

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic "Holly Gate"

and/or common J. H. Joyner House

## 2. Location

street & number E. Side NC 61 .15 mi. North of Jct. w/SR 3062 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Whitsett  vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state North Carolina code 037 county Guilford code 081

## 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. James Griggs

street & number Route 1, Box 400-A

city, town Burlington \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state NC 27215

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Guilford County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Greensboro state North Carolina

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

An Inventory of Historic Architecture:

title High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

Guilford County, edited by McKelden Smith

date 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Survey & Planning Branch, NC Division of Archives & History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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			

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

"Holly Gate," the residence of Professor and Mrs. J. H. Joyner, is a transitional Queen Anne-Colonial Revival house constructed in 1908-1910. It is a frame, two-and-a-half story dwelling with picturesque massing and a gray slate roof. The house is one of several large residences built by the faculty of Whitsett Institute in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The remaining structures from this group are the finest Queen Anne Revival houses standing in the eastern section of Guilford County. No architect or contractor for this house is known.

The Joyner House is set well back from NC 61 on a four-acre lot, surrounded by mature hardwood trees and complemented by a series of outbuildings to the rear. The residence presents an irregular silhouette and plan, typical of the Queen Anne aesthetic. A tall hipped roof is complicated by a large projecting gable to the front and a semi-hexagonal hip to the left. The roofline is broken further by three high chimneys with brick band courses and molded tops. The first two stories are covered with clapboarding, while the gable end is covered in shingles. A Colonial Revival porch wraps around the left side of the house. The porch begins with a pedimented gable over the main central entrance to the house. There is an inset balcony immediately above the entrance pediment. On both levels, the porches are composed of grouped Doric colonettes on plinths. A turned balustrade was placed between the plinths in the first story porch. The house sits on a high brick basement partially concealed by mature foundation plantings. The plan of the house repeats the Queen Anne Revival penchant for variety of space. Repeating the forms of the porch the central entrance hall is ornamented at the rear by a column screen in handsome curly maple which supports an egg and dart cornice around the hall. To the left of the entrance hall is a small sitting room with semi-hexagonal window bay looking onto the porch and a fireplace on the rear wall. This mantel, like some other interior woodwork, was changed by interior designer Otto Zenke of Greensboro in 1938. The mantel is now a French Empire Revival surround with molded plaster ornament. To the right of the entrance hall is the drawing room, which has a semi-hexagonal bay projecting towards the front and a fireplace on the rear wall. Here the original mantel, composed of two levels of colonettes flanking a glazed tile fireplace opening below and a mirror above, was retained. Returning to the entrance hall, that room and the staircase hall beyond form an L, with the stairhall turning to the left behind the sitting room. The staircase is of Colonial Revival design with slender turned balusters and an open string course. On the right side of the stairhall is the entrance to a back parlor that has also been used as a downstairs bedroom. Behind the stair hall is the dining room. A corner fireplace in the right rear corner maintains its original mantels and mauve and gold tiles in an Adamesque pattern. In the left rear corner a semi-octagonal bay extrudes from the house, providing an intimate seating area and extra light for the room.

Beyond these formal spaces, the house is typical of most substantial North Carolina rural houses of the turn of the century. The original kitchen and pantry behind the dining room has been modernized by the present owners, who have also added a library beyond which outwardly resembles the type of simple gable units found at the rear of many piedmont buildings of this date. On the second floor, there are three bedrooms that retain their original woodwork, including a fireplace in the right front room. A fourth bedroom has been converted to two bathrooms and a large closet by the present owners. They have also finished the attic area over the rear of the house for additional living space.

A series of outbuildings dot the land behind the Joyner House. These include a frame garage of the 1910s, a small brick greenhouse constructed in the 1930s, and a corn

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crib, an outhouse, a well house, and a shed that appears to have been constructed at the time the house was built. To the left of the house, there are two arbors, but no other garden areas remain.

The house is being meticulously restored by its new owners, Mr. and Mrs. James Griggs.

## 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1908-1910

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Holly Gate," a substantial Queen Anne-Colonial Revival residence, was built in 1908-1910 for Professor and Mrs. James Henry Joyner. Joyner was an instructor at Whitsett Institute, a highly-regarded private high school located near Gibsonville in the community of Whitsett. Joyner's wife, Effie May Whitsett Joyner, was a sister of Dr. William Thornton Whitsett, the school's president. She was also an instructor at the school. When Whitsett Institute burned in 1918 Professor Joyner became principal of the newly formed Gibsonville High School. He also served as chairman of Guilford County's Board of Education for 14 years, in addition to a variety of other positions of importance.\* It is in the process of being renovated by its new owners, Mr. and Mrs. James Griggs.

\* The Joyner House is the most prominent remaining building associated with Whitsett Institute

### Criteria Assessment:

- B. The J. H. Joyner residence is significant because of its association with the Whitsett Institute, one of a class of private secondary schools that existed in late nineteenth century North Carolina to compensate for the low quality of public instruction. Joyner was later important in establishing Gibsonville High School and in improving the public school system in Guilford County.
- C. The Joyner House is one of the finest standing Queen Anne-Colonial Revival houses in the eastern section of Guilford County. Its architectural character is representative of the quality of buildings that once stood at Whitsett Institute.

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"Holly Gate" is one of several spacious houses built in the early twentieth century near the Guilford County community of Whitsett. The house was completed around 1910 by James Henry Joyner, a professor at Whitsett, the school after which the community was named, and his wife Effie May Whitsett Joyner, also an instructor at the school and the sister of the school's president and namesake.<sup>1</sup>

James Henry Joyner was born in Nash County in October of 1873, the son of G. J. and Susan Joyner. At the age of 16 he entered Whitsett. After finishing there he attended Catawba College, receiving a B. S. degree in 1903. He also attended the University of North Carolina, although he received no degree from that institution. He began teaching at Whitsett in the middle 1890s, prior to obtaining his degree from Catawba.<sup>2</sup>

Whitsett Institute, later academy, was founded in 1884 as Fairview Institute and Commercial College. Its first president was Paisley White. Later superintendents included Charles Mebane, who was to become state superintendent of public instruction. In 1888 Dr. William Thornton Whitsett took over the school. Whitsett was one of the many private schools that attempted to fill the void left by the state's inadequate public school system in the late nineteenth century, and Dr. Whitsett succeeded in making it one of the best.<sup>3</sup> Josephus Daniels, speaking at commencement exercises in 1900, called Whitsett "one of the first half dozen educational institutions in the state."<sup>4</sup> Graduates of the school received automatic entrance into the state's finest colleges, including the University of North Carolina, Wake Forest, and Davidson.<sup>5</sup> The school's catalogues contain numerous testimonials from educators, politicians, and other public men. The school was coeducational, and most of the students took a curriculum consisting largely of literature and science, although other courses of study, such as business and music were taught.<sup>6</sup>

Professor Joyner married Effie May Whitsett in July of 1906. Mrs. Joyner was born in 1877.<sup>7</sup> She attended the State Normal and Industrial College in Greensboro (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro) and began teaching at her brother's school around 1900.<sup>8</sup> Shortly after their marriage the Joyners purchased 3 3/4 acres from Dr. Whitsett for \$250.<sup>9</sup> Dr. Whitsett sold a considerable amount of land near the college, and "when he sold (it) for homes he would more or less require the homes be built large enough to take in students as boarders."<sup>10</sup> The Joyners' home, along with Whitsett's home "The Oaks," H. G. McLean's "Mid-Lawn," Walter J. Thompson's "Willow Brook" and other homes built by the faculty and staff of Whitsett served this purpose.<sup>11</sup>

Whitsett burned in 1918 and was not re-opened. Dr. Whitsett and Professor Joyner both turned their energies and influence on behalf of the establishment of a public high school in nearby Gibsonville.<sup>12</sup> The school was established and Joyner became its first principal. Under his leadership Gibsonville High School became the first accredited high school in Guilford County,<sup>13</sup>

Professor Joyner resigned from the principalship of Gibsonville in 1926. After his retirement he was appointed a member of the Guilford County Board of Education. He remained in this position for 21 years, 14 of which he served as president. He later served as president of the State Board of Education and was chairman of the first regional North Carolina Education Association. He was an elder in the Friedens Lutheran Church. This "prominent educator" died October 14, 1960.<sup>14</sup> His will left all of his property to

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his wife, as they apparently had no children.<sup>18</sup> After her death the property was purchased, in 1977, from the estate by the present owners Mr. and Mrs. James Griggs. The Griggs are restoring the house.

The structures of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains may be present which can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structures. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>The community and school were both established in 1884. The school became Whitsett in 1896, while the town became Whitsett in 1901, with the establishment of a post office there.

<sup>2</sup>Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Guilford County, North Carolina, Population Schedule: Greensboro Daily News, October 15, 1960; Fairview Institute and Commercial College, 1896, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup>Greensboro Record, April 11, 1966; Burlington Times-News, September 26, 1968.

<sup>4</sup>Burlington Times-News, September 26, 1968.

<sup>5</sup>Register of Whitsett Institute, 1901-1902, p. 48.

<sup>6</sup>Register of Whitsett Institute, 1900-1901, 1901-1902, 1908, 1910-1911, 1912-1913, 1913-1914, passim. Testimonials included in these catalogues include those by United States Senators Furnifold Simmons and Lee Overman, governors and former governors such as W. W. Kitchin and Elias Carr, educational leaders like Kemp Plummer Battle, Charles McIver, and Charles Mebane, and other public figures such as Josephus Daniels, Judge James E. Boyd, and General Julian S. Carr.

<sup>7</sup>Guilford County Marriage Licenses. They were married July 27, 1906, at her father's house by Lutheran minister E. P. Parker.

<sup>8</sup>Register of Whitsett Institute, 1900-1901, p. 3.

<sup>9</sup>Guilford County Deed Book 206-566. In 1904 Joyner had purchased a tract of 4900 square yards from Dr. Whitsett for \$100. The second and larger tract was adjacent to the first. Guilford County Deed Book 164, p. 570.

<sup>10</sup>Greensboro Record, April 11, 1966.

<sup>11</sup>Burlington Times-News, September 26, 1968.

<sup>12</sup>Burlington Times-News, September 26, 1968.

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<sup>13</sup> Greensboro Daily News, October 15, 1960.

<sup>14</sup> Greensboro Daily News, October 15, 1960; News and Observer (Raleigh),  
October 16, 1960.

<sup>15</sup> Guilford County Will Book 15, p. 165.

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Fairview Institute and Commercial College, 1896. Brochure owned by Mrs. James Griggs,  
Whitsett, North Carolina.

Greensboro Daily News. October 15, 1960.

Greensboro Record. April 11, 1966.

Gulford County Records. Deed Books, Marriage Licenses, Will Books. Microfilm copy.  
Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

News and Observer (Raleigh). October 16, 1960.

Register of Whitsett Institute. 1900-1901, 1901-1902, 1908, 1910-1911, 1912-1913,  
1913-1914. Brochures owned by Mrs. James Griggs.

United States Census Office. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Population  
Schedule, Guilford County, North Carolina.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Burlington Times-News. September 26, 1968.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4 acres

Quadrangle name Gibsonville, NC

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	1	7
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6	2	9	3	1	3	1	0
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3	1	9	9	1	2	6	1	5	1	5
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property included in this nomination is shown within the red line on the attached plat map of J. H. Grigg's property. Ref: Deed book 297, p. 566.

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architectural description and Significance: Keith N. Morgan, Preservation Planner  
Researcher: Jerry Cashion

organization Division of Archives and History  
Archaeology and Historic Preservation date May 1980

street & number Survey and Planning Branch  
109 East Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545

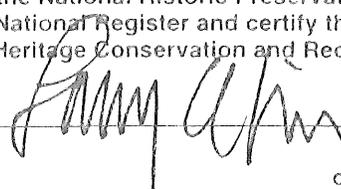
city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

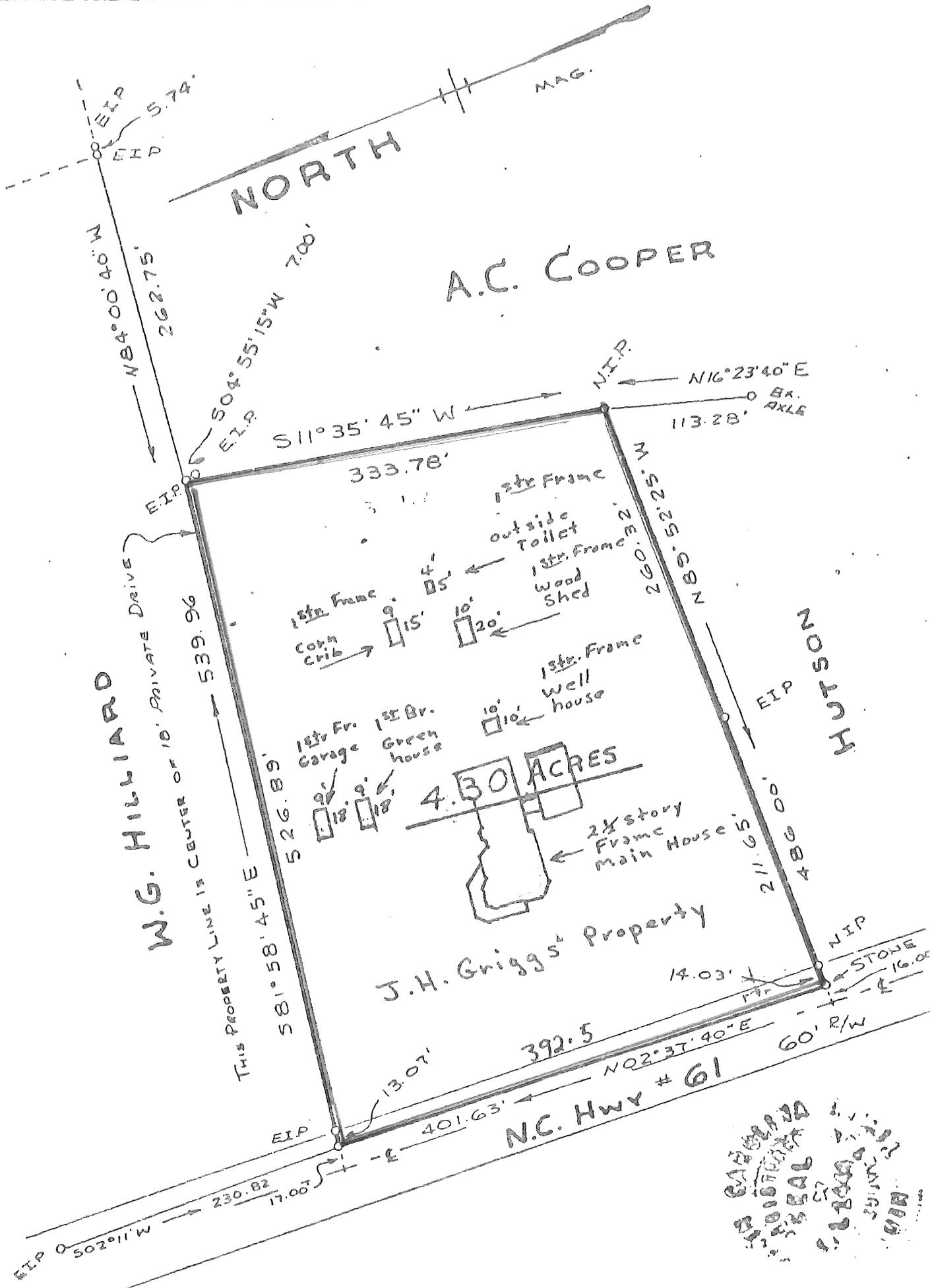
title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 25, 1980

For HCERS 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



E.I.P. 5.74'  
E.I.P.

N84°00'40"W  
262.75'

NORTH

A.C. COOPER

W.G. HILLIARD

THIS PROPERTY LINE IS CENTER OF 10' PRIVATE DRIVE

581°58'45"E

511°35'45"W

333.78'

1<sup>st</sup> Fr. Frame  
Corn Crib

1<sup>st</sup> Fr. Garage  
1<sup>st</sup> Br. Green house

4.30 ACRES

J.H. Griggs' Property

N.C. HWY # 61

HUTSON

MAG.

N.I.P.

N16°23'40"E

113.28'

260.00' W  
S22°52'25" N

1<sup>st</sup> Fr. Frame  
outside Toilet  
1<sup>st</sup> Fr. Frame  
Wood Shed

1<sup>st</sup> Fr. Well house

2 1/2 story Frame main House

211.65'

486.00'

N.I.P.

14.03'

STONE 16.00'

60' R/W

E.I.P. 0  
502°11'W  
230.82'  
17.00'

13.07'

401.63'

392.5'

N02°31'40"E

REFERENCE:

DEED BOOK 297 PAGE 566

CAMPBELL  
REGISTERED  
REAL ESTATE  
SURVEYOR  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
NO. 12345

