

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Howell-Butler House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner Broad Street at McLamb Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Roseboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF
CODE

037

Third

COUNTY

Sampson

CODE

167

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Philip W. Williams

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1338, Broad & Pleasant St.

CITY, TOWN

Roseboro

STATE

VICINITY OF

North Carolina 28382

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Register of Deeds; Book 992, Page 829

STREET & NUMBER

Sampson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

STATE

North Carolina 28328

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tom Butchko, consultant

November 1982

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2193

(919) 934-4092

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Smithfield

STATE

North Carolina 27577

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Sheltered by a hipped roof pierced by massive, paneled chimneys, this house exhibits the most strikingly exuberant turn of the century interior in the county. The walls and ceilings, completely covered with decoratively-laid, beaded, tongue-and-groove sheathing, are subdivided into numerous panels by heavily molded bands. At the upper corners of the walls and ceiling are a series of numerous, circular medallions. The final result is a stunning array of vigorous interior detailing—one of the most unusual and unique architectural features in Sampson County. Built about 1900 for Robert P. Howell. The house was purchased by businessman B. R. Butler in 1919; Butler's daughter continues to reside here.

One of the few German-sided houses in the county, the Powell-Butler House consists of a front two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay block, a wide rear ell and a two-room side wing on the south rear. Facing east, the main block is sheltered under a medium-height hipped roof of standing seam metal; the rest of the house is gabled with similar roofing. Two massive, interior paneled brick chimneys - the panels being stuccoed - have extensive corbeling beneath the panel and at the cap; such prominent chimneys are rare in the county. Boxed cornices encircle the house and create pediments at the side and rear gables. The corner boards are fairly prominent with heavy molded edges. An extensive, wrap-around porch supported by Tuscan columns begins with the side rooms on the south and continues along all or part of the four sides of the main block, terminating at the rear ell. Window sash are two-over-two with louvered shutters. On the north and each sides of the porch, the windows extend to the floor. Entrance is through the central door which is flanked by wide sidelights of two panes each. Excellent molded colonnettes with bases and capitals support the overhead entablature consisting of molded architrave and cornice with a modillioned frieze.

Immediately upon entering the center hall, double-pile interior, one is struck by the amazing quantity and variety of the decorative sheathing. The wide center hall, divided by a hall screen of fluted pilasters, contains the double-dog-leg stair. The wall behind the closed-stringer stair and the wall enclosing the underneath closet is completely covered with several tiers of raised panels. A large, square, paneled newel terminates the handrail which is carried by square spindles. The entire staircase, except the spindles, have been given a dark, glossy stain which sharply contrasts with the flat white paint of the rest of the interior. The walls and ceilings of the entire first floor are covered with decoratively laid beaded tongue-and-groove boarding. In the hall and front parlors the direction of the diagonal sheathing on the wall reverses below the molded chair rail, forming a chevron-like pattern; a similar molding is used at the corners and ceilings. Entry into the front parlors, which have mirrored overmantels, is through wide, double, sliding doors framed with fluted pilasters supporting a stylized entablature. Around the upper walls of the hall and front parlors are a series of regularly spaced, wooden medallions, punctuating the already exuberant interior. Nowhere in the house is this exuberance better displayed than in the northwest parlor, which apparently was the master bedroom. The handsome mirrored over-mantel with tall, free-standing Ionic columns almost seems to be an intrusion as it interrupts the multiple directions of the wall sheathing, further subdivided by the addition of a continuous molding band at the height of the door lintel. Here the circular medallions also line the edges of the ceiling. Doors here, and throughout the rest of the house, consist of six horizontal raised panels.

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

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

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date entered

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Similar, but more restrained, sheathing is used in the rest of the first floor; the second floor was not accessible. A five-sided arch with a paneled face connects from the southwest parlor to the south side addition. Decoration in the large dining room, lying transverse to and abutting onto the central hall, is similar to that of the front parlors including the medallions.

Located on a large corner lot in Roseboro, the Howell-Butler House is sheltered by several large trees, especially in the rear. Also in the traditional landscape are a number of handsome camellias. There is one surviving outbuilding, a charming little frame storage house with returning boxed eaves and shuttered two-over-two sash, besides the ca 1930 frame garage. Immediately south of the side wing is a small one-room, gable-roofed structure with returning boxed cornice and shuttered windows. The charming little building is surrounded by many mature shrubs.

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 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. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built about 1900 for R. P. Howell by Bill White, this traditional two-story, center-hall, double-pile frame house contains the most exuberant turn of the century interior in the county. Decoratively-laid, beaded, tongue-and-groove sheathing completely covers the walls and ceilings, divided into numerous panels by heavily molded boards. Heavy, circular medallions further ornament the upper walls and ceilings. The imagination shown in the application of this tongue-and-groove finish which was so prevalent in the 19th and early 20th centuries in a much simpler form, results in a stunningly vigorous interior - one of the most unusual and unique architectural features in Sampson County. From 1913 to 1917 sisters Kate and Ethel Hollingsworth operated the Hollingsworth Hotel here at a time when Roseboro was a bustling, growing little railroad town. In 1919 prominent businessman B. R. Butler (1867-1922) bought the property as his residence. The house was recently purchased by Mr. Philip E. Williams, a Roseboro attorney.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Howell-Butler House is important to the early development and growth of Roseboro, having been occupied by the Hollingsworth Hotel from 1913 until 1917.
- C. The interior of the house is of an exuberance without parallel in Sampson County. While beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing was a prevalent interior finish in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the exuberance and imagination shown here is an eloquent statement of its ornamental potential.
- D. Although no investigation has been done, the site is likely to yield archaeological information valuable to the study of turn-of-the-century social history.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Howell-Butler House is located in the town of Roseboro. The house dates from the early part of the nineteenth century. It has had a number of owners but has been owned for much of its history by the Butler family.

The house was built for Roseboro businessman Robert Howell. In 1913 the house was sold at auction for \$4,700 to sisters Ethel and Kate Hollingsworth. They apparently operated a boarding house for several years. In 1917 they sold the house for \$3,500 to Paul White who kept it for only two years before selling it in 1919 for \$3,500 to Braxton Butler.

Braxton Robert Butler (1867-1922), the son of Reddin and Rebecca Butler, was a Roseboro businessman. The small community of Roseboro grew up in the 1890s around the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad. The town's primary source of revenue was lumber manufacturing. Butler operated a lumber mill and was one of the town's business leaders. He married Octavia Fisher (born 1876) in 1894.

Following the deaths of Braxton and Octavia Butler, the house was owned and occupied by their daughter, Ossie Butler, long time town clerk for Roseboro. The house has changed hands several times since her death in 1981 and is currently owned by Philip E. Williams, a Roseboro attorney.

The Howell-Butler house dates from the earliest days of the town of Roseboro. Its association with the lumber industry and the locally prominent Butler family gives it strong local historical significance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bizzell, Oscar M. The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina. Winston-Salem: The Hunter Publishing Company, 1983.
- Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	7,2,7,0,5,0	3,8,7,0,2,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is that lot in Roseboro, Sampson County, North Carolina known as the Ossie L. Butler residence lot and being recorded in Deed Book 1017 page 618 in the Register of Deeds, Sampson County Court House, Clinton, North Carolina, dated September 28, 1984. A copy of the attached.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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date entered

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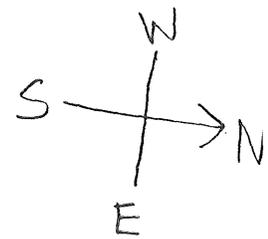
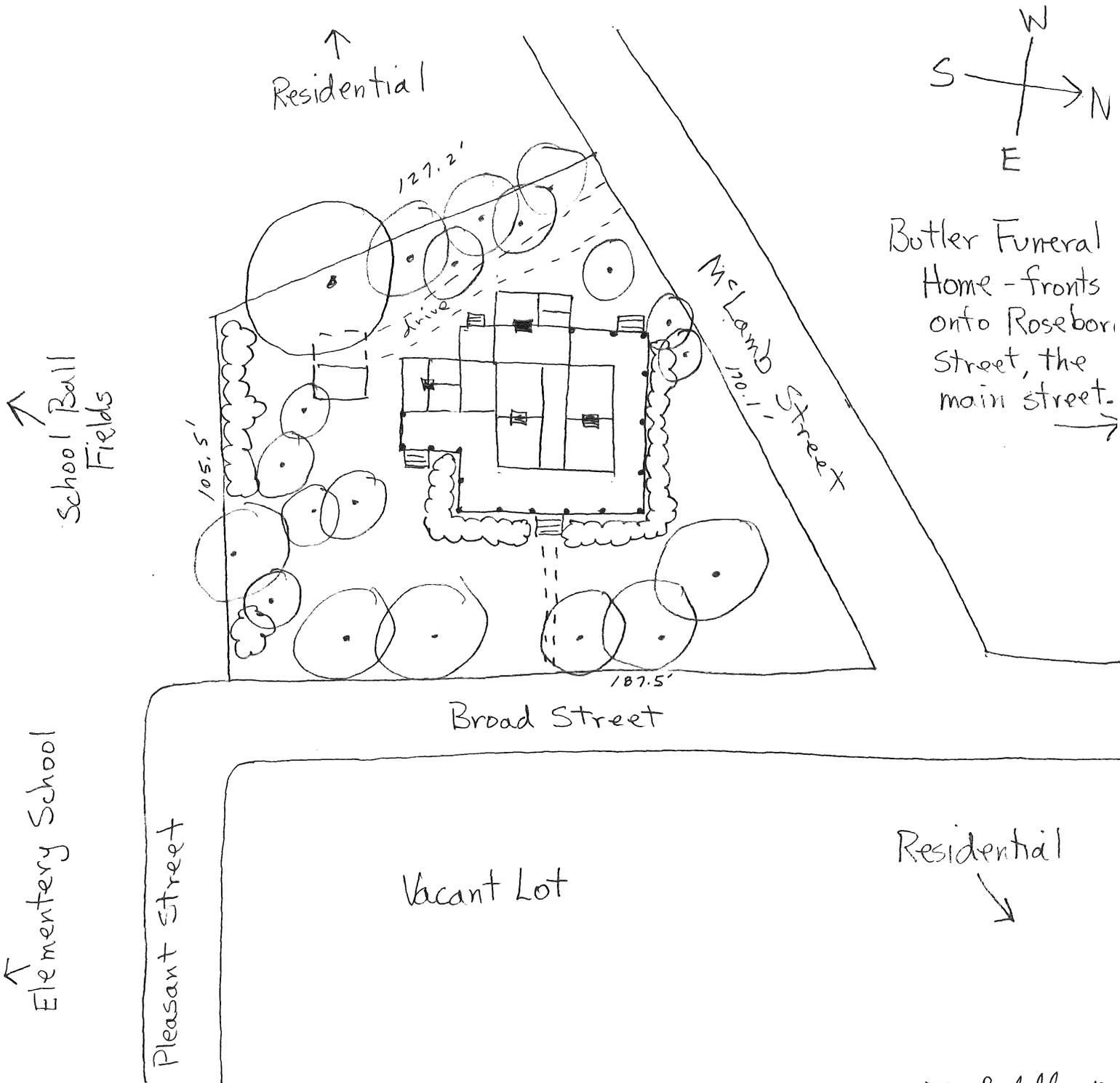
NOTES

¹Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Sampson County Deed Book 227, p. 292; Book 299, p. 294; Book 327, p. 168.

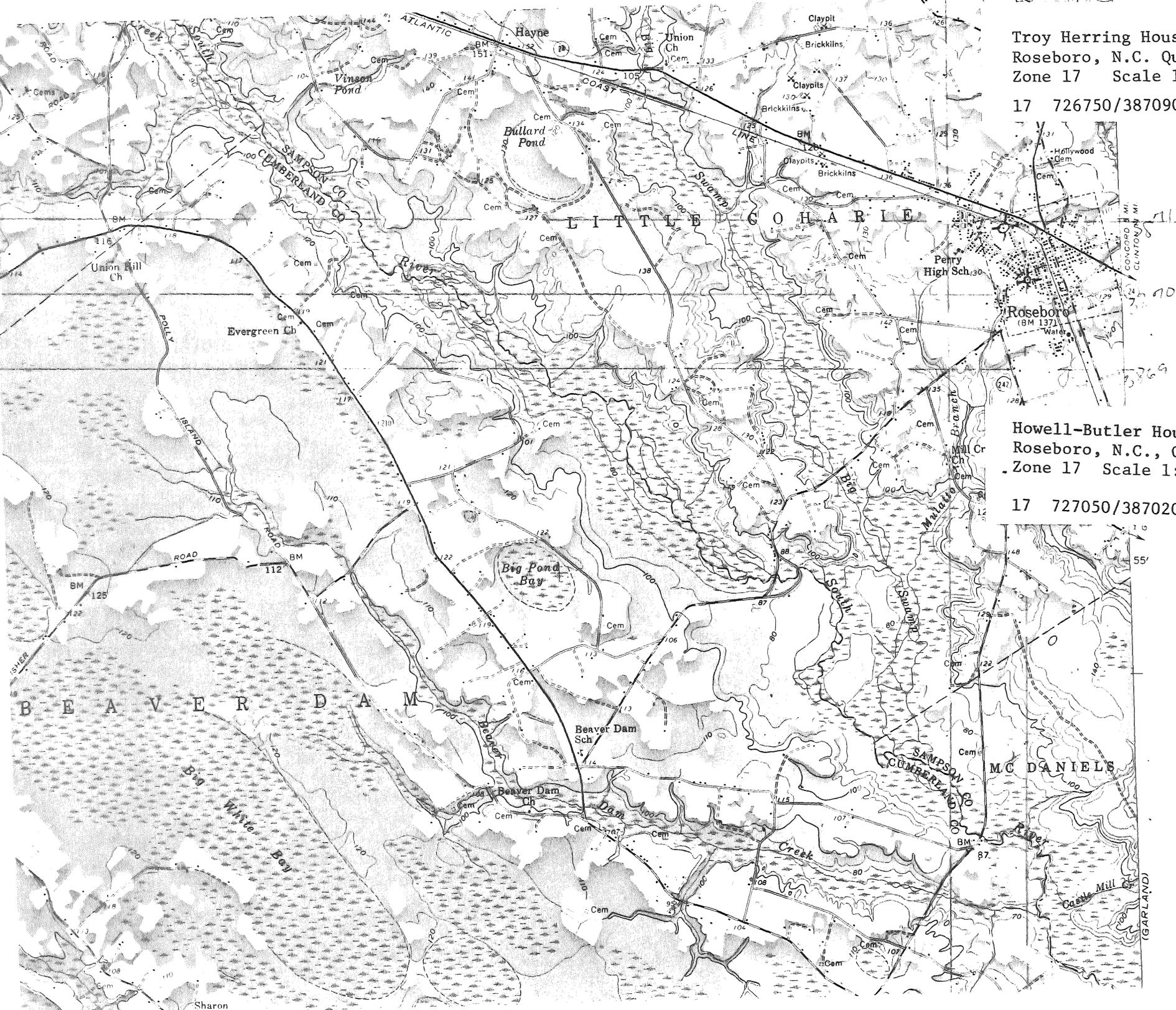
²Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: The Hunter Publishing Company for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983), 333, hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County; Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Sampson County North Carolina; Sampson County Records; Death Certificates, marriage register.

³Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 40.

Howell-Butler House
Roseboro
Sampson County, N.C.



Butler Funeral Home - fronts onto Roseboro Street, the main street. →



Troy Herring House
Roseboro, N.C. Quad.
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500
17 726750/3870900

Howell-Butler House
Roseboro, N.C., Quad.
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500
17 727050/3870200

