

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic McArthur-Council House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number S side of SR 2244 at jct. with SR 2243 not for publication

city, town —x vicinity of Grays Creek

state North Carolina code 037 county Cumberland County code 051

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Arietta Council

street & number Rt. 1 Box 362

city, town Hope Mills vicinity of state NC 28306

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

street & number P.O. Box 2039

city, town Fayetteville state NC 28302

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cumberland County Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division of Archives and History Survey and Planning Branch

city, town Raleigh state NC 27611

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## 7. Description

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

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The McArthur-Council House, situated in the Gray's Creek area of southwestern Cumberland County, is associated with a family which has settler origins and, like several other historic buildings in the county which have been continuously occupied for an extended period, exhibits two distinct stages of development. The earliest two room section with a central chimney and back-to-back fireplaces is said to date to the mid-1830s, and the remainder, in which the original section is now buried, to 1918-1920. Thus the house has a Late Victorian character with its two-story construction, double-tiered pedimented front porch, and rear kitchen/dining room ell. It continues to be linked physically and historically with the accoutrements of a farm livelihood which include a smokehouse with original wooden tumbler lock, several sheds, a wine-turned-pack-house which was moved from across the road, a tobacco barn, an old grist and saw mill site southwest of the property, and even a modern country store, although the house tract itself has been parceled separately.

The earliest section of the house, built in the middle 1830s to replace a log structure, consists of two principal rooms. Although this section is now enclosed and its exterior features obscured, interior features are intact. Oversized fireplace openings dominate each room. An early plain board mantel of rough Greek Revival design stands in the northeast room while the other has a simple shelf. Floorboards are of unusually wide pine, and the walls are sheathed with wide horizontal boards, except where replaced in the southeast room with wainscot and plaster. This room, however, retains an original and unusual vertical plank dutch door which opens into an enclosed porch. Clustered about were small sitting/sleeping shed rooms which now are either incorporated into or removed in the course of the late 1910s remodeling.

A two-story gable-roof dwelling with a double-tiered front porch resulted from the 1918-1920s enlargement. The double-tiered porch has an almost full facade hip roof on the lower level and a smaller pedimented hood, adorned with a triangular louvered vent in the tympanum, on the upper level. Porch supports are made of wrought iron as is an upper balustrade. Fenestration in this five-bay front consists of single doors with sidelights in the central bay of both levels and 2/2 sash windows arranged either singly or in clusters. General features are repeated throughout the building, which is now covered with modern siding materials and capped by a standing seam metal roof. Roughly following a rectangular plan with rear ell, the house now has side and rearward clustered porches and single and double room additions.

Associated outbuildings include an important log smokehouse which has a gable roof and a rough vertical plank front door. The door still retains its original wooden lock which is a rare survival. A small plank dairy stands to the right front. Also on the premises are several sheds and nearby are the pack house and store. The surrounding area is still very much rural and fields continue to be cultivated.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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** Original Section, 1830s  
 Remodeled 1918

**Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

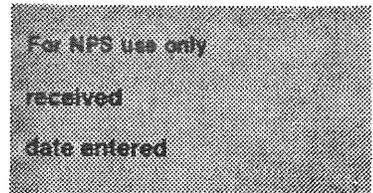
The McArthur-Council House signifies a family's efforts to adapt its lifestyle to the changing socio-economic conditions spanning nearly a century. The oldest section of the house, apparently built by Duncan McArthur in the 1830s, was expanded by his son Neill after the Civil War, and finally remodeled in 1918 in late Victorian style by the husband of Duncan McArthur's granddaughter. Reflecting the changing lifestyle of the rural inner coastal plain over the years, the house progressed from a modest, functional home to a stylish, contemporary dwelling of the early twentieth century. The intense loyalty to family tradition prevalent among Highland Scots and their descendants apparently prompted the intact preservation of the old house within the walls of the new structure. The McArthur-Council House thus not only provides an excellent visual example of the evolution of a typical rural farmhouse but the rare opportunity to observe the "missing link" most often lost in the process of evolution.

**Criteria assessment**

- A. Associated with the settlement patterns and traditions of the Highland Scots whose settlement concentrations extend along the Cape Fear River and reflected here by a modest second generation farmstead of the 1830s which has been continuously owned by descendants of Duncan McArthur and modified through the years with the family's changing needs, however, always maintaining a high regard for the integrity and importance of the earlier dwelling.
- C. Embodies the traditional building characteristics of the Highland Scots in the Cape Fear region; represented here in a rare Cumberland County example of a two-room plan divided by a large central chimney; this frame one-story house was incorporated into a larger two-story dwelling in 1918 and contains a virtually unaltered interior featuring Dutch doors and walls sheathed with wide hand planed boards.

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Duncan McArthur (1779-ca. 1860) constructed the oldest portion of the McArthur-Council House sometime after acquiring the property in 1825.<sup>1</sup> Local tradition believes that the house was built in the 1830s, but the pattern followed a style traditional among the Highland Scots which was often out of sync with contemporary Cumberland County architecture; thus, a precise date of construction cannot be determined architecturally and the records do not address the issue. The tradition was supported by a brick inscribed with the date 1836 in the detached kitchen's chimney, a replacement for an old clay and stick chimney and believed to have been part of an earlier log house (now demolished).<sup>2</sup> The site obviously underwent significant improvement in the mid 1830s and the oldest section of the present house may well have been built about that time.

Duncan McArthur was born in 1779, one of eleven children of Daniel and Jeanette McArthur who had emigrated from Scotland to Robeson County five years earlier.<sup>3</sup> The McArthurs, like many Highland Scots, were farmers and merchants of modest means, and the houses they built were more often functional than elegant. Duncan and his wife, Jane Thompson McArthur, had four sons, and the house, consisting of two principal rooms, reflected both their physical needs and their economic condition.<sup>4</sup> McArthur also operated an early sawmill on Cold Camp Creek which provided lumber for construction and sawdust used for insulation in his home. The smokehouse, with its unusual wooden lock also appears to date from Duncan McArthur's occupancy.<sup>5</sup>

At his death Duncan McArthur owned more than a thousand acres on both sides of Cold Camp and Galberry creeks. His will, dated November, 1855, bequeathed 517 acres of land, the sawmill, and the homeplace to sons Neill and Alexander. Neither had married and both lived with their father until his death.<sup>6</sup>

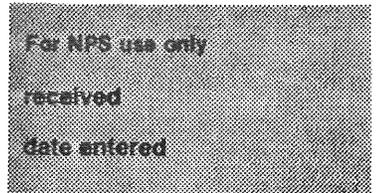
Neill McArthur (1814-1899) married for the first time in 1860 when he was forty-six. His bride was Catherine Brown who bore him a son, Alexander, a year later but who died shortly thereafter.<sup>7</sup> Neill married Sarah McMillan on February 9, 1865, who eventually gave birth to one son, Duncan C., and two daughters, Jane and Faustina. Neill's brother, Alexander, never married and lived in the household and by 1880, Katie McMillan, Neill's mother-in-law, had come to live with the family.<sup>8</sup> To accommodate the growing household and to give a measure of privacy to the men and women, Neill McArthur added shed rooms to the house apparently sometime between 1860 and 1880 and perhaps not all at once.<sup>9</sup>

Like his father, Neill McArthur was primarily a farmer, but he also dabbled in the merchant trade. He built a gristmill near the old sawmill on Cold Camp Creek and a small store near the house where he sold general merchandise and products from the mills to neighbors and travelers on the Fayetteville-Lumberton Road. He also erected a cider mill and a winehouse (later converted to a packhouse) to complement his store. The gristmill was burned by Union troops during the war but was rebuilt and for the remainder of the nineteenth century, Neill McArthur operated a small commercial/industrial complex almost literally in his backyard.<sup>10</sup>

Upon Neill's death in 1899, the house passed to his youngest child Faustina (1869-1902). Faustina had married John T. Council on December 22, 1898 and the couple had moved in with the bride's father. Before her premature death at age thirty-three, Faustina Council bore two children, Charley R. and Sarah Elizabeth. After Neill

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McArthur's death, the Councils took in boarders who apparently used the shed rooms as sleeping quarters.<sup>11</sup> Thus, the third generation carried into the twentieth century the family tradition of a modest, functional home used to maximum advantage.

John T. Council was a farmer like his predecessors, but the prosperity of the early twentieth century brought many changes to Cumberland County and to the McArthur farm. Fayetteville underwent tremendous growth and began to evolve as a major commercial city. Roads to the urban center were improved and the automobile made its appearance. With easier access to Fayetteville and the variety of goods offered by its stores, nearby county stores and rural mills found survival difficult. Council abandoned the mills and the store, channeling his funds to purchase modern equipment for competitive farming. By 1918 he had been rewarded with a measure of success and decided to remodel his home accordingly. The result was elevation of the one story house into a two story gable roof dwelling with a double tiered front porch exhibiting a late Victorian character.<sup>12</sup> The uniqueness of the remodeling lies in the virtual intact enclosure of the older house. John T. Council died about 1947, leaving the home to his son Charley R. Council who, with his wife, still lives in the renovated house.<sup>13</sup>

The McArthur-Council House reflects both the heritage of its rural environment and the heritage of a family. Changes and additions to the structure illustrate each generation's struggle to adapt to changing socio-economic conditions, progressing from the modest, functional home of the 1830s to the stylish, contemporary house of the early twentieth century. But the family would not allow progress to destroy the visible tie with its ancestry. Preservation of the old house within the walls of the present home links past to present in a rare unbroken thread of historical continuity.

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> See will of Duncan McArthur, 1855, Cumberland County Records, Wills, 1757-1925, State Archives, Raleigh, filed alphabetically by surname, hereinafter cited as Duncan McArthur's will.

<sup>2</sup> Researcher's interview with Mrs. C. R. Council, October 11, 1982, hereinafter cited as Council interview. Mrs. Council is the wife of Charley Council, great grandson of Duncan McArthur. See also notes in Survey and Planning file for McArthur House, Cumberland County, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Survey notes.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Eugene Sikes, McArthur Family Record (Columbus, Georgia: Gilbert Printing Company, 1911), 1, hereinafter cited as Sikes, McArthur Family.

<sup>4</sup> Sikes, McArthur Family, 2, 8; Survey notes; and Fourth Census of the United States, 1820, North Carolina--Cumberland County, Population Schedule, 179. Census records hereinafter cited by number, date, and schedule. See also Duncan McArthur will.

<sup>5</sup> Duncan McArthur will; and Survey notes.

<sup>6</sup> Duncan McArthur will; and Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, 56.

<sup>7</sup> Cumberland County Records, Marriage Bonds, State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Marriage Bonds; and Tenth Census, 1880, Population Schedule, 472 B. Alexander was listed as 19 years of age, indicating that he was born in 1861. See also Sikes, McArthur Family, 8.

<sup>8</sup> Marriage Bonds; Sikes, McArthur Family, 8; and Tenth Census, 1880, Population Schedule, 472 B.

<sup>9</sup> See Survey notes.

<sup>10</sup> Council interview; Survey notes; and W. C. Kerr and William Cain, "Map of North Carolina, 1882," State Archives, Map Collection, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>11</sup> Cumberland County Records, Marriage Register 1868-1918, p. 25, State Archives, Raleigh; Council interview; and Twelfth Census, 1900, ED31, Sheet 22, line 92. See also Sikes, McArthur Family, 27.

<sup>12</sup> Council interview; and Survey notes.

<sup>13</sup> Council interview.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 3.09 acres

Quadrangle name Saint Pauls

Quadrangle scale 1: 62,500

UTM References

A 

17	68189100	31861301215
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lot 200.3, Block 202, Map 54, Rockfish Township, as outlined in red on map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

Architectural Description: Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, County of  
name/title Historical Background: Jerry L. Cross, Research Branch Cumberland

organization Division of Archives and History date November 19, 1982

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 1-919-733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Rice, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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

date

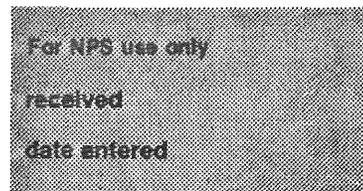
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

Page 1

Council, Mrs. C. R. Interview by Jerry L. Cross, October 11, 1982.

Cumberland County Records

Deeds

Marriage Bonds

Marriage Register, 1868-1918

Wills, 1757-1925

Kerr, W. C. and Cain, William. "Map of North Carolina, 1882." State Archives, Raleigh.

McArthur-Council House, Cumberland County. Survey and Planning Branch Files.  
Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Sikes, Thomas Eugene. McArthur Family Record. Columbus, Georgia: Gilbert Printing  
Company, 1911.

United States Census Records, Population Schedules: North Carolina.

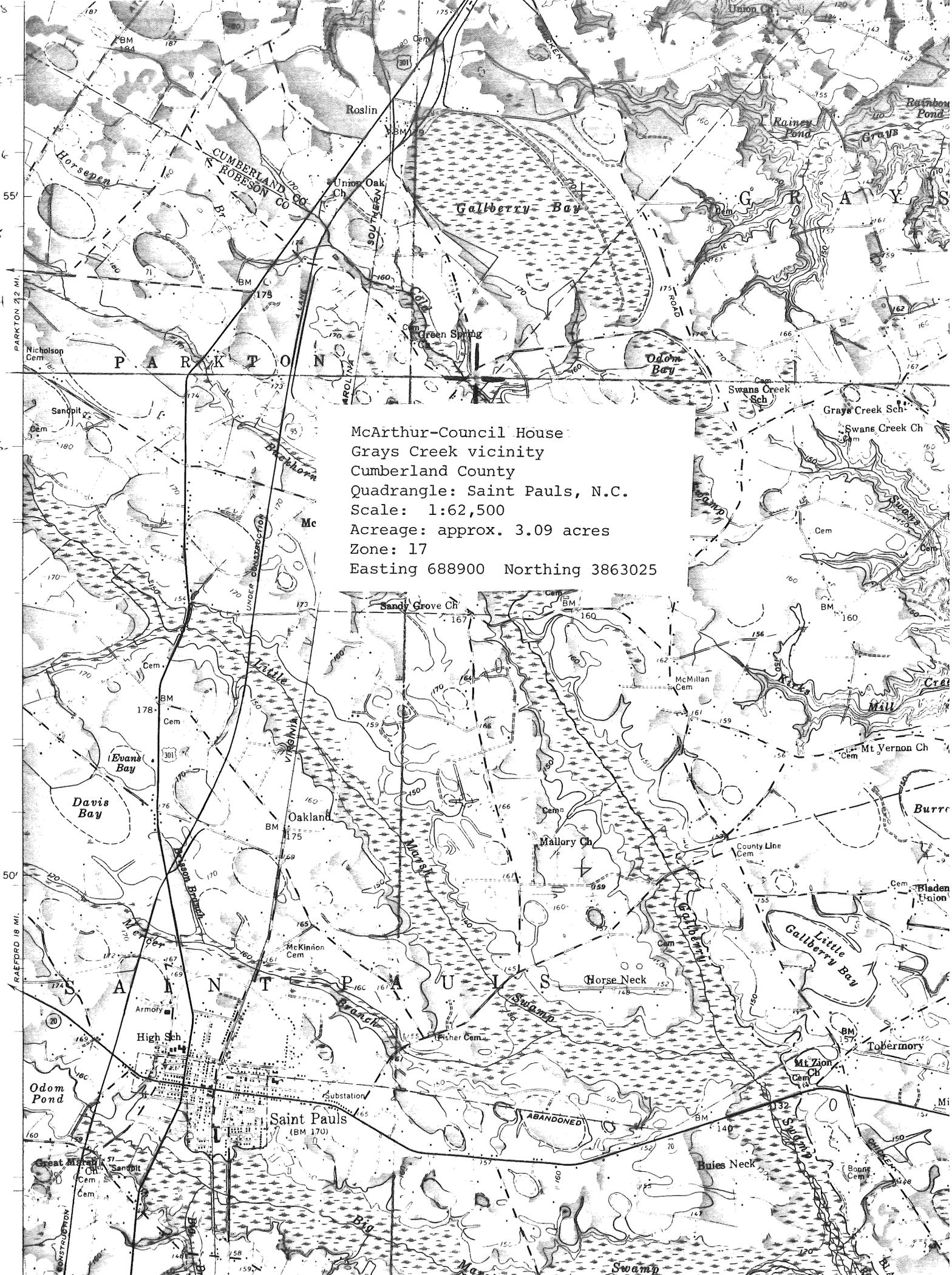
Fourth Census, 1820

Seventh Census, 1850

Tenth Census, 1880

Twelfth Census, 1900

McArthur-Council House  
Grays Creek vicinity  
Cumberland County  
Quadrangle: Saint Pauls, N.C.  
Scale: 1:62,500  
Acreage: approx. 3.09 acres  
Zone: 17  
Easting 688900 Northing 3863025





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Grays Creek vicinity  
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PROPERTY OWNERSHIP MAP

**CUMBERLAND CO**

