

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

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

1. Name

historic Ellington-Ellis Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N side SR 1004, 0.2 mi W of Jct with SR 1553 not for publication

city, town vicinity of Clayton

state North Carolina code county Johnston code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Duba E. Turley

street & number Route 1, Box 164

city, town vicinity of Clayton state NC 27520

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnston County Registry of Deeds

street & number Courthouse, East Market Street

city, town Smithfield state NC 27577

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Johnston County Historical Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date November 1981 to February 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records N.C. Division of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Branch

city, town Raleigh state NC 27611

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 Ellington-Ellis house, an impressive example of the Greek Revival style, is a two-story, T-plan dwelling of mortise-and-tenon and heavy frame construction and is sided with weatherboards. The original section, the arms of the T, was built in the mid-to-late 1830s for John F. Ellington (1806-1892) and faced the Raleigh-to-Smithfield road to the northeast. In the mid 1850s Ellington remodeled the house, in effect "turned it around"; to face the newly-built North Carolina Railroad on the southwest, at which time the two-story base of the T was enlarged from earlier shed rooms and a new, Victorian porch built.

The original three bay-by-two bay block is sheltered beneath a low hip roof and is flanked by exterior end chimneys of cut stone with brick stacks; it rests on a fieldstone foundation with cement block infill. Extending across the northeast elevation (original front, present rear) is the original three-bay porch, carried by four large solid pillars with handsome molded Doric capitals and displaying a dentiled cornice. The porch floor, recessed behind the pillars thus allowing the pillars to stand free, is contained by a rounded handrail and has a lattice railing. The wall area enclosed by the porch has flush sheathing. Enframing the six-over-six sash windows, diminished on the second floor, are handsome surrounds of symmetrical Greek Revival molding with cornerblocks. Louvered blinds are found at the windows of both levels. This same surround is also seen at the trabeated entrance which has multi-pane lights. Flat cornerboards rise to assist in carrying the boxed cornice.

The present front facade on the southwest, the result of the mid-1850s remodeling, is composed of the two-story base of the T, centrally placed beneath a front gable roof, and a pair of shed rooms, one each in the corners of the T. The tympanum of the front gable is covered with sheathed boards, has a quatrefoil ventilator, and is enframed by the modillioned returning and raking cornices that continue around the entire house. A small, hip-roofed porch shelters the central trabeated entrance and is carried by chamfered posts with molded capitals which are connected by a balustrade composed of a molded handrail supported by urn-shaped, turned balusters. Each of the flanking shed rooms is surmounted by a truncated hip roof which serves as a small second story porch that is accessible only by a door leading from the bedroom in the second story of the base of the T. The windows of this section contain six-over-six sash but are of more elongated, less Greek Revival proportions than those on the earlier block. The surrounds have a three-part molding on the outer edge and are also found on the entrance. These windows also have louvered blinds.

Extending from the northwest elevation of the house is the two-room kitchen/dining ell which was apparently added at the time of the mid-1850s remodeling. Across the ell's front (southwest) elevation is a shed porch (now screened) that is carried on square posts with curvilinear side scrolls. This ell was originally separated from the house by a seven foot wide breezeway which was enclosed in 1948. The windows in the ell have six-over-six sash. A brick interior chimney pierces the ell. The only other exterior alteration is a bathroom which was added in 1923 by Ellis on the second floor over the central portion of the original porch.

The spacious plastered interior, handsomely finished with typically restrained Greek Revival details, focuses upon the wide center hall where the open stringer stair rises from the southwest (original rear, present front) along the northwest wall. The rounded handrail is carried by slender, rectangular spindles, two per tread, and features a coiled, spindle-supported newel; simple curvilinear brackets support the treads. The doorways leading from the hall contain six-panel doors enframed by symmetrically-molded surrounds with cornerblocks resting on plinths. Completing the hall is a molded baseboard and a simple wooden molded cornice.

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The main body of the first floor is occupied by the two large parlors, each dominated by a handsome classical mantel; the southeast parlor is the finer of the two. Its mantel is especially handsome and has molded pilasters, a wide frieze and a molded shelf. The six-over-six sash windows are contained in surrounds with Greek Revival moldings that enframe molded panels beneath the windows; the door surround is similar. All the woodwork in the southeast parlor retains a lovely, dark stain. The northwest parlor has the same moldings as the other parlor, but its mantel is smaller and more simply finished. Two doors flank the mantel, both being replacements for former windows. They lead to a small bathroom which was added in 1948 when the breezeway was enclosed and to the dining ell. The two front shed rooms that flank the base of the T are finished like the rest of the house. The southeast room has a pair of fifteen-pane glass doors leading to the southeast parlor which were added in the 1910s; previously there was no door here. The northwest room, Ellis's farm office, has a slightly different molding at the two-panel door to the northwest parlor. The six-panel door on the room's northwest elevation which leads onto the ell's porch was, prior to 1948, the only access from the main house to the ell. The upstairs contains three large bedrooms, one in each arm of the T. Each room has a six-panel door and simple surrounds. The two rooms in the older section have traditional classical mantels; the other room has never had a fireplace.

The dining room, originally entered by a door centrally-located along its southeast wall, is surprisingly small for a house of this size and finish. It is finished with a simple wainscot of beaded tongue-and-groove boards, a small and plain classical mantel, and has a molded baseboard. To the northeast of the mantel is a traditional, built-in, china cabinet/pie safe, handsomely finished with sixteen pierced tin panels. A small, plainly finished kitchen occupies the rest of the ell and has a door on its northwest elevation. It is finished with sheathed boards and has lost its mantel. The well survives on the porch.

The Ellington-Ellis Farm contains three antebellum outbuildings that are architecturally important individually, and that collectively comprise the finest such complement in Johnston County. The smokehouse, with its soaring belltower, and the four-seat ladies' privy, date from the house's construction in the mid-to-late 1830s. The little playhouse dates from the house's remodeling in the mid-1850s. All three are sheltered under front gable roofs, are weatherboarded, and rest on foundations of brick piers.

The smokehouse, of mortise-and-tenon construction, is eight feet wide by seventeen feet deep and was expanded by later six-by-seventeen foot shed additions on each side. Rising from the front of the building and soaring above the complex is the remarkable, twenty-two foot tall, three-foot square, bell tower. It is crowned by a pyramidal roof from which projects a wooden finial. The roof's wide eaves, latticed on the soffit, protect the louvered upper portion of the tower which contains the bell. The bell's rope extends to the outside of the smokehouse door. This door, the central one of three, is enframed by the same symmetrically molded surrounds with cornerblocks as are on the original section of the house. In the unfinished interior survive several heavy wood salt boxes. The side sheds, the northwest one used by the Ellises for cider and vinegar and the southeast one for grease and oil, are of frame construction and retain the weatherboarding of the smokehouse side walls on their interiors. There are no other apertures to this combined smokehouse-vinegar room-oil room other than the single doors that lead to each one. The rear wall of the smokehouse is covered with vertical sheathing and the two sheds with board-and-battens; a large, later shed for wood and kindling storage protects the rear.

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The ladies' privy is ten-by-seventeen feet. Its front six-pane window is contained in a surround identical to that on the smokehouse door and the house. A simple plank door on the southwest end of the southeast elevation gives access to the privy's interior, which is plainly finished with unpainted sheathing and contains four seats of varying diameters. The interior is only five feet deep and the rest of the building is occupied by a storage room with a latticed northeast (rear) elevation where sawdust, which was used periodically to spread into the pit, was kept. The pit has been filled in for a number of years.

The charming nine-by-fourteen foot playhouse sports a hip-roofed porch on its southwest (front) facade that is a miniturization of the porch on the house. It has the same chamfered posts but with simpler molded capitals, and a molded handrail with replacements for the original turned balusters. Completing the one bay-by-one bay exterior are six-over-six sash windows contained in flat surrounds (with missing blinds), boxed cornices, a fascia board on the front gable, and a small, four raised panel door. The interior, plastered on the walls and ceiling, has plain surrounds and baseboards. The playhouse is currently used for storage.

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INVENTORY LIST OF OUTBUILDINGS...keyed to site plan.

- A Smokehouse (see item 7, continuation page 1)
- B Ladies' Privy (see item 7, continuation page 2)
- C Playhouse (see item 7, continuation page 2)
- D Washhouse--Frame, two-room, weatherboarded building facing southeast and sheltered under a front gable roof; fifteen feet wide by thirty-five feet deep. It has a small, front bay shed porch carried by turned posts, four-over-four window sash in flat surrounds, boxed cornices, projecting gables, a common bond interior chimney, and rests on a foundation of stone blocks. The interior is unfinished, with the southeast having been used for the washing (and hog killing) and the southwest room for the ironing. Charles P. Ellis had this washhouse built about 1900-1910. The well is at the porch and adjacent is a fence-enclosed yard containing a small chicken house.
- E Tenant house--Frame, thirty-by-thirty foot dwelling under a gable roof with asbestos shingles and a small central porch on the southwest. Built in 1956 for Tutsey Hinton and his wife Effie, lifelong residents and servants on the Ellis farm. The will of Charles P. Ellis (Johnston County Clerk of Courts Office, Will Book 15, Page 229; written June 11, 1946, probated January 5, 1956) instructed his heirs to "furnish Tutsey and Effie a house for as long as Tutsey and Effie shall live and render faithful service." Effie died within several years of this house's completion and Tutsey went back to his little house (G) in the field. The house has been occupied by tenants since.
- F Tobacco barn--Frame construction with asphalt siding and standing seam metal roof and cement block foundation. Metal shed on northwest. Built ca 1940s.
- G Tutsey's house--Frame, three-room dwelling with short rear ell on northeast. Three bay-by-one bay under a cross gable roof of standing seam metal and on a rock pier foundation. Covered with brick-patterned asbestos siding. No conveniences; abandoned and deteriorated. Used by man who rents farm for storage. Well is adjacent.
- H Barn--Actually originally a feed and hay storage building. Built in the late-nineteenth century and extensively restored (with some residing) about 1975 by a great-grandson of Charles P. Ellis. Thirty-five-by-forty-five foot building under a double slope gable roof with shed extensions on the sides. The front (northeast) facade is weatherboarded (replacement) and the rest of the building is sided with horizontal sheathing. Major members are mortise-and-tenon. Rests on piers of stacked fieldstones. Now houses several horses and related storage.
- I Old cemetery--Presumably for Blacks, shown on 1946 survey of the tract between the railroad and present SR 1004. There are no surviving markers although a number of grave depressions are evident. Now wooded and all overgrown.

LOST OUTBUILDINGS

- J Mule barn.
- K Potato house--shown on ca 1946 aerial photograph having a gable roof.
- L Chicken house--shown on ca 1946 aerial photograph having a hip roof.
- M Carriage house.
- N Gentlemen's privy.

OTHER LOCATIONS

- O Former vegetable garden.
- P Former Mrs. Ellis's flower garden.
- Q Former Duba E. Turley's flower garden.
- R Burial place for mules.
- S Mule pasture.
- T Entrance chute for mules between the barn and their pasture.
- U Field where cantaloupes were always raised.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 mid 1830s, mid a850s Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ellington-Ellis Farm is a strikingly handsome example of the prosperous farm complexes that developed in Johnston County during the antebellum period. It centers upon the impressive two-story, T-plan, Greek Revival dwelling erected in the mid-to-late 1830s for planter John F. Ellington (1806-1892). The house was remodeled in the mid 1850s to face the newly-built North Carolina Railroad to the southwest. The farm's remarkable smokehouse, ladies' privy, and privy constitute the most important collection of antebellum outbuildings in the county. Dominating the entire complex is the soaring, twenty-two foot tall belltower that rises from the smokehouse; this belltower is considered unique in North Carolina. In 1886 the farm was purchased by Charles Penny Ellis (1855-1955), who resided there for the remainder of his life. Ellis, in addition to being a successful and progressive farmer, also operated a cotton gin which was the largest in this part of the county, a grist mill, and a saw mill. The farm, containing the dwelling house, the smokehouse, the ladies' privy, the playhouse, the washhouse, the barn, a tobacco barn, two tenant houses, and an old black cemetery, is picturesquely sited on 57.77 acres one mile northwest of Clayton and continues in Ellis Family ownership.

Criteria Assessment

A The dwelling house is an important and early example of the Greek Revival style in the 1830s in Johnston County and displays modest Victorian embellishments added during a mid-1850s remodeling. The three antebellum outbuildings, especially the smokehouse, are important individually and collectively comprise the finest complement of antebellum outbuildings in the county finished with flourish.

B Associated with the farm are three men of importance and prominence in Johnston and Wake Counties: John F. Ellington (1806-1892), the builder and the county's representative to the State General Assembly in 1838-1839, and in his later years a prominent local Baptist minister; his son, Joseph C. Ellington (1843-1905), who was State Librarian from 1893-1897 and was elected to the North Carolina Senate in 1904 from Wake County; and Charles Penny Ellis (1855-1955), who bought the farm in 1886 and was a leader in the Clayton area's farming, religious, civic and educational circles.

C The farm is associated with the development of agriculture in Johnston County from the mid-1830s until the 1950s. Its collection of antebellum outbuildings is the finest such group in the county. From the 1850s until about 1940 the area's largest cotton gin was located on this farm and ginned several thousand bales a year in the 1930s when Johnston County was among the state's leaders in the production of cotton.

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Statement of Historical Significance

John F. Ellington was born in Johnston County, North Carolina in 1806, the son of Jesse Ellington, Jr. and Elizabeth (Betsy) Brannan. On January 3, 1831 John F. Ellington married Christiana Avera¹ (born ca1815), the daughter of Thomas and Judith (Jones) Avera of Johnston County. Ellington purchased his first tract of land, 261 acres on the south side "of the Road leading from Raleigh to Smithfield", on November 13, 1833 from William W. Avera²; it is not known whether the grantor was any relation to Ellington's wife. It is upon this tract that the house was built, facing the road to the northeast. In 1838-1839³ Ellington represented Johnston County in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

The Ellington plantation was typical of the self-sufficient, or nearly so, plantations of the upper Coastal Plain in eastern North Carolina and his dwelling and the complex reflected his status as a successful planter, ranking among the upper quarter of the county's farmers. The 1850 Census, Agriculture Schedule, records that Ellington owned 600 acres of land with a value of \$2000. His livestock, consisting of horses, cows, oxen, cattle, sheep, and swine, had a value of \$400. Crop production was 625 bushels of Indian corn, fifty bushels of sweet potatoes, and 100 bushels of peas and beans. He raised no cotton (cotton was not widely grown in Johnston County until the 1850s). In 1850 Ellington owned twelve slaves⁴. The population schedule for 1850 lists in the Ellington household the builder, his wife, and six children (Cornelia age 18, Martha 13, John 10, Jesse 8, Joseph 6, and Julia 5).

The 1850s were a decade of major agricultural and industrial expansion in Johnston County and on the Ellington plantation. The North Carolina Railroad Company was chartered by the State General Assembly in 1848-1849 to construct a line from Goldsboro to Charlotte⁵, and in 1852 Ellington granted a right-of-way across his property to the company. The construction of this railroad afforded much improved transportation of products to market for the area farmers and ushered in a boom period before the Civil War. Its most pronounced effect upon the Ellington plantation was the remodeling of the dwelling's southwest elevation, the original rear, into the new (and present) front facade since it now faced the railroad. The 1850s was a prosperous decade agriculturally, for at the end of the decade Ellington had become one of the wealthiest planters in the area, owning 750 acres⁶ with a value of \$4500 and having a personal estate valued at \$19,799⁸. In 1860 he owned twenty-one slaves⁷. Cotton had by then become the dominant crop and Ellington raised 8000 ginned pounds. Additionally he raised 1000 bushels of Indian corn, 150 bushels of peas and beans, 100 bushels of sweet potatoes, and six tons of hay. His livestock had a value of \$1055¹⁰. Ellington also operated a large, water-powered cotton gin which yielded 116,660 pounds of ginned cotton and a water-powered grist mill which produced 2500 bushels of corn meal¹¹.

The end of the Civil War effected a major change from the slave-holding plantation to the crop lien/tenant system of working the land. Because, in part, of the nearness of good transportation, the Ellington farm, like much of the county, by 1870 had made significant strides to recover its production levels of the 1850s and had an output of 6750 pounds of ginned cotton. The farm's total estimated value of its production, \$2227, was the second highest in Clayton Township¹³. There is no mention of either the cotton gin or the grist mill in the 1870 Census of Industry. In 1864¹⁴ Ellington had inherited the lands of his father and owned about 1400 acres in 1870¹⁵.

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In 1871 Ellington and his wife sold two tracts of land totaling 517 acres, including the house tract, to their son Joseph C. Ellington¹⁶. The elder Ellington then retired into Clayton where he continued his farming interests and was a Baptist minister. He died on February 9, 1892 and his wife died on July 14th of the same year.

Joseph Crittendom Ellington, born September 17, 1843, was born and reared on this farm. With his brother, Jesse T. Ellington (1842-1910), he served in the North Carolina Infantry, Fiftieth Regiment, Company C during the Civil War. Joseph enlisted on February 17, 1862 as a First Sergeant and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant¹⁷. On November 15, 1864 he married Elizabeth (Bettie) Tomlinson (born February 1, 1843), the daughter of Bernice Harris and Elizabeth (Walton) Tomlinson of Johnston County.

Ellington is listed as a farmer in the 1870 Census owning 600 acres and raising 1800 pounds of ginned cotton. By 1880 he had expanded his landholdings to 1615 acres and was among the wealthiest and most productive farmers in the area. His farm had a value of \$10,000 and the estimated value of all its products for the past year was \$5000¹⁸. In addition to cotton (4500 pounds ginned), corn, sweet potatoes, and the live-stock, the Ellington farm produced fifty pounds of rice, had apple and peach orchards, and cut 600 cords of wood valued at \$5000. Some of this wood was sawn into lumber at his steam-operated sawmill which had one circular saw. One of the many sawmills in Johnston County that made the county a major producer of lumber in the late nineteenth century, the Ellington mill produced \$5000 worth of wood products¹⁹. The 1880 Census lists the builder, his wife, and seven children: Lela 13, Bayard 12, Joseph 9, Lizzie 8, Clyde 5, Bernice 3, and Walton 1.

In 1886 Ellington sold the farm (actually traded this 245 acre tract and \$4000 for a 320 acre farm and \$5414) to Charles Penny Ellis²⁰. Later moving to Raleigh, Ellington was the State Librarian from 1893 to 1897 and in 1904 was elected as a Democrat to the State Senate from Wake County²¹. He died on June 13, 1905 and his wife died on August 3, 1920.

Charles Penny Ellis, the youngest son of William Astron and Autney Ann (Parrish) Ellis, was born on December 26, 1855 at the former community of Roxboro Hall, which was east of present day Clayton. His grandfather, John Ellis (ca. 1780-1841), appears to have settled in Johnston County in the late eighteenth century²². On January 14, 1880 Charles P. Ellis married Annir Temple Barnes (born September 30, 1861), the daughter of Henry and Jensie (Woodard) Barnes. They had ten children, all but two born in this house: Nita (born 1880), Beatrice (1884), Ruby (1887), Ronnie B. (1889), Clyde (dau. 1892), Duba (1895), Clee (1897), William Astron (1899), Helen (1902), and Annie V. (1907).

The 1880 Census, taken before his purchase of this farm, shows Ellis as a beginning farmer, producing 2700 pounds of ginned cotton. Beginning with this farm in 1886, as he prospered Ellis²³ purchased additional land and in 1914 he owned about 1000 acres with no indebtedness. His farm operations were extensive and included at least six tenant farms. In addition to being a major cotton grower, he operated the largest cotton gin in the Clayton vicinity. Farmers often traveled over six miles to the Ellis gin, bypassing the Horne gin in Clayton because of the farmers' affection for "Uncle Charlie", as Ellis was known throughout the area. Built about 1900 near the pond to the west (on land no longer in the Ellis family), the operation ginned several thousand bales a year at its peak of operations in the 1930s when Johnston County annually was among the top three cotton counties in the state, having outputs in the range of thirty and forty-thousand bales. The gin and its barns, and the adjacent sawmill and grist mill, all steam operated, burned about 1940 and were never rebuilt²⁴.

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A progressive farmer always striving for better productions, Ellis kept abreast of the changing farm scene by modernizing his farm plant and improving his farming methods. In about 1923, after the town of Clayton refused to run their electricity lines to his farm, Ellis paid for the one mile of lines himself²⁵. In 1927, at the age of seventy-two, Ellis was selected the champion of a contest conducted by the Chilean Nitrate of Soda Fertilizer Company to promote the use of its products for greater cotton yields. (Ellis's winning yield was 2413 pounds per acre). As his prize, he was awarded, along with the other regional winners, a trip to Florida and Cuba in 1928²⁶. In addition to his cotton, Ellis was also known for his cantaloupe productions. He was raising cantaloupes at least by 1900 and their production peaked in the late 1930s when approximately fifteen acres were planted. Honeydews and watermelons were also grown, but never on the scale of the cantaloupes²⁷. The farm also contained extensive orchards of apples, pears, plums, cherries, and peaches.²⁸ Some of this fruit was sold, but most of it was used by the Ellises and their tenants.

Ellis succeeded his brother Jack Ellis (1847-____) as the chairman of the Clayton School board and served²⁹ for thirty years, during which time three modern, brick school buildings were erected. He was a lifelong Baptist, a strong Democrat, a Mason, and a honorary Rotarian. Ellis, whose trademark was a black silk derby that he wore everywhere (he said that a derby would not blow off his head), died on December 6, 1955, twenty days short of his one-hundredth birthday. His wife had preceeded him in death on May 4, 1945.

Ellis left his estate to his daughters Ruby and Duba, who had continued to reside at home. Ruby, who never married, died in 1963 at the age of seventy-six. Miss Duba, as she is affectionately known throughout the Clayton area, was married in 1919 to Joseph Benton Turley (1896-1921) of Clayton and continues to reside in the only house she has ever called home.

Footnotes

- 1 Genealogical Society of Utah, Johnston County Marriage Bonds, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1937), p.68.
- 2 Johnston County Registry of Deeds, Deed Book Q2, Page 168.
- 3 John L. Cheney, Jr., (ed.), North Carolina State Government, 1585-1979, (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, Revised Printing, 1981), p. 1180.
- 4 1850 Census, Slave Schedule for Johnston County.
- 5 Laws of the State of North Carolina, 1848-1849, (Raleigh: Thomas J. Lemay, Printer, 1849), p.138.
- 6 Johnston County Registry of Deeds, Deed Book K6, Page 167.
- 7 1860 Census, Agricultural Schedule for Johnston County.
- 8 1860 Census, Population Schedule for Johnston County.
- 9 1860 Census, Slave Schedule for Johnston County.
- 10 1860 Census, Agricultural Schedule for Johnston County.
- 11 1860 Census, Industrial Census for Johnston County.
- 12 1860 Census, Population Schedule for Johnston County.
- 13 1870 Census, Agricultural Schedule for Johnston County.
- 14 Will of Jesse Ellington, Jr., Johnston County Clerk of Courts Office, Will Book 2, Page 49, Dated May 12, 1861. Probated February Court 1864.
- 15 1870 Census, Agricultural Schedule for Johnston County.
- 16 Johnston County Registry of Deeds, Deed Book D3, Page 620 and 625.

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- 17 Walter Clark, (ed.), Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-1865, (Goldsboro, N.C.: Nash Brothers, 1901), PP. 160-204. Joseph C. Ellington wrote the history of the Fiftieth Regiment. His brother, Jesse Ellington, who also grew up in this house, later served as the Johnston County Sheriff for twenty years preceeding his death in 1910. Two of Jesse's sons, grandsons of the builder, achieved national prominence. Douglas Ellington (1886-1960) in 1912 became the first American to win the Prix Rougevin for architecture at the Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris and later became a prominent architect in Asheville, North Carolina. Eric L. Ellington (1889-1913) was an aviation pioneer and it is for him that the Ellington Air Force Base is named.
- 18 1880 Census, Agricultural Schedule for Johnston County.
- 19 1880 Cunsus, Industrial Census for Johnston County.
- 20 Johnston County Registry of Deeds, Deed Book S4, Page 555 and 563.
- 21 Obituary in Raleigh News and Observer, June 14, 1905.
- 22 Johnston County Registry of Deeds, Deed Book V1, Page 313.
- 23 N. R. Wilson, "Uncle Charlie is Leader in Community," The Smithfield Herald, July 16, 1946, p.2.
- 24 Interview with Mrs. Duba E. Turley and Mrs. Annie V. E. Longwell, daughters of Charles P. Ellis and both residents of Clayton, N.C., at the Ellington-Ellis Farm on February 20, 1983.
- 25 ibid.
- 26 ibid. Also a labeled documentary photograph owned by them, the Raleigh News and Observer, December 21, 1953, p.6, and Ellis's souvenir booklet from the tour.
- 27 ibid. Interview with Ellis daughters.
- 28 ibid.
- 29 op.cit., Wilson, The Smithfield Herald.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900 Censuses; Population, Agricultural, Slave and Industrial Schedules; Deed Records; Johnston County Registry of Deeds, Smithfield, NC 27577.
 Newspapers: Raleigh News and Observer, 6-14-1905, 12-21-1953; The Smithfield Herald, 7-16-194
 Interview with daughters of Charles P. Ellis.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 57.77

Quadrangle name Clayton, NC

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

17	728380	39500410
----	--------	----------

 Zone Easting Northing

B

17	328420	39505710
----	--------	----------

 Zone Easting Northing

C

17	728070	39506610
----	--------	----------

D

17	7277610	395001610
----	---------	-----------

E

17	728260	394991010
----	--------	-----------

F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets

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 Tom Butchko, Preservation Consultant

organization

date March 1, 1983

street & number Post Office Box 2193

telephone (919) 93404092

city or town Smithfield,

state North Carolina 27577

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 S. Rice, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

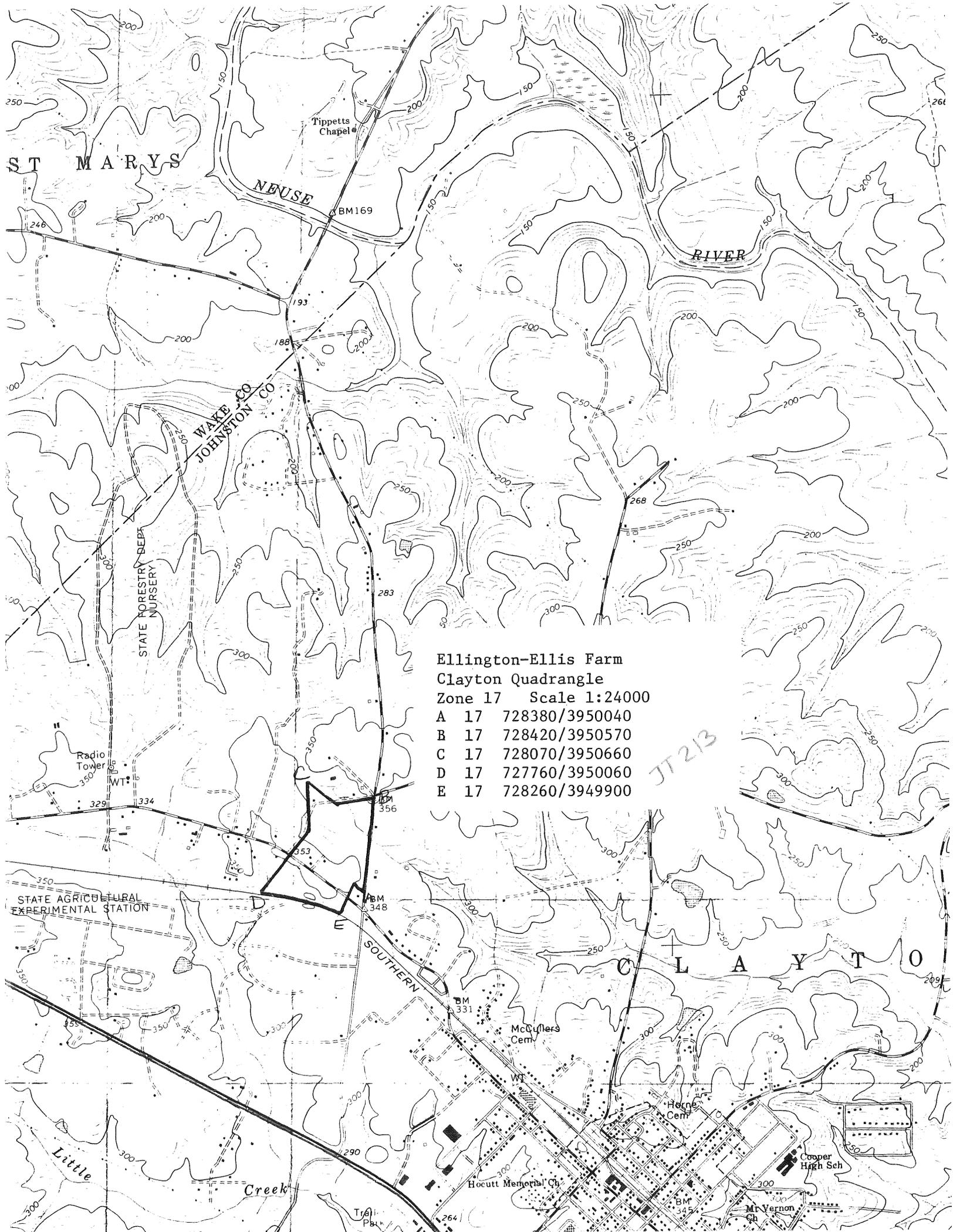
Item number

10

Page

Verbal Boundary description and justification.

The property to be nominated, a total of 57.77 acres on both sides of SR 1004 one mile northwest of Clayton, is bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of SR 1004 (Old US 70) and SR 1553 (Shotwell Road) and excluding the Ronnie B. Ellis house lot that occupies that northwest corner, and running along the western edge of SR 1553, crossing a small creek, and climbing a small hill to a dirt path which lies across from the junction of SR 1553 and SR 1700; turning west and continuing along this path, crossing an earthen dam and continuing along the western edge of the pond through the woods to a cement pillar; turning south and coming out of the woods, and continuing along a dirt farm road to its intersection with SR 1004; crossing the road and continuing in the same direction along the boundary between a field and a house lot, crossing another earthen dam, and continuing to the tracks of the Southern Railway (note: the Railway has a one hundred foot-right-of-way on both sides of its tracks); turning eastward and following the tracks until one is in line with the western boundary of the Ronnie B. Ellis house lot; and turning to the northeast and continuing to the beginning. This property consists of the two tracts of land associated with the dwelling house and which are still owned by Mrs. Duba E. Turley, the daughter of Charles P. Ellis and the occupant of the house. The first tract, the house lot, contains 42.34 acres and is shown on a "Survey of the Duba E. Turley Farm," dated January 21, 1983 and surveyed by I. Warwick of Clayton, NC. The second tract contains 14.43 acres and is shown on a survey, "Property of Duba E. Turley", dated March 22, 1976 by surveyor Billy Alford Hocutt. Copies of both surveys are attached along with a 1946 survey of the second tract.



ST MARYS

NEUSE

RIVER

WAKE CO
JOHNSTON CO

STATE FORESTRY DEPT
NURSERY

Radio
Tower

STATE AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENTAL STATION

Ellington-Ellis Farm
Clayton Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:24000
A 17 728380/3950040
B 17 728420/3950570
C 17 728070/3950660
D 17 727760/3950060
E 17 728260/3949900

JT213

SOUTHERN

C L A Y T O

Little
Creek

McCullers
Cem

Herne
Cem

Cooper
High Sch

Hocutt Memorial Ch

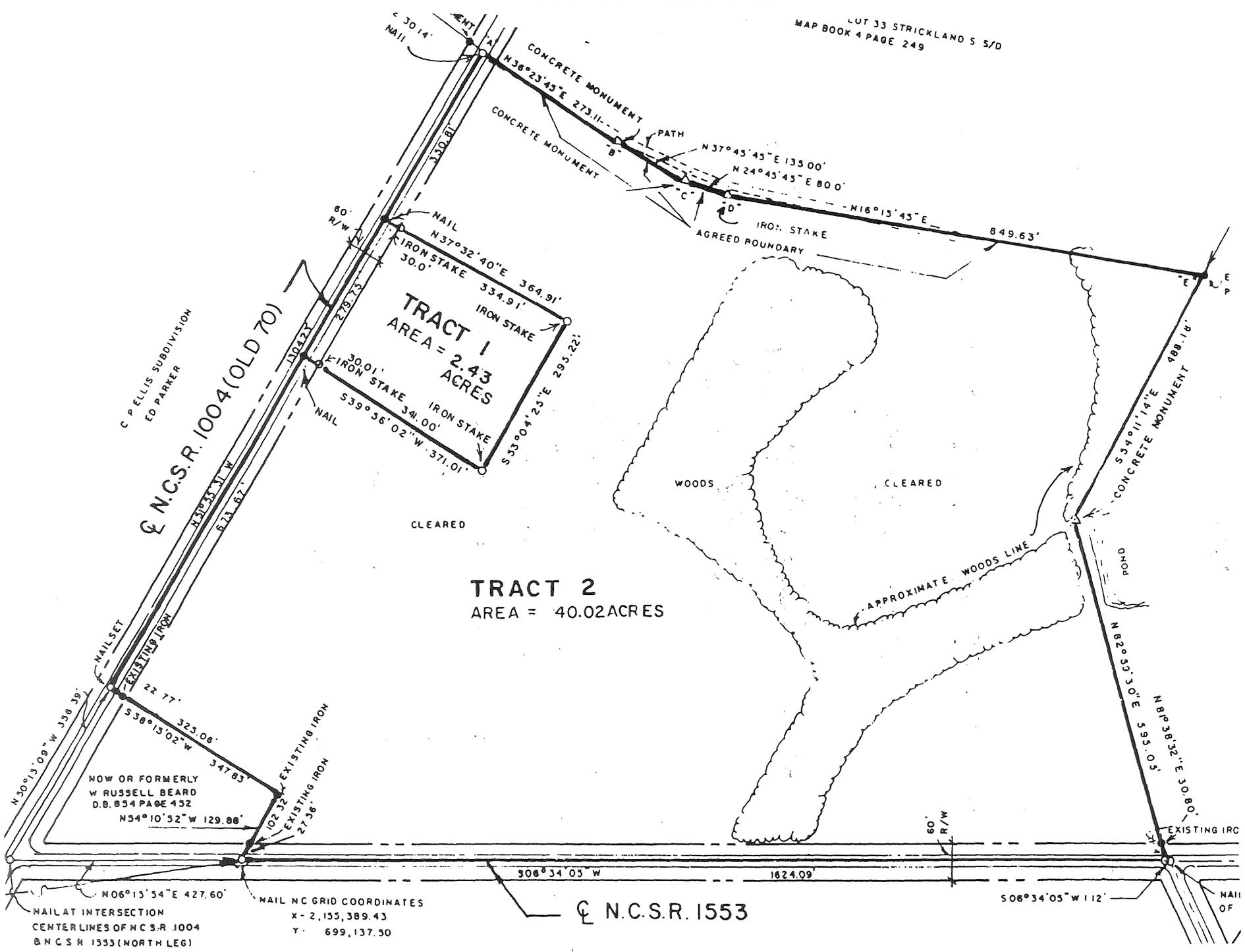
Mt Vernon
Ch

Trail
PBI

1990 - sale

SURVEY MAP OF THE PROPERTY

LOT 33 STRICKLAND S/S/D
MAP BOOK 4 PAGE 249



TRACT 2
AREA = 40.02 ACRES

TRACT 1
AREA = 2.43 ACRES

☪ N.C.S.R. 1553

NAIL AT INTERSECTION
CENTER LINES OF N.C.S.R. 1004
& N.C.S.R. 1553 (NORTH LEG)

NAIL NC GRID COORDINATES
X - 2,135,389.43
Y - 699,137.30

NOW OR FORMERLY
W. RUSSELL BEARD
D.B. 854 PAGE 432
N54°10'52"W 129.88'

