

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL 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 The Black-Cole House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER At the end of SR 1222

CITY, TOWN

Eastwood

☒ VICINITY OF

8th

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Moore

CODE

125

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Leach

STREET & NUMBER

19 Forest Drive

CITY, TOWN

Thomasville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

27360

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Moore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Carthage

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in the Sandhills region, the Black-Cole House is at the end of a long, sandy road and its location is marked by ancient pine, cedars, and magnolia trees. Owing to the topography it would be difficult to say why this location was chosen over any other spot on its supporting farm. Based on architectural evidence it is thought the house may have been built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

The house itself is small and quiet. Unpainted lapped siding encases a one-story house resting on short brick piers. An engaged porch supported by rounded posts above the now missing balustrade carries the length of the four-bay front; the porch is sheltered by an extension of the main roof, which rises to a high ridge to accommodate a finished attic. The most unusual feature of this house is its clipped gables; they are unique in this type house in this state, to the best of our knowledge. Fenestration of the flush-sheathed front porch wall includes two entrances located side-by-side in the center of the wall, flanked by windows with six-over-six sash which are found throughout the main block. (The window sash and frames appear to have been replaced in the main block.) The doors of the main block have six flat panels which are slightly raised on the back side. A baseboard enhances the front porch as a living space. Brick, single-shoulder, common bond (5/1) exterior end chimneys with small shoulders, rest on a stone foundation at each gable end. The fenestration of each gable end is the same, two windows to the rear of the chimneys at the first level and windows flanking the chimney at the attic level.

A mid-nineteenth century low, three-bay, hip-roof wing extends from the center of the rear of the main block with windows flanking in the rear side of the main block. The wing rests on stone piers and was connected to the main block by a breezeway which is now enclosed. An interior chimney pierces the roof ridge about two-thirds the length of the wing roof. The wing is one-bay wide and has two windows spaced along the length of the wing with a door near the rear. The windows have nine-over-six sash with Greek Revival frames and plain corner blocks. The doors are also typical Greek Revival with two vertical panels.

The interior of the original block follows a two-room plan with engaged shed rooms. The left front door opens into the largest room of the house with the right opening into a slightly smaller room which houses the enclosed stair. The stair rises from what was once a central porch, flanked by small rooms. A small molded cornice, embedded chair rail, and baseboards adorn the horizontal sheathing of the front rooms. The fireboxes have arched openings surmounted by a large horizontal flat panel. Truncated, reeded pilasters support the austere mantel. Simple, molded door and window frames survive throughout the main block, as do both butt hinges and strap hinges and other hardware. The attic which is divided into a hall and two rooms, is also finished with horizontal sheathing but the doors and their frames are of Greek Revival character, like the wing, suggesting that these rooms were finished when the wing was built. The second floor rooms have arched fireplace openings but no mantels.

The rear wing contains two rooms, a dining room and kitchen. Plastered fireplaces project into the rooms, more so in the kitchen than the dining room. Both rooms are horizontally sheathed and finished as simply as the rest of the house.

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Near the house is a board and batten smokehouse with Greek Revival trim. There are also a log corncrib and barn that are probably of late-nineteenth or early twentieth century origins. Both have saddle notching. There are two other board and batten outbuildings, one without windows and only a door, the other with a central entrance flanked by nine-over-six sash windows. The latter once sat near the front of the house and was the commissary.

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Black-Cole House, surrounded by its supporting acreage on both sides of the Little River, has long been a landmark in that section of Moore County. While the exact origins of the house are unclear and impossible to document owing to the loss of many of the Moore County records in 1889, the molded Federal woodwork and construction details, including the clipped gable roof, would suggest that it was constructed in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. An ell featuring Greek Revival woodwork was later added to its rear elevation. Since its acquisition by Richard Cole in the third quarter of the nineteenth century the house has remained in the hands of his descendants. During the years 1890-1907 an outbuilding on the property served as the Rubicon Post Office.

- Criteria Assessment:
- (B) According to family tradition the house is associated with the Black family who were among the prominent settling families in Moore County. The Cole Family also has a long and prominent history in the county.
 - (C) The house's construction utilizes a clipped gable roof which is rare in the state. As a small plantation house in the Sand Hills of North Carolina the house is a good example of its type.

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Due to a courthouse fire in 1889, which destroyed many of the records of Moore County, reliable historical information on Richard A. Cole and his home on Little River has proven difficult to find. According to family tradition, Cole married in 1853 and soon afterward moved into the house, having purchased it from its builder--a man whose surname was Black. The initials "M.B." appear on the chimney along with a date which looks like "1851."¹ Cole, a farmer by occupation, apparently spent most of his adult life in the house.

The history of the Cole House has been traced with certainty only as far back as 1916, when at the time of Richard A. Cole's death, his lands (totaling 1,036 acres) were divided among his eight heirs. The tract with the house on it went to a son, Thomas W. Cole, who kept it until his death in 1951. The house has remained in possession of the Cole family down to the present day. The current owners of the house are Charles A. Leach and his wife Edith Cole Leach,² who purchased the property on July 2, 1968. Mrs. Leach was born in the house.

Research in the records of Moore County and in other sources yielded little precise information on the house. Richard A. Cole was born on September 11, 1830, and in 1850 he was residing in the³ household of his father William Cole, located on McLendon's Creek in Moore County. Soon after his marriage in 1853, he began to acquire land, and by 1860 he had gained possession of several tracts located in several different areas of the county. Although some of this land was on or near Little River, it is very unlikely that he acquired the house during the 1850s. His purchase of 83 acres on McLendon's Creek from his father for \$600 in 1857, coupled with census data from 1860, suggests that instead, he bought and moved into his father's home place. In 1860 the Richard A. Cole household included Cole's wife Margaret, his three children, and two boarders. Several of the neighboring households were the same as those of his father William Cole in 1850. On the other hand, the William Cole household of 1860 had an entirely⁴ different set of neighbors from 1850, which suggests that the father had moved.

From the surviving deeds in the Moore County records, and from land records in the Richard A. Cole Papers it is certain that during the 1860s Cole acquired over two thousand acres on Little River. It seems likely that Cole moved into the Little River home sometime during the decade of the 1860s. But from the descriptions of the various tracts of land, it is difficult to determine which deed if any included the house tract. It is quite possible⁵ that the deed for the land on which the house sits was lost in the courthouse fire. In any case, the 1870 census suggests that sometime during the decade of the 1860s, Richard A. Cole moved, since his neighbors were completely different from those of 1860s. In 1880, many of his neighbors were the same as in 1870, which implies that he remained in the same place. As of 1880, his household included his wife and seven children. (His oldest daughter had by this time left home.)⁶

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During the three decades after 1880, Cole seems to have purchased no more land, but he did sell some of his holdings, including at least three tracts to his wife Margaret. In 1909, apparently as part of bankruptcy proceedings, Cole's homestead and personal property were appraised at about \$700. Included in the homestead were four tracts of land totaling 357 acres. None of them was described as being on Little River.

Cole died on May 30, 1916. His lands then consisted of 1,036 acres, and, in contrast to the situation at the time of the bankruptcy proceedings in 1909, they included the lot on which the Little River home stands.

According to family tradition, the Rubicon Post Office and a store (probably both in the same building) were situated near the house for a time. Post Office Department records reveal that there was indeed a Rubicon Post Office during the period 1890-1907 and that its postmasters were Samuel P. Cole (postmaster 1890-1894) and William W. Cole (1894-1907), both of whom were sons of Richard A. Cole.

FOOTNOTES

¹Rebecca Strowd to Ruth Little-Stokes, August 12, 1974, National Register Nomination File for Black-Cole House, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, hereinafter cited as Black-Cole House File.

²Moore County Deeds, Book 68, pp. 66-78; Book 174, p. 581; Book 185, p. 564; Book 291, p. 78, microfilm copies, Division of Archives and History, hereinafter cited as Moore County Deeds. See also copy of deed of July 2, 1968; and Edith and Charles Leach to Larry E. Tise, April 28, 1976, both in Black-Cole House File.

³Works Progress Administration, Cemetery Index, Division of Archives and History, hereinafter cited as W.P.A. Cemetery Index; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Moore County, North Carolina, as reprinted in Rassie E. Wicker (ed.), Miscellaneous Ancient Records of Moore County, N.C. (N.p.: Moore County Historical Association, 1971), pp. 127-128.

⁴Deed of August 29, 1953, Richard A. Cole Papers, Division of Archives and History, hereinafter cited as Richard A. Cole MSS; Moore County Deeds, Book 8, p. 211; Book 23, p. 314; Book 25, pp. 316, 319; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Moore County, North Carolina Population Schedule, p. 219, 224.

⁵Moore County Deeds, Book 14, pp. 242, 245; Indenture of November 18, 1872, Richard A. Cole MSS.

⁶Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Moore County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Jackson Springs No. 10 Township, 5; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Moore County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Mineral Springs Township, 8.

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⁷ Moore County Deeds, Book 113, p. 81; Book 30, p. 222; Deed of July 1, 1904, Richard A. Cole MSS.

⁸ Moore County Deeds, Book 43, p. 267.

⁹ W.P.A. Cemetery Index; "Death of Mrs. Richard Cole," Fayetteville Observer, June 7, 1916; Moore County Deeds, Book 68, pp. 66-78.

¹⁰ Undated "Historic Sites Survey" form and undated note entitled "From U.S. Postal Dept.," both in Black-Cole House File; Official Postal Guide: January, 1890, U. S. Post Office Department (Washington: Brodix Publishing Company, 1890), p. 376; Official Postal Guide: January, 1891, U. S. Post Office Department (Baltimore: Sadler Publishing Co., 1891), p. 394; Official Postal Guide: January, 1907, U. S. Post Office Department (Albany: J. B. Lyon, 1907), p. 447; Official Postal Guide: July, 1908, U. S. Post Office Department (Albany: J. B. Lyon, 1908), p. 413; Official Register of the United States, as of July 1, 1890, Vol. II: The Post Office Department and the Postal Service, U. S. Bureau of the Census (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1890), pp. 681-682, hereinafter cited as Official Register, followed by date, volume, and page; Official Register, July 1, 1893, Vol. II, p. 750; Official Register, July 1, 1895, Vol. II, p. 265; Official Register, July 1, 1905, Vol. II, p. 233; Official Register, July 1, 1907, Vol. II, p. 375.

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Subgroups: Deeds, Estate Papers, Wills, Court Records.

National Register Nomination File for Black-Cole House. Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Section. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, North Carolina.

Office of the Census. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Moore County, North Carolina. Population Schedule. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Moore County, North Carolina. Population Schedule. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Moore County, North Carolina. Population Schedule.

Post Office Department. Official Postal Guide. January, 1890. January, 1891. January, 1907. January, 1908.

Robinson, Blackwell P. A History of Moore County, North Carolina: 1747-1847. Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Association, 1956.

Wellman, Manly W. The County of Moore: 1747-1847. Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Association, 1962.

Wicker, Rassie E. (ed.). Miscellaneous Ancient Records of Moore County, N. C. N. p.: Moore County Historical Association, 1971.

Works Progress Administration. Cemetery Index. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, North Carolina.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bureau of the Census. Official Register of the United States. Volume II; The Post Office Department and the Postal Service.

Cole, Richard A., Papers. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, North Carolina.

"Death of Mr. Richard Cole." Fayetteville Observer. June 7, 1916.

Moore County Records. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, North Carolina.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 5 acres—See attached deed between Lena Lassiter Cole and Charles A. Leach and wife Edith C. Leach, dated July 2, 1968 for boundary description. See also attached plat map.

A 1,7 6,3,7 5,6,0 3,9 0,3 5,6,0

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

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Description prepared by C. Greer Suttlemyre

Significance prepared by John Easterly, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

733-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

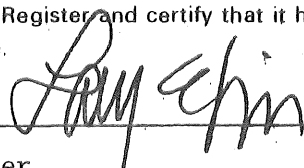
NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL X

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 March 8, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

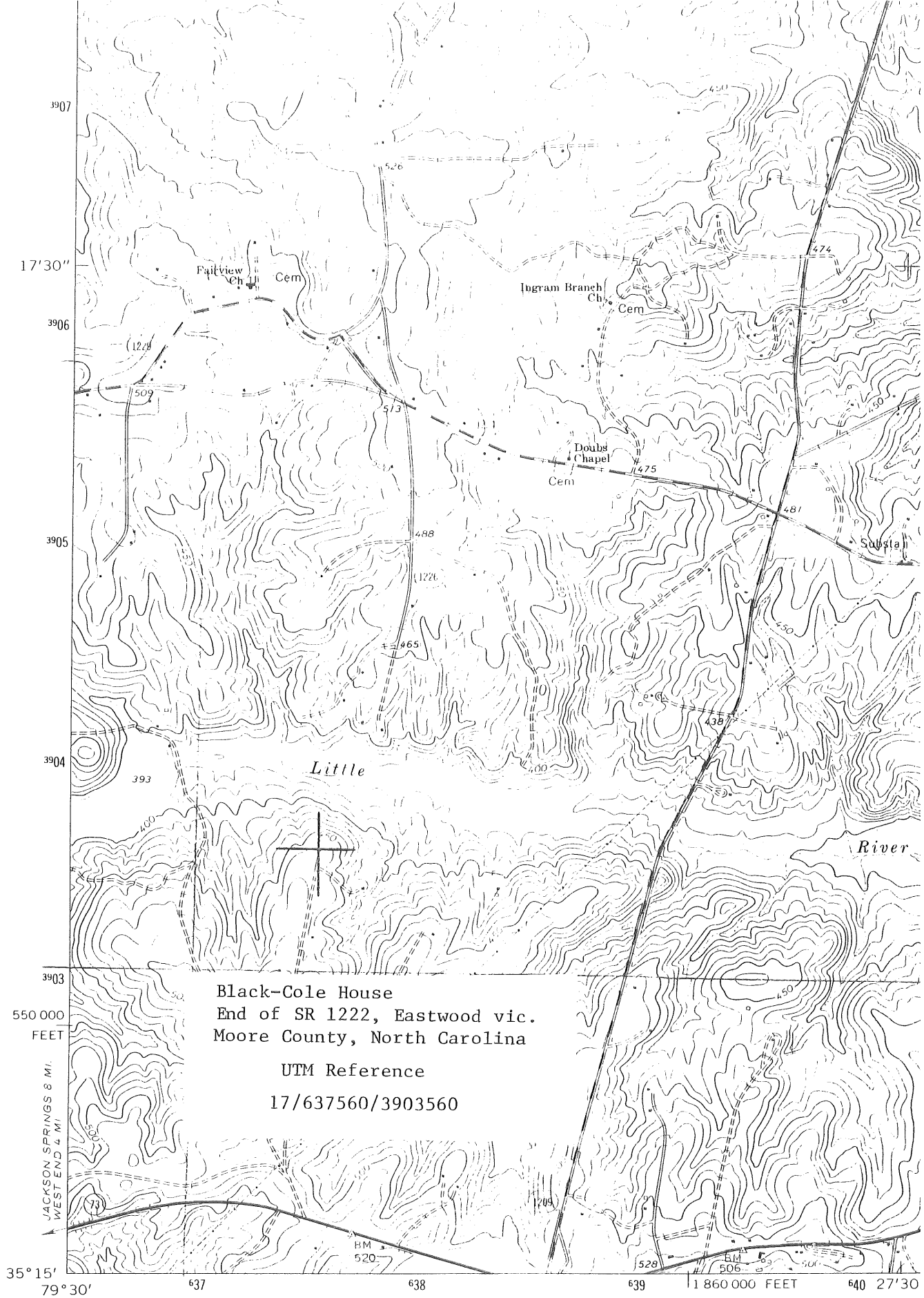
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Black-Cole House
End of SR 1222, Eastwood vic.
Moore County, North Carolina

UTM Reference
17/637560/3903560

(WEST END)
5034 II NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE and North Carolina
Geodetic Survey

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Carolina
coordinate system (Lambert conformal conic)

