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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name Bost-Burris House
   other names/site number Burris, Elias House

2. Location
   street & number Jct. of Sr 1149 & SR 1154
   city, town Newton
   state North Carolina code NC county Catawba code 035 zip code 28658

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property Category of Property Number of Resources within Property
   X private X building(s) Contributing
   □ public-local □ site 1
   □ public-State □ structure
   □ public-Federal □ object
   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 the National Register criteria. □ See continuation sheet.
   □ does not meet the National Register criteria. □ See continuation sheet.
   Signature of certifying official Date

5. National Park Service Certification
   I, hereby, certify that this property is:
   □ entered in the National Register.
   □ determined eligible for the National Register.
   □ removed from the National Register.
   □ other, (explain):

   Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
The Bost-Burris House ("A" on enclosed Sketch Map) is a frame farmhouse with three major periods of construction, located on the western outskirts of Newton in central Catawba County. The oldest and most significant section of the house is a two-story structure built ca. 1810 by house carpenter Elias Bost, who is also believed to have been associated with the construction of old St. Paul's Church less than one mile up the road (National Register, 1971). The parlor of this portion of the house contains the most elaborate and fully developed early Federal style detailing of any house remaining in the county. Particularly impressive are its mantel, overmantel, crossetted window surrounds, and paneled corner cupboards. The first addition to the house -- a one-and-one-half-story ell probably built shortly after the Civil War -- and the second addition -- a one-story ell probably dating from the late 1890s -- are both representative of the more simple vernacular building traditions of those periods. Accompanying the house are a mortise-and-tenon framed outbuilding once used as a potato house, with attached frame chicken coop, and a deteriorated frame granary, both noncontributing due to age.

The Bost-Burris House is shielded from traffic on Old St. Paul's Church Road by a large privet hedge which surrounds the front yard. In the south corner of the yard is a large Chinese elm. North and east of the house are large cedar trees. The rear (north) of the property beyond the backyard and outbuildings is composed of woods and an open field.

The simplicity of the exterior and the alterations which have taken place fail to suggest the elegance which lies within. The two-story portion of the house rests on a dry-laid stone foundation. This section appears to have been sheathed originally with unusually wide (14" or more) beaded weatherboards. These remain intact on what was the northwest elevation, now exposed as the southeast wall of the first addition, at both first story (finished) and loft (unfinished) levels. They also appear intact, though greatly weathered, on the upper third of the south-east facade. The remainder of the two-story section is sheathed in a combination of weatherboards and German siding. The origi-
nal gable roof has been modified by the addition of overhanging eaves on northeast and southwest ends, but the boxed cornice with its sophisticated Federal moldings and modified dentil course remains intact on the southeast facade and the northwest elevation -- the only exterior detail which hints of the interior. The southwest end retains its double shouldered fieldstone chimney with brick stack, with stuccoed finish now partially worn away. The three-bay-wide southeast facade has lost its porch, so that at present it appears unusually austere. The central six-panel door is flanked by nine-over-six sash windows with single face surround and moulded backband. Second story windows on the southeast facade and northwest elevation are six-over-six with replacement flat surrounds. On the southwest end, six-over-four sash windows with single face surrounds and moulded backbands flank the chimney at first story level, while a four-over-four sash window has been added on the southeast side of the chimney at second floor level. The northeast end has a six-over-six sash window (probably added) on the first story and an added pair of four-over-one sash windows on the second story. The original first story windows had handsome paneled shutters with wrought iron strap hinges. Several of these still exist, but have been removed for safe keeping.

Extending from the northeast end of the northwest elevation is the one-and-one-half-story ell that was likely built soon after the Civil War. It has a dry laid stone foundation, weatherboard siding, a gable roof with overhanging eaves, and a large fieldstone chimney with free-standing brick stack. A shed-roofed porch with plain wood posts and cement floor lines the northeast side of this ell, extending southeastward beyond it to cover the northeast end of the original portion of the house. The northeast elevation of the ell has a batten door flanked by four-over-six sash (probably nine-over-six sash originally) windows with flat surrounds. The northwest elevation has a four-over-four sash window with flat surround on the southwest side of the chimney and small loft windows (now boarded up) flanking the chimney stack.

The one-story late 1890s ell extends southwestward from the southwest side of the one-and-one-half-story ell, beyond the southwest end of the two-story portion of the house. It has a high mortared stone foundation with cellar (entrance from the south end), weatherboard siding, a gable roof with overhanging eaves and an interior brick stove flue. Two four-over-four sash windows and an added six-over-six sash window are on the north-
west elevation, and a four-over-four sash window is on the south­west elevation. All have flat surrounds. The southeast porch has been enclosed (in two stages) and now features a six-over-six sash window, a modern door, a jalousied window, and a combination of weatherboard siding and composition board panels.

The interior of the original section of the Bost-Burris House follows a hall-and-parlor plan. At one time a partition in the southwest room (parlor) created a center hall, but it does not appear to have been original, and no longer stands. On both stories the walls and ceilings are flush sheathed, a Federal style chair rail encircles the rooms, and the floors are covered with wide boards. Six-panel doors with strap hinges and other original hardware remain intact. Particularly interesting are the handsome twisted tail hinge pinnles on the doors to the enclosed stair. The front and rear doors in the southwest room are reinforced by flush boards laid in a chevron pattern. Doors have three part surrounds.

The decorative treatment of the parlor is the most outstanding feature of the Bost-Burris House. The tour-de-force is the southwest wall on which the sophisticated Federal style mantel and overmantel are centered. The mantel has fluted panels flanking the plain architrave around the firebox, a three-part blocked frieze with fluted center tablet and end blocks, a diamond-patterned band and ogee molding above the frieze, and a plain mantel shelf. The overmantel has two flush sheathed vertical panels divided by a fluted center stile and flanked by fluted pilasters. (Molded bands which run horizontally across the panels appear to be added.) The overmantel is crowned by a simple guilloche type band, modified dentil band (as on the exterior cornice) and a heavily molded cornice. The molded cornice continues around the room. Flanking the mantel with overmantel are the six-over-four sash windows with heavily molded, crossetted surrounds. In the south and west corners of the room are corner cupboards with two doors separated by the chair rail which encircles the room. The upper door has six flat panels and the lower door has two. The doors are flanked by fluted pilaster-like stiles.

In the north corner of the southwest parlor, adjacent to the rear door, is a six-panel door with original hardware which opens to the enclosed stair to the second floor. The steps begin as winders, and the step treads are refined by a handsomely molded edge.
The two second story rooms have the same general Federal style details as are found on the first story. The southwest room has a fireplace on the southwest wall surrounded by a molded architrave but no mantel. A beaded board partition has been added in the northeast room to create a center hall (and thereby more privacy for the two rooms). This partition has a beaded board door with boards laid in a chevron pattern in imitation of the front and rear doors downstairs, strap hinges (probably reused from another location), and a beaded board casing. The narrow crown molding of the second floor rooms may be added.

The interior of the mid-nineteenth century ell is more simple in detail than is the interior of the original part of the house. This ell has one large room with loft above. The ell room has flush sheathed walls of random-width boards, except for the original wide beaded weatherboards across the southeast wall. The ell ceiling has narrow beaded boards. Original exterior batten doors with wrought iron strap hinges remain centered on the northeast and southwest walls. What is probably an original cupboard with single-panel upper and lower doors remains in the south corner of the room. The fireplace on the northwest wall has a replacement brick mantel.

In the north corner of the room is an enclosed stair to the loft, with batten door and very steep and narrow steps. The unfinished loft has hewn rafters with pegged joints and two small window openings on the west chimney wall, now boarded up. On the east wall can be seen the unusually wide beaded weatherboards that originally sheathed the ca. 1810 portion of the house and the enclosed remains of what had been a window, including molded surround, in the northeast second floor room of the ca. 1810 section.

The one-story late nineteenth century ell which extends southwestward from the mid-nineteenth century ell has two main rooms -- a dining room and a kitchen -- and three smaller rooms. This ell has beaded board walls and ceilings, four-panel doors and simple detailing. Between the dining room and the parlor of the ca. 1810 section is a combination bathroom-laundry room. Southeast of the kitchen, the southwest end of what was once an open porch has been enclosed for use as a pantry (with direct access from the kitchen), and the remainder of the open porch is now an enclosed porch.
The remaining outbuildings associated with the Bost-Burris House are located northwest of the house. Closest to the house is a one-story, mortise-and-tenon frame structure (B), probably built in the first half of the nineteenth century, with weatherboard siding and sheet metal gable roof. A batten door on the southeast side is composed of two wide planks. The one-room hewn timber structure rests on a stone foundation. The lower portion of the walls are sheathed in beaded boards. The original use of this outbuilding is unknown, but it was used at one time as a potato house and is now used for storage. A frame chicken coop is attached to the northeast side of this building.

North of this outbuilding is a small frame granary (C), probably dating from the first quarter of the twentieth century. This deteriorated structure has horizontal plank siding, a gable roof with weatherboard gables, and an attached shed on the north and west sides.

Northeast of the house, opposite the driveway, is the stone-lined well (D) with concrete cap.
### 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

- [ ] nationally
- [ ] statewide
- [x] locally

<table>
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<th>Period of Significance</th>
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<th>Significant Person</th>
<th>Architect/Builder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Bost, Elias (builder)</td>
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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

#### Summary

The **Bost-Burris House**, a compact two-story, three bay wide frame farmhouse with exterior end stone chimney, built about 1810 by Elias Bost and members of his family, is one of the oldest surviving houses in Catawba County. The well-preserved stylish Federal style house, located just west of the county seat of Newton, was once the seat of a prosperous antebellum farm and now only a few acres remain. The interior has a hall-and-parlor plan with high quality Federal style woodwork, including a mantel with overmantel and two built-in corner cupboards that create perhaps the finest Federal detailing in the county. The house was built by Elias Bost, noted local antebellum carpenter, as his own residence. It is located a short distance from St. Paul's Lutheran Church (NR 1971), built, according to local tradition, by Elias and his two brothers about 1810. The form and detailing of the two buildings are similar and represent an important survival of the high level of craftsmanship executed by the second generation of German-speaking Catawba County settlers. The house is eligible under Criterion C, as a representative of the property type "Houses of Catawba County: Antebellum (1800-1864)," and under Criterion A as a representative of the historic context "Exploration and Settlement of Catawba County, 1747-1820."
The Bost family, who were of German ancestry and were variously farmers, craftsmen, and soldiers, were typical of Catawba County. Johannes Wilhelm Bost (?-1778) moved from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to North Carolina in 1754. He and his family settled near St. John's Lutheran Church in Cabarrus County. His son William (1738-1822) was the first member of the family to leave Cabarrus for what in time became Catawba County. In 1762 he received a land grant for 565 acres on Clarks Creek. In that same year he married Catherine Goodhart in Anson County. On Clarks Creek, in the vicinity of the present Bost-Burris House, he farmed and raised a family. In 1790 he owned no slaves; by 1820 he had six bondmen. He and his wife had five daughters and three sons. According to the terms of William Bost's will, written in 1811 and recorded after his death at the age of eighty-four in 1822, his property went to his wife and daughters. He explained that his sons had already been provided for. The three Bost brothers, John, Conrad, and Elias, all resided in Lincoln County in 1800. By 1810 Conrad Bost and his family had moved to Burke County. By 1820 John Bost had moved his family to Cabarrus County. Thus Elias Bost was left as the primary progenitor of the Bosts in present-day Catawba County. By tradition the three Bost brothers are believed to have been responsible for building the St. Paul's Lutheran Church sanctuary around 1810. The church, where several members of the Bost family, including William and Elias, are buried, is about one mile north of the Bost-Burris House. Interior details of the church building are very similar to Elias Bost's house which was built at about the same time.

Elias Bost (1772-2 May 1857), like his two brothers, received land from his father during his lifetime. In 1797 William Bost sold to Elias for "one Spanish Milled Dollar lawful money of the state" forty-seven acres, being part of the large grant on Clarks Creek which he had received thirty-five years earlier. However, a year earlier, 1796, Elias Bost had purchased 180 acres, including "a certain Messuage or Tenement Plantation," elsewhere on Clarks Creek. Thus it seems likely that his first residence was on the 1796 property. Elias Bost married Mary Ikerd (1775-1841) around 1796. By 1800 they had two sons and a daughter. By 1810 they had twice as many offspring, a number that would eventually total nine. Thus the family had need for a second, larger house by 1810. The War of 1812 intervened in what was a relatively peaceful farmer's life for Elias Bost. He
served as a dragoon in the Seventh Company of the Tenth Brigade raised in Lincoln County.  

Bost's slaveholdings reflect the fact that his farming operation was on a modest scale, though one typical of the area. He owned three slaves in 1810; that number rose to eleven in 1820 and 1830 but declined to seven in 1840. However, of that number, only two or at the most three were adults. In 1840 Bost and his wife (who died in the following year at the age of sixty-six) lived in the house with their youngest daughter. The agricultural census report for 1850 reveals that even late in life Bost kept an estimated 200 acres in cultivation, mostly in corn and oats. His livestock herds were small with a total value of under $500. Bost listed himself as a "house carpenter" in the 1850 census. The extent of his work as a carpenter is unknown. It is known that both he and his son Jonas received payments for contractual work done for the Western North Carolina Railroad in the 1850s. Elias Bost sold sizable tracts to his sons: 100 acres to Jonas in 1821, 419 acres to Jonathan in 1830, and 261 acres to Jesse also in 1830. With the establishment of the town of Newton in 1845 the elder Bost invested in four town lots, which he sold in 1854 to his son Jonas. Each of these transactions involved the payment of at least a nominal sum by the son. However, in 1851 Elias Bost transferred interest in the homeplace and eighty acres to his youngest son William Robert Davidson Bost in exchange only for his "Love and affection." He continued to live with his son, know as Davidson or W. R. D., until his death in 1857 at the age of eighty-four. Elias Bost's total estate was valued at $14,000 at the time of his death.  

William Robert Davidson Bost (21 November 1823-9 June 1862) was a blacksmith by trade. After he married Ann Coulter in 1845, the couple remained home to care for his father. In addition to the land given to him in 1851, W. R. D. Bost received 500 acres and three Newton lots upon his father's death. All of the property was valued at $4,300 in 1860. In that year, he owned three slaves, all of them females, probably servants. On June 5, 1861, W. R. D. Bost enlisted in Company F of the twenty-third Regiment (known as the "Catawba Guards"). He was wounded in action at Seven Pines, Virginia, on May 31, 1862, and died a few days later. By the terms of his will made in 1861 he left all of his property to his wife Ann. She was also left to raise by herself six children, ages six to fifteen.

Ann Angeline Coulter Bost (1826?-1886) outlived her husband
by twenty-four years and owned the house for the duration. Her older sons presumably built the first addition to the house around 1870. It was used at least in part to accommodate boarders. In most seasons she and her sons, particularly Philip who lived on an adjacent tract, cultivated only thirty to forty acres of the 376-acre farm. They grew ten acres of corn, five of wheat, three of cotton, and some sorghum in 1880. The livestock were few in number, only a horse, a few cows, hogs, and sheep. Thus it is not surprising that Ann Bost sold the bulk of the estate in the late 1870s, keeping only a fifty-acre homestead. As late as 1886 the house was marked on a map of Catawba County drawn by R. A. Yoder as the residence of Ms. Bost. It was in 1886 that Ann Bost died at the age of sixty.

Sarah Ann Bost (1 June 1856-19 December 1931), the youngest child and principal heir of W. R. D. and Ann Bost, married Charles M. Burris (9 March 1851-16 January 1923) in 1880. Burris, a farmer and tobacco salesman, was best known as an auctioneer. "He had sold more land at the courthouse door than any man of his day," it was recalled in his obituary. Originally from Rockford in Surry County, he met Ann Bost while boarding at the house in the late 1870s. The couple lived at the house for a brief time after their marriage and then moved to Murfreesboro where their first two children were born. They moved back to the house about the time Ann Bost died. He was a founding member of Newton's First Baptist Church. Burris was regularly taxed on thirty-five acres valued at $350 during the 1890s. He kept a few horses, cows, and hogs. At the time of the 1900 census three of their six children were still living at home. They also had a black male servant of thirteen years of age. C. M. Burris left no will when he died at age seventy-two in 1923; however it is clear that his wife Sarah received the property. She died in 1931 at age seventy-five. Both are buried at old St. Paul's Church.

Bruce Bost Burris (21 May 1886-1976) was the third child of C. M. and Sarah Burris, their first born at the homeplace. He married Flora Plott on January 1, 1914, and soon after returned home to care for his aging parents. He was a farmer until the mid-1930s when he began working for the Southern Furniture Company where he remained until he retired in 1956. He formally acquired the property from a mortgage company in 1936 several years after his mother's death. The property was mortgaged several times by Sarah Burris and her son Bruce in the 1920s and 1930s. The value of the fifty acres for tax purposes varied from...
$1,900 in 1935 to $4,668 in 1965. Despite the apparent financial difficulties during the Depression, Burris was responsible for the third addition to the house in the 1930s. He also added a bathroom in 1951. In 1972 Bruce Bost Burris deeded the property to his daughter Ethel while reserving a life estate. She received full title to the property following his death at the age of ninety in 1976.

Ethel Burris Lail, the present owner, and her husband Graham Lail inherited the house in return for caring for her aging parents (in the same way that her father had done before her). She now lives in nearby Conover but has a caretaker on the property. Reunions of Bost (and Burris) family members have become regular occurrences in recent years. Interest in genealogical research among family members has also increased. On October 12, 1975 Bost family descendants held a program at old St. Paul's Lutheran Church honoring their ancestors. At that ceremony, Ethel Burris Lail, the present owner of the Bost-Burris House, was charged with laying a wreath sacred to the memory of Elias Bost, builder of the house, and his father William, her great-great-grandfather and great-great-great-grandfather, respectively.

FOOTNOTES

1Mary Pegram West, "Dedication of Memorial Honouring Pioneer William Bost, October 12, 1975, Old St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Newton, North Carolina" (unpublished pamphlet, 1975), 4; Marriage Bonds, North Carolina State Archives.


3Lincoln County Wills, North Carolina State Archives.

4Second, Third, and Fourth Censuses, 1800, 1810, 1820.


6Lincoln County Deed Book 18, p. 407.
Lincoln County Deed Book 18, p. 328.

Second, Third, and Fourth Censuses, 1800, 1810, 1820.


Third through Seventh Censuses, 1810-1850, Population, Slave, and Agricultural Schedules.

Preslar (ed.), *History of Catawba County*, 165.

Lincoln County Deed Book 30, p. 32; Deed Book 35, p. 74; and Deed Book 36, p. 194.

Catawba County Deed Book 3, p. 487; and Deed Book 4, p. 454.

Catawba County Deed Book 4, p. 160.


Catawba County Tax Record, North Carolina State Archives; Seventh and Eighth Censuses, 1850 and 1860, Population and Slave Schedules.


Catawba County Will Book 1, p. 169.

Tenth Census, 1880, Agricultural Schedule; Catawba County Tax Records, North Carolina State Archives.


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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Footnotes, continued...

22 Catawba County Deed Book, Book 273, p. 132, and Deed Book Index; Catawba County Tax Record, North Carolina State Archives.


24 Newton Observer-News-Enterprise, 3 July 1974; West, "Dedication of Memorial," 3.
Bost-Burris House, Catawba County, N.C.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

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 # ________________________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4.39 acres

UTM References
A Zone | 1 | 7 | 4, 1, 7 | 4, 3, 0 | 3, 9 | 4, 6 | 8, 2, 0 |
     | Easting | Northing |
B Zone |    |    |       |       |       |       |
     | Easting | Northing |
C     |    |    |       |       |       |       |
     |    |    |       |       |       |       |
D     |    |    |       |       |       |       |

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of adjoining lots 14K and 14L in block 1, sheet 27N of Catawba County tax maps.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes two parcels under single ownership and together constitutes all that remains of the property in continuous historical association with the house.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Kooiman, compiler; Laura A.W. Phillips, description; Michael Hill, history
organization Catawba County Historical Assn.
date June 24, 1989
street & number Rt. 1, Box 76 AB
telephone 704-256-3040
city or town Conover
state N.C. zip code 28613
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Catawba Weekender, 24 September 1965.

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in the Year 1790: North Carolina: Baltimore: Genealogical

Hickory Daily Record, 11 September 1965.

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North Carolina State Archives
Catawba County Deeds, Estates Records, Vital Statistics, and
Wills
Graves Index
Lincoln County Deed and Wills
Marriage Bonds

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ty. Salisbury: Rowan Printing Company for the Catawba
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Population, Slave, and Agricultural Schedules.

West, Mary Pegram. "Dedication of Memorial Honouring Pioneer
William Bost, October 12, 1975, Old St. Paul's Lutheran

Wilfong, Neal D., comp. Tombstone Inscriptions of the Old St.

Yoder, R. A., Map of Catawba County. Newton, N. C.: R. A. Yoder,
1886.
The following information pertains to all photographs:

1) Bost-Burris House 
2) Newton, North Carolina 
5) North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC 

A. 3) Davyd Ford Hood 
4) May 1983 
6) House, to northeast 

B. 3) Barbara Kooiman 
4) May 1989 
6) House, to south 

C. 3) Davyd Ford Hood 
4) May 1983 
6) House, to northeast 

D. 3) Laura Phillips 
4) May 1983 
6) House interior, parlor (mantel and cabinets) 

E. 3) F. Bogue Wallin 
4) Summer 1979 
6) House interior, parlor mantel 

F. 3) F. Bogue Wallin 
4) Summer 1979 
6) House interior, parlor corner cupboard 

G. 3) Davyd Ford Hood 
4) May 1983 
6) Outbuildings, to west 

NOTE: Most of the photos used in this nomination were taken in 1983 and two interiors were taken in 1979. All resources have been thoroughly field checked by Barbara Kooiman in 1989 and have been determined to be unchanged from their appearance and condition portrayed in photographs taken prior to 1989.
BOST - BURRIS HOUSE
Catawba County, N.C.
Newton Vicinity
Tax Map Sheet 27-N
Block 1, Lots 14K, 14L
4.39 acres

Map drawn by B. Kooiman. 4/59