

JN40

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received \_\_\_\_\_  
date entered \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. Name

historic Bryan Lavender House

and/or common Roscoe Barrus House

2. Location

street & number East side US 17 (Main Street)  
0.1 mi South of Trent River Bridge \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Pollocksville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Jones code 103

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name ~~Mr.~~ and Mrs. Jack N. Davis

street & number P. O. Box 128

city, town Pollocksville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state N.C. 28573

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jones County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Trenton state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Lavender House, located near the Trent River bridge in the small town of Pollocksville, is a two-story, hall and parlor plan, frame house with an engaged double-tier porch across its front elevation and a one-story shed across its back. One end of the porch is enclosed and protects an exterior stair which provides the only access to the second story rooms. Probably built in 1825, the house is a rather late example of the type Federal style house so popular in nearby New Bern.

Set with its gable roof parallel to the road, the Lavender House rises two stories from a foundation of brick piers now filled with cinderblocks. The single, concave shoulder chimney with freestanding stack at the north gable end is laid in one-to-three common bond. The entire three-bay front (west) facade is sheltered by a two-tier engaged porch which is enclosed on the north end and front bay--the house's most significant architectural feature. Although reworked in the early 1970s, the porch retains its form and much of its original materials, including two chamfered posts with molded caps and necking on the second story, wide beaded flush sheathing to enclose the end and stair, and exposed, beaded ceiling joists on the first story. Protected from the elements the three-run stair remains intact with its original posts, balusters, shaped banister and sheathed under stair.

As a result of the end stair, the three-bay front facade is arranged asymmetrically on both stories. The front entrance bay is topped by a four-light transom and flanked by six-over-nine sash windows with their original louvered blinds and hardware. The arrangement on the second story consists of a central six-over-six window with single panel doors on each side which open directly into the two bedrooms which fill the entire second story. A one-story detached kitchen which stood behind the house was moved and attached to the north end of the house in the 1950s to provide a bedroom and bath.

The interior of the house follows a hall and parlor plan with a shed room across the rear which serves as a kitchen. The finish is simple throughout with the exception of a three-part Federal-style mantel in the parlor, a molded chair rail in the two downstairs rooms, and a two-part Federal-style mantel in the northern second story bedroom.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Construction c. 1825 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

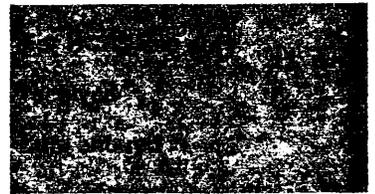
Built about 1825 on the bank of the Trent River in the small town of Pollocksville, the Bryan Lavender House is locally referred to as the Roscoe Barrus House after its later and more prominent owner. Barrus, who lived in the house between 1835 and 1870, established himself as a merchant and dealer in pharmaceuticals until the Civil War destroyed his business and wealth. The house, little altered since its construction, is of particular architectural interest due to its double-tier front porch with an enclosed end and exterior stair. Seldom seen in North Carolina outside of New Bern, the presence of a Charleston-type porch at the Lavender House provides an important link in the history of architectural development along the Atlantic coast from Charleston to New Bern and then upstream to Pollocksville.

### Criteria Assessment:

- B. Associated with Roscoe Barrus, a locally prominent merchant and businessman who established his pharmaceutical company, R. Barrus and Son, in Pollocksville in the 1850s and later opened stores in Baltimore and New York City.
- C. Along with three other National Register properties (Eagle Nest, Jones County; Harmony Hall and Prudie Place, Bladen County), the Lavender House shares the distinction of having an enclosed end, double-tier, Charleston-type porch and thus provides an important example in North Carolina's architectural history of a building form being transported from the port centers along the Atlantic coast and then inland along rivers.

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The Barrus House in Pollocksville was locally named for Roscoe Barrus, a wealthy and prominent resident in the antebellum era. The structure, however, appears to have been built about 1825 by Bryan Lavender who lived in the village nearly ten years. Lavender first appeared in Jones County in 1824 shortly after his marriage to Nicia Hellen.<sup>1</sup> In that year he purchased two small parcels of land near Trent Bridge from George Pollock and Solomon E. Grant.<sup>2</sup> Construction of his house apparently began soon afterwards. A community grew up around the post office established at Trent Bridge in 1828 and Lavender's house and half acre lot became a part of the village that was named Pollocksville in 1834.<sup>3</sup>

During the mid 1820s, Bryan Lavender bought a considerable amount of land in and around Pollocksville. Sometime in the later years of that decade he ran into severe financial difficulties which resulted in the mortgaging of his lands, including his house in town. A series of court ordered sales stripped Lavender of his property in Jones County. He took his family to Sumter County, Alabama, about 1835 and died there six years later.<sup>4</sup>

Among Lavender's creditors were Owen Adams and Roscoe Barrus who held a mortgage on the Trent Bridge (Pollocksville) lot. Upon petition by the creditors, the court ordered the house and lot sold, and on February 9, 1835, Owen Adams bought the property for \$500.<sup>5</sup> Less than a year later Adams sold the property to Roscoe Barrus for \$1,000. A mortgage deed from Barrus to Adams dated April 4, 1836, read in part:

Land at Trent Bridge formerly owned by Bryan Lavendar . . . purchased by Owen Adams and afterwards sold by him to R. Barrus . . . whereon the sd. Roscoe now lives. . . .<sup>6</sup>

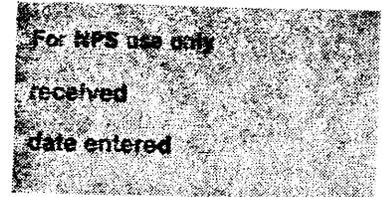
Barrus obviously moved into the house sometime between February 9, 1835 and April 4, 1836. He must have paid the debt to Owen since he retained possession of the property.

Roscoe Barrus was born August 13, 1800.<sup>7</sup> Sometime before 1829 he had married his wife Ann, who was seven years older.<sup>8</sup> Several children were born but only two, John A. and Eliza, survived to maturity.<sup>9</sup> After moving to Pollocksville, Roscoe Barrus established himself as a merchant and became moderately successful. His son John worked<sup>10</sup> as a clerk in the store and in the early 1850s father and son formed a partnership. R. Barrus & Son grew rapidly and by the mid 1850s, stores were opened in Baltimore and New York.<sup>11</sup> John died prematurely at age twenty eight (1857), leaving Roscoe to carry on the business. It was the second tragedy for Barrus in four years; his wife Ann had died in 1853.<sup>12</sup>

R. Barrus & Son specialized in drugs and pharmaceutical supplies. Near the Barrus dwelling on Main Street was the store and nearer to the Trent River stood the Barrus Warehouse.<sup>13</sup> An office in the yard of his home, mentioned in a later record, may have been constructed by Barrus for Dr. G. M. Morrison who lived with Barrus in 1860.<sup>14</sup> Dr. Morrison may have also tended to the duties of a druggist in Barrus's company.

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By 1860, Roscoe Barrus was a fairly wealthy man who had purchased numerous town lots, rural acreage, and five slaves of his own, not counting nineteen held in trust for minors. His real estate was valued at \$4,000 and personal property at \$11,200.<sup>15</sup> The Civil War, however, devastated his business, his financial status, and the man himself.

The records indicate that Barrus was a conscientious and sympathetic businessman who, while disliking his own indebtedness, was nevertheless lenient in extending credit to his customers. The war disrupted his Baltimore and New York businesses and virtually erased hopes of collecting the prewar debts. In addition, his warehouse had been burned during the war and with it his inventory of merchandise.<sup>16</sup> Instead of repudiating the debts he owed to others as many merchants had done, Barrus felt obligated to pay off as many as possible. On March 1, 1867, he sold all his town lots (about fourteen total acres), including the home in which he then lived, to his daughter Eliza for only \$1,500.<sup>17</sup> This appears to have been, in essence, a loan but that would apparently have been unacceptable to Roscoe Barrus. Thus, Eliza Barrus became owner of the house where she lived with her father.

Barrus's will, dated April 9, 1870, tells of the situation he found himself in after the war:

In consequence of losses I sustained by the effects of the late war I am utterly unable to pay the full amount of my indebtedness contracted before the war and from prospects before me at present I can see no probability of being able to do so by my labors and exertions in future as I have only these to rely upon for a living.<sup>18</sup>

He died December 9, 1870, and was buried in a cemetery near Lee's Chapel.<sup>19</sup>

Eliza Barrus never married, and for more than ten years before her death she required the services of an attendant because of an unidentified affliction.<sup>20</sup> Whether she continued to live in the Pollocksville home after her father's death, or whether she moved in with one of her nephews is uncertain. Eliza Barrus died in 1879 leaving all her real and personal property to her nephews Andrew G. Barrus and Isaac H. Barrus, and her niece Annie S. Barrus, the children of her brother John.<sup>21</sup> The heirs sold the house and lot to Clement Manly in 1888; thus possession passed out of the Barrus family where it had remained for over half a century.<sup>22</sup>

During the next forty years the property changed hands rapidly, much of the time in absentee ownership, until it came into the Bender family in 1928.<sup>23</sup> Though mortgaging it in the depression years during which other members held ownership, the Benders kept the property until 1942. On September 5, Annie Whitford Bender and her husband, W. R. Bender, sold the house and lot to Claude G. and Elizabeth L. Allen.<sup>24</sup> The Allens, both school teachers, lived in the house for almost forty years. The house was sold in 1984 to the current owner.

The Lavender House is of particular architectural significance due to its Charleston-type porch and enclosed exterior stair as the only access to the second floor. Designed to take advantage of prevailing winds in an area plagued by intense summer heat and humidity

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and to provide privacy in an urban setting, Charleston porches are typically two-tiered, extend the full length of the facade, and have one or both ends enclosed and pierced by windows.<sup>26</sup> As William Attmore wrote in 1787, this type porch was also conspicuous in New Bern, North Carolina.

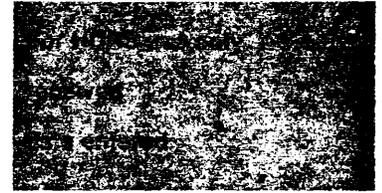
There are [1] to many of the houses [1] Balconies or Piazzas in front and sometimes back of the house, this Method of Building is found convenient on account of the great Summer Heats here . . . These Balconies are often two Stories high, sometimes one or both ends of it [them] are boarded up, and made into a Room.<sup>27</sup>

Located on the Trent River approximately fifteen miles upstream from New Bern, the Lavender House, like Eagle Nest (1789, NR) also in Jones County, can be seen as a direct descendent of these houses.

The presence of the enclosed exterior stair is another interesting feature rarely seen in North Carolina, and then usually in the warmer coastal plain. The only other known examples of such a stair are in Bladen County and are of much earlier construction with the stair located on the rear rather than the front elevation (Harmony Hall, ca. 1774, and Purdie Place, 1803-1806; both NR). The presence of both of these porch features makes the Lavender House an important element in North Carolina's architectural history, especially as it illustrates the adaptation of a specific porch type along the Atlantic coast from urbanized Charleston to New Bern and then up the Trent River to the small town of Pollocksville.

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Lavender Family File, Genealogy Branch, State Library, Raleigh. Information supplied by Helen Leary, Clytie Lavender and William Lavender, hereinafter cited as Lavender Family. See also land purchases by Lavender recorded in Jones County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Jones County Courthouse, Trenton, Deed Book 16, pp. 123 and 190, hereinafter cited as Jones County Deed Book.

<sup>2</sup>Jones County Deed Book 16, pp. 123 and 190.

<sup>3</sup>William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 391. For location of property in Trent Bridge (Pollocksville), see sale of Lavender property by Jacob Higgins, Clerk and Master in Equity, to Owen Adams, February 9, 1835, Jones County Deed Book 19, p. 309.

<sup>4</sup>Lavender Family.

<sup>5</sup>Jones County Deed Book 19, p. 309.

<sup>6</sup>Jones County Deed Book 19, p. 353. The index to Deed Book 19 shows a transfer from Adams to Barrus on page 383 which may have been the sale mentioned in the mortgage deed. That page, however, is missing from the deed book microfilmed by the Division of Archives and History.

<sup>7</sup>WPA Pre-1914 Graves Index, State Archives, Raleigh, arranged alphabetically by surname, hereinafter cited as WPA Graves Index.

<sup>8</sup>Roscoe and Ann's son, John A., was 21 years old in 1850; thus, he was born in 1829, indicating that his parents were married before that date. Ann's age in 1850 was listed as 56 and Roscoe's was 49. See Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: North Carolina-Jones County, Population Schedule, 112. Census records hereinafter cited by number, date, schedule, and page.

<sup>9</sup>WPA Graves Index; Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, 112; and Jones County Wills, Office of Clerk of Superior Court, Jones County Courthouse, Trenton, Will Book C, 11-13, hereinafter cited as Jones County Will Book.

<sup>10</sup>Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, 112. For partnership, see R. Barrus's will, Jones County Will Book C, 11-13. Since John Barrus died in 1857 (see fn. 12), the partnership had to be formed in the early fifties.

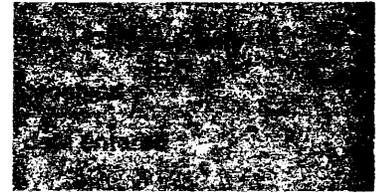
<sup>11</sup>See R. Barrus's Will, Jones County Will Book C, 11-13.

<sup>12</sup>WPA Graves Index.

<sup>13</sup>For reference to the lot "known as the Roscoe Barrus Store and Lot," see deed from Thos. A. Green and others to H. A. Chadwick, February 10, 1896, in Jones County Deed Book 40, p. 35. For warehouse location see Roscoe Barrus to Eliza Barrus, Jones County Deed Book 24, p. 124.

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<sup>14</sup>Reference to office was made in will of Eliza Barrus, Jones County Will Book C, folio 70.1. See also Eighth Census, 1860, Population Schedule, 19.

<sup>15</sup>See Jones County Deed Book 24, p. 124; and Eighth Census, 1860, Population Schedule, 19, and Slave Schedule, R. Barrus.

<sup>16</sup>See will of Roscoe Barrus, Jones County Will Book C, 11-13.

<sup>17</sup>Jones County Deed Book 24, p. 124.

<sup>18</sup>Jones County Will Book C, 11-13.

<sup>19</sup>WPA Graves Index.

<sup>20</sup>See will of Roscoe Barrus, Jones County Will Book C, 11-13. Eliza died in 1879 (see fn. 21).

<sup>21</sup>Jones County Will Book C, folio 70.1. There is also a loose copy of the will in the Jones County Records, Wills, State Archives, Raleigh.

<sup>22</sup>Jones County Deed Book 35, p. 242.

<sup>23</sup>See the following chain of title:  
 Clement Manly to Green and Foy, Deed Book 38, p. 370.  
 Green and Foy to H. A. Chadwick, Deed Book 40, p. 35.  
 H. A. Chadwick to W. F. Foy, Deed Book 62, p. 243.  
 W. F. Foy to B. C. Pollock, Deed Book 72, p. 165.  
 B. C. Pollock to W. F. Foy, Deed Book 78, p. 182.  
 S. M. Foy to W. R. Bender, Deed Book 85, p. 416.

<sup>24</sup>The property was mortgaged by W. R. Bender to Mrs. T. S. Bender who sold it back to Annie W. Bender, the wife of W. R. Bender. See Jones County Deed Book 101, p. 85 for listing of the legal maneuverings and the sale to the Allens.

<sup>25</sup>Letter from Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Allen to Larry E. Tise, director of the Division of Archives and History, April 27, 1977.

<sup>26</sup>Thomas T. Waterman and Frances Benjamin Johnson, Early Architecture of North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1941), 41.

<sup>27</sup>New Bern Historic District nomination file, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Pollocksville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	8	2	9	7	4	8	0	3	8	7	6	0	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property included in this nomination is the house and lot on which it stands as shown in red on the attached map. Newer residences are to the east and south of the house and lot

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Renee Gledhill-Earley, Survey Specilist  
Jerry L. Cross, Researcher

organization Survey and Planning Branch

organization Archaeology and Historic Preservation date December 198

organization N.C. Division of Archives and History

street & number 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William J. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 10, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

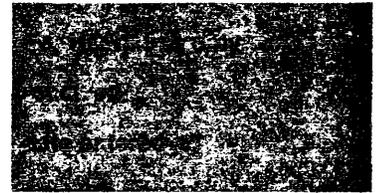
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

Page 1

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.1

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Wills

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Powell, William S. The North Carolina Gazetteer. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

Sharpe, Bill. A New Geography of North Carolina. 4 vols. Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Co., 1956-1965. I, 1919-1932.

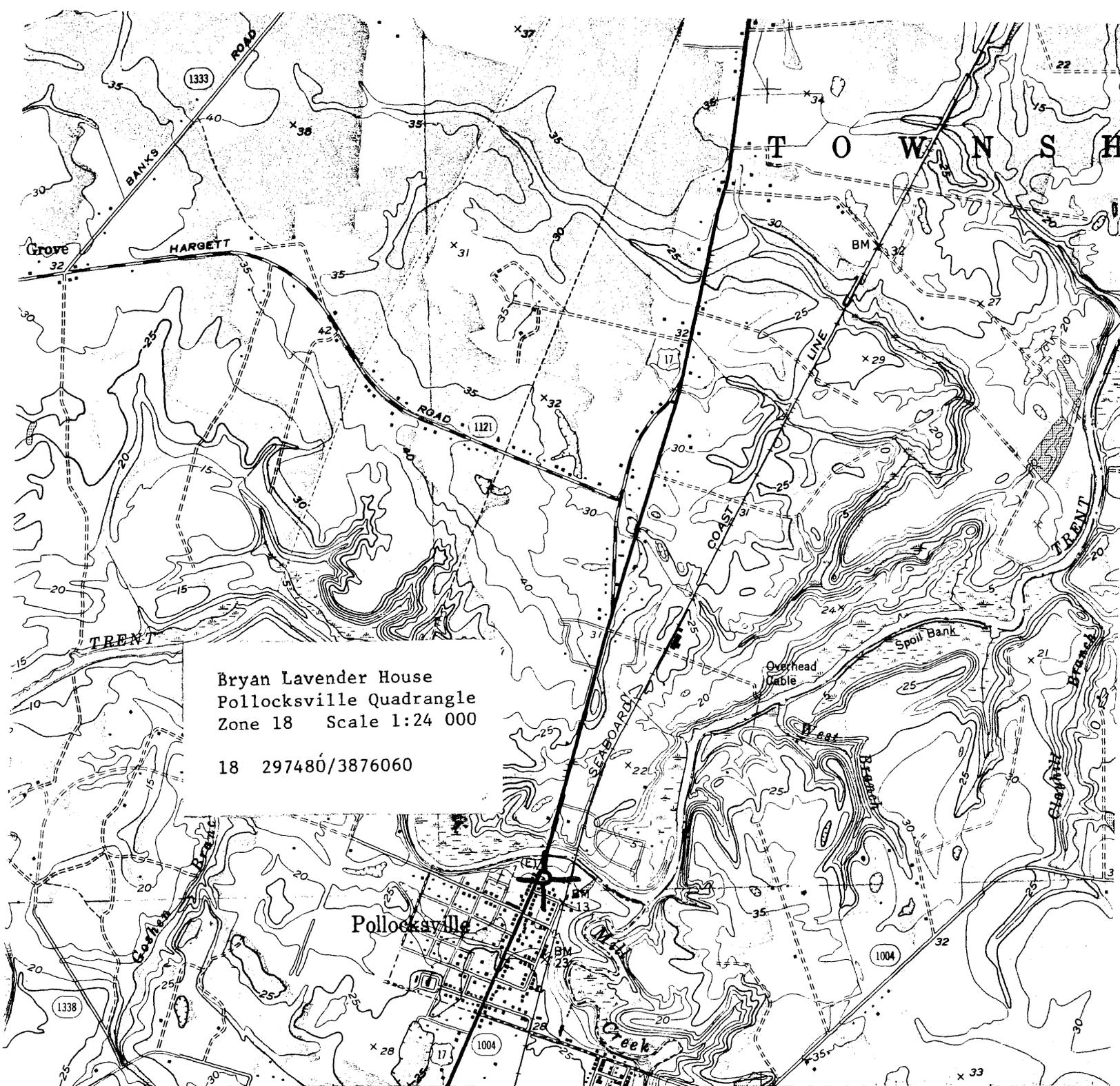
United States Census Records, 1850-1870.

W.P.A. Pre 1914 Graves Index. State Archives, Raleigh.

Waterman, Thomas T. and Johnson, Frances Benjamin. Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1941.

Unpublished source:

National Register nomination for the New Bern Historic District. Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.



Bryan Lavender House  
 Pollocksville Quadrangle  
 Zone 18 Scale 1:24 000

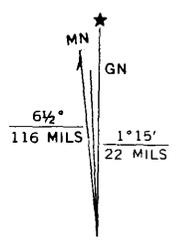
18 297480/3876060

Pollocksville

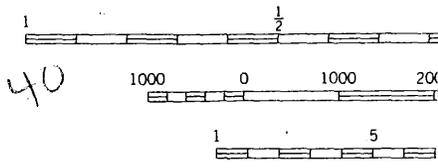
295 2 530 000 FEET 298 12'30" 299 300 (A)

by the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey  
 and published by the Geological Survey  
 by USC&GS and USCE (E)  
 and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
 46.  
 by plane-table surveys 1948. Field check 1950  
 c projection. 1927 North American datum  
 root grid based on North Carolina coordinate system  
 ction is made between dwellings, barns  
 ial and industrial buildings  
 ter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 shown in blue  
 shown in purple compiled by the Geological  
 om aerial photographs taken 1974. This  
 e not field checked

MAYSVILLE 7 MI.  
 JACKSONVILLE 23 MI.



JN 40



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

CONTC  
 NATIONAL GEO  
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESE  
 THE PERIODIC

THIS MAP COMPLIES W  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOI  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAI

