

CH 426

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

CHATHAM COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Coleridge QUAD

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bowen-Jordan Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side SR 1100, .15 mile north of the junction with SR 1130

CITY, TOWN

Siler City

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Chatham

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<u>n/a</u> <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>vacant</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. William A. White

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2, Box 122

CITY, TOWN

Siler City

VICINITY OF

STATE

N.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Chatham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

STATE
N.C.

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ray Manieri

July 1, 1983

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Urban Research Associates

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Cornwallis Drive

STATE

CITY OR TOWN

Greensboro

NC

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in an area of western Chatham County settled by Quakers during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Bowen-Jordan Farm consists of a large two-and-a-half story Federal style frame residence surrounded by an original detached kitchen and several other outbuildings of various uses and types of construction.

The main house is a particularly interesting Federal structure, probably built during the first two decades of the nineteenth century and expanded by mid- and late-nineteenth century additions and enclosures. Physical evidence such as the stone foundation and unusual tapered posts of the present rear porch and the existence of a late nineteenth century porch, which defines what is now used as the main facade, indicates that the orientation of the house has been changed. Apparently the house originally faced south, instead of north as it now does, and the present rear porch was the original front porch.

This two-and-one-half story structure features such traditional elements as weatherboard siding, a steeply pitched roof with box cornice and pattern board, tall double-hung windows with six-over-six sash, and massive single stepped-shoulder end chimneys laid in 1:3 common bond. Other traditional Federal exterior details such as plain, mitered window and door surrounds with narrow applied moldings, and flat six-paneled doors combine with such individualistic elements as louvered shutters and tapered porch posts to characterize the house. The original front porch, now enclosed at each end and used as the rear porch, is characterized by handsome tapered posts, a simple balustrade, fieldstone foundation, and horizontal flush sheathing. The original rear facade now used as the front is defined by a late-nineteenth century shed roof porch adorned with robust turned posts, a balustrade, and bold sawn brackets. These elements contrast the house's original formal design with a more Victorian motif. A mid-nineteenth century shed addition, with weatherboard siding and simple porch posts and balustrade, has been added to the eastern side of the house, enclosing the massive chimney on that end. In the thoroughness of its Federal motif, the Bowen-Jordan House is similar to the contemporary William Alston Rives House in southeastern Chatham County, while in its use of such unique and individualistic elements as louvered shutters and tapered porch posts it is similar to the Whitehead-Fogleman House in the northeastern part of the county.

Reflecting the Quaker heritage of the surrounding area, the interior of the Bowen-Jordan House is laid out in a central-hall Quaker plan, unusual in Chatham County, and maintains its original finish. A single-leaf entry, designed without sidelights and transom, provides access to the wide central hallway flanked on its eastern side by a large primary room and on its western side by two smaller chambers. Early blue paint survives in this central hall. Large, heavy Federal mantels with molded panels and shelves, a bold chair rail, and board-and-batten doors with ornate knobs, locks and latches dating from the 1830s and 1840s, adorn each first floor room. The primary eastern room features a handsome mantel with paneled frieze framing a deep, centrally located fire opening. The smaller western rooms

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feature similar but smaller mantels with shallow, corner fire openings which, as is often the case in the Quaker interior plan, share the same exterior chimney. Two enclosed stairs, one in the northeastern corner of the house which features a two-step entrance with winders, and one which rises directly along the wall of one of the western chambers, provide access to the second floor, which repeats the Federal style detailing and central hall Quaker plan of the first floor. Throughout the house, original wide, hand-planed flush board sheathing remains intact and ceiling joists are exposed on the second floor.

Several wooden outbuildings stand just to the east of the main house. The most interesting of these is a one-and-a-half story gable roof, frame structure which, according to family tradition, served as a slave cabin but which architecturally appears to be the original detached kitchen. A massive exterior brick chimney laid in Flemish bond with single stepped shoulder serves this structure. Rustic batten doors with twisted eye hooks and shutters with their original iron strap hinges also characterize the kitchen building. The interior is dominated by a fireplace, with log lintel and iron pot hooks, which measures four feet by four feet by two feet. Wide, beaded board sheathing covers the walls. The only other contemporary outbuilding is a frame, gable roof smokehouse. A large frame barn which once stood just south of the house was demolished and some of its timbers, bearing original planing marks and peg joints, were incorporated into a recently constructed shed located just east of the house. The remaining outbuildings include the frame barns and sheds typically constructed on Chatham County farms during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

___X___ LOCAL

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Ca. 1825

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Perhaps built by an original Quaker owner, and most certainly influenced by the strong Quaker heritage of the surrounding area, the Bowen-Jordan main house is a two-and-a-half story Federal structure constructed with an unusual variation of the three-room or Quaker interior plan. Unlike most Quaker plan houses, the Bowen-Jordan house contains a wide central hall into which interior rooms open. The Bowen-Jordan Farm is also associated with the lives of William Bowen, a wealthy Chatham County farmer and merchant, and James Maloy Jordan, one of Siler City's most prominent businessmen during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Associated with the development of a strong Quaker heritage in western Chatham County during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, as well as with the establishment of large scale farming activities in Chatham County throughout the nineteenth century.
- B. Associated with the life of William Bowen, one of Chatham County's wealthy farmers and merchants during the first half of the nineteenth century, and with the life of James Maloy Jordan, a prominent businessman in Siler City in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of Georgian-Federal architecture, including a unique three-room interior plan, which differs from most Quaker plan houses found in Chatham County's rural areas in that it features a wide central hall into which the interior rooms open.

Although evidence suggests that he may have been an active Baptist when he came to Chatham County,¹ William Bowen settled in an area in which ". . . a considerable number of Quaker homes were reported to have been built in the surrounding country."² The exact date at which Bowen first came to Chatham County is not known, but census records reveal that it was during the period 1820-1830.³

Upon coming to Chatham County, William Bowen, who was born in 1790,⁴ established himself as a successful farmer and merchant. Because of the strong Quaker influence in the surrounding area, it is not surprising that Bowen's house features a variation of the three-room, or Quaker, interior plan. It is possible that Bowen built this house upon coming to Chatham County after 1820. However, even though Chatham County deeds show no record of Bowen's purchasing the house, it is more likely that he bought it from an original Quaker owner who was moving, as were many early nineteenth century Chatham County Quakers, to states which prohibited slave ownership.

Bowen expanded his agricultural and business activities during the three decades before the Civil War. He built a store a short distance north of his home during the 1830s⁶ and by 1837 was operating a health resort a few miles from his home at the site known today as Mt. Vernon Springs.⁷ Bowen also owned a large farm, which by 1850 when the average size of a North Carolina farm was 369 acres, contained over 850 improved and unimproved acres valued at \$2,225.⁹ He also owned eleven slaves in 1850 which was a small number considering the size of his land holdings, but which was a significant number for western Chatham County where most farmers owned few, if any, slaves.¹⁰

Bowen died in 1856 and his large estate was divided among his wife and children. His widow, Apphiah, received the house and land upon which it stood. Two daughters, who had married into the local Page and Wrenn families, each received ". . . a house and other property. . .", and his oldest son was given a house and a sum of money for his labor on the ". . . plantation known as the Mazy land."¹¹ The Mazy tract was to be rented until Bowen's youngest child reached maturity. at which time he stipulated that it be sold and divided equally among his children.¹² The widow Bowen continued to occupy the Bowen homeplace for several years after her husband's death. As late as 1870, at the age of seventy-five, she still lived there on land valued at \$800.¹³

However, during the early 1879s, probably after the death of Mrs. Bowen, the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES . . . continued on additional sheets

Cathey, C.O. Agricultural Development in North Carolina, 1783-1860.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1956.

Chatham County Records (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate papers, Tax List)

. . . continued on additional

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

sheet

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 89 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	117	6314	41310	319	419	7100	B	117	6315	21710	319	419	7100
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C	117	6315	21610	319	418	7100	D	117	6315	21710	319	418	7110
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of approximately eighty-nine acres located in Matthews Township and bounded as shown on Chatham County Tax Map #8740-82-8974.

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Bowen house, store and farm was purchased by Harris Jordan, a local farmer who lived just north of the Bowen complex. Jordan settled his oldest son, James Maloy Jordan, born in 1850, onto the Bowen estate which James operated for many years.¹⁴ Although later deeds refer to the farm as Jordan's homeplace, it is not clear how long he actually lived there, and the farm may have been operated as a tenant farm under Jordan's ownership during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

He was in his early twenties when he assumed control of the former Bowen estate, but James Maloy Jordan quickly established himself as a successful farmer, merchant and businessman. By the end of the century, Jordan's estate (which contained over 1,000 acres of land) was valued at \$4,735.¹⁵ Following the incorporation of Siler City in 1884, Jordan became one of that growing Chatham County community's most prominent business leaders. He was an original incorporator of the Chatham Bank and later served as a director and as the bank's vice-president. He also served as director of the Siler City Loan and Trust Company, president of the Hardware Store, which he operated with his son, and helped organize the Electric Milling Company.¹⁶

Jordan died in 1945 and the Bowen-Jordan Farm was owned by a succession of families, some of whom may have operated it as a tenant farm.¹⁷ F.J. and C.C. Wren, well known local businessmen, purchased the farm in 1945¹⁸ and it was transferred to Emma White in 1947.¹⁹ William White, the current owner, obtained the property in 1959.²⁰

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NOTES

1. Chatham County Wills, Book C. p. 410-12. In his will Bowen left \$100 to Wake Forest University for the education of young Baptist men. The records of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church (Rees Collection Wren Memorial Library, Siler City) Reveal that Bowen was an active member of that congregation.
2. Wade H. Hadley, Jr., et al, Chatham County, 1771-1971, (Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1971), p. 5.
3. He first appears in the 1830 census.
4. The Seventh Census of the United States, 1850. Population Schedule.
5. Hadley, Chatham County, 1771-1971, p. 5.
6. Mr. and Mrs. William A. White, interviewed April 4, 1983. The 1840 census lists members of Bowen's family engaged in agriculture and commerce.
7. Hadley, Chatham County, 1771-1971, p. 197.
8. C. O. Cathey, Agricultural Development in North Carolina, 1783-1860, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1956), p. 48.
9. The Seventh Census of the United States, 1850. Agriculture Schedule.
10. Cathey, Agricultural Development in North Carolina, 1783-1860, pp. 52-53.
11. Chatham County Wills, Book C. p. 410-12.
12. Ibid.
13. The Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule and Ramsey's 1870 Map of Chatham County.
14. L. L. Wrenn, "James Maloy Jordan," 1951, unpublished manuscript, Rees Collection, Wren Memorial Library, Siler City. Chatham County Deeds, Book AS, p. 279, 281 records the purchase of portions of Bowen's estate from his children.
15. Chatham County Tax List, 1898.
16. L. L. Wrenn, "James Maloy Jordan."

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17. Ibid.
18. Chatham County Deeds, Book JJ, p. 236.
19. Ibid., Book JT, p. 144.
20. Ibid. Book 302, p. 381.

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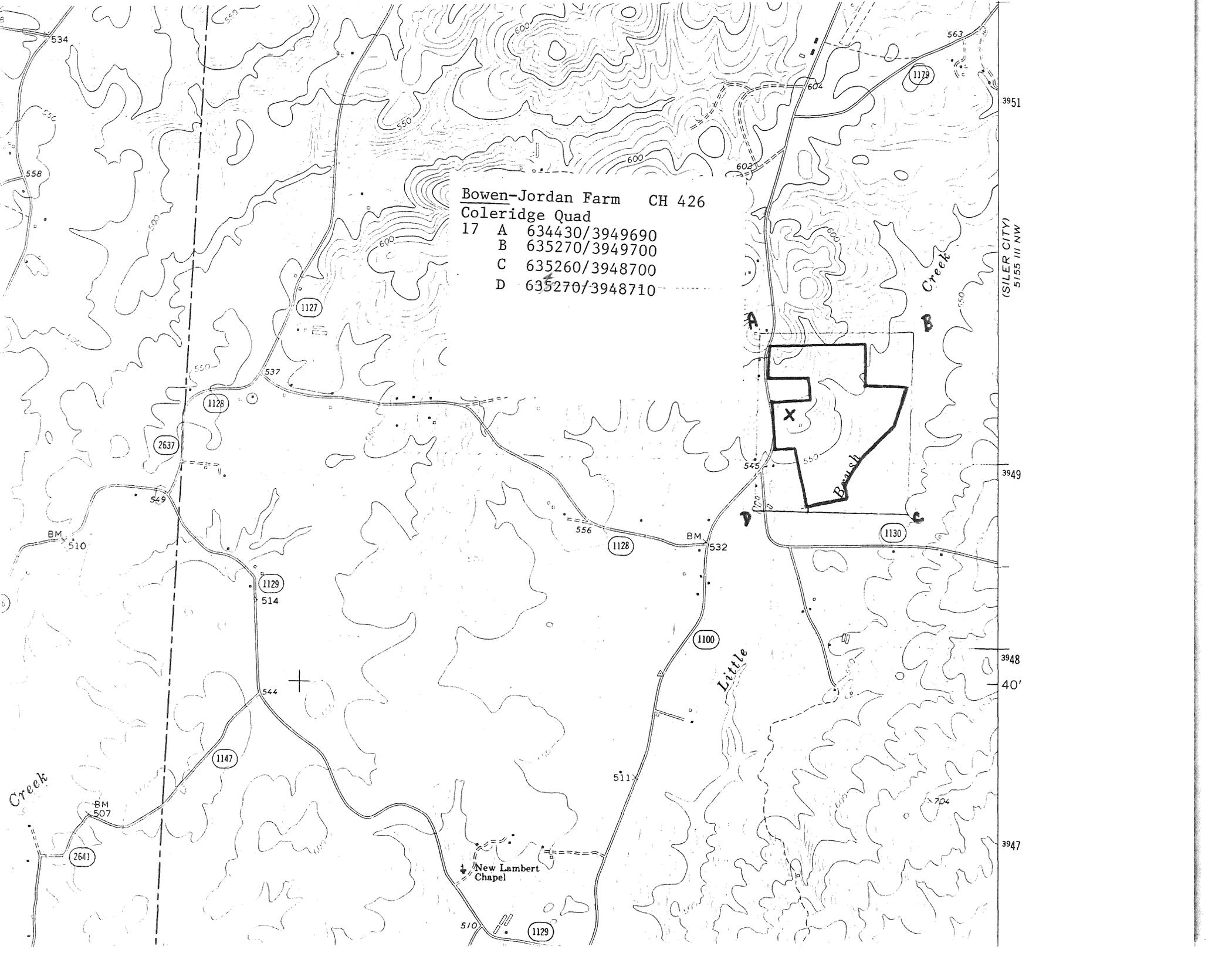
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- Eighth Census of the United States, 1860. Population, Slave, and Agricultural Schedules.
- Fifth Census of the United States, 1830. Population, Slave, and Agricultural Schedules.
- Hadley, Wade H. Jr., et al. Chatham County, 1771-1971. Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1971.
- Lefler, Hugh T. and Albert R. Newsome. The History of a Southern State, North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973.
- Manarin, L. H. and W. T. Jordan, comps. North Carolina Troops, 1861-65: A Roster, vols 1-8. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1966-1981.
- Moore's Roster. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, N. C.
- Ninth Census of the United States, 1870. Population and Agricultural Schedules.
- Ramsey, N. A. 1870 Map of Chatham County.
- Seventh Census of the United States, 1850. Population, Slave and Agricultural Schedules.
- Sixth Census of the United States, 1840. Population Slave, and Agricultural Schedules.
- White, William A. Interviewed April 4, 1983.
- Wrenn, L. L. "James Maloy Jordan", 1951. Unpublished manuscript located in the Rees Collection, Wrenn Memorial Library, Siler City, N. C.



Bowen-Jordan Farm CH 426
Coleridge Quad
17 A 634430/3949690
B 635270/3949700
C 635260/3948700
D 635270/3948710

2101
1.80 A
(2.59 A)

41
60 A
(.55 A)

2800
2.50 A
(2.07 A)

1448
2.50 A
(2.36 A)

9057
9.00 A
(6.49 A)

8974
89.00 A
(98.34 A)

5230
3.30 A
(2.04 A)

7981
8.75 A
(6.11 A)

8549
9.00 A
(6.88 A)

8220
9.00 A
(9.76 A)

1240
104.00 A
(83.40 A)

319
42 A
(1.11 A)

2613
3.00 A
(5.15 A)

7782
4.00 A
(3.48 A)

Bowen-Jordan Farm
CH 426
Tax Map # 8740

