

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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received

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic C. C. Cundiff House

and/or common Cundiff House

2. Location

street & number S. side SR 2230, 1.3 mi. W. of jct. w/SR 1003 not for publication

city, town Siloam vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Surry code 171

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Don Hardy

street & number P. O. Box 6

city, town Siloam vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Register of Deeds

street & number Surry County Courthouse

city, town Dobson state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Surry County Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981-1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records N. C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

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 C. C. Cundiff House is located on a hill above the bottomlands of the Yadkin River, just west of the Siloam Community in Surry County. Once the focal point of a 948-acre tract of land, the Cundiff House is still part of a large farming tract, although it now serves as housing for farm workers rather than as the home of the land owner. Facing west with its side to SR 2230, the house is enhanced by the curved rows of boxwoods along its north side and front and the cedar trees which outline the lane running in front of the house. A family cemetery and several frame outbuildings complement the house site.

Believed to have been built soon after the Civil War, the two-story brick Cundiff House, with low hipped roof and simple details of vernacular Greek Revival and later Victorian inspiration, appears at first glance to be not dissimilar to other houses of the third quarter of the 19th century in piedmont North Carolina. A closer inspection, however, reveals many unusual features. These features probably result from a complex building history; the house may include fabric from the house which stood prior to a destructive fire of 1865, a rebuilding after the 1865 fire, and a remodelling ca. 1880 when Milton Cundiff married and inherited the property from his deceased parents. This is not clear, however, so that while the unusual character of the Cundiff House can be described, it cannot as yet be fully explained.

The brick portion of the Cundiff House is divided into three rooms per floor of nearly equal size. The two northernmost rooms are contiguous, while the south end room is separated from the others by a passage. The two sections were probably erected at different times, as the brickwork to the north of the passage is laid in five-to-one common bond, while that to the south of the passage is of six-to-one common bond. The bricks in this section are smaller than those in the north part of the house. The two northern rooms have exterior rear chimneys, while the chimney on the south section is located on the south end. Each room has a fireplace. Doors in both sections have two panels each, and windows have six-over-nine and six-over-six sash.

Interior trim is simple, with plastered walls, plain door and window casings, wide baseboards and post and lintel mantels. Some of the trim is grained in a "combed" manner. The interior detailing of the south end of the building differs slightly from the north end, although an effort was made to make the two areas appear the same.

One particularly unusual feature of the north end of the house is found in the inset wooden blocks which run along the exterior front wall of the house under the porch windows. They correspond in height and arrangement with the blocks into which the interior baseboards are nailed. It does not appear, however, that a baseboard was ever attached to these exterior blocks.

The first story rooms do not interconnect, but instead, each opens onto the full length front porch with its chamfered posts, decorative sawnwork brackets and turned balustrade. The two second story rooms of the north end of the house do interconnect.

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The second story is reached by a simple stairway in the passage. A closet area in the upper stairhall, the area under the stairs, and portions of the passage walls where the plaster has broken off reveal brickwork with pencilled joints, suggesting that the passage was originally not enclosed, as at present. The awkward arrangement of the first and second story passage doors with sidelights and weatherboard infill between the brick sections reinforces this idea.

The low hipped roof with overhanging bracketed eaves appears to have been built at one time, uniting the north and south sections of the house. The roof and the front porch were probably built at the same time, judging from stylistic evidence.

The cellar under the south end of the house, reached by an exterior entrance, appears to have housed the kitchen. Its fireplace is now enclosed, although the wooden slatted wall vents and other original details remain intact.

The one-story frame ell in the center rear of the house was probably added during the late 19th or early 20th century and features an interior chimney and a hip-roofed porch with turned posts.

Several frame outbuildings dating from the late 19th and 20th centuries accompany the house. Southeast of the house is the well/wash house. Northeast of the house are the smokehouse and the privy. Across the cedar-lined lane in front of the house are a long horse shed near the main road and two collapsed barns southwest of the house.

Of particular interest is the cemetery located north of the house near the main road. A handsome dry laid stone wall encloses the family plot, which includes the graves of C. C. Cundiff, his wife Sarah, and two Cundiff infants. Southeast of the walled plot is the 1836 grave of Charles Crissman, a previous property owner.

8. Significance

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 checked="" 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. 1865 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

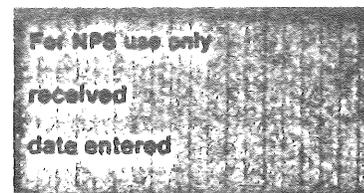
The C. C. Cundiff House is an architectural rarity in Surry County, being one of the only three surviving pre-1900 rural houses of masonry construction. The house is also architecturally notable for its unusual plan, not found elsewhere in the county. The house is believed to have been built by C. C. Cundiff shortly after a Civil War fire destroyed an earlier house owned by Cundiff, and it is possible that part of the earlier house was incorporated into the postwar house. Cundiff (1817-1879) was a farmer, who moved to Surry County from Virginia in 1861. He and his wife Sarah Cundiff (1816-1872) had four children. William Milton was born in 1849, Henry in 1860, and two others died in infancy. Henry moved to California, while Milton stayed in Surry County and became one of the area's most prominent citizens. Although he manufactured tobacco and was a merchant Milton Cundiff was best known as an educator. For many years he was principal of Siloam Academy, a private school and was the second superintendent of Surry County's public schools. He also served on Surry County's Board of Education and was credited with being an inspirational force in the establishment of Surry County's modern school system. He died in 1912 and his wife Lucy died in 1942. They had no children and after Mrs. Cundiff's death the house changed hands several times before being purchased by John Hardy in 1949. Hardy was a farmer who specialized in tobacco and was considered Surry County's largest grower of that crop. The Cundiff House is currently owned by his son Don Hardy, also a farmer, and is used to house farm workers.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the growth and dominance of tobacco in the agricultural economy of Surry County from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.
- B. Associated with William Milton Cundiff (1849-1912) a prominent local farmer and merchant who is credited with being an inspirational force in the establishment of Surry County's modern school system and served as principal of Siloam Academy, a superintendent of Surry County's public schools, and a member of the county's Board of Education.
- C. Represents a rare and unusual example of pre-1900 domestic brick construction in rural Surry County. Joined by a frame passage, the two-story hip-roofed dwelling contains two distinctive brick components, one having four rooms and the other two rooms. Each is laid in a differing ratio of common bond. Maintaining its site integrity and landscape, the house is complemented by a variety of late nineteenth and early twentieth century outbuildings and the Cundiff cemetery.

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The Cundiff House is located in the Surry County farm community of Siloam. It is believed to have been built shortly after the Civil War by C. C. Cundiff, who had moved to the area in 1861. An earlier house was destroyed by fire around 1865 and it is possible that part of the earlier house was incorporated into the rebuilding.¹

C. C. Cundiff (1817-1879) and his wife Sarah Cundiff (1816-1872) were natives of Bedford County, Virginia. They moved to Surry County and purchased land from John Womack.² The 1870 census shows that Cundiff owned 948 acres, 150 of which were under cultivation. His real estate was valued at \$5,000 and his personal estate at \$500. Cundiff grew 1,200 pounds of tobacco, 100 bushels of wheat, 250 bushels of corn, and 180 bushels of oats. He owned livestock valued at \$250, including 16 sheep and 14 swine.³

The Cundiffs had four children. William Milton Cundiff was born in 1849 and Henry Cundiff was born in 1860. Both were born in Virginia. Two children were born later, in North Carolina, but died in infancy. C. C. Cundiff, Sarah Cundiff, and the two infants are buried in a family cemetery located near the house. Charles Crissman, an earlier owner of the land is buried just outside the Cundiff cemetery.

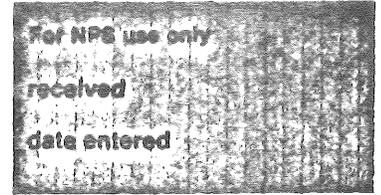
Milton Cundiff inherited the house and property upon the death of his parents. The 1870 census lists Milton Cundiff as a law student but he apparently never practiced law in the area. In the 1880s he operated a tobacco warehouse in Virginia. He also farmed the home tract, growing 1,500 pounds of tobacco and 400 bushels of corn in 1880.⁴ Branson's Business Directory for 1890 and 1896 list Cundiff as the proprietor of a general store in Siloam.⁵ Cundiff was best known in the area as an educator, however. He operated a private school in Rockford, which he moved to nearby Siloam in 1892. The Siloam Academy was credited with educating many students "who later became prominent in the business and professional world."⁶ Professor Cundiff later served many years on the Surry County Board of Education. In the early part of the twentieth century he became the second superintendent of Surry County's public schools, following the retirement of the Reverend J. H. Llewellyn. In this capacity he had considerable influence in the county. "Inspired by this man's zeal for knowledge and in conjunction with the statewide revival for public education . . . the people of the county set to work building school houses within reach of every child."⁷

Milton Cundiff and his wife Lucy were married in 1880. Lucy Cundiff (1859-1942) was the daughter of Andrew and Mary Poindexter and was a native of Surry County. They had no children. Milton Cundiff died in 1912 leaving his wife a life estate in the house and property. He also left \$10,000 to the Methodist Children's Home in Winston-Salem. The will indicates that his brother was living in California. Thus with the death of Mrs. Cundiff in 1942 the property changed hands several times before its purchase in 1949 by John Hardy.⁸

John Hardy owned several other farms in Surry County before he purchased the Cundiff house and 462 acres. He was considered the largest tobacco farmer in the county. Hardy was a native of Surry County and was born in 1889, the son of Jim and Annie Moore Hardy. He was a veteran of World War I, a Mason, an active member of farm organizations, and a dealer in fertilizer and farm machinery. In 1924 Hardy married Betty Willard and they had seven children. Since his death in 1958 the farm has been owned by his son Don,⁹ Hardy, who is also a farmer, primarily of tobacco and corn. Don Hardy is unmarried.

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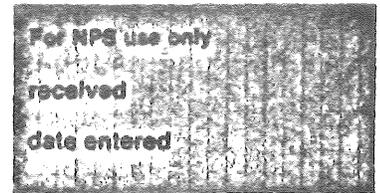


Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 2

During its ownership by the Hardy family the Cundiff House has been occupied, usually, by farm workers. The Hardy family has lived in a more recently built house nearby. The Cundiff House remains in good repair.¹⁰ The owners of the house have been influential in Surry County education, agriculture, and business for over a century making the house historically significant to the area.

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Page

NOTES

¹Winston-Salem Journal, May 3, 1942.

²C. C. Cundiff paid \$8,000 for 948 acres in a deed agreed to in 1861 and registered in 1863. It is not known whether U.S. money or Confederate money was used. Surry County Deed Book 11, p. 304.

³Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Surry County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule.

⁴Nineth Census of the United States, 1870, Surry County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule; Surry County Deed Book 47, p. 62; Winston-Salem Journal, May 3, 1942; Nannie May Tillie, The Bright Tobacco Industry: 1860-1929 (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1948), 686.

⁵Levi Branson (ed.), North Carolina Business Directory for 1890 (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1890), 583; Levi Branson (ed.), North Carolina Business Directory for 1896 (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1896), 613.

⁶William Franklin Carter, Jr. and Carrie Young Carter, Footprints in the Hollows (Elkin: The Northwestern Regional Library, 1976), 58.

⁷J. G. Hollingsworth, History of Surry County (n.p., 1935), 183-184; Winston-Salem Journal, June 14, 1953.

⁸Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Surry County, North Carolina; Surry County Will Book 7, p. 547; Winston-Salem Journal, May 3, 1942, June 14, 1953.

⁹Winston-Salem Journal, June 14, 1953; June 10, 1958; Surry County Will Book 12, p. 344; telephone interview with Don Hardy, June 17, 1982, notes in file, hereinafter cited as Hardy interview.

¹⁰Hardy interview.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9.75 acres

Quadrangle name Siloam

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	3	7	1	1	0	4	0	1	5	2	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Surry County Tax Map 5932." Encompassing approximately 9.75 acres of Parcel 1009, the property includes the house, its outbuildings and cemetery, and enough of the surrounding yard and farmlands to provide reasonable protection for the integrity of the site.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architectural description - Laura A. W. Phillips, consultant; historical significance - Jim Sumner, Research Branch, Division of Archives and History

organization Division of Archives and History date April 14, 1983

street & number 109 East Jones Street telephone 919 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state N.C.

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. King, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 2, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

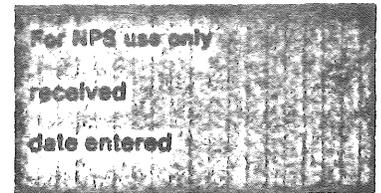
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

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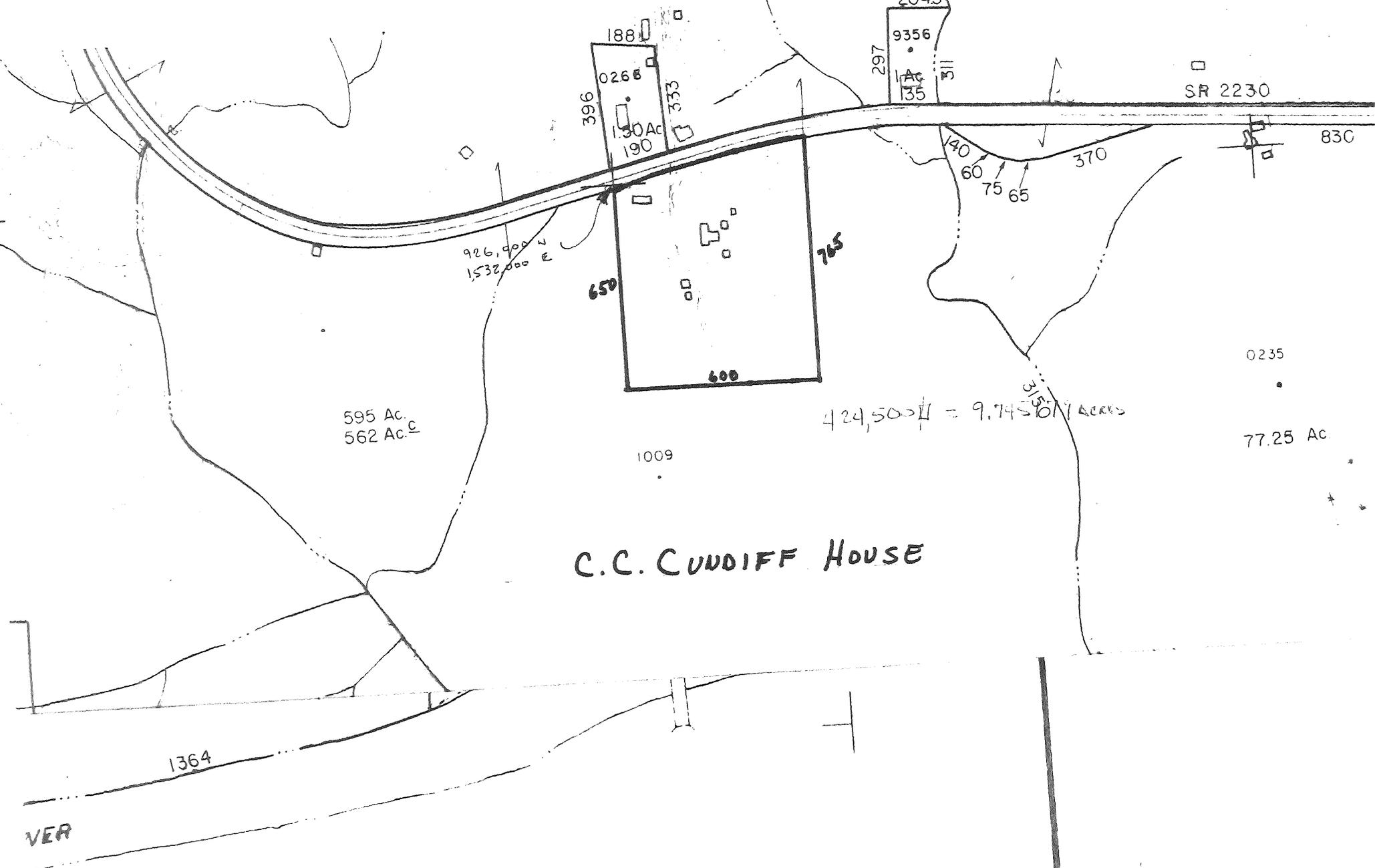
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North Carolina. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

Winston-Salem Journal. May 3, 1942, June 14, 1953, June 10, 1958.



C.C. CUNDIFF HOUSE

424,500 ÷ 43 = 9,745.07 ACRES

595 Ac.
562 Ac. E

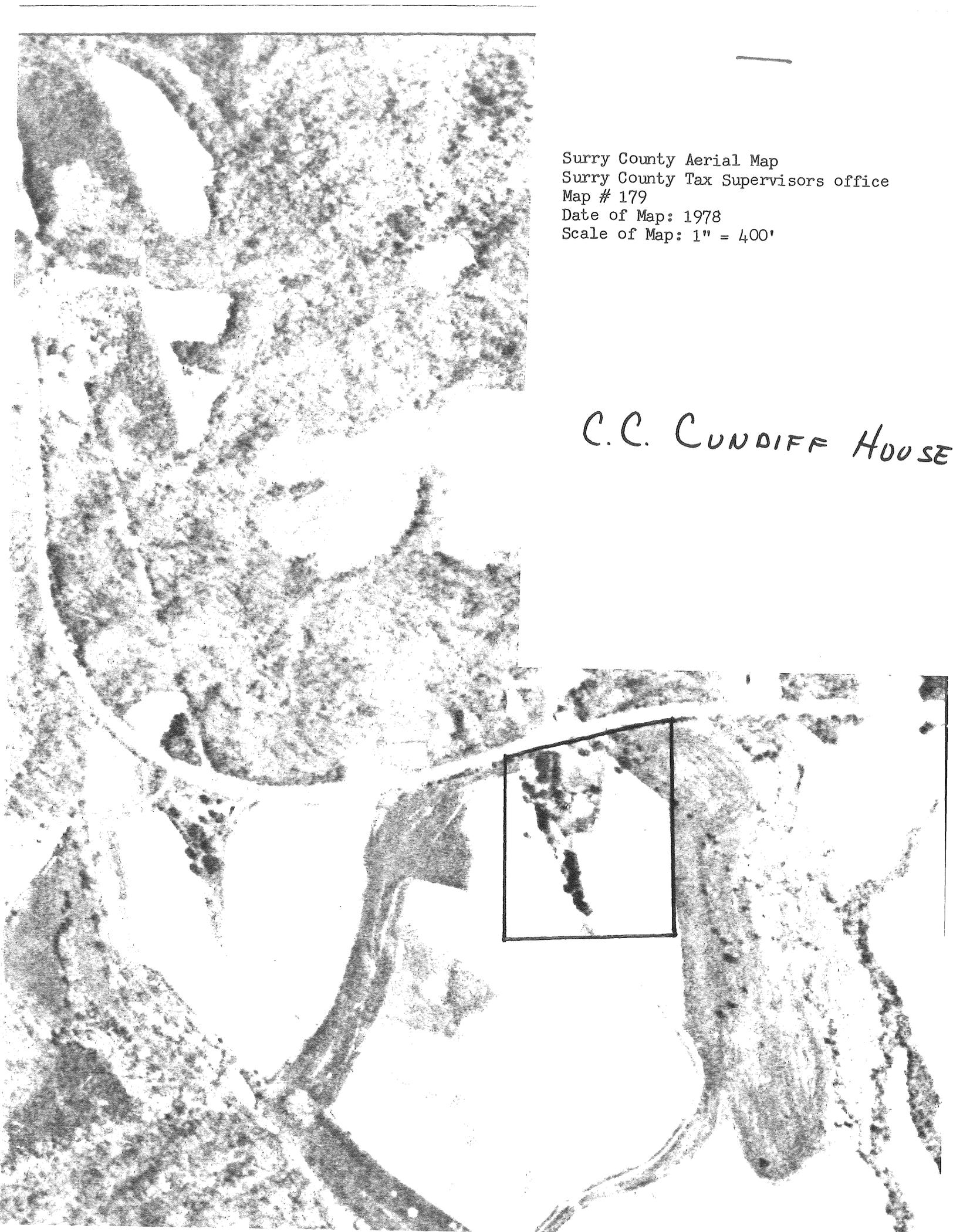
77.25 Ac

SURRY COUNTY TAX MAP 5932

SCALE : 1" = 400'

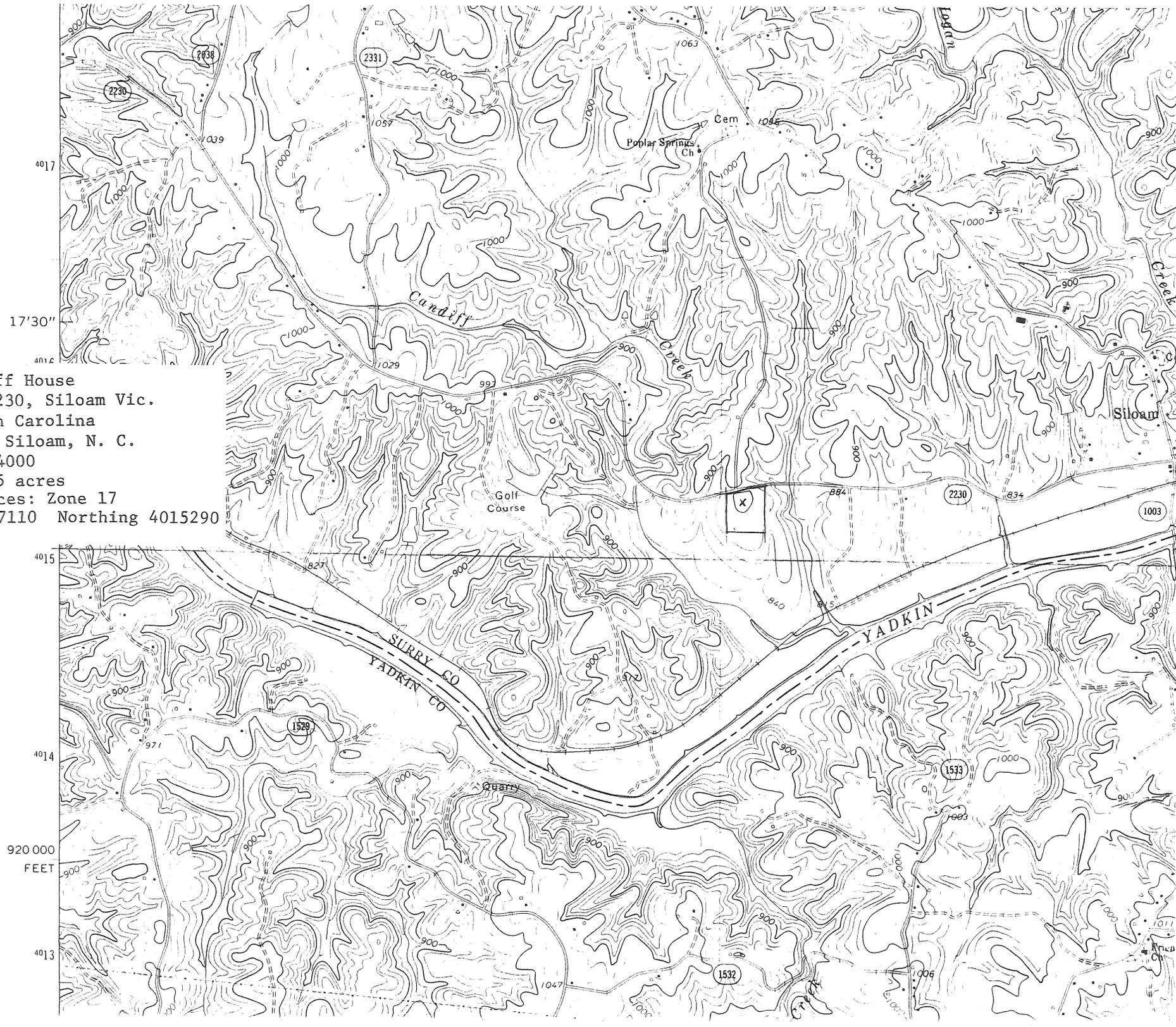
4

4,000



Surry County Aerial Map
Surry County Tax Supervisors office
Map # 179
Date of Map: 1978
Scale of Map: 1" = 400'

C.C. CUNDIFF HOUSE



C. C. Cundiff House
S Side SR 2230, Siloam Vic.
Surry, North Carolina
Quadrangle Siloam, N. C.
Scale: 1:24000
Acreage 9.75 acres
UTM references: Zone 17
Easting: 537110 Northing 4015290

4017
17'30"
4016
4015
4014
920 000
FEET
4013

