek."<sup>22</sup> He also represented Sampson County in the state senate in 1876-1877<sup>23</sup> and served as a trustee of the University of North Carolina from 1881 to 1897.<sup>24</sup>

After the death of his wife in 1895, Stewart married Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett (born 1860), a Sampson County widow, on September 21, 1898.<sup>25</sup> They had one daughter, Bettie. In about 1919 they moved to Wake County where they lived on a farm near Upchurch's Store.<sup>26</sup> Stewart died on December 13, 1920.

In 1896 Stewart deeded the Graves-Stewart House to his unmarried daughter, Mary Caroline Stewart (born 1861),<sup>27</sup> who resided in the house until her death in 1941. In 1943 the property was purchased by W.T. and Noy W. McLean,<sup>28</sup> who resided here until 1980. At that time the house was purchased from the McLean estate by the American Savings and Loan Association of Goldsboro, North Carolina for renovation as their Clinton offices.<sup>29</sup>

#### Footnotes

- 1 Laws of the State of North Carolina, 1819, (Raleigh: Tomas Henderson, Jr., State Printer, 1820), pp. 48-49.
- 2 Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 21, Page 271.
- 3 1850 Census, Population Schedule for Warren County.
- 4 Elizabeth Wilson Montgomery, Sketches of Old Warrenton, (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1924), pp. 119, 122, 128. Perkinsville, Vermont is given as the home of N.Z. Graves and is presumably also that of L.G. Graves (p.150).
- 5 ibid.; 1870 Census, Population Schedule for Sampson County; and Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church Session Minutes and Register, 1866-1882, Microfilm copy at North Carolina Archives, Raleigh.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

- 6 Minutes of the Session of the Presbyterian Church and Congregation of Shiloh, 1814-1864, Microfilm copy at the North Carolina Archives, Entry for November 26, 1854.
- 7 Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 34, Page 436.
- 8 op.cit., Graves Memorial Presbyterian Session Minutes, pp. 10,11.
- 9 In October 1907, in a letter from N.Z. Graves to Amma F. Johnson of Clinton in response to a request for a donation of fifty cents to the building fund to replace the Clinton Presbyterian Church which had been destroyed by fire in 1906, Graves offered to build, equip, and completely furnish a brick ediface in memory of his father, Luke C. Grabes, and a Sunday School in memory of his daughter, Lottie C. Graves. The offer was enthusiastically received and on November 22, 1908 the congregation voted to change its name to the L.C. Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church. The church, which stands at 100 Church Street, was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1908.
- 10 Stewart family history compiled by Henry L. (Hal) Stewart, Jr. of Clinton, a great-grandson of J.L. Stewart.
- 11 Daniel Lindsey Grant, Alumni History of the University of North Carolina, (Durham, North Carolina: Christian and King Printing Company, Second Edition, 19240, p. 594.
- 12 Obituary in the Raleigh News and Observer, December 14, 1920.
- 13 op.cit., family history.
- 14 op.cit., obituary.
- 15 Grant, op.cit.
- 16 op.cit., obituary.
- 17 1870 Census, Population Schedule for Sampson County.
- 18 Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 43, Page 387.
- 19 Grant, op.cit.
- 20 Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 76, Page 348.
- 21 op.cit., obituary.
- 22 ibid.
- 23 John L. Cheney, Jr. (ed), North Carolina State Government, 1585-1979, (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, Revised Printing, 1981), p. 1267.
- 24 Grant, op.cit.
- 25 Sampson County Marriage Register, 1892-1908.
- 26 op.cit., obituary.
- 27 Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 101, Page 115.
- 28 Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 531, Page 225.
- 29 Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 967, Page 752.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Sampson County Register of Deeds.  
 Census Records, Population Schedules, for Sampson and Warren counties, North Carolina.  
 Records of Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church, on microfilm at North Carolina Archives.  
 J.L. Stewart obituary in Raleigh News and Observer, December 14, 1920.  
 Grant, Daniel Lindsey; Alumni History of the U. of N.C., (Durham: Christian and King, 1924)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.70  
 Quadrangle name Garland, N.C. Quadrangle scale 15 minute

**UTM References**

A	<u>117</u>	<u>741461510</u>	<u>31871531010</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

See continuation sheet.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state		code	county		code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Butchko, Preservation Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date May 12, 1983

street & number Post office Box 2193 telephone (919) 934-4092

city or town Smithfield state North Carolina 27577

# 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. Fair, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 26, 1983

**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**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property to be nominated is the lot at 600 College Street in Clinton, North Carolina and is all of the property associated with the house. It is bounded on the northwest by College Street, on the southwest by Eastover Avenue, on the southeast by a paling fence that marks the boundary with some brick apartments, and on the northeast by a chain link fence that marks the boundary with the College Street Elementary School. The lot is recorded in the Sampson County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 967, Page 752. A copy of the deed is included.

College Street Elementary School Property

↑ Apartments

Paling fence

Magnolia

Dogwoods

Pines

Enter

CARRIAGE HOUSE

Paling fence  
Chain link fence

Drive-thru window

Oak

Oak

Paling fence  
Retaining wall

Magnolia

Oak

Eastover Avenue

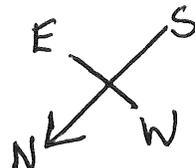
Exit

sidewalk  
brick retaining wall

College Street

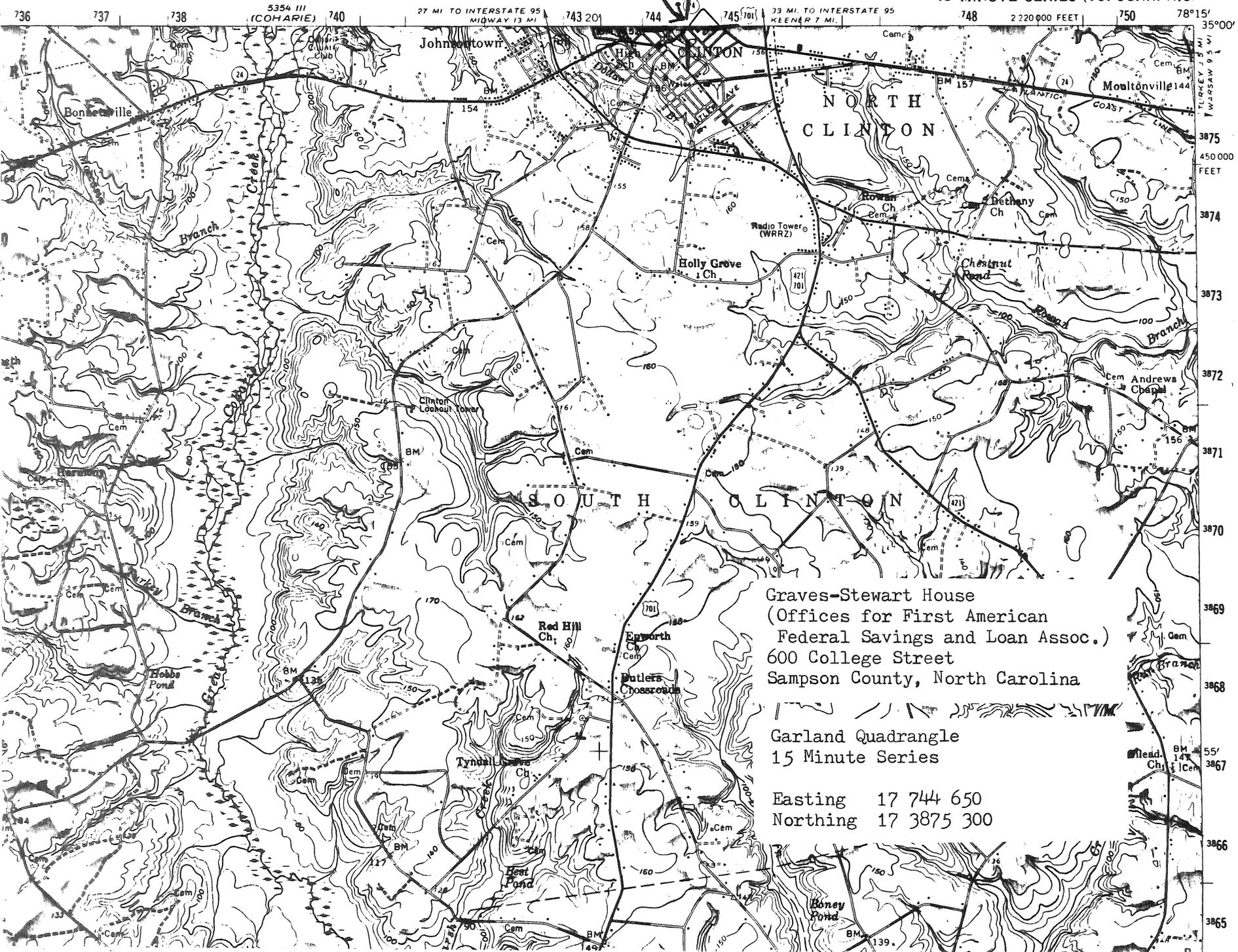


Beaman Street



Site Plan: Graves-Stewart House  
(1st Am. Fed'l S and L)  
600 College Street  
Clinton, North Carolina

GARLAND QUADRANGLE  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Graves-Stewart House  
 (Offices for First American  
 Federal Savings and Loan Assoc.)  
 600 College Street  
 Sampson County, North Carolina

Garland Quadrangle  
 15 Minute Series

Easting 17 744 650  
 Northing 17 3875 300

