

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Wake	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Powell House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

SUBJECT AND NUMBER:
East side of U.S. 1, 0.1 mi. south of Railroad & 0.4 mi. north of S.R. 2045

CITY OR TOWN:
Wake Forest vicinity

STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Wake	CODE: 183
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miss Martha E. Fuller and Mr. David Fuller

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 4, Box 331

CITY OR TOWN: Wake Forest	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Wake County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fayetteville Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Powell House, a large two-story frame plantation house in early Federal style, stands in a valley near a highway; near the house are several outbuildings and an old family graveyard. The main block, which surmounts a half-basement of rock-faced ashlar, is five bays wide and three irregularly spaced bays deep, and carries a gable roof with plain box cornice. The house is covered with molded weatherboards and the fenestration is generally consistent having nine-over-nine sash windows in molded frames and handsome molded sills.

Across the front (west) facade is a full-height portico with attenuated pillars, surmounted by a balustrade. This portico is a recent addition, built about 1940. The windows of this facade have also been reworked. The entrance is framed in a molded architrave and surmounted by a rectangular transom elaborated with a diamond motif.

The other elevations are little altered. The north end features two single-shouldered exterior chimneys of brick laid in one-to-five common bond, with molded caps. The fenestration is somewhat irregularly spaced, and the weatherboard is variously seamed indicating a certain amount of reworking, but all architraves and sills are consistent. On the south end is a similar pair of chimneys with a frame pent between; the brick is laid in Flemish bond. Again the fenestration is somewhat irregular; however, both sides are consistent in having a central gable window between the chimneys.

To the rear facade have been added two single-story additions, one with shed roof running across the length of the facade and the other gable-roofed, projecting perpendicularly back from the two northernmost bays. The gable roof addition is of some age and may have been originally a freestanding structure, joined later to the house.

Despite exterior alterations, the interior of the house retains essentially all of its early Federal fabric; the large scale and interesting vernacular details are quite unusual in Wake County. The house follows a center-hall plan two rooms deep, with the western rooms being larger. Architraves and doors are generally consistent throughout the house, typified by those on the first-floor hall. The two-part molded architraves repeat those found on the exterior, and the handsome doors have six concave-cornered panels raised on molded fillets. They are hung on rising butt-plate hinges. The hall features an unusual chest-high, flat-paneled wainscot with two ranges of rectangular panels (horizontal over vertical) beneath a relatively thin, molded chair rail. The wainscot in the other rooms lacks the second range of panels and is of normal height. A notable feature of the central hall is a semi-elliptical plastered arch which delineates the front and rear. It is carried by a pair of flat-paneled pilasters which rise from the chair rail.

The first-floor mantels are all similar with the exception of that found in the northwest parlor. This room has an impressive mantel of curious design with a newly bricked rectangular opening, beaded architrave, and flanking pilasters, each embellished with an elongated flat panel with

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pointed ends. Surmounting these and breaking out at the end blocks, is a series of three molded cornice shelves, each heavier than that beneath and each carried by its own end blocks and frieze.

Each of the three other mantels consist of a rectangular opening with beaded architrave, and flanking flat-paneled pilasters. A narrow flush frieze and simple molded cornice is topped by a second frieze, variously paneled in each room, and molded cornice shelf.

Two enclosed stairs ascend to the second floor, one from the northeast corner of the central hall, the other from the northeast corner of the southwest room. Each rises in a short run, a series of winders, and a second run to the upper floor. The stairwells are sheathed with wide planks and do not exhibit the same degree of refinement as the rest of the interior. However, they utilize rose-head and T-head nails in construction, and so are, if not original, quite early. The balustrade at the second floor of both flights has a square chamfered newel with square cap and molded handrail. The central hall rail has square, diagonally set balusters; the balustrade of the other stair consists of the handrail and two more horizontally placed molded members.

The second-floor central hall has been partitioned off at either end to form a small bedroom in the front and a bathroom in the rear. The mantels in all but the southeast room are similar, each having a rectangular opening with single bead architrave. Two have flanking elongated flat-paneled pilasters, the third lacks the panels, and each has a wide paneled frieze surmounted by a molded shelf. One mantel appears to be a replacement as it is cruder than its companions, having a rectangular opening flanked by flat-board pilasters and topped by a wide flush frieze and a round-cornered, flat-board shelf. The flooring on both levels is finely made consisting of closely fitted boards of approximately five-inch width.

There is a good collection of frame outbuildings--some evidently coeval with the house. Two of them have been refurbished. One appears to have been the kitchen as it has a massive rubble-and-brick external chimney; the purpose of the other is not known. Both have beaded weatherboards and high, steep gable roofs. A structure larger than these two but of similar construction, far to the rear of the house, is in somewhat dilapidated condition; it is said to have been the slaves' quarters moved from its original site. It too has beaded weatherboards and has rose-head and T-head nails.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1800

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-
losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Powell House is an impressive early Federal plantation house distinguished by its large scale and unusual interior finish. Despite alterations to the facade, it retains most of its original fabric, including handsome interior woodwork of interesting vernacular character. Also standing is a good collection of early outbuildings. The house was probably built early in the nineteenth century by Jesse Powell, a locally prominent planter active in political affairs.

A grave marker erected in honor of Dempsey Powell by the Caswell Nash Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution suggests that the Powell family was instrumental in building the house found on the commemorated tract. Dempsey Powell was an early resident of the Wake Forest section of Wake County and served as a lieutenant in the county militia in 1772 and 1773. He died intestate about 1793 and his landholdings, totaling 880 acres lying on both sides of the Neuse River, were divided by the Wake County Court between his two sons Caswell and Jesse. Jesse Powell received a tract comprised of 318 acres lying "On the North side of Neuse river at the mouth of a branch /probably Smith's Creek/ . . ."

Between 1808 and 1838, the younger Powell purchased a total of 585 7/8 additional acres of land adjoining or lying in the vicinity of his inherited tract. It is likely that he was the builder of the house found on the former Dempsey Powell tract. The division of the elder Powell's land referred to above makes no reference whatever to any dwelling houses, appurtenances, etc. A newspaper advertisement purchased by Jesse Powell in January, 1828, however, notes that the Wake Forest Pleasant Grove Academy was "situated within two hundred yards of the subscriber's /Powell's/ house. . . ." Powell "actively supported" the nearby academy and was able to board "ten or twelve students at four dollars per month . . ." in his home. An "announcement" made by the academy in another newspaper nearly three years later confirms this fact:

This academy is pleasantly situated in one of the most populous sections of Wake Forest . . . on the Powel's road leading from Raleigh to Oxford. . . . Board can be had on the most accomodating terms, in the best families . . . for four dollars per month.

Powell is also identified as a "large planter" and an active Whig politician whose home was the scene of noteworthy testimonial dinners

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For other prominent Whigs in 1833 and 1834. Even his obituary testifies to the fame of his homeplace, noting that "His house was, emphatically, the seat of hospitality and kindness. . . ." The Census of 1840 credits Powell with the ownership of forty-seven slaves, ranking him as the fourteenth leading slaveholder in Wake County.

Powell died on October 11, 1842. His age at death is unknown, but he was probably not yet sixty. His will names his wife Mildred and his son John D. Powell as co-executors and empowers them to sell any of his property, real or personal, "at publick or private sale," in order to raise needed funds. In 1847 the co-executors sold an 856-acre tract at public auction to John W. Harris, high bidder at \$4,500. Harris thereupon conveyed the tract back to John Powell for the same price. Three years later John Powell sold the tract to George C. Smith for \$5,500.

At this point the chain of ownership becomes clouded, but it is likely that the property later passed from George C. Smith to W. B. Smith and his wife Junietta Smith, and from the latter Smiths to the Fuller family, either directly or via the Fort family. The present owners of the property are Miss Martha E. Fuller and David Fuller.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Robert Topkins, survey specialist; architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor, and Neil Pearson, consultant. Hillsborough Recorder, April 1, 1841. Raleigh Register and North-Carolina Gazette. "WAKE FOREST/Pleasant Grove Academy," January 4, 1828; Obituary of Jesse Powell, October 14, 1842. Saunders, William L., ed. The Colonial Records of North Carolina. 10 volumes; Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 1886-1890, IX. Shanks, Henry Thomas, ed. The Papers of Willie Person Mangum. 5 volumes; Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950-1956, II.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			G R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 . "	0 . "		35°	55'	24"
NE	0 . "	0 . "		78°	32'	33"
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 3 July 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 100 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Thornton W. Mitchell

Title: Acting Director, Division of Archives and History

Date: 3 July 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Wake County, North Carolina, Population Schedule 23, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, State Archives, Division of Archives and History.

The Star (Raleigh). "ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 1830/WAKE FOREST PLEASANT GROVE ACADEMY," November 11, 1830.

Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Land Division Records, Wills).

Wake County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Land Division Records, Wills).

W. N. CLEMENT

F. F. MURRAY

Y. R. FISH

MINNIE O. MACON

1-S-F-D

1-S-F-D

340

EXIST. R/W

PROP. R/W

EXIST. R/W

50'

90'

PROP. R/W

BEN Y. HART

EXIST. R/W

10' Soil Dr.

15FD

POWELL HOUSE

25FD

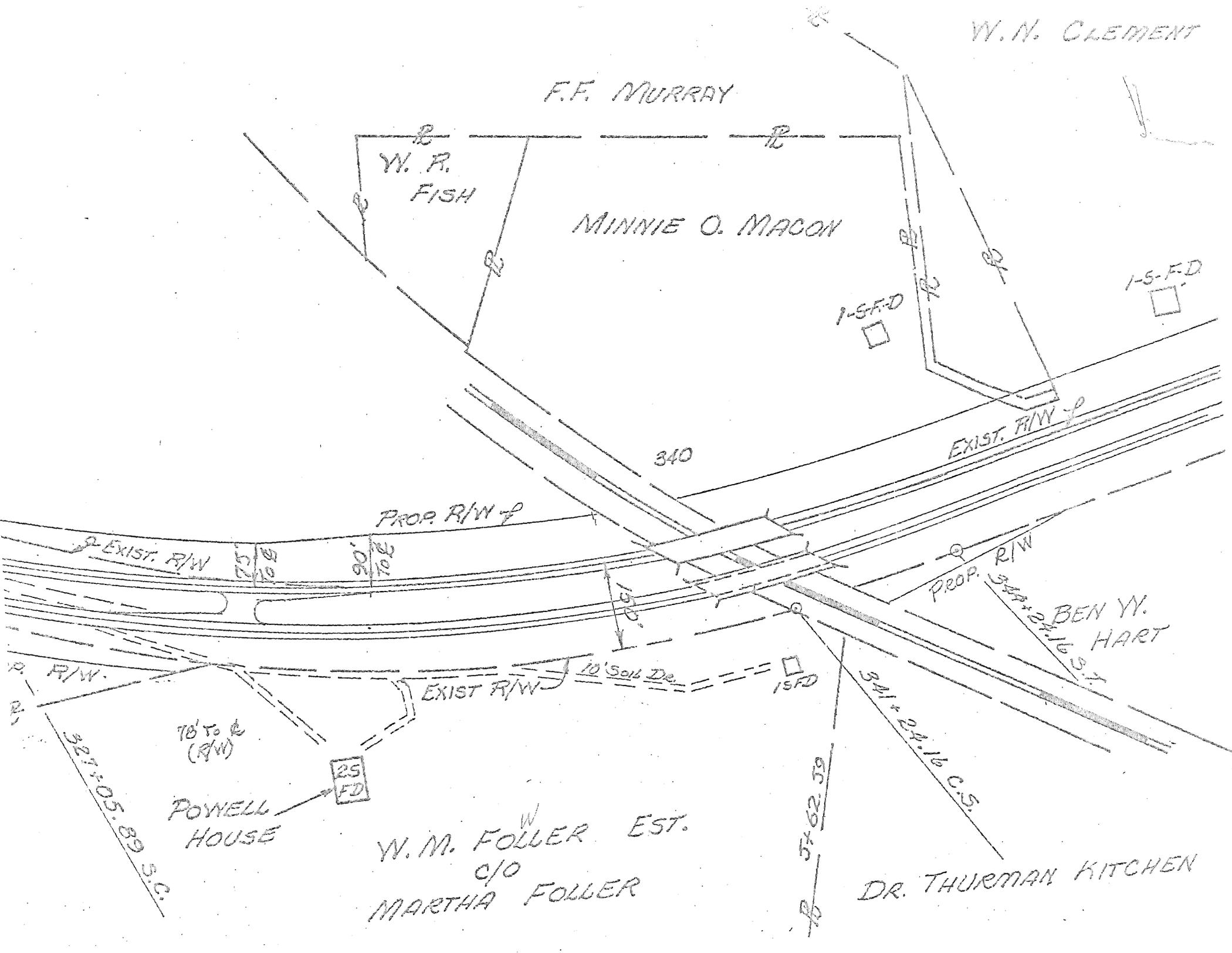
W. M. FOLLER EST.
C/O
MARTHA FOLLER

DR. THURMAN KITCHEN

327'-05.89 S.C.

57'-62.39

341'-20.14 C.S.

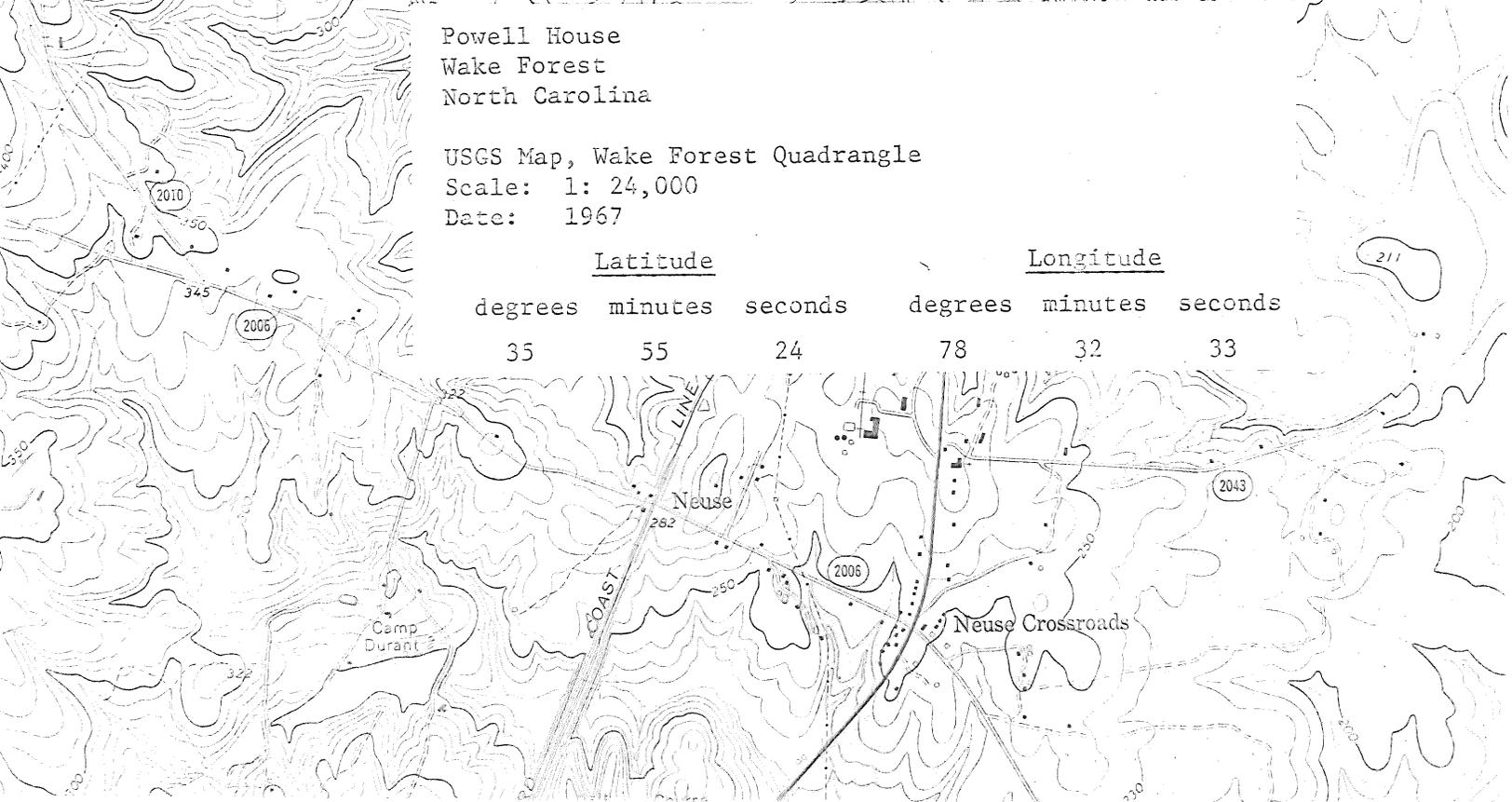




Powell House
 Wake Forest
 North Carolina

USGS Map, Wake Forest Quadrangle
 Scale: 1: 24,000
 Date: 1967

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	55	24	78	32	33



Neuse
 Neuse Crossroads

