

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

317

1. NAME  
Wakefields (Home Acres)

2. LOCATION  
On S.R. 1929, west of U.S. 1 at S.R. 1931  
Wake Forest  
North Carolina  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth  
The Hon. Ike E. Andrews  
Wake  
183

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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  
Mr. Hal Brockman  
Cotton Incorporated  
Raleigh  
North Carolina  
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
Wake County Courthouse  
Raleigh  
North Carolina  
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input 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

Wakefields consists of a complex of buildings of several eras: an early Greek Revival dwelling with two earlier sections to the rear, and a separate early dwelling and outbuilding in the rear yard. There are a number of large, handsome trees and a front boxwood garden. The main dwelling consists of three distinct sections. The front block is a two-story frame structure in transitional Federal-Greek Revival style. It is five bays wide and two deep, has a gable roof with a box cornice; at each end is a double-shoulder exterior end chimney of brick laid in one-to-five common bond. The fenestration is consistent: nine-over-nine sash occurs on the first floor and six-over-nine on the second with molded architraves and flat board sills, and three-panel louvered blinds on the front (west) facade. The front facade features a central, two-tier, pedimented entrance porch supported by slender Doric columns and flat-paneled pilasters. The porch reveals fine detail with a full entablature between the first and second tiers, flat-paneled ceilings, and simple Federal balustrades with square balusters and a rounded handrail. The first-floor facade is sheathed with flat boards where covered by the porch. (The lack of such facade treatment may indicate the second tier of the porch is later.)

The central front entrance is framed in a symmetrically molded architrave with corner blocks and surmounted by a rectangular transom with a glazed geometric motif. The door consists of five panels raised on fillets (two verticals over a horizontal, over two verticals), and is identical on the reverse. The second-level doorway directly above includes the same elements but lacks the transom.

The south elevation has a full-width, one-story porch with a shed roof supported by columns and pilasters similar, along with the balustrade, to those of the front porch. The fit of the pilasters against the weatherboards suggests that this porch may have been an addition, though probably early. The east bay contains a door consisting of six panels raised on fillets.

The rear (east) facade has no windows. Attached to what would be its center and two northern bays, is a one-and-one-half-story frame structure, three bays deep and three wide, which appears to antedate the main block. This section has a moderately steep gable roof; on each side is a pair of simple pedimented dormers with diagonally sheathed sides and two-part flat board architraves. The first-floor architraves are similar to those on the main block, and the windows contain six-over-nine sash. The doors consist of six panels and are identical to the one on the south facade of the main block. The roof on this section has been partly extended and supported on posts, forming a screened porch across the front (south) facade and the corner bay of the east facade, which contains a door. The front facade has a west bay entrance, and the rear (north) facade has a brick entrance into a basement. The east end has a double-shoulder exterior chimney of brick laid in one-to-five common bond. Attached to the northern bay of this end is the last of the three sections.

This rearmost section is a one-story frame structure three bays wide and two narrow bays deep. It carries a gable roof with box cornice and as

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indicated by the massive stone exterior and chimney, was (and still is) the kitchen. This structure was initially freestanding, and its third bay was probably constructed to attach it to the neighboring structure. The windows have been reworked with six-over-six sash and simple molded architraves, and it has a six-panel door.

The interior of Wakefields is consistent in finish, although its form reflects the order in which the sections were built. The main section has a center-hall plan, one room deep. The symmetrically molded architraves with corner blocks are identical on both floors as are the doors, with six panels raised on fillets on one side, flat on the reverse. All windows have flat-paneled aprons, and the baseboard and cornice are simply molded. The mantels on the first floor are of the type popularized by Asher Benjamin, with Greek key end blocks; those on the second floor have concentric flat rectangular paneled pilaster strips with corresponding frieze and flat board shelves. The open-string stair ascends in the hall in a single run from back to front. A turned newel with a square cap and slender balusters square in section carry a rounded handrail. The stair spandrel is fully paneled with square flat panels.

The rear section was evidently remodeled to blend with the front section. In its main room are heavy fluted architraves with corner blocks. Elsewhere, architraves are simply molded and more recent. The two mantels in this section are similar to those found on the second floor of the main block. Access to the top floor at this second section is through a small doorway at the rear of the second-floor center hall of the main section. This doorway is unusual in that it has a diagonal corner to correspond with the roof line of the one-and-one-half-story building. As the floor level is lower, two steps lead down into reworked rooms of the upper story of the rear section. Apparently it was originally partitioned into two equal rooms, as revealed by seaming and patching in the floor, but it now has one large room and two smaller rooms used for bathrooms, with a narrow hall between.

The rearmost section of the house, the old kitchen, has been considerably altered, so that only the huge fire opening of the chimney is in its original state.

Southwest of the main house is a separate one-story frame dwelling, possibly of eighteenth century vintage. It is covered with beaded weather-board and has a very steep gable roof and box cornice. There are at either end exterior chimneys made of roughly coarsed ashlar, though the north chimney has smaller stones than the southern one. The front facade is four bays wide with two adjacent entrances and flanking windows. The two-part simple molded architraves and flat board sills frame six-over-six sash windows and board-and-batten doors attached with HL hinges. The north and south sides are two bays deep; the north one has a pair of four-over-four sash gable windows flanking the chimney, while the south facade has one gable

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window and one four-over-four first-story window. The rear facade has a center door and a window.

The interior is still in good enough condition to indicate that this was an early and well-finished house. There are two rooms on each floor; stairs with winders rise from the north room in a closed well which extends into the south room and opens onto the south room of the upper floor. Simple molded architraves are present throughout. Fine quality wide board sheathing is still present in the stair well and on the interior wall of the upper and lower north rooms. The first-floor ceiling beams were evidently exposed as they are edged with a bead. A wooden lock which is still present on the door of the upper floors northern room. Unfortunately all the mantels have been removed. Used throughout are rosehead and T-head nails. Next to this building is a massive oak estimated by a tree surgeon at six hundred years old.

The slave house, which is still further to the rear, is a small frame building with two rooms. It was used as a chicken coop at one time and is now in a near ruinous condition. It has two-part flat board architraves, board-and-batten doors, and some sheathing is still present on the interior.

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIAL INTERESTS (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wakefields is a well-preserved collection of plantation buildings, including a handsome early Greek Revival dwelling with consistent, well-executed exterior and interior finish; two adjoining earlier structures including a dwelling and a kitchen; and a freestanding early dwelling and house probably of eighteenth century vintage. The complex--illustrating the long history of the plantation--stands in a pleasant setting notable for a number of large old trees.

In June of 1786 Ransom Sutherland purchased 879 acres on Horse and Richland creeks in Wake County, from John Mederais. The land had belonged to Thomas Bell, who died in 1779 and left the property to his wife, Sarah, and their children. Sarah then married John Mederais, and they transferred the plantation to Ransom Sutherland of Granville County, excepting a twenty-foot-square portion whereon the late Thomas Bell was buried. The early structure at the rear of the yard, which was later used for a store house, may have been the Bell home.

Ransom Sutherland, an officer in the 4th Regiment, North Carolina Continental Line, and a member of the Council of State, is said to have built the rear portion of the dwelling, and it is a strong local tradition that this first Sutherland house was a stop on the post road that went by the house. A descendant has stated that the early house was also used as a store. The one-and-one-half-story dwelling may well date from the late eighteenth century, and the traditional date of construction is put at 1790. As early as 1807, the Sutherlands called the place Wakefields.

Ransom Sutherland was a prominent landowner in Wake County, and when he died in 1823 his land holdings extended into Granville, Franklin and Wake counties, and totaled over 2,492 acres. In the settlement of the Sutherland estate, Lethe Sutherland Read, daughter of Ransom Sutherland, and her second husband, John Worsham Harris, received the portion of the estate that contained the "Store House . . . buildings," and the portion attached to the "Mansion house of the late Ransome Southerland, dec'd." John W. Harris and Lethe Sutherland Read were married in 1822 and she died in 1828, after which he married Mourning R. Person. By his first wife he had a son, Ransom Sutherland Harris. By Mourning Person he had another son, Dr. Henry H. Harris.

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According to family tradition the front block of the present main house, which is early Greek Revival in style and reportedly built in 1831, was built for Mourning Person Harris. John Worsham died at the place on May 21, 1872; his wife, Mourning, died there on July 4, 1877. The house then was occupied by Dr. Henry H. Harris until his death in 1912, at which time the dwelling house and over a thousand acres went to his nephew, William Henry Harris, a son of Ransom S. Harris. William H. Harris lived there until his death in 1927, at which time his son, John Worsham Harris, drew the lot with the dwelling house. At least as early as 1939 the place was called Home Acres by the Harris family. After his death in 1946 his widow sold the house and remaining acres.

In the succeeding years there were several owners, including Mr. and Mrs. Abner Nash, who lived there from 1949 until 1971 and did major renovations to the house and property. The house is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hal E. Brockman.

The complex of buildings apparently represents nearly a century of ownership: based on family tradition which is not contradicted by deeds, the freestanding one-story-plus-attic dwelling may have been built for Thomas Bell before 1779, the rear one-and-one-half-story structure for Ransom Sutherland after 1786, and the early Greek Revival section adjoining it for John and Mourning Harris. The survival of such a complete collection of buildings representing the chronology of a property is rare.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by John Baxton Flowers, III, survey specialist; architectural description by Neil Pearson, consultant.

Broughton, Carrie L. Marriage and Death Notices in Raleigh Register and North Carolina State Gazette. Raleigh, 1944.

Raleigh Daily Sentinel, May 21, 1872. Obituary of John W. Harris.

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

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O 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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		36° 00' 09"	78° 31' 26"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 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: 27 June 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 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: 27 June 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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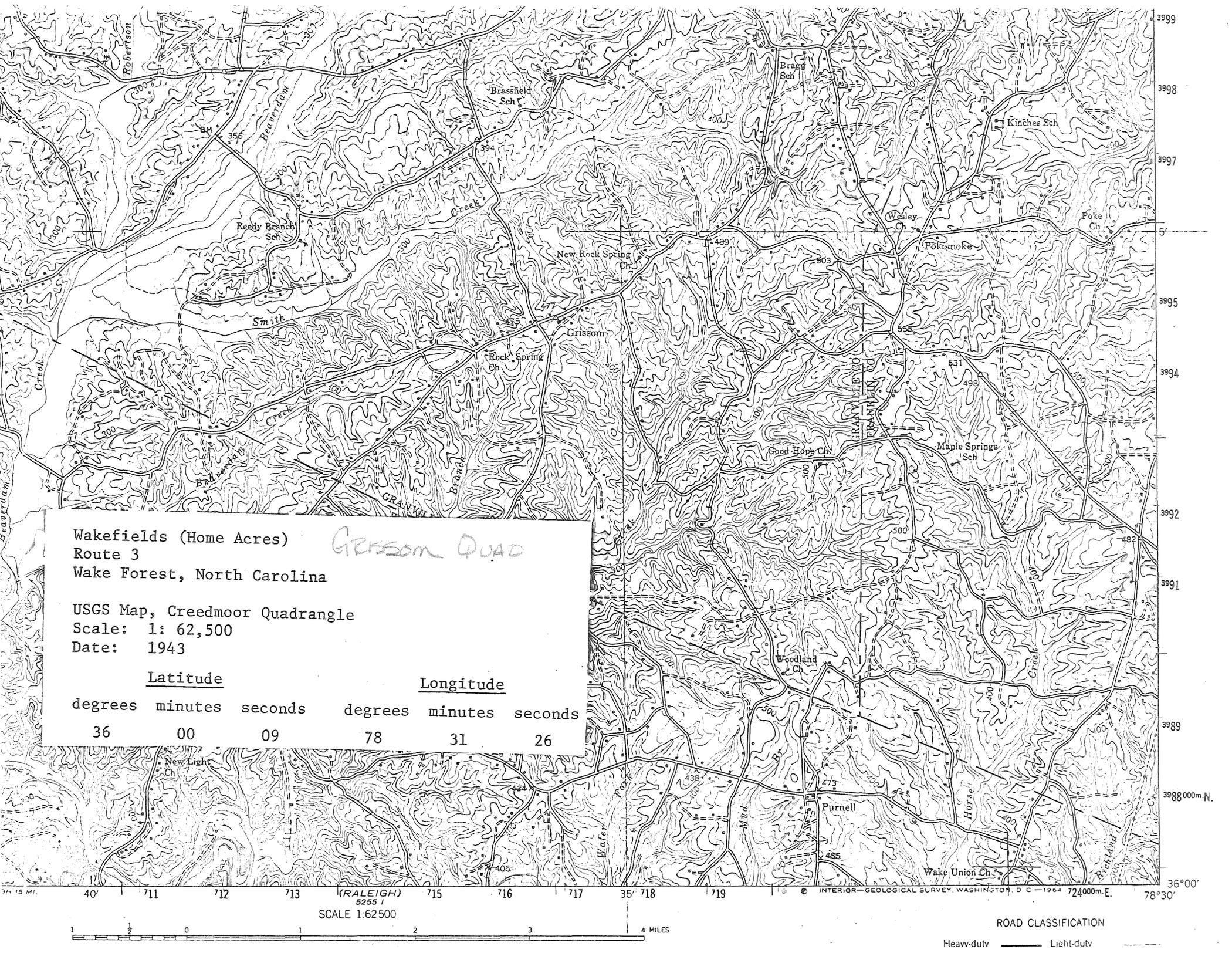
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9.

Wooten, Bayard, and Henderson, Archibald. Old Homes and Gardens of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1939.  
Jones, Calvin, Papers. Letter (November 21, 1807), from Colonel R. Sutherland to Jones. Southern Historical Collection, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



Wakefields (Home Acres)  
 Route 3  
 Wake Forest, North Carolina

*GRISSOM QUAD*

USGS Map, Creedmoor Quadrangle  
 Scale: 1: 62,500  
 Date: 1943

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36	00	09	78	31	26

