

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 Propst, David F. House

other names/site number

### 2. Location

street & number NW cor., jct. of SR 1810 & SR 1878

Not for publication

city, town Maiden

vicinity

state North Carolina code NC

county Catawba

code 035

zip code 28650

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
1	0
Total	

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic & Architectural Resources of  
Catawba County, N.C.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 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  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *William S. Fair, Jr.*

Date 4-30-90

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular Late Victorian  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof asbestos  
other wood  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The **David F. Propst House** is one of a small group of two-story brick houses built in the 1870s and 1880s surviving in rural Catawba County. While all of these houses -- including the Propst House, the Keever-Cansler House, the Joe Bandy House, the T. L. Bandy House, and the Abraham Anthony House -- are three-bay-wide, single pile structures with end chimneys, and while some in the group share other characteristics, each establishes its own identity through the use of individual detailing.

Located approximately two miles northeast of the town of Maiden, the Propst House is situated on the northwest corner of the junction of SR 1810 and SR 1878. Although the house was originally accompanied by over 100 acres, the property associated with it has been reduced to only the house lot on the north side of SR 1878. The house itself faces southeast in a yard that is bordered on the east and south by SR 1810 and SR 1878 and on the north and west by trees and shrubbery.

The Propst House was built ca. 1887, and according to family tradition, the bricks used in its construction were handmade. Laid in six-to-one common bond, the bricks are larger than usual and are light orange-brown in color. The distinguishing characteristics of the Propst House exterior are its use of plain brick pilasters to define the bays, its corbelled cornice which continues across the north and south ends of the house to separate the walls from the gables, and its original one-story brick rear ell which continues the detailing of the main body of the house. The use of pilasters relates this house to the wall treatment found both at the Memorial Reformed Church (1887) in nearby Maiden and at the Joe Bandy House (1887), less than ten miles to the northeast. Other exterior features include a gable roof with boxed eaves, interior end chimneys which project one-brick's thickness on the end walls, a brick water table, pencilled brick joints and four-over-four sash windows with flat-arched brick lintels. A low arched entrance to the cellar is found on the south side of the house near the front, and a ventilation arch is found at the same location on the north side of the house. The front porch with hipped roof and modern ironwork posts is a mid-twentieth

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David F. Propst House,  
Catawba County, N.C.

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century replacement of the original. The single chamfered post remaining on the shed porch of the ell suggests that the front porch may originally have had similar posts. The focal point of the facade (east side) of the house is the center bay entrance with four-panel door flanked by sidelights.

The only addition to the Propst House consists of a semi-detached frame structure projecting westward and northward from the rear of the ell. Sheathed in a combination of flush boarding, weatherboarding and German siding, and covered with a hipped roof, this multi-purpose addition (of unknown date) functioned as a storage room (closest to the ell), and on the other side of a breezeway, as an ice house. The ell porch continues across the east side of the frame addition, and a gabled porch extends westward from the breezeway on the rear.

Although the interior of the Propst House retains much of its original detailing, it has seen more alterations than the exterior. Originally the house featured a center hall plan with two-over-two rooms in front and an additional two rooms in the single story ell. The outer walls were plastered, the inner partitions were flush-sheathed, and the ceilings may also have been flush sheathed. At present, however, the partition dividing the central passage from the north room (parlor) on the first story has been removed, and many of the walls have been sheathed with modern plywood paneling, while the ceilings are covered with narrow beaded boarding. Of particular interest are the first story mantels in both front and ell sections of the house with their reeded pilaster and curvilinear frieze, and the vernacular stairway with its chamfered newel, ramped handrail and curvilinear stair brackets. The reeded casings which surround the four and five panel doors reflect the mantel treatment. There are no mantels on the second story.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

ca. 1887

ca. 1887

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The David F. Propst House, a two-story brick single pile farmhouse built circa 1887 in south Catawba County between the towns of Maiden and Newton, is architecturally significant as one of a small group of similar brick houses built in rural Catawba County during the 1870s and 1880s. A particularly distinctive feature of the Propst House is the strong division of the wall surfaces by pilasters and corbelled cornice. The house, still in Propst family ownership,<sup>1</sup> was the seat of a prosperous small farm varying from 150 to 250 acres well into the twentieth century, but now only the house lot remains. The Propst House meets the registration requirements for the property type "Houses of Catawba County: Postbellum (1864-1900)," under Criterion C.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1David F. Propst House,  
Catawba County, N.C.Historical Background

David F. Propst was born in 1860, the son of Alfred Propst. The Propst family were farmers, and David followed his father into this profession. In 1886 David purchased 88 1/2 acres from his father for \$575. He augmented this with several smaller purchases.<sup>2</sup> Catawba County tax records for 1887 show that Propst owned 125 acres, valued at \$375. Three years later he owned 146 acres valued at \$450. In this same three years his aggregate personal and real estate value increased from \$1,199 to \$1,535. This increase may indicate the construction of his house between 1887 and 1890. Propst owned 155 acres by 1893. His acreage and its value of \$500 remained constant throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century. His aggregate estate fluctuated greatly, however, reaching a low of only \$600 in 1894 before rising to over \$1,000 in 1895 and 1896.<sup>3</sup> This fluctuation may have been a response to the economic hard times suffered by farmers throughout the South in the 1890s. Detailed census information for this period is not available and in its absence it is not possible to ascertain what crops Propst grew. However, during this period Catawba County was one of the state's leading counties in both the production of wheat and in the development of the cattle industry.<sup>4</sup>

David Propst married Bessie Jeanette Parker (1875-1938) in 1893. She was a native of Catawba County and was the daughter of Samuel Parker.<sup>5</sup> The Propsts had ten children, Cletus, Clarence, William, Lester, Marion, Beulah, Florence, Jessie, Blanche and Lila.<sup>6</sup> Propst continued to farm and the value of his farm continued to increase. By 1915 he owned 244 acres, with a value of \$2,185. He also owned 3 horses, 6 cattle, and 3 hogs in that year. In 1935, in the midst of the depression, his land was valued at \$5,000.<sup>7</sup>

Bessie Propst died in October of 1938. Two year later David Propst married Laura Hoover Sigmon. In November of 1945 David Propst died. He was buried at St. James Lutheran Church, where he had been a member of the church council for many years.<sup>8</sup> He died intestate. The property was divided among his wife and children. Clarence Propst obtained title to the house and lived there until his death in 1986. It was passed on to Clarence's younger brother William, who currently owns it. The house has been sporadically vacant since 1986.

David Propst began farming during a period of increased

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Catawba County, N.C.

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modernization. His farm had to survive the economic difficulties of the 1890s, the Great Depression of the 1930s, and other periods of hard times in between. Although only a modest farm the Propst operation continued to modernize, expand, and prosper. Catawba County is a county of small farms and the Propst house and farm are excellent examples of the single family farm that has dominated much of Catawba's history.

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Newton Observer, August 4, 1952.

<sup>2</sup>Catawba County Deed Book 29, p. 566; Book 35, p. 13; Book 35, p. 536.

<sup>3</sup>Catawba County Tax Scrolls, 1897-1896.

<sup>4</sup>Charles J. Preslar, Jr. A History of Catawba County (Salisbury: Rowan Printing Company, 1954), 64.

<sup>5</sup>Catawba Marriage Index; Hickory Daily Record, October 10, 1938.

<sup>6</sup>Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Catawba County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Hickory Daily Record, November 12, 1945.

<sup>7</sup>Catawba County Tax Scrolls, 1915, 1935.

<sup>8</sup>Hickory Daily Record, October 10, 1938, November 12, 1945.

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David F. Propst House,  
Catawba County, N.C.

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Catawba County Records. Deed Books, Marriage Index, Tax Scrolls. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.
- Hickory Daily Record. October 10, 1938. November 12, 1945.
- Newton Observer. August 4, 1952.
- Preslar, Charles J., Jr. A History of Catawba County. Salisbury: Rowan Printing Company, 1954.
- United States Census Office. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Catawba County, North Carolina. Microfilm copy. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.61 acres

UTM References

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3	9	3	9	1	1	5
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 Zone Easting Northing

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of lot 5, block 5, sheet 65-N, Catawba County Tax Maps.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the lot which encompasses the house and its immediate yard, the remaining property associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Kooiman, compiler; Laura A.W. Phillips, description; Jim Sumner, history  
 organization Catawba County Historical Assoc. date 6/23/89  
 street & number Rt. 1, Box 76 AB telephone 704/256-3040  
 city or town Conover state N.C. zip code 28613

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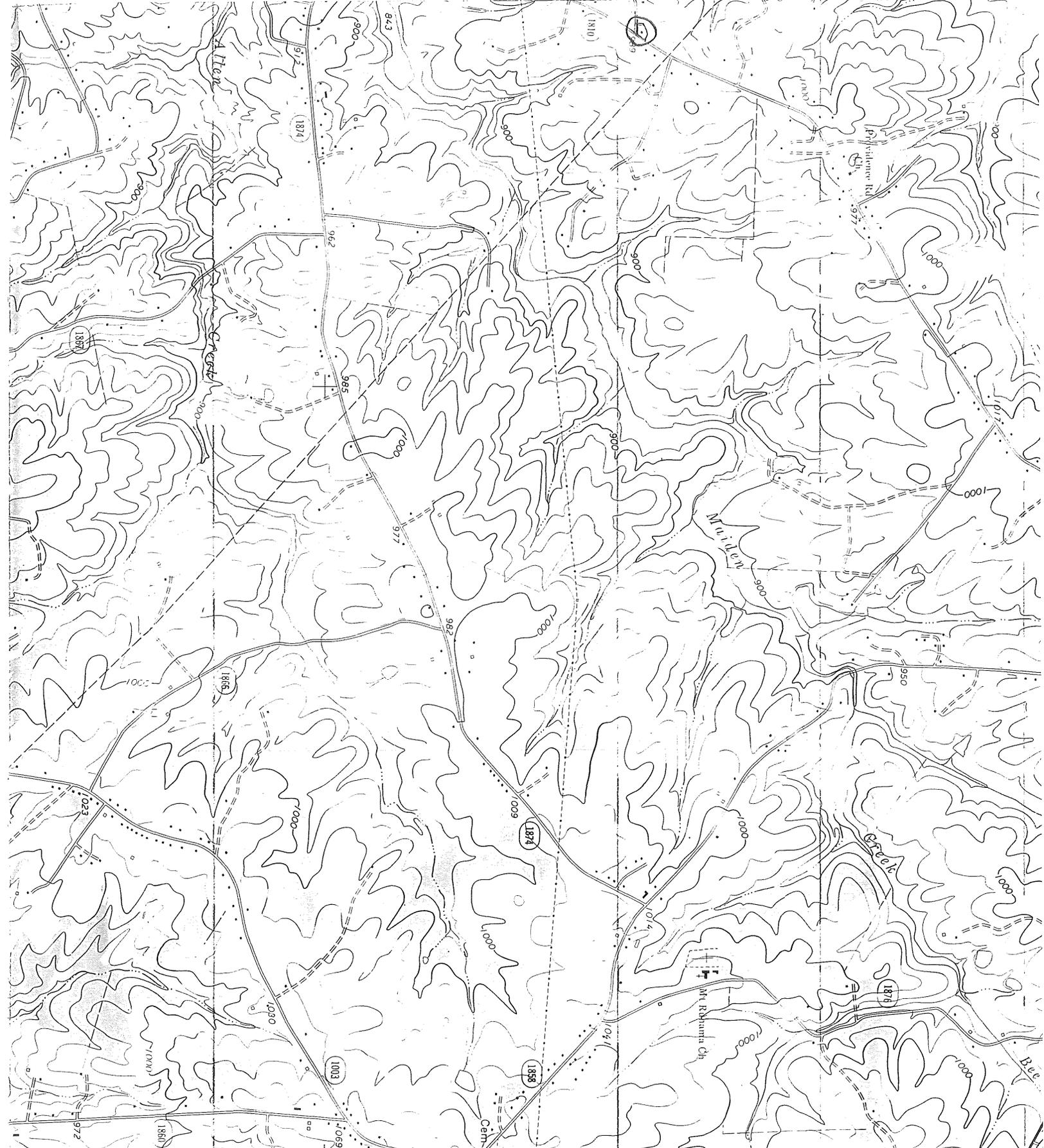
David F. Propst House, Catawba County, NC

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PHOTOS

- 1) David F. Propst House
- 2) Maiden vicinity, North Carolina
- 5) North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.
  
- A.    3) Barbara Kooiman  
      4) April 1989  
      6) House, northwest
  
- B.    3) Randall Page  
      4) March 1982  
      6) House, southwest
  
- C.    3) Laura Phillips  
      4) March 1983  
      6) House interior, stair
  
- D.    3) Laura Phillips  
      4) March 1983  
      6) House interior, mantel

NOTE: One of the photos used in this nomination was taken as early as March 1982. All resources have been 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.



DENVER 8 MI  
CHARLOTTE 32 MI

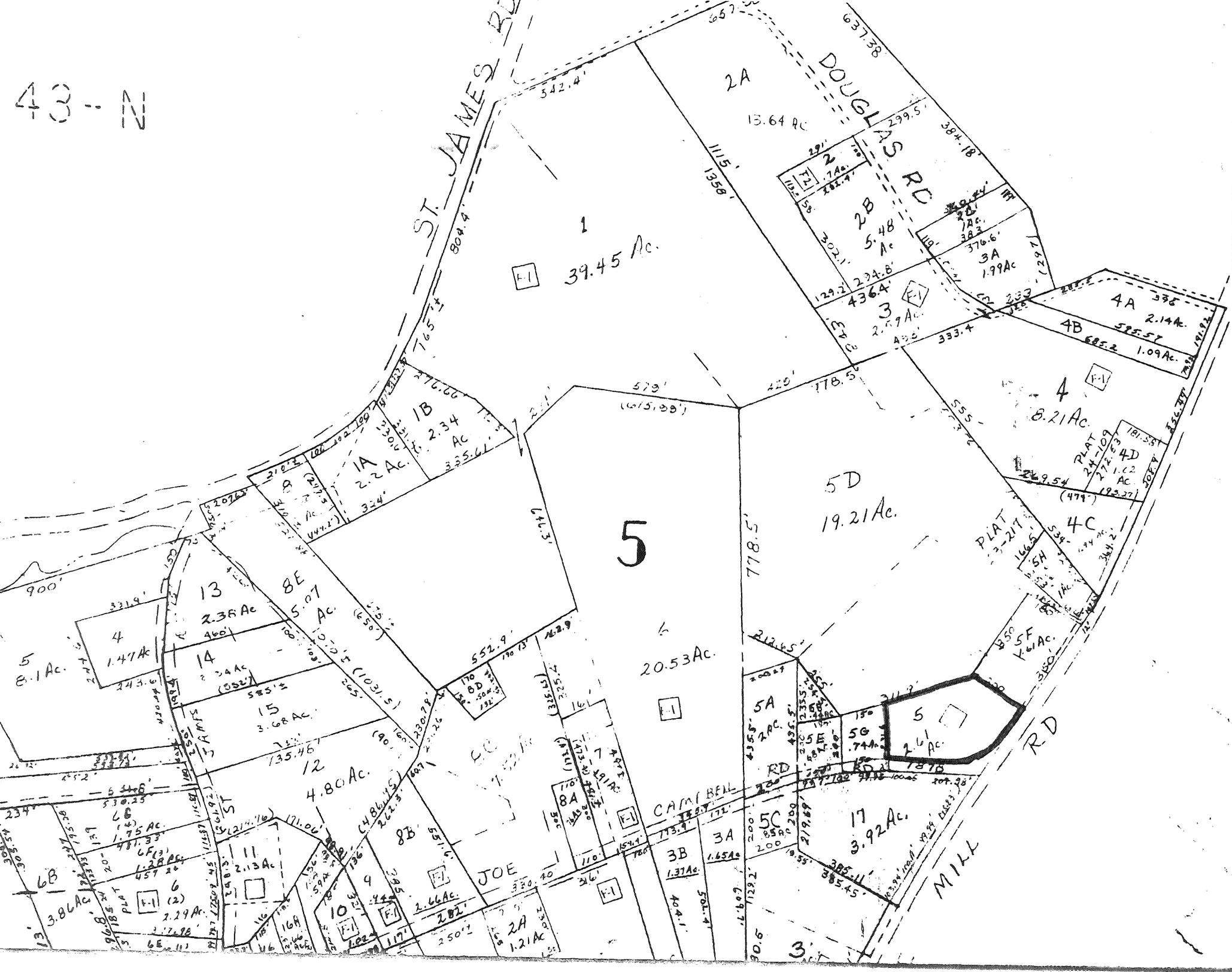
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35'

43-N



ST. JAMES RD

DOUGLAS RD

CAM/BELL RD

MILL RD

1  
39.45 Ac.

2A

13.64 Ac

2B

5.48 Ac

3A

1.99 Ac

3

2.59 Ac

4A

2.14 Ac

4B

1.09 Ac

4

8.21 Ac

4C

1.62 Ac

4D

1.02 Ac

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2.38 Ac

8E

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