

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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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 Greenwreath

and/or common Foreman House

2. Location

street & number SW side NC 43 .35 mile NW of jct. with NC 121 _____ not for publication

city, town Falkland _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1

state North Carolina code 37 county Pitt code 147

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> In process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Wooten

street & number

city, town Falkland _____ vicinity of _____ state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pitt County Courthouse

street & number W. Third Street

city, town Greenville _____ state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse Basin

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 _____ federal _____ state county _____ local

depository for survey records Survey & Planning Branch, N. C. Division of Archives & History

city, town 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh _____ state North Carolina 27611

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Greenwreath sits in a five-acre yard on the southwest side of North Carolina Highway 43. A short avenue of crepe myrtles leads from the road to the house. Several large shade trees are randomly placed in the yard. Cultivated farmland surrounds the house and yard on three sides. A few hundred yards directly east of the house is the Tar River. The house is situated between the small crossroads communities of Bruce and Falkland in rural Pitt County.

Several old outbuildings survive near the house. In the southeast corner of the yard is a large two-room structure with a center chimney and Greek Revival trim; the building has received additions in its use as a tenant dwelling. In the southwest corner of the yard is a small gable-roof structure with beaded siding. Near the northwest corner of the house is a small Victorian-period brick ice house, partially built into the ground.

The front section of the house is a two-and-a-half story five-bay structure covered with beaded siding. A chimney of Flemish-bond brickwork, with paved double shoulders and free-standing stack, rises at each end of the house. A box cornice with curved modillion blocks runs across the front of the house. The fenestration is of nine-over-nine sash on both floors, and is trimmed with three-part architrave surrounds with molded window sills (the windows are now boarded up). The doorway is framed by fluted pilasters; above the door is a large transom flanked by short fluted pilasters beneath a projecting cornice. Wide flush sheathing on either side of the entrance indicates the location of the original porch. Narrow weatherboarding now covers the flush sheathing and doorway on the second floor, but the four-light transom with molded cornice of the doorway survives. The presence of the modillion block cornice over this transom would indicate the second level of the porch was not covered. At the turn of the century a wrap-around porch was added to the front of the house, but this has recently been removed.

The rear shed wing is attached to the house at cornice level, and gives the house a saltbox profile. The wing has two Flemish bond chimneys (one has now collapsed), beaded siding, architrave trim, and molded window sills to match the front section of the house. The wing has a shed porch with a small room at one end; neither appears to be an original feature.

The plan of the interior consists of a wide center hall flanked on each side by a single large room. The dog-leg stair, with chamfered and molded newels and scrolled stair brackets, runs up the south wall of the hall before turning over the rear door. A window opens from the stairwell into the second floor of the rear addition. The rear wing consists of a large room entered directly from the stair hall and an adjoining smaller room; an enclosed-winder stair opens from the large room and rises inside the small room. The plan of the second floor repeats that of the first floor with the addition of an enclosed-winder stair from the hall to the attic.

The interior of the house retains its original plaster and pine flooring. Fielded wainscoting with molded baseboards and chair rails appears on the first floor, with simple chair rails and baseboards on the second floor. All openings are finished with two-part architrave molding. The house retained its raised six-panel doors with HL hinges until recently when the doors were stolen from the house. The chair rail of the parlor, or southeast room, features a gouged-work design of eight-petal flowers and swags. The mantel of this room is the most elaborate of the house with paired fluted pilasters

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supporting a three-part architrave and shelf; the projecting elements of the frieze feature raised oval patera (now removed for safekeeping by the present owner). The other mantels are well-detailed and proportioned, being variations on a treatment of fluted pilasters supporting a heavily molded projecting shelf with a dentil cornice. The large room of the rear wing features a shallow built-in cupboard with flat-panel doors and molded trim.

The interior of the house is dilapidated in appearance, but appears in sound condition. The house has been uninhabited for several years and has recently been used for the storage of tobacco.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check an <input type="checkbox"/> and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1791

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Greenwreath is a large and handsomely detailed house built prior to 1791. Particularly notable are its parlor chair rail ornamented with flowers and swags, and the dog-leg staircase with scrolled stair brackets. Greenwreath was built by John Foreman (1755/6-1818), a wealthy planter. The third generation Foreman owner was John L. Foreman (1808-1844) who represented Pitt County in the House of Commons from 1833 to 1835, 1838 to 1843, and as a state senator in 1844. The house remained in the Foreman family until 1919.

Criteria:

- A. Associated with the large-scale agricultural plantation unit worked by slave labor in antebellum eastern North Carolina.
- B. Associated with the prominent Foreman family of Pitt County, especially with John Foreman, wealthy planter, and his grandson John L. Foreman, a state legislator from Pitt County.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a large antebellum plantation home of a wealthy family, as well as exemplifies late-Georgian and early-Federal vernacular domestic architecture of high quality.
- D. Is likely to yield information important to the understanding of the household activities on a large antebellum plantation.

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Greenwreath was built prior to 1791 by John Foreman; the house was inhabited by the Foreman family until 1919.¹ John Foreman (1755/6-1818) moved to Pitt County with his wife and parents in 1780 from Norfolk County, Virginia.² Foreman's first purchase of land in Pitt County occurred in 1780 when he bought one hundred acres "on the South side of the Tar River."³ Foreman made numerous other purchases in the same vicinity, accumulating over 1,000 acres. The 1790 census recorded Foreman as the head of a five-member household and owning twelve slaves.⁴ Ten years later, Foreman's household had increased to eleven members, and the number of his slaves to twenty-four; by 1810 Foreman owned seventy-five slaves.⁵ In 1818 the Raleigh Register printed the obituary of "John Foreman, Esquire," of Pitt County, and noted that he was a "wealthy and highly respectable citizen of that county."⁶

Greenwreath was inherited by Foreman's son, Ivey. Ivey Foreman was evidently a prosperous planter as by 1830 he owned 148 slaves.⁷ At Ivey Foreman's death in 1832, Greenwreath was inherited by his oldest son, John L. Foreman (1808-1844). John L. Foreman, who had attended the University of North Carolina from 1828 to 1829, was active in Pitt County affairs, representing the county in the House of Commons from 1833 to 1835, and from 1838 until 1843.⁸ In 1844 Foreman was elected to represent district Eleven in the state Senate, but Foreman died shortly after the opening of the session in Raleigh.⁹ Lengthy eulogies to Foreman were presented to both houses of the legislature, noting that "those who know him best will testify to his indefatigable industry, to his strong practical good sense, his high and honorable bearing, and above all, to his sterling and unwavering integrity. A faithful representative, he enjoyed to the last, the entire confidence of his constituents."¹⁰ The legislature passed resolutions honoring Foreman, and ordered its members to wear black armbands in mourning for the rest of the session.¹¹ On the day of Foreman's funeral, Governor John M. Morehead and the members of the legislature followed the coffin in procession.¹²

Foreman's widow Mary married Richard Henry Lewis, a wealthy Edgecombe County planter, and the couple resided at Greenwreath with Mrs. Lewis's children by John L. Foreman: William Foreman (1837-1869) and Ivey Foreman (1843-1864). At the outbreak of the Civil War, Ivey Foreman, a cadet at the United States Naval Academy, joined the Confederate Navy. Foreman died in Richmond, Virginia, in 1864 as the commander of the C. S. Steamer Torpedo.¹³ William Foreman was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1858, and probably assumed the management of Greenwreath soon afterwards.¹⁴ At the time of the 1860 census, William Foreman owned 2,100 acres of land valued at \$25,000 on which his 40 slaves raised 2,000 bushels of corn, 106 bales of ginned cotton, and livestock worth \$3,050.¹⁵ Foreman did not long survive the Civil War, dying in 1869 of tuberculosis contracted during his military service. At his death, Foreman was described as "a gentleman of scholarly attainments, tastes and habits. . . . Scorning politics, he devoted himself earnestly to agriculture and to books, having a remarkable fondness for mathematics and for history. . . . He had just completed extensive improvements on his farm, the home of his fathers, when death selected him for its victim."¹⁶ Foreman left a four-year old son, Ivey, to inherit Greenwreath. Presumably Ivey Foreman and his mother resided at Greenwreath until he completed his education at the University of North Carolina in 1882.¹⁷ How much time or attention Ivey Foreman allowed for the management of Greenwreath is unknown. Foreman lived in Washington, North Carolina, and in Raleigh while working as an accountant. One close relative described him as "the alcoholic psychopath."¹⁸ Ivey Foreman died in 1919 and left Greenwreath to his

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uncle, Dr. Richard Henry Lewis of Raleigh,¹⁹ The house and farm was leased to various tenants until 1948 when the Lewis family sold it to W. H. Wooten of Falkland, Pitt County, the uncle of the present owner.

Greenwreath is an important part of Pitt County's architectural legacy. One of few late Georgian-early Federal structures surviving in Pitt County, Greenwreath provides an unusually handsome and intact example of transitional architecture. The large size of the house and the early appearance of the center-hall plan and handsomely detailed dog-leg stair are relatively rare for the region where the contemporary predominate house form was the hall-and-parlor plan with enclosed-winder stair.

The structure is, of course, closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At the time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

Notes:

¹The south chimney of the rear addition, now fallen, contained a brick dated 1791, thus the main structure would date prior to 1791; information supplied the author by the present owner of the house, Mrs. Woodrow Wooten, Falkland, North Carolina, 30 June 1980; Mrs. Wooten's father lived in the house for over twenty years.

²The tombstone of Foreman, in the Foreman cemetery near the house, records the following information: John Foreman, Son of Richard and Patience Foreman who imigrated (sic) to this place at Bruce, NC, from Norfolk County, Virginia during the year 1780--suceded (sic) in raising a small family, most of whom are now here interned (sic) about him and departed--d. 3 Nov. 1818.

³James Lanier to John Foreman, 1 January 1780, Pitt County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Pitt County Courthouse, Greenville, Book H, 94, hereinafter, cited as Pitt County Deeds.

⁴Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: North Carolina (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 146.

⁵Second Census of the United States, 1800: Pitt County, North Carolina, 276; Third Census of the United States, 1810: Pitt County, North Carolina, 512, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.

⁶Lois Smathers Neal, Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers, 1799-1819 (Spartanburg, S. C.: The Reprint Company, 1979), 165, entry no. 1552.

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⁷Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: Pitt County, North Carolina, 65, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.

⁸Daniel Lindsey Grant, Alumni History of the University of North Carolina (Durham, N. C.: Christian and King Printing Co., 1924), 203; John L. Cheney, ed., North Carolina Government, 1585-1974 (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 301; 303; 305; 309; 311; 312.

⁹Cheney, North Carolina Government, 313.

¹⁰Raleigh Register and N. C. Gazette, semiweekly, 29 November 1844, p. 3, c. 2-3.

¹¹Raleigh Register, 29 November 1844, p. 3, c. 2.

¹²Raleigh Register, 29 November 1844, p. 3, c. 3.

¹³"Letters from Old Trunks; Letter of Lieutenant Ivey Foreman, C. S. N.," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, XLIV (April, 1936), 116-119.

¹⁴Grant, Alumni History, 203.

¹⁵Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Pitt County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, 23; Slave Schedule, 45, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.

¹⁶Undated obituary from an unidentified newspaper clipping found in the Kemp P. and Lottie Lewis Battle Family Papers, East Carolina Manuscript Collection, East Carolina University, Greenville.

¹⁷Grant, Alumni History, 203.

¹⁸"Aunt Nell," Nell Battle Lewis to Lottie Lewis Battle, 17 February 1954, Kemp P. and Lottie Lewis Battle Family Papers, East Carolina Manuscript Collection, East Carolina University, Greenville.

¹⁹Will of Ivey Foreman, 7 May 1919, probated August 1919, Pitt County Wills, Office of the Clerk of Court, Pitt County Courthouse, Greenville, Book 5, 92.

²⁰Richard H. Lewis, Trustee, to W. H. Wooten, 16 November 1948, Pitt County Deeds, Book I-25, 74.

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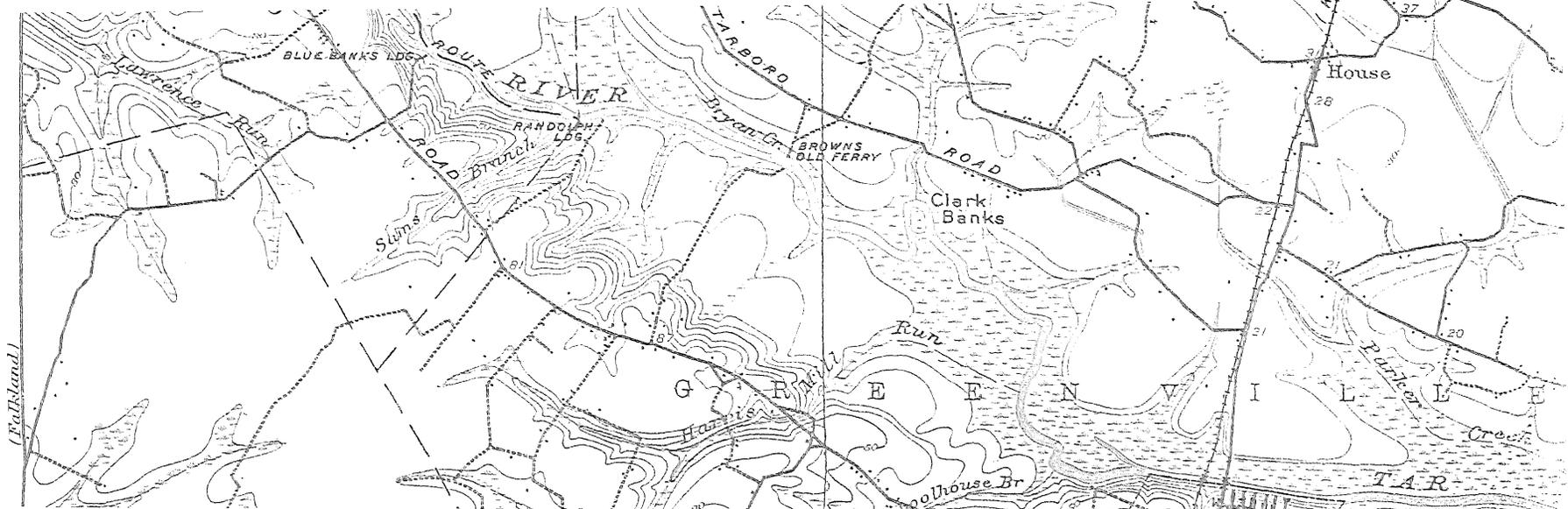
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Third Census of the United States, 1810, Pitt County, North Carolina, microfilm of
National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.



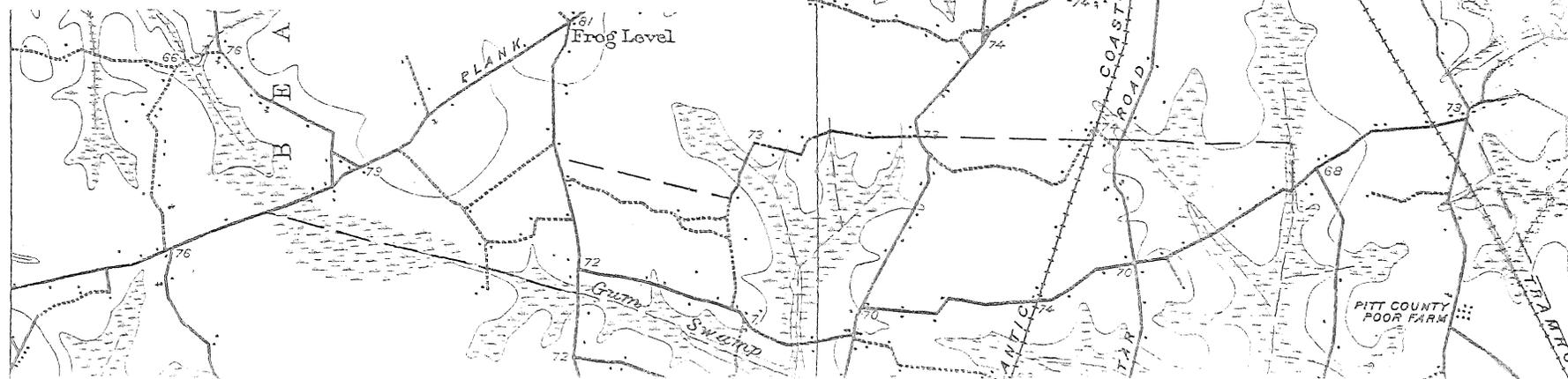


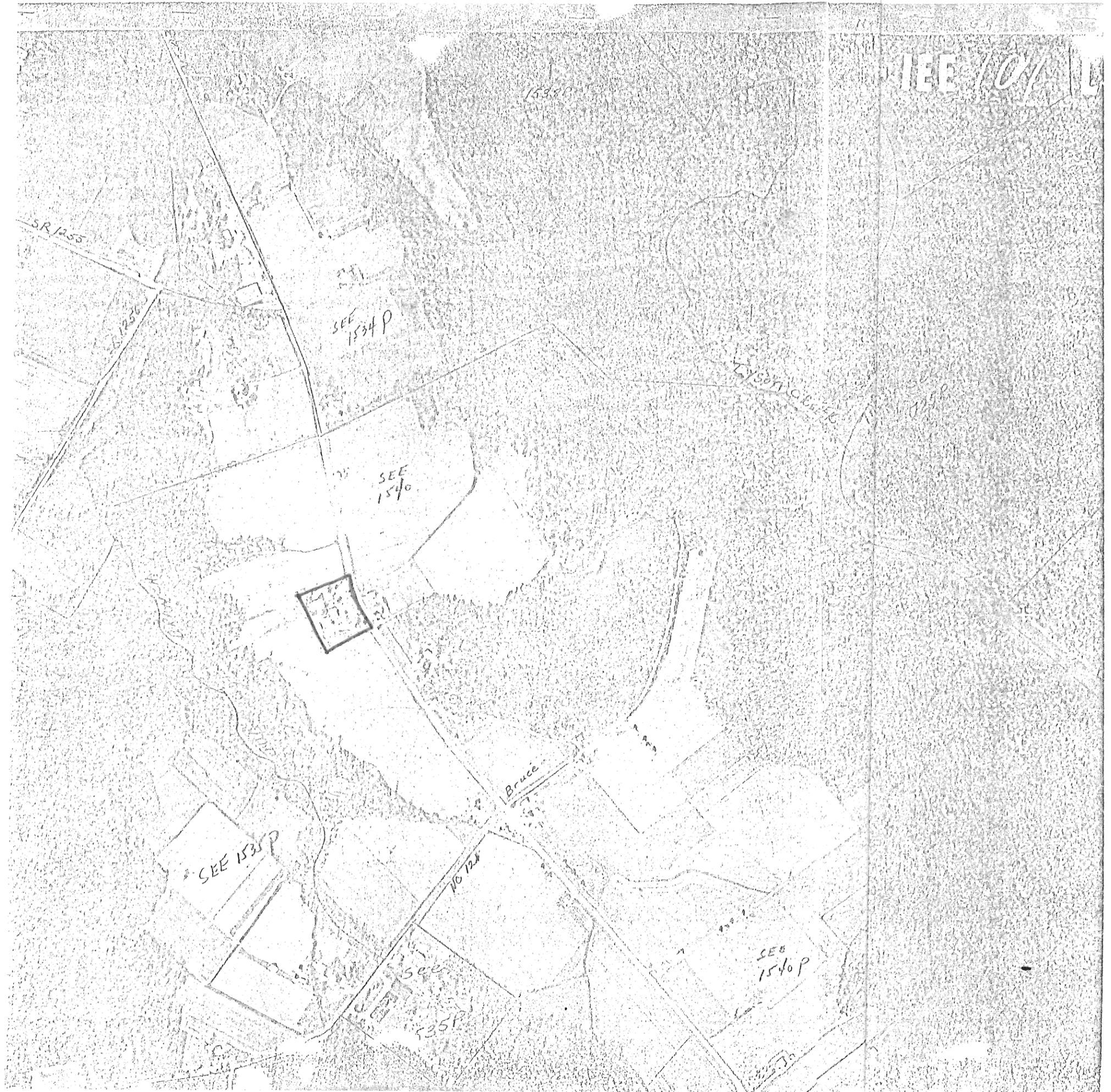
Greenweath
Falkland vic.

Pitt County

Winterville, NC Quad
Scale: 1:62500
Zone: 18

Latitude: 35° 36' 43"
Longitude: 77° 24' 02"





GREENWREATH,
Falkland Township
Pitt County, NC

Pitt County
TAX MAP
1539 P