

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Nancy Jones House  
Wake County, NC

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**Documentation Regarding Relocation of Nancy Jones House**

*Significance*

The Nancy Jones House is a ca. 1803 vernacular Federal-style I-house in the present-day Town of Cary in southwest Wake County. The dwelling was the seat of a farm operated by white landowners Henry and Nancy Jones that later became a prominent antebellum stagecoach stop. The house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 under multiple criteria. It qualified under Criterion A for its association with the development of the plantation economy in post-Revolutionary Wake County. It was listed under Criterion B for its association with an “apparently reliable legend with a famous remark” that was part of an 1838 visit between the governors of North and South Carolina.<sup>1</sup> Finally, it was listed under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of vernacular Federal style.

*Existing Site and Need for Relocation*

The house stands in its original location at 9391 Chapel Hill Road in Cary, Wake County. In the early eighteenth century, the dwelling was part of a two-thousand-acre farm. It was listed in the NRHP with sixteen acres, a residual of the original estate. The NRHP nomination described the house as “set among shade trees and surrounded by pasture land” with not original or early outbuildings extant. The nomination’s site plan shows the house on the south side of Highway 54, with the façade parallel to the roadway.

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<sup>1</sup> Nancy Jones House National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1984, electronic version available at “NC Listings in the National Register of Historic Places” page at [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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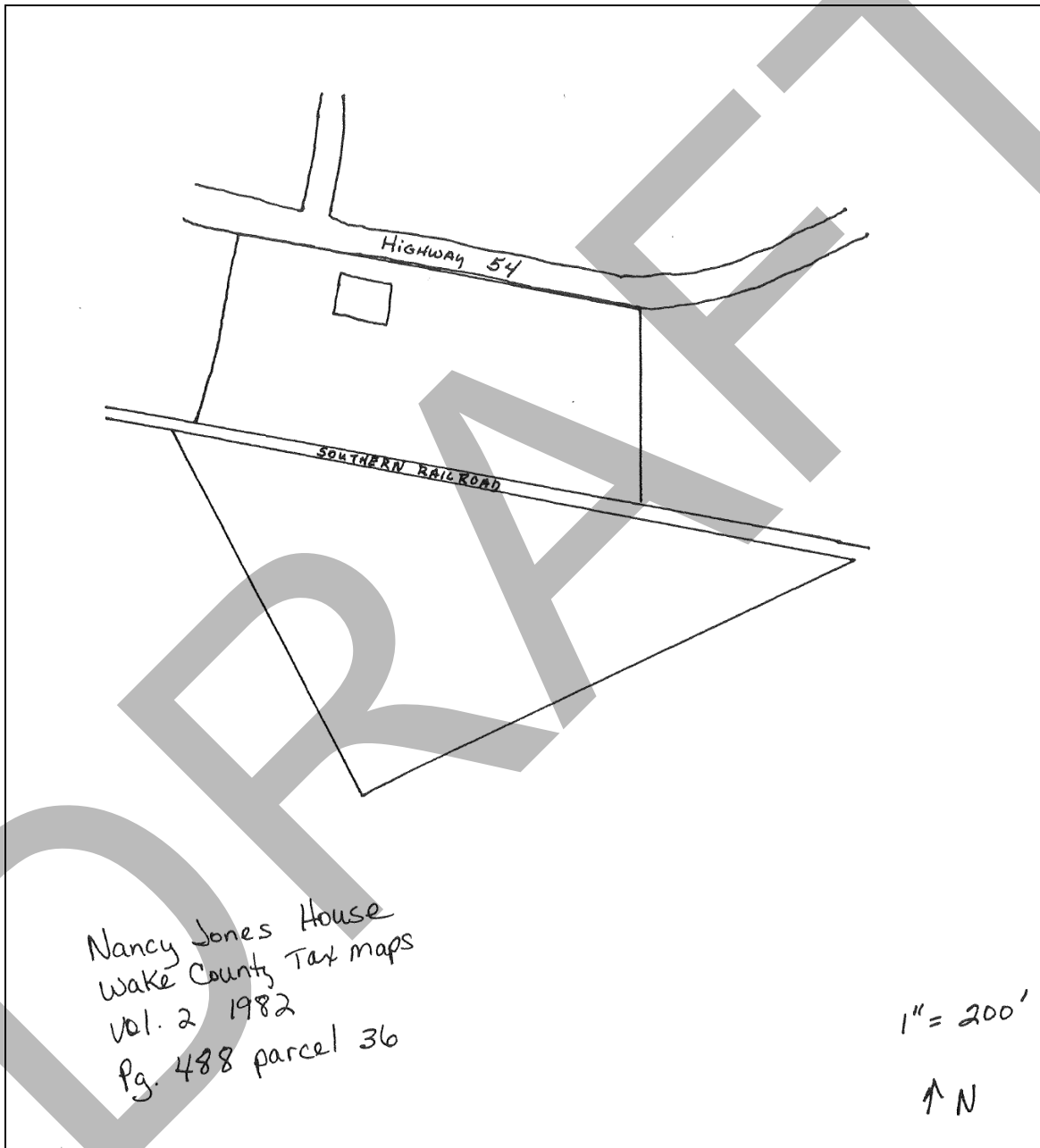


Figure 1. Nancy Jones House boundary map from the 1983 NRHP nomination.

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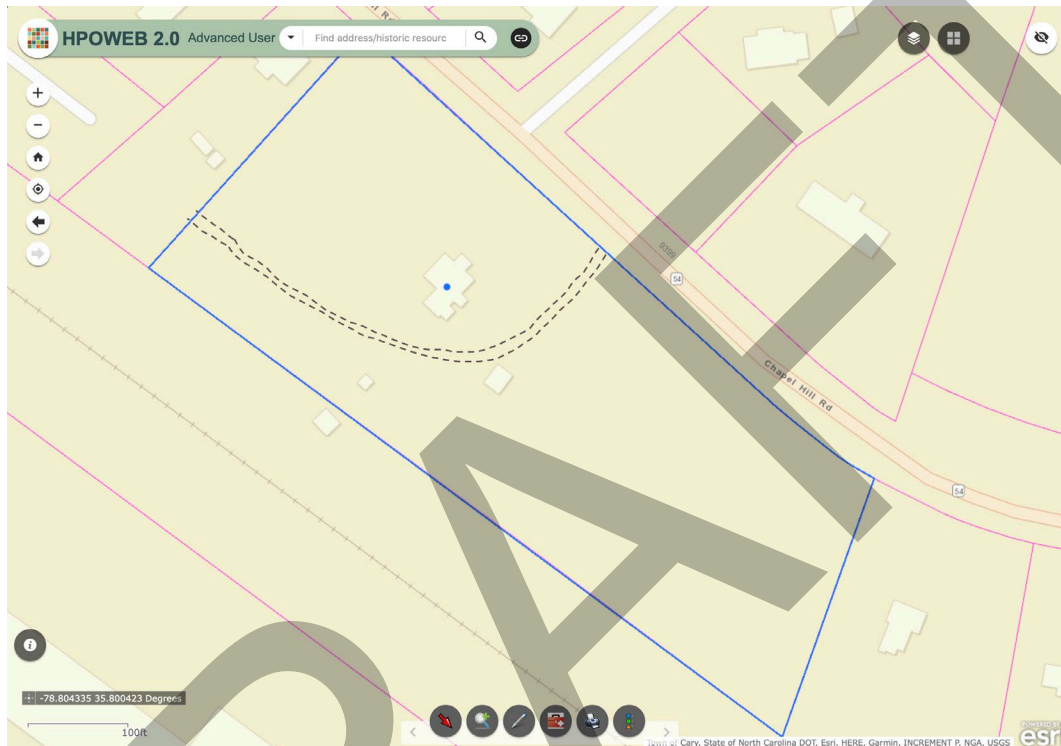
In December 2016, the Sri Venkateswara Temple of North Carolina purchased the house on its current 4.72 acre parcel; the temple already owned land adjacent and to the northwest. The temple, having plans to redevelop the land but no use for the dwelling, agreed to allow the Town of Cary take ownership of the house and move it from the parcel. The town took possession of the house in September 2019 and began preparations for a move, including site selection and acquisition, historical documentation, structural stabilization, mold remediation, and relocation logistics planning.

Currently, the house stands in a tree-dotted clearing near the center of its parcel on the southwest side of Chapel Hill Road (Highway 54). The façade faces northeast and is about 120 feet back from the south edge of the roadway. A gravel drive enters the parcel from Chapel Hill Road east of the house and arcs behind it before extending northwest to exit at the west parcel line. An early twentieth-century frame garage stands southeast of both the house and the drive. An early twentieth-century stone root cellar, likely the “storage shed” recorded in the original nomination, stands behind the house, also on the opposite side of the drive. There are no other buildings on the parcel. The original nomination does not assign these outbuildings a clear contributing or noncontributing status, but notes that “No original or early outbuildings survive.” It is therefore assumed that they were noncontributing resources. A pair of tall cedar trees frames the house near the edge of the roadway, and mature ash and walnut trees dot the weedy lawn. Several loblolly pines stand behind the dwelling in the rear yard south of the gravel drive. The mixed pine and hardwood forest at the east end of the parcel limits views to the east; growth of mixed pine and hardwood likewise obscures the rail line at the back of the parcel and development to the west.

Details of the historic setting for the house are not known. None of the vegetation is old enough to have been part of the original landscape. The current gravel drive was not present historically. Aerial photos in the Wake County GIS system show that this drive was installed in or after 2017. From at least 1959 to 2017, as documented by aerial photography, the previous drive entered at roughly the same point but extended directly to the garage. The drive also branched to west of the garage to loop back to the straight part of the drive, all east of the house. The surrounding area, once rural, is now a mix of institutional, residential, and retail uses dating to the twentieth and twenty-first century.

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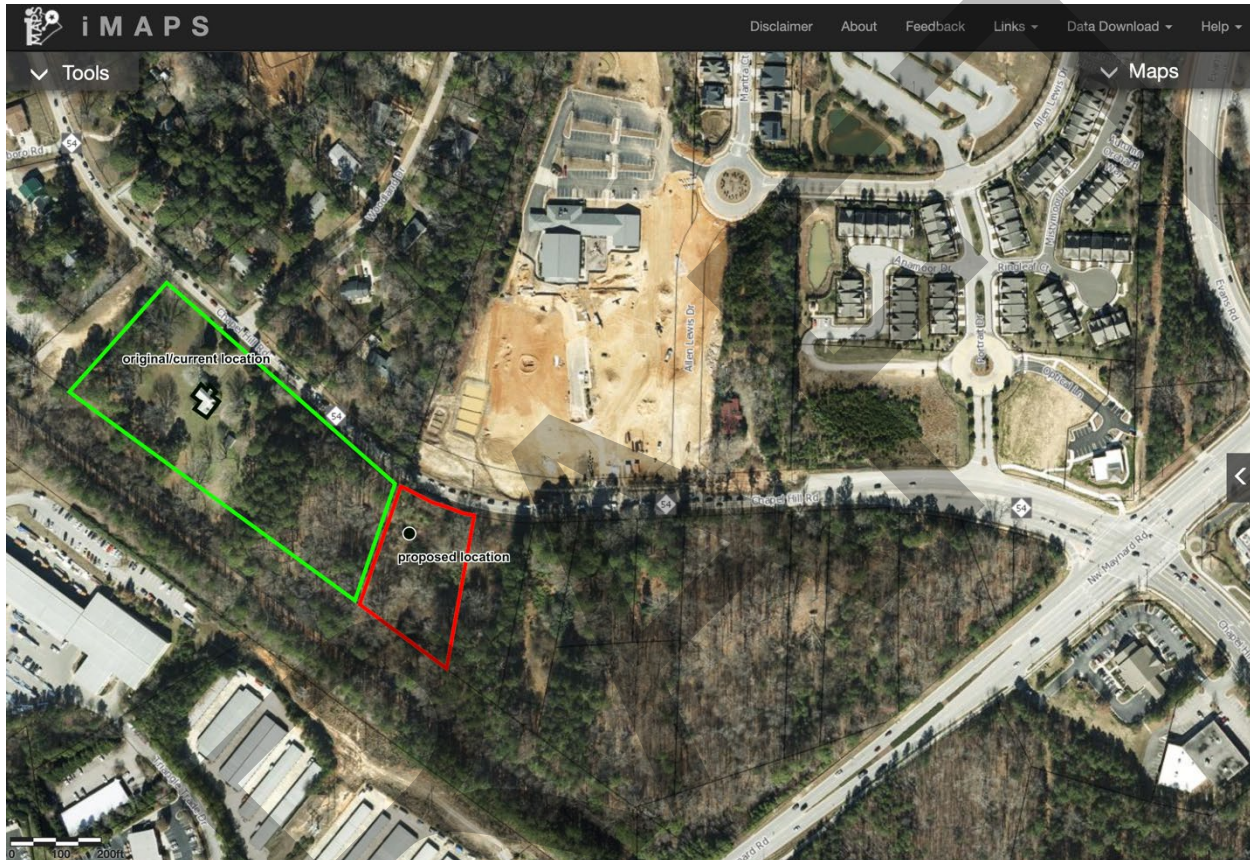
*Figure 2. Current site plan showing parcel boundary in blue, adapted from HPO Web.*

*Proposed new site*

Finding an equivalent site was a significant challenge. Even in 1983, the nomination acknowledged that the house stood on “one of the few remaining rural sites located on the outskirts of the growing urban center of Cary.”<sup>2</sup> By 2020, finding a few acres of pastureland or even open space in the vicinity was not possible. However, adjoining land to the east was available.

<sup>2</sup> Nancy Jones House NRHP Nomination.

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*Figure 3. Nancy Jones House current location and parcel 0754856872 (green) and proposed new location and parcel 0754859614 (red). The Sri Venkateswara Temple is on the adjoining parcel northwest of the Nancy Jones House.*

A dozen parcels between the Nancy Jones House and the southwest corner of Chapel Hill Road and NW Maynard Road had been acquired by Lotus Investments, LLC; the now-vacant parcels had twentieth-century houses on them until about 2010. The real estate company has rezoned the parcels and is pursuing their recombination in advance of redeveloping the land as an apartment complex. As part of the rezoning request, a parcel at the east end was delineated and designated as “Lot 1” to be conveyed to the town for park land. “Lot 1” is similar to but not completely congruent with the land identified by PIN 0754859614 at 9321 Chapel Hill Road; the latter is seen above in Figure 3 of this report while the former is depicted in Figure 4 below. The boundary of Lot 1 has been approved in principal by the Cary Town Council as part of the rezoning request, but the actual recombination that will create a new parcel of 1.13 acres is ongoing and expected to be completed later this year.

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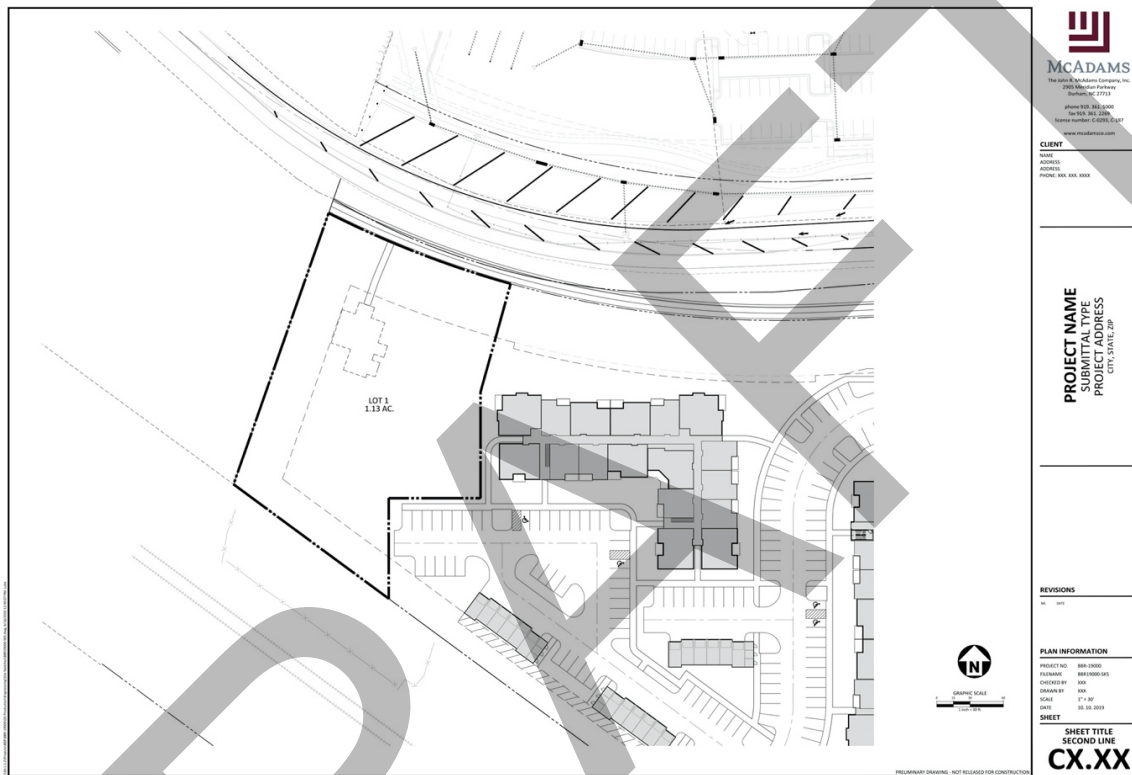


Figure 4. Draft site plan, showing current footprint of the house, required setbacks, and planned development on adjacent parcel.

The town has selected Lot 1 as the new site for the Nancy Jones House. The nearby location is favorable from the standpoint of relocation logistics; additionally, the house will remain on land historically owned by Nancy Jones and will keep its original orientation to the roadway. The current parcel at 9321 Chapel Hill Road is vacant and overgrown. As recently as 2010, a 1940 frame Period Cottage stood about a hundred feet back from the front parcel line. An evaluation conducted by Capital Area Preservation in 2008 determined that the dwelling was not eligible for inclusion in the Wake County Historic and Architectural Survey. The gravel driveway, presumably established when the house was built, is overgrown but was recently cleared of some of the vegetation.<sup>3</sup>

Archaeologist Terri A. Russ of Environmental Services Inc. conducted both research and field investigation at the new parcel in June 2020 to determine the likelihood that archaeological sites exist there. Russ searched records in the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) and determined that

<sup>3</sup> Rebecca E. Spanbauer, CAP, to Anna Reading, Town of Cary Planning Department, April 11, 2008.

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no previously identified archaeological sites exist on the parcel. She completed pedestrian inspection and shovel testing on June 16, 2020, excavating 25 shovel tests at 15-meter intervals; the search identified no archaeological sites. Her conclusion is that the relocation may proceed without concern for adverse impact to significant cultural resources in the form of archaeological sites.

The placement of the Nancy Jones House on Lot 1 will be dictated in large part by setback and parking requirements but can still generally reproduce the original orientation to the roadway. There is a required forty-foot western buffer and a required fifty-foot streetscape setback. The town intends to situate the house another ten feet back from that line, as depicted in Figure 4, resulting in a sixty-foot setback and allowing for any future parking area to be located behind the house. The remaining area on the parcel has not been programmed yet, so additional design is pending and will be completed in consultation with the Historic Preservation Office.

The Town of Cary has been consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office to determine the most appropriate approach to moving the house. At this time, the plan is to permanently remove two twentieth-century additions: the enclosed sunroom appended to the east shed room and the porch at the east side of the kitchen ell. Removal of the sunroom will require patching at the east side of the house, as the original exterior wall appears to have been removed around the mid-twentieth century. All other parts of the house will be moved and rehabilitated at the new site, including the chimneys. In preparation for the move, the lower portion of the front porch (ca. 1880 with alterations ca. 1920) will be dismantled and stored for reassembly at the new site. The two brick piers at the front corners of the porch, a twentieth-century alteration, may be reused or may be replaced with wood piers to match those that currently exist at the front of the porch. The second-story porch will be braced with temporary supports. The original house, rear kitchen ell with attached enclosed porch at the west side, and two chimneys at the gable ends of the I-house will be hoisted up from the foundation and footings. Steel beams and dollies will be inserted beneath the sills. The house will travel east on Chapel Hill Road to the new site, which will be cleared of vegetation in preparation. Movers will set the house down on a new continuous brick foundation. New footings for the chimneys should correct the outward splaying currently seen in the original location due to the sinking of the existing footings. The front porch will be reassembled on brick piers and a new wood floor will be installed rather than reproducing the poured concrete floor that exists at the current site. New brick piers will also support the kitchen ell. The Town of Cary plans to retain ownership of the Nancy Jones House and will rehabilitate the dwelling at the interior and exterior after the move is complete, including removal of the asbestos shingle siding.

The move and rehabilitation will preserve and in fact improve the integrity of materials, design, and workmanship of the Nancy Jones House. The dwelling was listed in the NRHP with asbestos

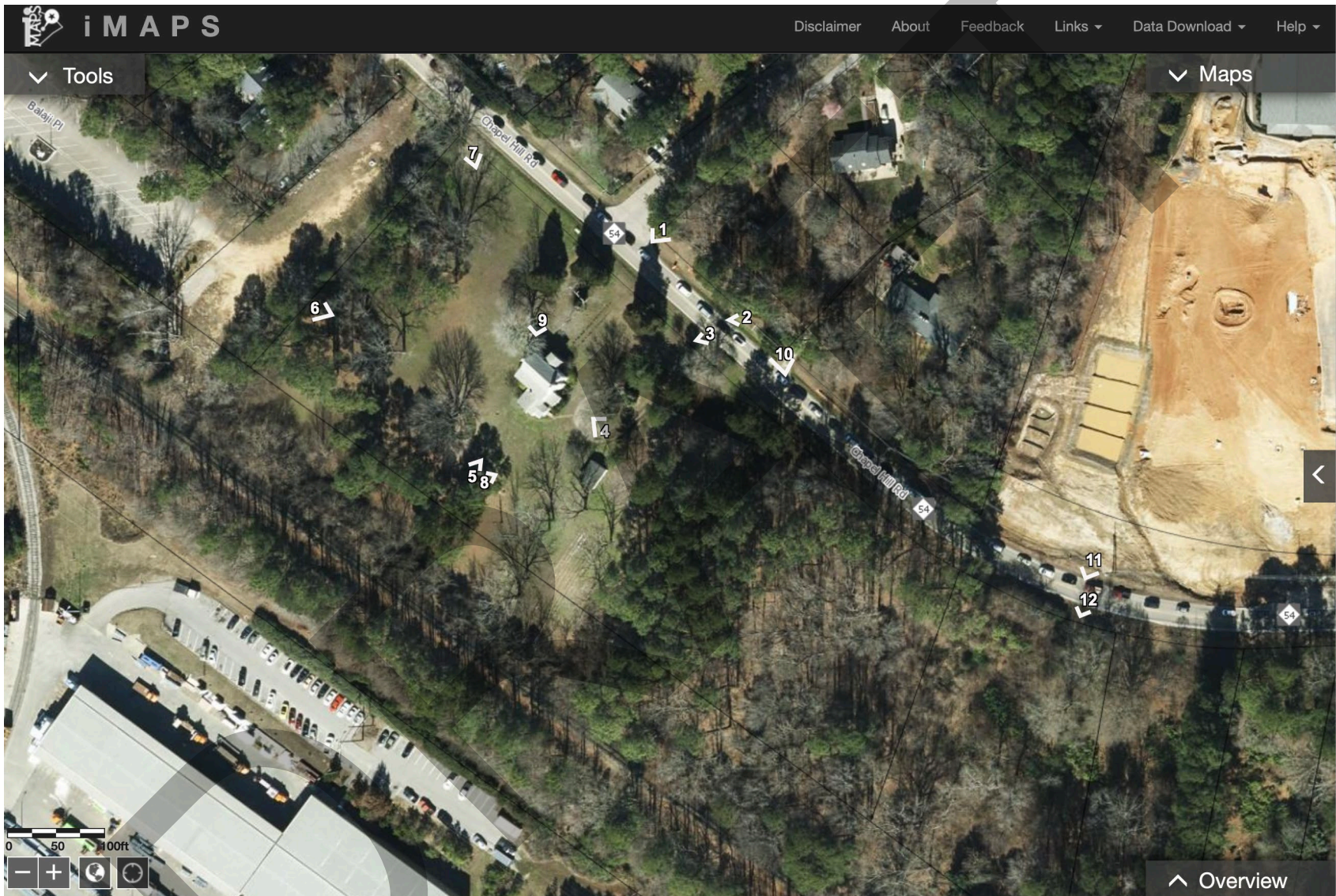
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shingle siding and incompatible rear additions obscuring and detracting from original design. Uncovering original weatherboards and removing later appendages could improve integrity in all three areas. Some integrity of association and feeling may remain, given the preserved relationship to the roadway, the location in the original rural neighborhood, and the improved architectural integrity after the rehabilitation. The original setting has already been compromised through development and changes in use of surrounding land. Integrity of location will, of course, be lost. Due to these losses, in its new location, the dwelling will only be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

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*Nancy Jones House current (photos 1-10) and proposed site (photos 11-12) photo key.*

Nancy Jones House, Wake County, June 2020



1 NJH to S from road.JPG



2 NJH to SW from road.JPG



3 NJH approach from E drive.JPG



4 NJH E elev to W.JPG



5 NJH rear with two bldgs.JPG



6 NJH W elev from W end drive.JPG



7 NJH from NW corner of clearing.JPG



8 NJH outbuildings to NE.JPG



9 NJH oblique to SE DSC\_0225.JPG

Nancy Jones House, Wake County, June 2020



10 new site at road across from NJH driveway.JPG



11 new site from N.JPG



12 new site driveway.JPG

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