

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Puppy Creek Plantation

AND/OR COMMON
McGregor-Lamont House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER N. side SR 1409, 0.7 mi. West of jct. with SR 1413

CITY, TOWN Rockfish VICINITY OF 7th
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE North Carolina 37 COUNTY Hoke CODE 93

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME F. Paul Johnson

STREET & NUMBER
Route 2

CITY, TOWN Raeford VICINITY OF North Carolina 28376
STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hoke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Raeford VICINITY OF North Carolina 28376
STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 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 checked="" 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

The McGregor-Lamont House is a well-preserved two-story frame Federal style house set on a knoll above Puppy Creek in the Sandhills section of southeastern North Carolina. A dry-laid fieldstone retaining wall defines the front and west side yard. Four-bays-wide, two-bays-deep, the house is set on a high brick pier foundation, now infilled with cinder block. The building, covered with plain weatherboard, is capped by a gable roof covered with composition shingles, and has exterior end brick chimneys, laid in one-to-five common bond, each with a single stepped shoulder and a molded cap. A one-story shed porch extends across the main (south) facade, and a corresponding one-story rear shed section extends across the rear. A twentieth century one-story ell extends from the rear.

The main facade has two entrances, each a door with six flat panels set in a molded mitered surround. On each side of the doors is a six-over-nine sash window in an identical surround. The wall area sheltered by the porch has wide horizontal flush sheathing, and the ceiling is covered with narrow flush sheathing. Identical windows pierce the upper main facade, the rear elevation and flank the chimneys at the first story. At the second level, the end elevations have no windows. The northeast bay of the east elevation originally contained a door, which is now infilled. The eaves of both the main block and the porch are boxed and ornamented with molded cornices; tapered beaded rake boards outline the gables. The front porch is supported by chamfered posts, with a railing of slim rectangular balusters, a shaped rail, and a center-bay entrance.

The interior Federal trim is almost unaltered, and reflects a finely finished country house of mature Federal design. The first floor has a hall-and-parlor plan, with two large front rooms; two smaller rear rooms flank a central area which now continues as the rear addition but was originally a porch. The second floor, originally one large room, was divided into two rooms with a narrow central hall by the addition of two partition walls. The house has plastered walls and ceilings throughout, simple one-part molded surrounds around openings, and doors with six flat panels. The two larger first-floor rooms, which have identical trim, are the most elaborately finished rooms in the house. Each mantel has flat-paneled pilasters flanking a rectangular fireplace opening, a frieze with end blocks, and a center flat-paneled tablet and a molded dentil cornice and shelf which break out over the end blocks and center table. Both rooms have molded chair rails and plaster dados, and both have ceiling cornices enriched with dentils. The two rear rooms have molded chair rails and plaster dados. The second-floor rooms have mantels and chair rails identical to the first floor front rooms, but lack ceiling cornices.

An enclosed single-flight stair, entered from the original rear porch area, rises against the west wall in the southeast front room to the second floor. The railing around the stairwell on the second floor has chamfered posts, slim balusters and a shaped and beaded hand rail. A molding outlines the base of the stair railing. A curious survival at this level is the presence of a panel with a dentil molding, located on the inner wall of the second story above the opening through which the stair emerges from the porch into the second story.

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 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 1821 (ca.)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McGregor-Lamont House, located on the Turnpike Road between Fayetteville and Raeford, is the best-preserved of the few antebellum buildings known to exist in Hoke County, part of a sparsely settled region of southeastern North Carolina known as the Sandhills. The simple Federal style farmhouse, built ca. 1821, is noteworthy for the refinement of the woodwork in the front rooms and for the partially-surviving original floor plan in which the stair rises from the back porch area to the second floor, an eastern North Carolina climatic adaptation. Wealthy landowner Malcom McGregor, for whom the house was built, and the Lamont family associated with the house in subsequent years, have made significant contributions to the economic and social development of the area.

Malcom McGregor, born in Scotland in 1792,¹ immigrated to America and settled in North Carolina's Sandhills region, which had long been a center of Scottish settlement. When he actually settled in what was then Cumberland County (now Hoke), is not definitely known. He married Mary, a daughter of Gilbert Carmichael, a Highland Scots immigrant; Carmichael had come to North Carolina in 1773 and settled in Cumberland County, was for many years an elder in the Longstreet Presbyterian Church, and founded the Galatia³ Presbyterian Church in Cumberland County.² Gilbert Carmichael was a large landowner, and tradition relates that he deeded his daughter Mary, and her husband Malcom McGregor, land on Puppy Creek where they built their home. The deeds of Cumberland County are incomplete, and there is no transfer recorded to support the deed of gift to the McGregors; however, a great niece of Mary Carmichael McGregor related the story to her own granddaughter, Mrs. L. Herman Koonce of Raeford, North Carolina, and added that the house was two years in the building, and was completed in 1821, and that the first McGregor child, Gilbert Carmichael McGregor, was born in the house on January 8, 1824. Judging from the style of the house, there is no reason to doubt this strong family tradition.

Malcom McGregor was a successful planter and mill owner.⁴ His house was located on Puppy Creek where it crosses the Turnpike Road from Fayetteville to Robeson County, a prime business location. The 1850 census indicates that McGregor was a wealthy landowner, owning 9,798 acres of land. His plantation produced rye, Indian corn, rice, wool, sweet potatoes, hay, and butter. He owned 7 horses, 3 mules, 15 milch cows, 25 head of cattle, 25 sheep, and 100 pigs, at a total value of \$900. He also owned 18 slaves. He was apparently one of the largest planters in western Cumberland County during the antebellum period.

When the rich cotton lands of Texas were opened up after the Mexican War, McGregor moved his family into the Lone Star state. On September 6, 1855, Malcom McGregor deeded to Duguld A. Lamont of New Hanover County, N. C. and Malcom Lamont of Cumberland County, two tracts of land on Puppy Creek. The 1,990 acres were sold for \$6,079.⁵ In 1859

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McGregor sold the balance of his land holdings in Cumberland to the Lamonts.⁶

The McGregors settled in Austin County, Texas, and became one of the best known families in that state, and were among the prominent members of the medical profession.⁷ Gilbert Carmichael McGregor studied medicine at the Edenborough Medical School in Cumberland County, as did several of his brothers.⁸ (The school was run by Dr. Hector McLean and was the first chartered medical school in North Carolina.)⁹ Dr. McGregor finished his medical training at New York State University, and returned to North Carolina where he practiced for one year before removing to Texas where he settled in Austin County.¹⁰ His father and brothers soon joined him in Texas. According to his obituary in a Waco, Texas, newspaper of 1902, Dr. McGregor was one of the best known physicians in Texas, and was founding member and one-time president of the Washington County Medical Society, the first society of physicians that was organized in the state of Texas. Dr. McGregor and his wife, Annie Fordtran McGregor (a daughter of Colonel Charles Fordtran, one of the first American settlers of Texas) removed to Waco in 1873 and lived in what a Waco newspaper called a "lordly mansion on Columbus Street."¹¹ McGregor, Texas is named in his honor.¹² Three of Dr. Gilbert C. McGregor's brothers became physicians: Gregor, Christopher, and Malcom. A sister, Mary, married Dr. John McLean of Waco, Texas.¹³

Malcom C. Lamont, who bought the McGregor place, was born in 1823 in Scotland.¹⁴ The 1860 Cumberland County census indicates that he was a turpentine still operator with real estate valued at \$11,000 and personal property valued at \$12,000. He and his wife, Mary, lived at the McGregor house on Puppy Creek, and he used his 8 slaves to farm his land, which produced the same commodities as the McGregor plantation had in 1850.¹⁵ He employed 38 hands in the production of turpentine. In 1860 he produced 1,200 barrels of spirits of turpentine, 2,000 barrels of #1 rosin, and 4,000 barrels of common turpentine.¹⁶ The vast tracts of woodlands that the Lamonts had purchased from the McGregors were prime territory for turpentine production. Tradition says that Lamont also ran the grist and saw mills and a store located near his house. An 1863 map of Cumberland County shows "Lamont" at that location on Puppy Creek, and a number of structures near the bridge which were probably the store and mills. Malcom C. Lamont was also an elder at Galatia Church.¹⁸ The Lamont family lived in the house until 1911 when they sold it to J. W. Johnson, a lumber man, who timbered the property. Paul Johnson, a grandson of J. W. Johnson, inherited the property and now resides there.

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FOOTNOTES

- ¹1850 Census, Cumberland County.
- ²McGregor-Carmichael genealogy in files, from Mrs. L. Hernan Koonce.
- ³Deed Index, Cumberland County.
- ⁴1850 Census, Cumberland County.
- ⁵Cumberland Deed Book 54:503
- ⁶Cumberland Deed Book 54:503.
- ⁷Obituary of Dr. G. C. McGregor (Xerox in files), Waco paper, 1902.
- ⁸Ibid.
- ⁹Edenborough Medical School, file in Historic Preservation Section Historical Highway Marker files.
- ¹⁰Obituary of Dr. G. C. McGregor.
- ¹¹Ibid.
- ¹²Ibid.
- ¹³Ibid.
- ¹⁴1860 Census, Cumberland County
- ¹⁵Ibid.
- ¹⁶Ibid.
- ¹⁷Map of Cumberland County townships dated 1863 on file in Archives Search Room
- ¹⁸McGregor-Carmichael-Lamont information furnished by Mrs. Herman Koonce.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cumberland County Records, Courthouse. Fayetteville, N.C. (Subgroups: wills, deeds, tax records, census records, estate papers).

Cumberland County Records, Archives.

Hoke County Records, Courthouse, Raeford, N.C. (Subgroups: wills, deeds, tax records, estate papers).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

Latitude

35° 1' 15"

Longitude

79° 07' 45"

A									
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C									

B									
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
D									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Description by Ruth Little-Stokes, Survey Specialist
Significance by John B. Flowers, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Section, Div. of Archives & History

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE

829-4763

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

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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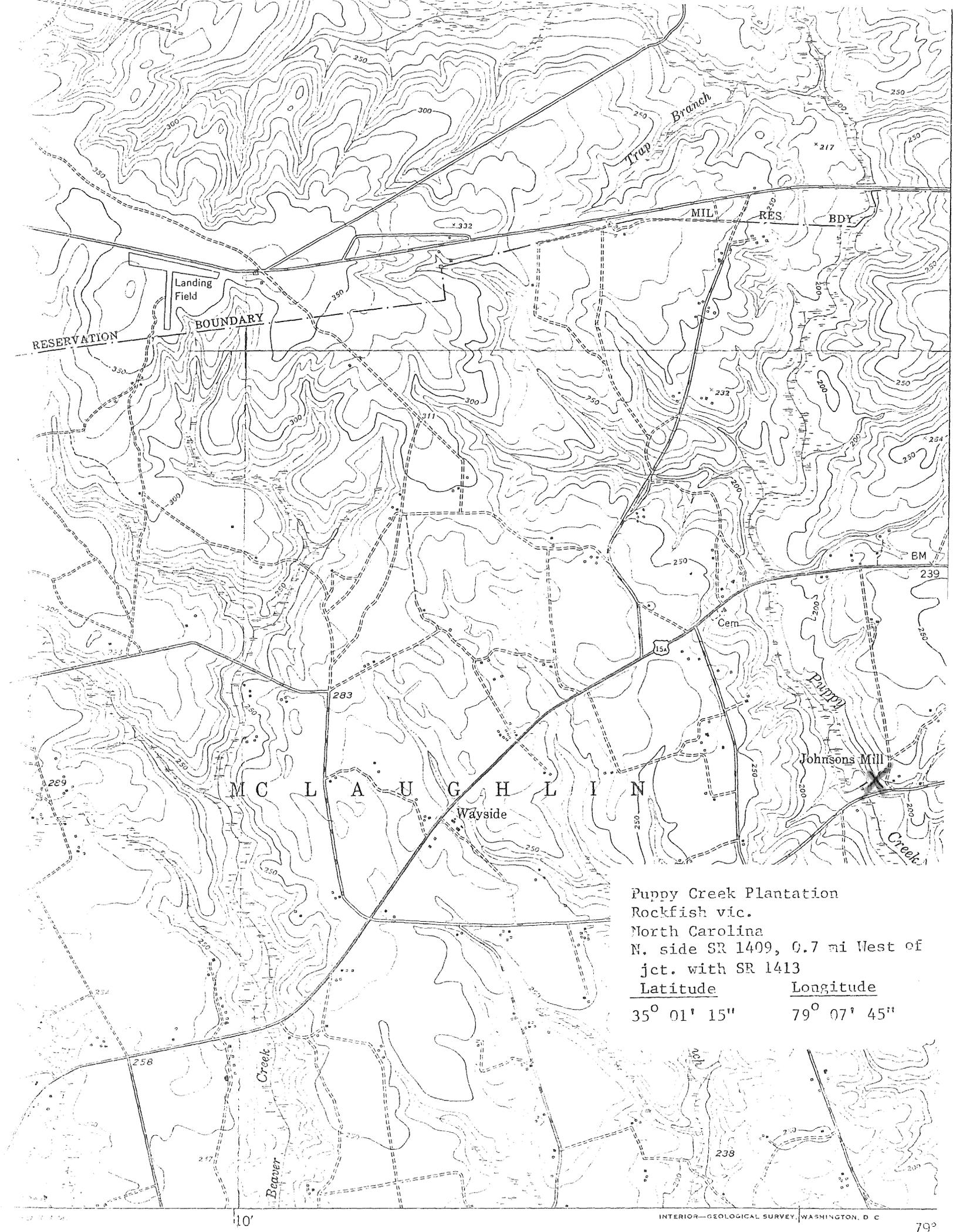
Hoke County Records, Archives.

Obituary for Dr. Gilbert Carmichael McGregor--a Waco, Texas newspaper (no name or dateline given), 1902, in Preservation Section files, Archives and History.

Genealogical notes on the McGregor family from Mrs. L. Herman Koonce, Route 2, Raeford, North Carolina, on file in Historic Preservation Section.

Edenborough Medical College file from the Historical Highway Marker files, Historic Preservation Section, Archives and History.





Puppy Creek Plantation
 Rockfish vic.
 North Carolina
 N. side SR 1409, 0.7 mi West of
 jct. with SR 1413
Latitude Longitude
 35° 01' 15" 79° 07' 45"

