

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Skinner, Dr. Charles and Susan, House and Outbuildings

other names/site number Linden Hall

### 2. Location

street & number Down lane, NW side of SR 1528, 0.25 mi. SW of NC 158  not for publication

city or town Littleton  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Warren code 185 zip code 27850

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Stephen J. Crow SHPO 8/28/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain: \_\_\_\_\_)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
5	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Secondary Structure

Agriculture/Processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Nid-19th Century/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood/weatherboard

roof Metal/tin

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1840-1844

Significant Dates

1844

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bragg, Thomas

Jones, Albert G.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.17 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 236620 4035110
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Van Dolsen
organization date 21 April 2000
street & number 1601 Highland Drive telephone 252.243.7861
city or town Wilson state NC zip code 27893

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name John Little Clay Skinner
street & number P.O. Drawer 520 telephone
city or town Littleton state NC zip code 27850

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings  
Warren County, NC

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### Setting

The Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and its outbuildings stand on a rise overlooking surrounding farm fields and woods. The house faces northeast. The landscaping surrounding the house features boxwoods (some from the nineteenth century, some rooted from the older plants in the 1970s), a scuppernong grape trellis, and some flowering shrubs, including crepe myrtle. The remnants of a nineteenth-century drive leading from Littleton Road and terminating in a semi-circular drive in front of the house can still be seen. The present drive to the house enters from the southeast and runs behind the house to the garage.

The outbuildings are located in a semi-circle around the rear of the house. Two dependencies flank the house, with the entries to the buildings on the southwest (rear) elevation.<sup>1</sup> The kitchen stands southwest of the house, nearest to the hemi-octagonal wing that served as the warming area for the dining room. To the rear of the kitchen, stands the dairy with the smokehouse approximately 25 feet to the north. A small side shed was constructed (possibly to house carriages) onto the north elevation of the smokehouse. The necessary has been moved to the rear of the smokehouse. A 1930s garage was constructed to the northwest of the house and a modern well stands between the kitchen and the smokehouse.

### House, 1840-1844, contributing

A two-story, three-bay, single-pile, T-shaped, hipped-roof house with two hemi-octagonal wings, the Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House stands on a rise, formerly at the center of a large plantation. The house is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style and retains original window sash, siding, and decorative trim on the exterior; and all doors, mantels, woodwork, and the original floor plan on the interior.

The house and all of its contemporary outbuildings share common construction features. All stand on stone foundations. The timber-frame buildings are constructed with guttered corner posts, and studs that vary greatly in size from 3" by 5" to 5" by 10". The joists are lapped over the sill and plate and are approximately 4" by 10". The chimneys in the house are interior and feature brick construction; the chimneys on the two dependencies are brick and stone and on the exterior; while those in the other outbuildings are exterior and built of stone.

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<sup>1</sup> The original function of these two buildings is unknown. They have been known in the Skinner family as housing for medical students studying under Dr. Skinner, or as a storage area for medical supplies. One may have served as an office, the other as a laundry, or as housing for students.

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The house has three porches: a portico with balcony covering the central bay on the façade, a porch running the length of the ell on the southeast elevation, and a porch on the southwest elevation of the main block of the house. All three porches originally had octagonal columns that will be replicated and will replace the more modern columns on the portico and the porch on the southwest side. On the exterior, the house retains its original weatherboarding, fluted cornerposts with molded caps, and simple, wide fascia boards. The hipped roof with ridge presently on the house was a late-nineteenth-century replacement of a hipped roof with a flat deck. Although the original flat hipped roof was tinned, a piece of lead roofing remains in the attic, suggesting that at some point the roof was covered with lead.<sup>2</sup>

The main block of the house is a three-bay, bilaterally symmetrical, single-pile section. The façade features a tripartite surround for the centered door on both the first and second floor. Originally, the second-floor door led to a balcony on top of the one-story front portico. The two flanking one-story wings also retain all exterior detail. The house has a two-room, two-story rear ell that has exterior doors on the west and east elevations which originally lead to the porches. Attached to the rear of the two-story ell is a one-story, half-hip roof ell with no exterior access. All sections of the house have fluted corner pilasters with molded caps and simple wide fascia boards.

The central-passage-plan house exhibits window and door casing featuring rosette corner blocks and flat, wide, sculptural trim. A transverse stair passage is located at the rear of the central passage, through an arch with a central keystone. The staircase can be seen through the arch and has two straight balusters per step. The stairs run fourteen steps to a landing, turn 180 degrees, and rise another eight steps to the second floor. A door at either end of the stair hall leads to the exterior side porches. To the right of the main door as you enter is the door to the parlor. The parlor features the most elaborate fireplace mantel in the house. All of the fireplace mantels on the first floor have full columns. There was originally no access to the hemioctagonal room adjoining the parlor. The only entrance was from the exterior. This room is traditionally known as the linen room, and had no fireplace. To the left of the main door was the dining room, which had a slightly less ornate fireplace mantel. A door from the dining room led to the hemioctagonal room which had a fireplace and which served as a warming room for the food to be served. There is presently no exterior access to the warming room, but most likely a

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<sup>2</sup> Charles Skinner in a letter written on November 7, 1844 stated: "I have had the roof, i.e. the flat part tinned", indicating that it originally had been a tin roof. Little-Mordecai Records, George Little correspondence 1840-1849; Letter from Charles Skinner to George Little, November 7, 1844.

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Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings  
Warren County, NC

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door was once located on the southeast elevation so that food would not have been carried through the dining room into the warming room before being served.

An original door leads from the stair hall to a room that may have served as a secondary parlor or as a secondary dining area. The room has no exterior access. The room is finished finely, with Greek Revival woodwork that matches the main block of the house. The mantel on the fireplace is simple and is similar to those found in the second floor chambers in the main block. From this room, one could enter the one-story section at the end of the hall. This section comprises one room that is presently used as a kitchen, and may have served historically as a kitchen during the colder months of the year. The door and window casings exhibit corner rosettes but have flat, plain trim, unlike the remainder of the house.

The second-floor plan is identical to the first-floor plan. The entry onto the balcony has no transom. The corner block rosettes are less ornate than those on the first floor, and the trim flatter, and simpler. The aprons beneath the windows are also simpler than those under the first-floor windows. An enclosed staircase rises to the third floor, where a small staircase leads to the roof. When constructed, the house had an observation deck on the roof.

### **Dependencies (2), 1840-1844, contributing**

Two dependencies flank the house, with their gable ends facing towards the house. The one-story dependencies measure approximately 15 feet by 17 feet, and feature cornerboards and cornices that complement those found on the house. The two dependencies feature a door centered on the southerly elevation, and a window centered on the westerly and northerly elevations. A brick chimney is located on the easterly elevation. The interior of the dependencies were originally plastered and had simple, Greek Revival style mantels.

### **Kitchen, 1840-1844, contributing**

The kitchen building stands to south southwest of the house, behind the westerly dependency, with the eave wall toward the house with a centered door. A door is also located on the opposite wall. The exterior of the kitchen has cornerboards and a cornice that complements those found on the dependencies and the house. The building has a nine-over-six sash, double-hung window on the gable end wall. The interior is plastered above a board wainscoting.

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Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings  
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### **Dairy, 1840-1844, contributing**

Located south southwest of the house, the one-story dairy has a simpler exterior with no cornerboards. The building has a door on the northeast gable wall and a plastered interior. The dairy has replaced rafters but building retains the configuration and pitch of the original roof.

### **Smokehouse, 1840-1844, contributing**

The smokehouse stands southwest of the house. The building has a door on the gable end, and has studs placed every foot to prevent theft. A frame addition was built onto the east eave wall. The addition is constructed of reused timbers and was used for sorting tobacco. The only access to the addition was through a door later cut into the east wall of the smokehouse. An open lean-to frame addition was also built onto the west eave wall. The addition was possibly used to house carriages and is also constructed of reused timbers.

### **Necessary, 1840-1844, contributing**

The gable-roofed necessary was moved to its present location, behind the smokehouse, from somewhere else on the property. The necessary was plastered, and had a baseboard and window and door casings. A louvered window is located on the gable wall, and the door is located on the eave wall.

### **Garage, ca. 1930, non-contributing**

The garage stands west of the house, at the former location of the stables. The garage is a single bay, wood frame structure with an extended rafter gable roof.

### **Well house, ca.1980, non-contributing**

The well building is a small, cement, gable-roofed building constructed ca. 1980. The well is hand-dug and most likely predates 1900. It is located between the dairy and the smokehouse.

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### Summary

The Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings, constructed between 1840 and 1844, represent a rare survival of an antebellum Greek Revival plantation house with a full complement of Greek Revival support buildings. The outbuildings feature many of the classical architectural details that adorn the house. The extant outbuildings include a kitchen, two dependencies that may have functioned as an office and as a residence for medical students, a dairy, a smokehouse, and a necessary. A twentieth-century garage also stands on the property.

The 1840s buildings retain integrity and are attributed to two important regional builder/architects: Albert G. Jones and Thomas Bragg, Sr. Jones was a builder/architect best known for the Greek Revival style houses and churches he constructed in Warren County and in the town of Murfreesboro. Bragg, also an architect/builder, worked primarily in the towns of Jackson and Warrenton.

The original floorplan of the house remains unchanged and features a transverse stair passage. All of the 1840s buildings retain their original weatherboarding, fluted cornerposts with molded caps, and simple, wide fascia boards. The tripartite primary entrances on the first and second floor façade also exemplify the Greek Revival style. Inside the house, the classical motifs found on the fireplace mantels, the archway with keystone separating the entry hall from the stair hall, the stepped linear moldings surrounding the doors and windows, and the paneled aprons below the windows are excellent examples of a regional interpretation of patternbook Greek Revival designs. The Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an important example of Greek Revival architecture in Warren County.

### Historical Narrative

In 1800, William Person Little (for whom the town of Littleton was named) inherited 12,000 acres of land from his uncle, General Thomas Person (for whom Person County was named). These 12,000 acres included the land upon which Linden Hall stands. William Person Little and his wife, Ann Hawkins Little, had seven children: Thomas Person, George, Susan, Lucy, Mary, Minerva, and William Person, Jr. In 1835 Susan Little married Charles Skinner, a physician.

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Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings  
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Charles and Susan Skinner began planning the construction of a new house on a portion of the Little estate during the late 1830s and 1840s. By January 1841, Charles wrote to his brother-in-law George that he had hired Albert Jones to build the outhouses and that

They can I think saw the timber for my outhouses as much of that, for the dwelling house as the land will afford. Albert Jones has partly agreed to build my outhouses for me; but I do not think I shall be able to do more to my dwelling house this year than to build the basement which will be built of stone. If there is any chance of getting a man to undertake the brick & woodwork (to be commissioned next fall or winter) I wish you would let me know it that I may submit my plans to him for his consideration.<sup>3</sup>

In June 1841, Charles Skinner was reconsidering his decision to build on the Little estate. He was concerned that Ann Hawkins Little would not give him and Susan enough land to make constructing a new plantation house worthwhile. He wrote to George: "she might conclude after I had incurred the additional expense of sawing a large quantity of timber to give me only four hundred acres upon which I would not erect even a stable. Unless you or your Brother will attend to this matter when you come out again, I see no probability of this matter being arranged soon."<sup>4</sup> Charles and Susan appeared to have received assurances from Ann Hawkins Little that they would receive sufficient land since the couple continued to work on the construction of outbuildings and a house on the property.

Almost two years later in his correspondence with George Little, Charles Skinner reported that he was ready to purchase nails for his construction project, and queried his brother-in-law whether it would be better to buy nails in Petersburg rather than in Raleigh. By

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<sup>3</sup> Little-Mordecai Records, George Little correspondence 1840-1849; Letter from Charles Skinner to George Little, January 22, 1841. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina. The "Albert Jones" mentioned in the letter is most likely builder/architect Albert Gamaliel Jones of Warren County, best known for his work in neighboring Murfreesboro, Hertford County.

<sup>4</sup> Little-Mordecai Records, George Little correspondence 1840-1849; Letter from Charles Skinner to George Little, June 12, 1841. At the settling of the estate of William Person Little in 1852, Charles and Susan received 380 acres valued at \$1330 and 160 acres valued at \$640. The couple had already received an advance on their inheritance valued at \$3,750.00, which may have included the acreage received from Ann Hawkins Little in 1841 (Warren County Division of Land Records, December 1852, 558. Warren County Court House, Warrenton, North Carolina). Prior to building their house, the Skinner family must have been living in George Little's house in Warrenton because in the same letter, Charles told George that "If you want your place next year, you can have it of course, but unless I can get houses enough erected this year to shelter me, I shall look elsewhere."

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November 1843, Charles was writing to George to request his help and to report on the progress of the house building:

You must come as soon as you can for there was a very evident falling off in old Bob as soon as you left; & if he is let alone, he will not finish by Christmas. There seems to be a fatality attending all our workmen—those who will not work & those who are willing meet with accidents which prevent them from doing so. Two of mine (Mr. Braggs hands) cut themselves this week, & it will be some time before they will be able to do much. But for that, the house could have been raised next week. I wish, by the by, that you were here to help us for Susan & I are deep in plans & find some difficulty in suiting ourselves.<sup>5</sup>

In November 1844 Charles requested George to acquire bricks for “the purpose of making arches to support my hearths & finishing the arch of an oven in my kitchen.” He also needed George to purchase “about 25 galls more of oil & [my painter] advises me to get 75 ltr more of common white lead (No 2) and 5 lbs of lamp black.” He also noted that “The workmen will be out of my house in ten days; & the first coat of plastering is nearly done; so that by hurrying the painting, I shall get into the house before Christmass [*sic*]. I have had the roof, i.e. the flat part tinned, & can now bid defiance to the rain.”<sup>6</sup>

Charles and Susan Skinner moved into the house one week before Christmas in 1844. Two rooms were finished, and the plasterers had just “second coated all the house except the west octagon and porticos” and the painters were still at work.<sup>7</sup> A month later, Charles told

<sup>5</sup> Little-Mordecai Records, George Little correspondence 1840-1849; Letter from Charles Skinner to George Little, June 12, 1841. The “Mr. Bragg” mentioned in the excerpt is Thomas Bragg, Sr., an architect builder, originally from New Bern, later of Warrenton and Jackson, North Carolina. The quote does not make it clear whether Bragg was serving as both architect and builder on this job, or only as the builder. Given that Susan and Charles were still working out the plans while the house was being constructed and taking into consideration the reputation and career of Bragg by 1843, it does seem likely that he did provide plans for the house. A similar process of revising the plan and form of a house as it is in the being constructed occurred in the building of Eureka, a plantation house in Mecklenburg County (Virginia) being constructed by North Carolina architect/builder Jacob Holt in the late 1850s (Bishir, et al., *Architects and Builders in North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990, 152-153).

<sup>6</sup> Little-Mordecai Records, George Little correspondence 1840-1849; Letter from Charles Skinner to George Little, November 7, 1844.

<sup>7</sup> Little-Mordecai Records, George Little correspondence 1840-1849; Letter from Charles Skinner to George Little, December 21, 1844.

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George to tell their friend "Mr. Hollister that I should be pleased to see him & can now I have a house to suit his taste."<sup>8</sup>

In 1850, Charles and Susan lived in the house with their three children, William, Ann and Lucy. Thirty-five slaves worked and lived at the plantation: twenty male slaves and fifteen female slaves. Ten years earlier (before moving to the plantation), Charles and Susan had owned eleven slaves, six that were engaged in agriculture.<sup>9</sup> Most likely, after they had acquired the land and plantation house, Charles and Susan needed more help with both the housekeeping and farming.

Charles Skinner died in 1863, and Susan continued to live in the house with her children. At her death in 1886 she bequeathed "my home in Warren County, North Carolina, wherein I now live" to her son, Thomas Person Little Skinner, along with 160 acres "contiguous to my house."<sup>10</sup>

The house and land remain in the Skinner family. As late as 1964, the house had no indoor plumbing, central heat, or air conditioning and the interior had not been painted at least since 1936.<sup>11</sup> The property was jointly inherited by John Little Clay Skinner and Thomas Skinner IV in 1997. John Little Clay Skinner acquired sole ownership of a 6.49 acre tract with the house and its accompanying outbuildings in 1998. John Little Clay Skinner still farms the land surrounding the house.

### Architectural Context

The Greek Revival style first appeared in North Carolina domestic architecture in the construction of large plantation houses such as Creekside, Burke County (1837) and Lands End, Perquimans County (1830s).<sup>12</sup> During the 1830s in North Carolina, the disparity between the wealthy and the poor became increasingly pronounced. The prosperous agricultural planter class codified this economic stratification with the construction of monumental Greek Revival houses that materially announced their wealth and the disparity between themselves and their

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<sup>8</sup> Little-Mordecai Records, George Little correspondence 1840-1849; Letter from Charles Skinner to George Little, January 3, 1845.

<sup>9</sup> Federal Manuscript Population Census. Warren District, Warren County, 1840, 1850. Microfilm.

<sup>10</sup> Warren County Will Book 51:223. Warren County Court House, Warrenton, North Carolina.

<sup>11</sup> Notes in the possession of Sue D. Skinner, Littleton, North Carolina.

<sup>12</sup> Catherine Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990) 195.

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neighbors.<sup>13</sup> The Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House, with its balcony above the front portico, and its viewing platform on top of the roof, allowed its residents and their guests to view and survey all that was around them, thus reinforcing their dominance over the surrounding area. The Skinner family were among the wealthiest farming families in the region, growing more than 1,300 bushels of corn, 600 bushels of wheat, 1,000 bushels of oats, and 2,700 pounds of tobacco in 1860. In addition the Skinners kept livestock and grew peas, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and made butter for market.<sup>14</sup>

The Greek Revival mansions built by Charles and Susan Skinner and their peers generally followed a form established in the eighteenth century: a bilaterally symmetrical façade with a center passage plan, one or two rooms deep. The houses were capped by a low hip or gable roof and had chimneys on end walls or between the front and rear rooms. The previously desired hall-parlor and three-or-four room plans were now considered old-fashioned and out-of-date. According to architectural historian Catherine Bishir, the standardization of the plan “paralleled a growing standardization of stylistic elements,” that was inspired by nationally popular builders’ patternbooks.<sup>15</sup>

The Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House is an outstanding, intact example of this statewide trend of the rural elite erecting monumental houses in the Greek Revival style during the antebellum period. The original floorplan of the house remains unchanged and features a central passage plan with a rear ell. A regional variation in the plan of the Skinner House is the transverse stair passage at the end of the entry hall.<sup>16</sup> This same plan can be found in Little Manor (also in the Littleton vicinity), the family home of the Susan’s family, the Littles. In Little Manor, however, this plan developed as a result of incorporating an eighteenth-century house as the ell of a newer house; the transverse stair passage was a part of the original house. A

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<sup>13</sup> Bishir, 195. This same trend of the stratification of wealth resulting in the construction of large mansion houses of the rural elite occurred in northern Delaware in the early to mid- nineteenth century (Bernard L. Herman, *Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware 1700-1900* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1986), and south-central Pennsylvania in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century (Nancy Van Dolsen, “Rural Landscapes and Preservation: Pennsylvania at the end of the Eighteenth Century,” Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Delaware, forthcoming).

<sup>14</sup> Federal Agricultural Census, Warren County, 1860.

<sup>15</sup> Bishir, 196.

<sup>16</sup> The regional trend of a transverse stair passage during the antebellum period was confirmed in a discussion with Ken McFarland, Personal Interview, 4 June 1999.

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third house in Warren County, Montmorenci (now demolished), dating to the 1830s, also incorporated a transverse stair passage.<sup>17</sup>

The detailing and massing of the Skinner House is similar to other houses constructed within the region during the 1840s and 1850s, including the Edward and Rebecca Pitchford Davis House (Lake O'Woods), Inez vicinity, Warren County and the Sledge-Hayley House, Warrenton. The Sledge-Hayley House, constructed ca. 1852-1855, resembles the Skinner House in its details, but not in its plan. Both dwellings feature two-story fluted pilasters at the corners, a broad exterior skirt, and a wide plain frieze. Common to both houses are the central entrance with sidelights, transom and cornerlights; the use of the roof of the entry porch as a balcony with entry from the second-floor passage through a divided door flanked by sidelights; and the diminution of fenestration. The Sledge-Hayley House does not have the hemi-octagonal bays that flank the Skinner House.<sup>18</sup>

Lake O'Woods, constructed by A.G. Jones in 1853, was also a plantation house. The house features similar detailing to the Skinner House, including full two-story corner pilasters, a three-bay façade with a central one-story classical portico with balcony, a wide central passage, and symmetrically molded frames with corner rosettes. Unlike the outbuildings accompanying the Skinner House, those that survive at Lake O'Woods do not feature Greek Revival detailing.<sup>19</sup> In nearby Halifax County, only a few rural farm complexes contained domestic outbuildings that exhibited ornamentation that matched the main house. An essay on rural architecture of Halifax County only noted two farms that had outbuildings with detailing that followed that of the residence.<sup>20</sup>

The Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings illustrate a well-executed interpretation of the Greek Revival style. All of the 1840s buildings retain their original weatherboarding, fluted cornerposts with molded caps, and simple, wide fascia boards. The house features two hemi-octagonal wings and porches with octagonal columns that echo the form of the wings. The tripartite primary entrances on the first and second floor façade also

<sup>17</sup>Thomas Tileston Waterman and Frances Benjamin Johnston. *The Early Architecture of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1947) 39.

<sup>18</sup>Catherine W. Bishir, Joe Mobley, and Mary Hinton Kerr, Sledge-Hayley House, Warrenton, Warren County, NC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1979.

<sup>19</sup>Catherine W. Bishir and Joe Mobley, Lake O'Woods, Inez Vicinity, Warren County, NC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1976.

<sup>20</sup>Henry V. Taves, "The Rural Architectural Heritage of Halifax County, North Carolina," March 1989, 35. North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office files, Raleigh, North Carolina.

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exemplify the Greek Revival style. Inside the house, the classical motifs found on the fireplace mantels, the archway with keystone separating the entry hall from the stair hall, the stepped linear moldings surrounding the doors and windows, and the paneled aprons below the windows are excellent examples of a regional interpretation of patternbook Greek Revival designs.

Correspondence contained in the Little-Mordecai papers indicates that A.G. Jones and Thomas Bragg, Sr., two prominent regional builders, worked at Linden Hall. The attribution of the house to Thomas Bragg makes the house one of the few documented residences known to have been built by Bragg.<sup>21</sup> Bragg was born in 1788 to a family of sailors near New Bern, North Carolina. By 1802 he was working as a carpenter in Warrenton, and as his reputation grew, he and his workers were building most of the local public buildings and many houses in the area.<sup>22</sup> Albert Gamaliel Jones was also based in Warrenton, and he also constructed many public buildings in Warren, Northampton, and Hertford counties. The association of A.G. Jones with the construction of the outbuildings is a significant aspect of the property and adds to the knowledge concerning the career of Jones.

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<sup>21</sup> It is fairly certain that Bragg built and designed the Thomas Bragg House in Jackson, North Carolina. This house originally had wings (now removed) and a portico on the façade that resembles the portico at Linden Hall. From the George Little correspondence, it is also known that Bragg was working on the wings at Little Manor in the 1840s. See Little-Mordecai Records, George Little correspondence 1840-1849; Letter from Charles Skinner to George Little, November 10, 1843.

<sup>22</sup> By 1850, Thomas Bragg, Sr. was living with his son in Jackson. Federal Population Manuscript Census, Northampton County, Jackson, 1850. Bragg also owned 10 male slaves and two female slaves. Most likely, the male slaves aided Bragg in his carpentry work.

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Warren County, NC

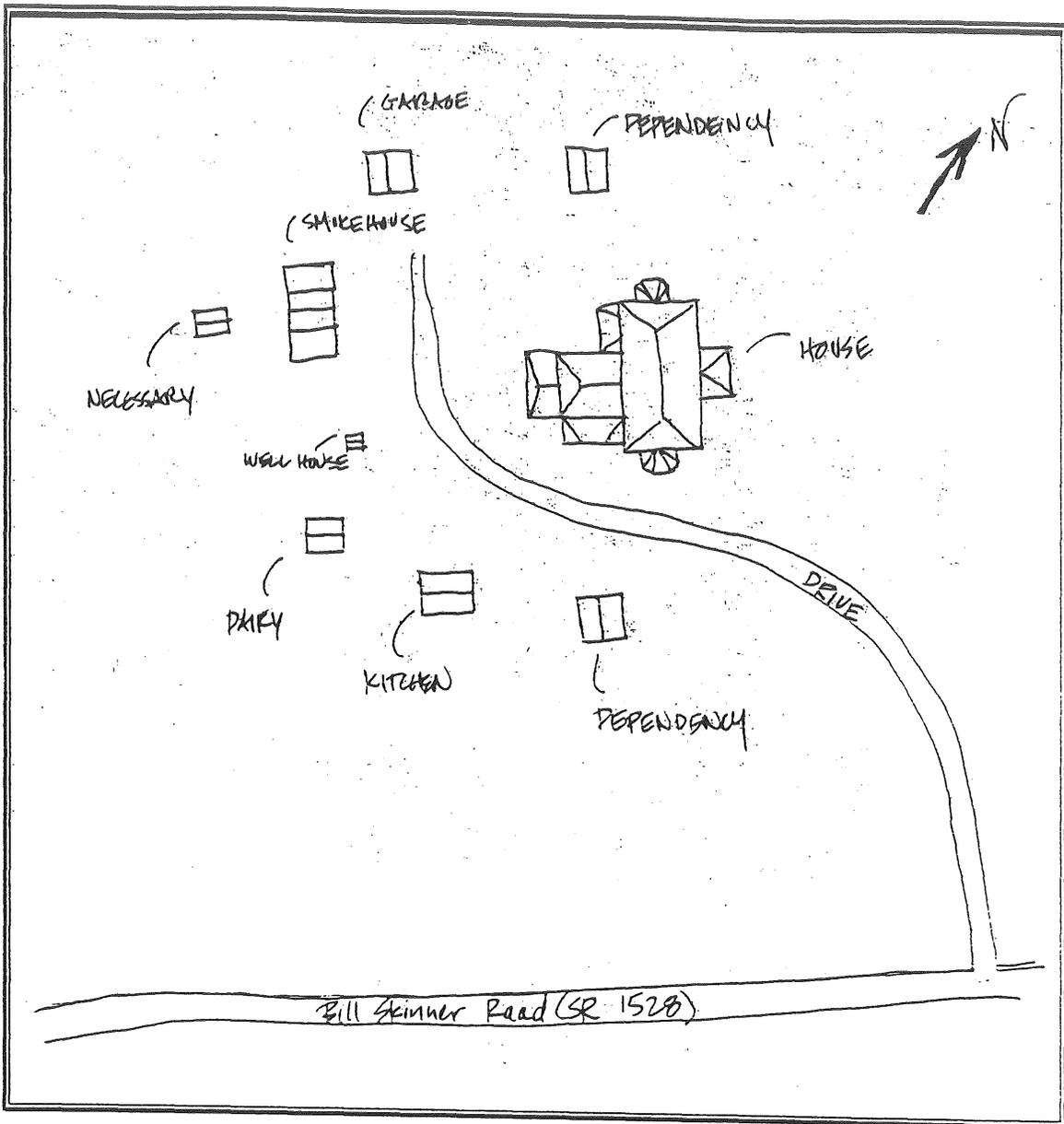
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## Verbal Boundary

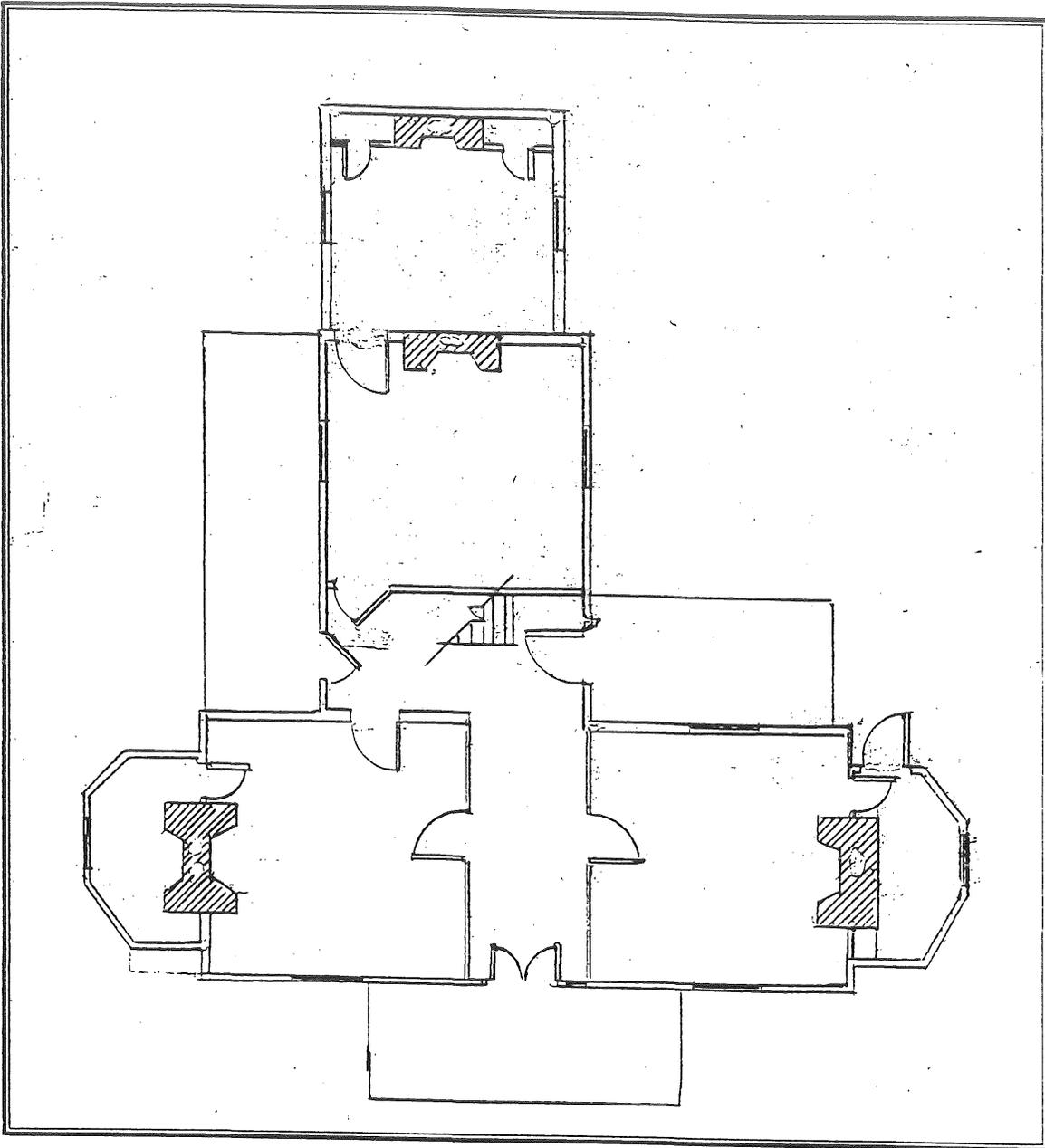
The historic boundary is the present tax parcel (20550 K659) created from a larger parcel in July 30, 1998.

## Boundary Justification

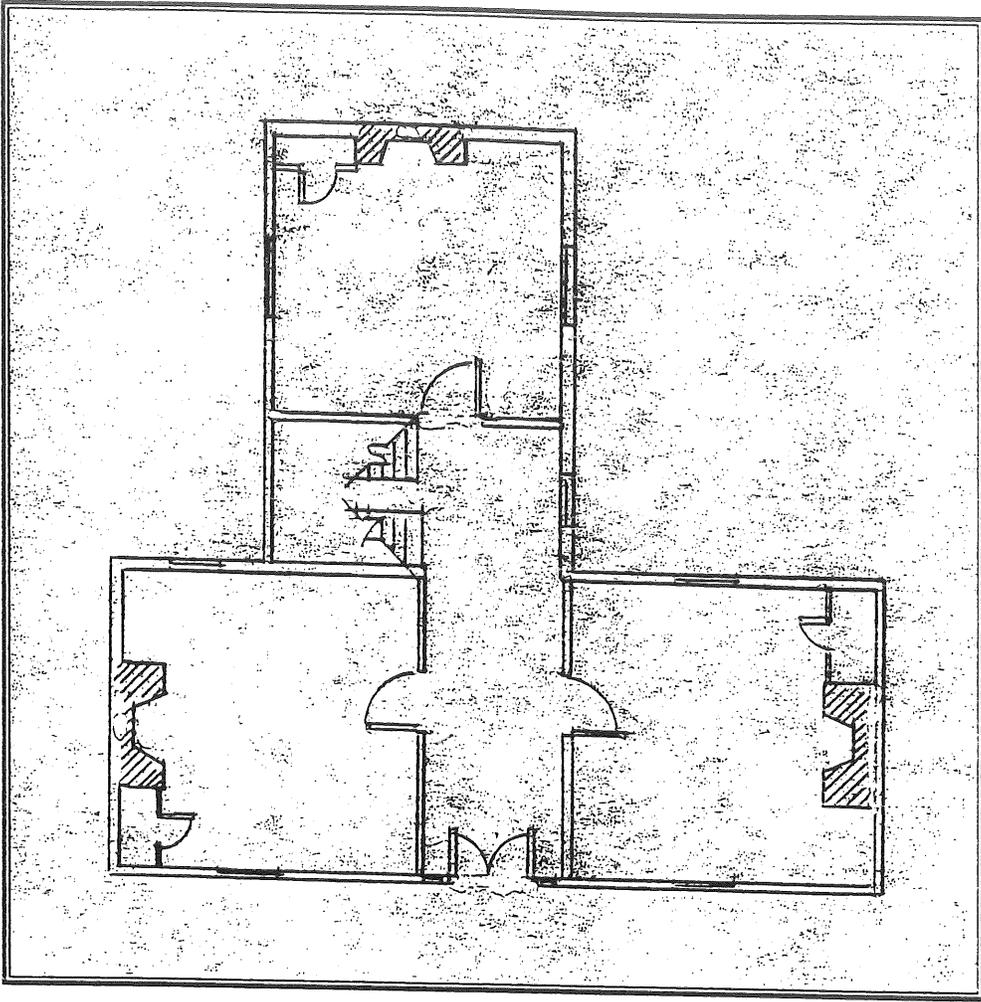
The historic boundary includes the house, its associated historic outbuildings and its associated acreage. The boundary includes the present driveway and remaining historic plantings.



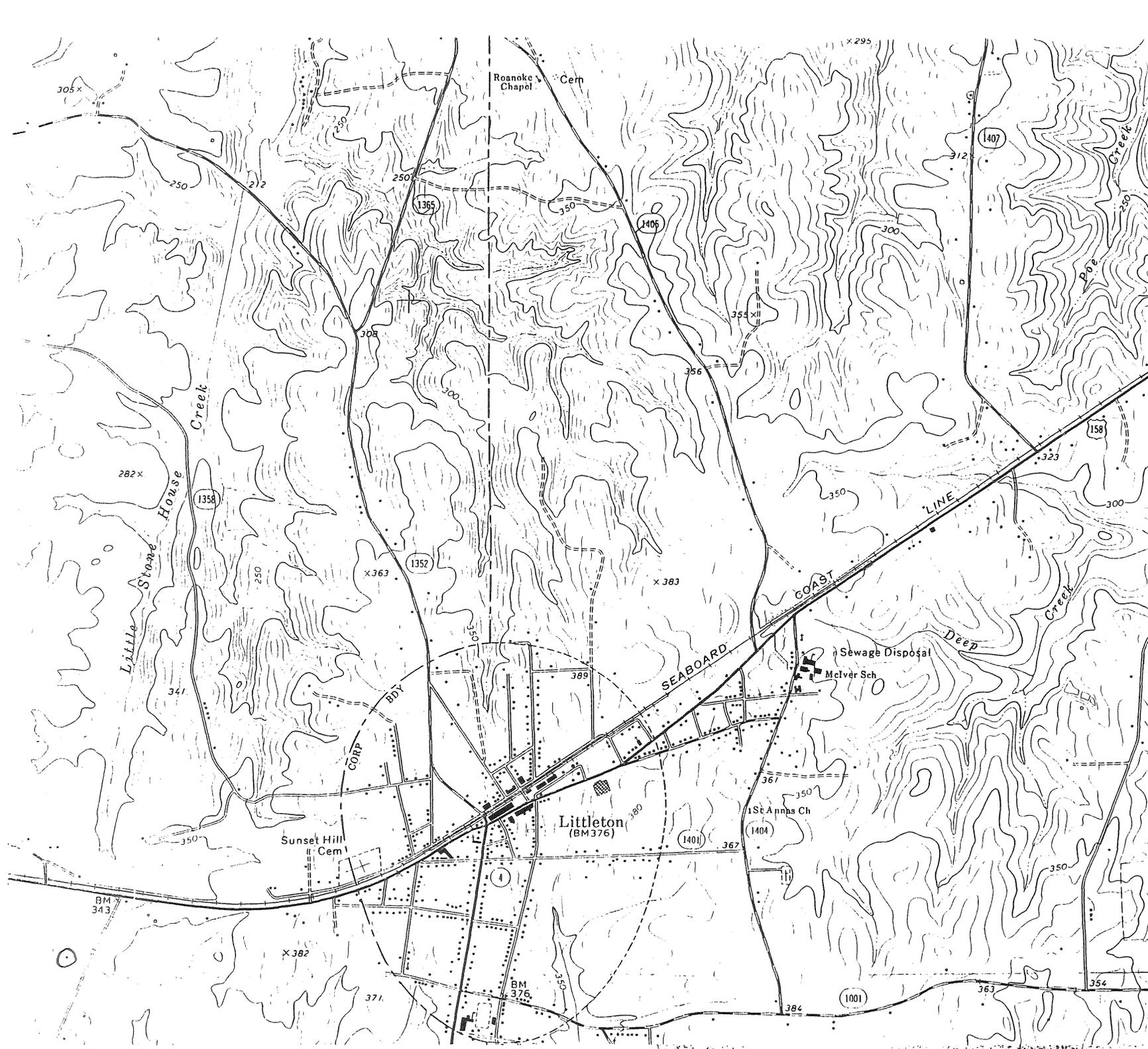
Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings  
 Warren County, NC  
 Site Plan



Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings  
Warren County, NC  
First Floor Plan



Dr. Charles and Susan Skinner House and Outbuildings  
Warren County, NC  
Second Floor Plan



4039  
27'30"  
SUMMIT 2.5 MI.  
4027  
(THELMA)  
5456 IV NE  
4035

Dr. Charles and  
Susan Little  
Steiner House  
and outbuildings  
Littleton vicinity  
Warren County, NC  
Littleton USGS

ZONE 18  
EASTING  
236620  
NORTHING  
4035110

