

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Bruce-Dowd-Kennedy House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of the junction of Monroe Street (NC 24,27) and Rockingham Street not for publication

city, town Carthage vicinity of congressional district

state North Carolina code 37 county Moore code 125

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" 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

Contact: ~~Mrs. P. J. Melvin~~
name ~~Post Office Box 5~~
~~Roseboro, NC 28382~~

OWNER: Mrs. Robert Burland
20295 Thornwood Court
Southfield, Michigan 48076

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Moore County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Carthage state NC

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Bruce-Dowd-Kennedy House has long been considered the oldest standing house in the small Sandhills region town of Carthage. When built circa 1850 by Chatham County builder Stephen Brewer, the house stood on a slight rise at the edge of a newly-purchased eighty-one acre tract of farmland then beyond town boundaries. It faced toward the Moore County Courthouse, which accounts for the house's present side orientation to the main route into town; the road follows the bed of an early plank road built from Salem to Fayetteville. Today the house occupies a corner lot on property incorporated within town limits and is isolated amid a mixture of later residential and commercial structures. The house was twice expanded by turn-of-the-century rear and side additions which were joined to the main house by porch and breezeway respectively.

Essentially a Greek Revival raised cottage, the one-story, double-pile frame house is five bays wide and four deep, sheltered beneath a low-pitched, broadly overhanging hip roof from which rise symmetrically placed interior chimneys. An attached hip-roofed porch extends across the full facade. The structure rests upon tall, quarried and dressed red sandstone piers, a dominant feature which elevates the house unusually high off the ground. A full fireplace, complete with mantel nailer, was constructed in one of the brick chimney bases, indicating an intent to complete the unfinished underneath portion of the house, possibly as service rooms or servants' quarters. Architectural evidence suggests, however, that this provision was never fulfilled, and later deposits of sand have since filled this fire opening to within three courses of its lintel bar.

The basic simplicity of the classical form is enhanced by well-executed, straight forward Greek Revival detail. Wall surfaces are covered with original plain weatherboards except beneath the porch where wide flush sheathing, also original, occurs across the entire facade. Sheltered here, large areas of original paint are preserved intact: wall sheathing is white, ceiling sheathing sky blue, door and window surrounds ochre channeled with white, and the door broadly woodgrained brownish red. Treated as pilasters, cornerboards echo the porch post form and carry a wide flush-sheathed frieze with three channeled bands at its base. Beneath the roof overhang, tapered exposed rafter ends emerge from the cornice boxing to form deep sheltering eaves.

Central entrances, front and rear, consist each of a flat two-panel door surmounted by a transom whose three lights, enclosing simple arched tracery, illuminate the large center hall. Large nine-over-nine sash windows are placed characteristically low upon the wall surface and retain most of their original handmade glass. Windows and doors are contained within mitered, asymmetrically channeled board surrounds set above thick rectangular sills. All channeling consists of a single, right-angled asymmetrically-placed groove. The hip roof of the deep full-facade porch is supported by box columns whose simply articulated capitals have wide molded caps. Between the columns run carefully detailed octagonal hand-and-footrails containing closely spaced rectangular balusters, and markings indicated that this balustrade once continued downwards alongside the original high porch steps where plank replacements now serve.

The interior of the house follows an expected center hall plan, two rooms deep, with a variation created by the division of one of the rear rooms into two equal-sized rooms, each heated by its own corner fireplace. The high ceilings, plastered walls, tall broad windows rising from just above the baseboards to give a large proportion of window to wall space, create a spacious, airy feeling. The cross ventilation provided by the arrange-

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page One

ment of large rooms off a wide central corridor designed as usable space also provides comfort during the area's warm humid seasons. In the three main rooms, mantels are identically rendered in a flat composition suggesting the Tuscan order; tapered pilasters with stepped capitals and bases support a wide board frieze beneath an unmolded shelf. Both diminutive mantels at the corner fire openings replicate these elements; however, they are the same height but half as wide, giving an interesting topheavy effect. Throughout the house are flat two-panel doors, woodgrained in the same color and manner as are the exterior doors. Interior moldings repeat those on the exterior and wide plain baseboards abut original heart-pine flooring. All hardware remains in place, including cast iron butt hinges and box locks with ceramic knobs.

Replacing a dismantled, earlier timber-frame structure, the kitchen and dining rooms are contained in a hip-roofed rear ell. Built on tall brick piers to maintain the same high elevation, this late nineteenth-century addition is consistent in form with the main block though later in detail. A hip-roofed porch links the two structures and wraps around the addition to extend its full four-bay length. From the interior of the house, this long sitting porch acts as an extension to the center hall. A venerable ivy, trained to intertwine horizontally equidistant between the balustrade and porch ceiling, provides greenery, privacy, and shade.

Built to the side within yards of the main house is a third structure, a small, self-contained, one-story, three-bay, gable-roofed L-shaped building constructed adjoining to serve the dual function of doctor's office and second kitchen and dining room. There are two entrances on its facade, each opening onto a separate shed porch to accommodate separate uses. Placed farthest from the house, the projecting bay contains the entrance to the doctor's office. Family tradition vividly recalls that dentistry was also performed, often dramatically, on its porch. The domestic portion of this more independently functioning unit is linked to the main house by a vine-covered breezeway and a set of steps which places it on a separate level from the complex's other two structures. This small early twentieth-century structure, with its millwork trim and its porch balustrade and frieze constructed of rectangular elements set between chamfered posts, represents a stylistic jump from the symmetry of the Greek Revival style to the asymmetricality of Victorian period cottage architecture.

Within the property's picket-fenced front yard, diamond-shaped flower beds once bordered the path leading to the house around which wisteria, yellow jasmine, and juniper still grow. To the rear of the house a full complement of outbuildings stood in a row amid fields, arbors, and orchards, but of these structures only the covered well remains, from which it is traditionally said both Confederate and Union soldiers drew water.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1850 **Builder/Architect** Stephen Brewer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bruce-Dowd-Kennedy House is a handsome Greek Revival style raised cottage, built ca. 1850 for Samuel Bruce. The house is primarily associated with Clement Dowd, a prominent, young antebellum lawyer who became Bruce's son-in-law in 1857. Dowd and his family lived in the house until 1862, although he apparently never owned the property. After the war Dowd moved to Charlotte and became one of that city's leading citizens. The house was purchased by Powell Kennedy, a descendant of the Kennedy's associated with Moore County's large and famous gun factories. The property remains in the hands of his descendants.

Criteria Assess:

- B. Associated with the locally prominent Dowd and Kennedy families.
- C. Exemplifies in little-altered fashion the local interpretation of the Greek Revival style, here in a raised cottage form with plan and openings well adapted to a warm climate.
- D. May contain information about 19th century life.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8

Page One

The Dowd-Kennedy House was built in Carthage sometime in the early to middle 1850s by Stephen Brewer, a Chatham County contractor. The owner of the house was Samuel Bruce, a prominent area physician. Its first occupants, however, were probably Bruce's daughter Lydia and her husband Clement Dowd.¹

Clement Dowd was born in Moore County in 1832 into one of the county's most distinguished families. His father was Willis Dickerson Dowd, a farmer, a long-time clerk of the county court, and a state senator in 1860. Willis was the son of Cornelius Dowd, also a wealthy farmer and public official, who served five terms in the lower house and two terms in the state senate. Cornelius Dowd was the son of Conner Dowd, one of the area's most important supporters of the Crown during the Revolution. Conner Dowd was largely responsible for outfitting the Tory force which was defeated at Moores Creek, and during the war was exiled back to his native Ireland where he died about 1780.²

Clement Dowd was educated locally, graduating from the Carthage Male Academy in the early 1850s. Dowd taught there before going on to the University of North Carolina, from where he graduated in 1856. He returned to teach in Carthage and also studied law. He was admitted to the bar in January of 1859 and immediately began practicing in Carthage. On February 10, 1857 he married Lydia Bruce Person, daughter of Samuel Bruce, and widow of Murdock Person.³ It is not clear if the house that they lived in was built for Dowd and his wife, or if Bruce had it built earlier for his daughter and her first husband. In 1905 Lydia Dowd reminisced about her antebellum home:

We had many beautiful roses in the front yard, and also a number of old-fashioned lovely flowers; and the orchard, too, was a source of pleasure, yielding various kinds of peaches, pears, apples, grapes, berries, etc. The raspberries being particularly delicate and delicious.

Just outside the yard was a beautiful grass plot and here it was, for several months before the war broke out, that the soldiers practiced their drills and rehearsed all the maneuvers of the battlefield.⁴

When the war broke out Clement Dowd joined the Confederate Army, enlisting in Company H, 26th North Carolina Regiment in April of 1861. In June of that year he was elected 1st Lieutenant. He became captain, and then major, before resigning in June of 1862 due to chronic asthma.⁵ Shortly thereafter he and his wife and seven children moved to Charlotte because of "our children being in need of better educational advantages than Carthage offered."⁶ In Charlotte, Clement Dowd became one of that city's leading citizens. He became a law partner of former governor Zebulon Vance and eventually became Vance's biographer. Dowd served two terms as mayor of Charlotte, 1869-1871 to become first president of the commercial National Bank of Charlotte, which continues today under the name of the North Carolina National Bank as the oldest national bank in North Carolina. Dowd was a member of the Board of Directors of the Charlotte graded school, the first graded school in the state. In 1880 he was elected to the United States Congress as a Democrat. He was reelected in 1882. He declined to run for reelection in 1884 but in 1885 was appointed by President Cleveland to be internal revenue collector for

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page Two

the Charlotte district, a post he held for two years. Dowd was a trustee of Trinity College and member of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.⁷ One Charlotte history identifies Dowd as one of the three most important men in post-war Charlotte. He died April 15, 1898 and is buried in Charlotte's Elmwood Cemetery.⁸

After the Dowd family moved to Charlotte, Samuel Bruce disposed of their house, to which he still held title. Bruce sold the property to I. H. Caddell for \$1,500 and in December of 1863 Caddell sold it to Powell Person Kennedy for \$3,500. Kennedy only obtained three acres along with the house.⁹

Like Clement Dowd, P. P. Kennedy had a distinguished heritage in Moore County. He was the grandson of David Kennedy, the founder of "the most important industry conducted in Moore County in ante-bellum days," the Kennedy gun factory.¹⁰ David Kennedy's father Alexander Kennedy was a Revolutionary soldier whose "Kennedy rifle" was widely used during the war. David followed his father by establishing a gun factory near present day Robbins which was reputed to be the largest gun factory in the South and which employed between 70 and 90 men in the early part of the nineteenth century. Many of his guns were used during the War of 1812. P. P. Kennedy's father John was also a gunsmith. P. P. Kennedy also had a family relation to the Bruce family, as Martha Kennedy Bruce, the wife of Samuel Bruce, was his aunt.¹¹

P. P. Kennedy married Martha Stutts Shields on February 8, 1860. She was one of six children of George and Patsy Stutts and was the widow of John W. Shields. Three children were born to John and Martha Shields.¹² One of these children, Henry B. Shields, was ten years old when his family moved to its new residence. Shields grew up to be a prominent Moore County physician. He practiced for forty-five years in the area and performed Moore County's first appendectomy. His collection of reminiscences, Country Doctor, is valuable reading on late nineteenth and early twentieth century Moore County.¹³

P. P. Kennedy and Martha Kennedy had one child, a daughter Martha, born in 1863. He operated a shoeshop and made shoes for the Confederate Army. He died in 1864 widowing Martha Kennedy for the second time.¹⁴ Shortly thereafter she married Archibald R. McDonald. McDonald was a wealthy farmer and attorney. Born in 1818 he had real estate valued at \$6,000 and personal estate valued at \$4,000 in 1870, a considerable amount for the deflated currency of postwar North Carolina. McDonald was one of only two lawyers in the county immediately after the war. Prior to the conflict he served Moore County as state senator for one term.¹⁵

Archibald R. McDonald and Martha McDonald had two children, Archibald L. McDonald, Jr., born in 1867, and Hugh, born in 1869. Thus Martha Stutts had six children by three husbands: three by John Shields, one by P. P. Kennedy, and two by McDonald. She outlived her third husband by many years, as she passed away in 1913. The property was passed down to Martha Kennedy, the only child of P. P. Kennedy.¹⁶

Martha Kennedy married Alexander Street Kelly sometime in the early 1880s. She had three children, Henry born in 1881, Mattie born in 1886, and Hugh born in 1891. Her husband died before 1900. Dr. Shields and his family also lived in the house. He built an

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page Three

addition to the house which served as his office.¹⁷ Martha Kelly died in 1944, leaving the property to her daughter Mattie Gardner, who had married Simeon Gardner, a railroad conductor. In 1975 Mrs. Gardner's granddaughter Mrs. Kay Burland of Southfield, Michigan purchased the property and continues to own it.¹⁸

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance—Footnotes

Item number 8

Page Four

¹Moore County News, February 10, 1972. Telephone conversation with Mrs. Katherine Melvin, March 18, 1980, hereinafter cited as Melvin Conversation.

²Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century (Madison, Wisconsin: Brant and Fuller, 1892), II, 188-189, hereinafter cited as Cyclopedia of Eminent Men; Manly Wade Wellman, The Story of Moore County (Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Association, 1956), 9-27, 36-40, hereinafter cited as Wellman, The Story of Moore County; Blackwell P. Robinson, A History of Moore County, North Carolina 1747-1847 (Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Association, 1956), 41-42, 101-109, hereinafter cited as Robinson, History of Moore County.

³Cyclopedia of Eminent Men, II, 188-189; Moore County News, February 19, 1975.

⁴Moore County News, February 19, 1975.

⁵Cyclopedia of Eminent Men, II, 188; North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster, compiled by Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr., unit histories by Louis H. Manarin (Raleigh: Department of Archives and History, 7 volumes, 1966-1979), VII, 561.

⁶Moore County News, February 19, 1975. Dowd and his family evidently moved to Charlotte in 1866. For several years prior to that they lived in a house on Barrett Street in Carthage, having moved there after Dowd's release from Confederate Service.

⁷Cyclopedia of Eminent Men, II, 188-189; LeGette Blythe and Charles Raven Brockman, Hornet's Nest: The Story of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (Charlotte: McNally, 1961), 146, 188, 221, 304, hereinafter cited as Blythe and Brockman, Hornet's Nest.

⁸Blythe and Brockman, Hornet's Nest, 188. The other two influential men mentioned are W. P. Bynum and Hamilton C. Jones, Sr.

⁹Moore County Deed Book 2, p. 219; Unrecorded deed included in file.

¹⁰Robinson, History of Moore County, 138.

¹¹Robinson, History of Moore County, 138-141; Wellman, The Story of Moore County, 40, 46-47; H. B. Shields, Country Doctor (Southern Pines: The Pilot [Southern Pines] and Katherine Shields Melvin, 1975), 105-106, hereinafter cited as Shields, Country Doctor.

¹²Moore County News, February 10, 1972; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Population Schedule, Moore County, North Carolina; Shields, Country Doctor, 7-8. Henry B. Shields's siblings were Louisa B. Shields, born in 1851, and Mary B. Shields, born in 1858

United States Department of the Interior
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
 Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance-Footnotes Item number 8 Page Five

¹³ Shields, Country Doctor, 5, 115-116.

¹⁴ Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule, Moore County, North Carolina; Melvin Conversation.

¹⁵ Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule, Moore County, North Carolina; Wellman, The County of Moore, 68-69.

¹⁶ Melvin Conversation.

¹⁷ Melvin Conversation; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Population Schedule, Moore County, North Carolina; Shields, Country Doctor, 5, 24, 115. Dr. Shields married Flora Hartsell of Greensboro. Their daughter Catherine Shields Melvin published his reminiscences and is a local historian of Moore County.

¹⁸ Moore County Will Book 0, p. 67. Melvin Conversation.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance-Bibliography

Item number 8

Page Six

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Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century. Madison, Wiconsin: Brant and Fuller, 1892.

Melvin, Mrs. Katherine Shields. Telephone Conversation with Mrs. Melvin, March 18, 1980. Notes in file.

Moore County News. February 10, 1972; February 19, 1975.

Moore County Records. Deed Books, and Will Books. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

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

Shields, H. B. Country Doctor. Southern Pines: The Pilot (Southern Pines) and Katherine Shields Melvin, 1975.

United States Census Office. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Population Schedule, Moore County, North Carolina; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule, Moore County, North Carolina; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Population Schedule, Moore County, North Carolina. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

Wellman, Manly Wade. The County of Moore: 1847-1947. Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Society, 1962.

Wellman, Manly Wade. The Story of Moore County. Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1 1/2 acres

Quadrangle name Carthage, NC

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	6	4	4	2	0	0	3	9	1	2	0	0	0	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 nominated property comprises City Lot 10 of Block 2 in the original plat of the town of Carthage and is approximately 200 by 320 feet in size as shown outlined in red on the attached map.

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	Karin Kaiser, consultant	Jim Sumner, researcher
Description	Dept. of Cultural Resources	History
organization	Div. of Archives & History	date
	Survey & Planning Branch	5/19/80
street & number	109 E. Jones, St.	telephone
		733-6545
city or town	Raleigh	state
		NC

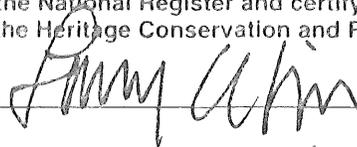
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

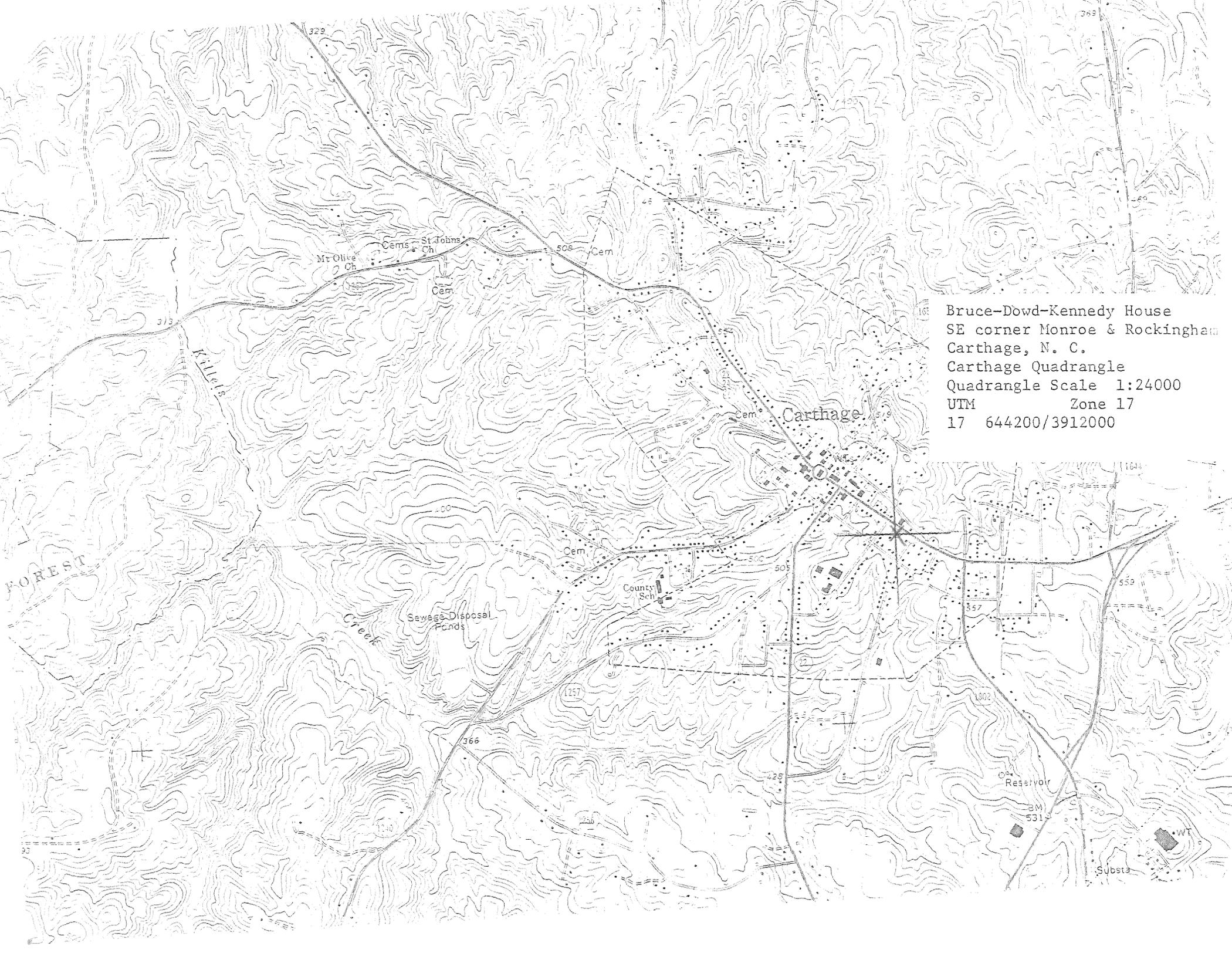
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title _____ date _____

For HCRS 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	



Bruce-Dowd-Kennedy House
SE corner Monroe & Rockingham
Carthage, N. C.
Carthage Quadrangle
Quadrangle Scale 1:24000
UTM Zone 17
17 644200/3912000

