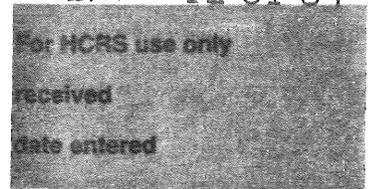


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic Malcolm Blue Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number S.W. corner of Bethesda Road (SR2042) and Ernest L. Ives Drive not for publication

city, town Aberdeen vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state North Carolina code 037 county Moore code 125

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 Malcolm Blue Historical Society
Dr. Clement R. Moore, President

street & number P. O. Box 603

city, town Aberdeen vicinity of state North Carolina 28315

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Moore County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Carthage state North Carolina 28327

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A 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 checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Malcolm Blue Farm is a picturesque complex of white painted buildings set along the western side of Bethesda Road (the old Pee Dee Road between Southern Pines and Aberdeen). The farmstead consists of an L-shaped one-story frame dwelling and four small barns. The latter are at the end of a cedar lined lane that runs at right angles to the main road to the south of the main house. Midway between the dwelling and the barns is a fifth structure, designated by the owner as a grist mill, but indeed a fifth barn or garage. At the junction of the lane with the path before the line of barns is a wooden water tower supported on a timber framework. The barns date from a period about 1900 and are typical of the anonymous style of farm architecture. The watertower dates from about the same period and is unusual for its continued survival in excellent condition. The most important part of the complex is the house which, with its surroundings, captures the spirit of a nineteenth century farm.

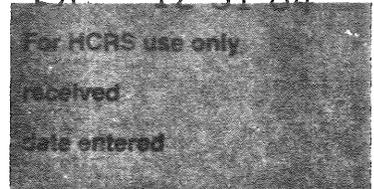
The main house is a one-story frame structure with a simple gable roof running north-south and intersected on the east and west by secondary sloped roofs over a front (east) porch and rear (west) shed. On the southwest is an ell at right angles to the main block. The front porch is three bays wide and extends across the entire facade. Four square, hollow posts support the roof. The wall of the house is sheathed with wide, flush weatherboarding and the ceiling (as are all the ceilings in the dwelling) is boarded. At the junction of wall and ceiling is an ovolo and fillet molding that has been mitered to the right of the center door. A ghost line at this point across the porch ceiling and the wall indicate that the right hand bay of the main facade was once taken up by a piazza room opening on to the porch. The left bay to the south of the entrance contains a large 9/9 sash window framed by a Federal style molding, matching that around the doorway. Cut lines to the right and left of the door and to the right of the window suggest that alterations to the facade, besides the removal of the piazza room, were made.

Entering the house, one stands in a central hall with two doors on the north wall, one on the south wall and a rear door at the far end. Above the doors and offset to the south is a wide board nailed to the ceiling, covering the seam in the boarding where a dividing wall was originally set. The portion of the ceiling at the rear of the hall, within the shed area of the house, shows the seam clearly and is not covered. The northeast and southeast rooms contain fireplaces on their exterior walls flanked by 9/9 sash windows. The mantel in the north room consists of a plain shelf above an ovolo and fillet molding and wide lintel supported on unusual pilasters. The pilasters are simple uprights and finished at either extremity with a curious, wide termination of molding, similar to a pulvinated frieze but at top and bottom. The mantel in the south room is more typical of a Greek Revival composition with its shelf and lintel duplicating the mantel in the north room but having pilasters with standard capitals and bases.

Both the door at the main entrance to the house and the door at the far end of the hall opening on to a rear porch are four-panel, raised panel designs dating to the period about 1850. Those that lead from the hall into the four principal rooms and connect the southwest chamber with adjacent spaces are two-panel doors in the Greek Revival style and probably date about 1825. They may be original to the first construction of the house but their present locations are a result of modification

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

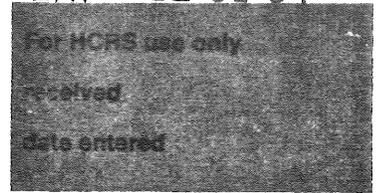


Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 1

of a double-pile hall and parlor plan to one with a central hall. The walls lining the hall are constructed with vertical rather than horizontal boards. Their chair rails are quarter-round in section rather than beaded as in the earlier work. Part of the original door frames are in evidence in the transverse walls at right angles to the hall. About three inches from the wall junctions of the east, middle and west walls where they meet the hall wall are remnants of the door frames. Additional changes in the interior fabric are in evidence along the west walls of both shed rooms and in the east wall of the south shed room. They are in the form of mitered cuts in the cornice similar to what was seen on the front porch and indicating that the spaces were subdivided. Just how the subdivision appeared originally is not clear; the shed area may have contained four small rooms across the rear or a small room at the north and south with a third room between them. The door from the southwest shed room into the rear ell appears to be old (it is pegged like the Greek Revival doors in the remainder of the house but is of smaller size) but it is placed in an opening that was originally a window.

Between the main block of the house and the rear ell is an enclosed passage containing a modern bath room and several closets. Beyond this are two interconnected rooms of equal size, opening on to a porch along the north. The walls in both rooms are sheathed with vertical boards and the two exterior doors are board and batten supported on strap hinges. The door between the rooms is, similarly, board and batten and hangs on a pair of HL hinges. The lintel above this latter door is of interest in that it is mitered into the paneling on each side. The windows are all 6/6 sash set in square-cornered frames without moldings. From inspection of the doors with both chamfered and beaded battens, strap hinges and HL hinges, this portion of the house would appear to be earlier than the main block. Other features that suggest an early character and date to the ell are the chamfered posts on the north porch which taper from about a foot from the top of the post where they are octagonal to the porch floor where they are square. This is unusual since the taper does not generally continue all the way to the base. A portion of the south wall of the ell is sheathed with wide, beaded weatherboards. The west wall has been resheathed with German siding and the north wall is plain edged like the weatherboards on the remainder of the house.

The framing beneath the main block and the ell give structural and technological information regarding the age of the dwelling that is quite different from what is seen above. The east portion of the structure, beneath the front porch, center pile and rear shed, is constructed with heavy, hewn sills and frame sawn joists. The original flooring, which has been covered over with narrow boards above, is fairly wide and is, likewise, frame sawn. The framing in the rear ell consists of circular sawn sills and floor boards and rounded, dressed log joists. Curiously, three of the floor joists are beaded along their lower surfaces. They can be seen through a foundation access to the right of the south door in the ell. By appearance and precedent, these joists were originally ceiling beams and have been reused in this construction. The sill along the north wall, also, is a reused timber since the notches for floor joists do not line up with the present arrangement of log joists. Therefore, it appears that the eastern portion of the house, containing the principal rooms, is earlier than the western portion, containing

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the kitchen ell. The patina and the technology in evidence in the larger portion of the Malcolm Blue House support the theory that the house was constructed in the first half of the nineteenth century. The Federal and Greek Revival features within the house further support a date of circa 1825. The rear ell, however, despite the early doors, hardware, weatherboards, porch posts and floor joists appears to have been built or rebuilt out of earlier materials. Areas like windows and door frames do not indicate a construction period before 1850. It may be that at the time the main block was modernized (new doors and walls) the rear ell was built.

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/ 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 (in one paragraph)

The Malcolm Blue House was built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century by Malcolm McMillan Blue, a farmer and civic leader in rural Moore County. Blue's father and grandfather came to North Carolina in the 1760s as part of the mass migration of Scottish highlanders. Blue donated land near his farm for the 1860 Bethesda Church (NR) and served as an elder in the historic old Presbyterian congregation for forty years. His house, a vernacular interpretation of late Federal and modest Greek Revival architecture, is one of the county's oldest buildings and possesses strong local architectural significance. With its collection of early twentieth century outbuildings it also forms a farm complex representative of rural life in the Sandhills region and today, as a living history farm run by the Malcolm Blue Historical Society, provides an educational and historical focal point for the community.

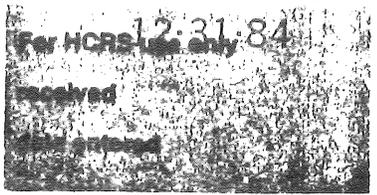
Criteria Assessment:

- B. Associated with Malcolm McMillan Blue, a farmer and local civic leader in Moore County who donated the land for Bethesda Church (NR) and served in its early leadership.
- C. The Malcolm Blue House is a representative example of vernacular Federal and Greek Revival architecture in the Sandhills region of North Carolina and with its fine collection of early twentieth century outbuildings and barns forms a farm complex of local architectural and historical significance.

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The Malcolm Blue House, also known as the Bethesda farmhouse, is one of Moore County's few remaining early nineteenth century structures. The Federal style house was built around 1825 by Malcolm McMillan Blue, a prominent farmer and community leader, who was active in the historic Bethesda Church Congregation. The structure is located between Southern Pines and Aberdeen.

Malcolm Blue's grandfather Duncan Blue came to the area in the late 1760s. Duncan Blue was a native of the Isle of Jura, Argyleshire, Scotland. He was one of thousands of Scotch highlanders who fled the overpopulation, the political repression, and the economic hardships of the Scottish highlands for the opportunities offered by North Carolina in the middle part of the eighteenth century.¹ Moore County, a part of Cumberland County until 1784, was heavily populated by Blues, McMillans, McDonalds, McNeils, Camerons, Blacks, Curries, Rays, Buies, McIvers, and other Scotch families who intermarried, started their own schools and churches, and gave Moore County a distinctive Scottish heritage that exists to this day.

Duncan and Margaret Campbell Blue acquired large amounts of land in the Lakeview area. Their second son John Blue was born in 1764, before the family left Scotland. John Blue was a "strong and substantial man," who by 1815 had accumulated over 800 acres. He built a home on Shaddock's Creek, approximately two miles from his father's home. John Blue had one son by his first wife, and five sons and five daughters by his second wife Catherine McMillan Blue.² Malcolm was born in 1802, the fourth son of John. Like his father, Malcolm amassed a large amount of land. About 1825 he built his farmhouse just north of Bethesda Church. In October of 1833 he married Isabella Patterson, a member of a prominent Moore County family. She died on March 10, 1834, at the age of 26. Blue did not remarry until 1843 when he wed Flora Ray, also a member of a distinguished Bethesda family. They had seven children: Margaret Jane, 1843; Sarah, 1844; John Calvin, 1846; Katharine Frances, 1848; Malcolm James, 1849; Neil A., 1851; and Flora Isabella (Belle), 1855.³

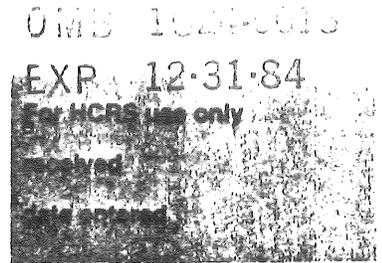
Malcolm Blue owned over 5,000 acres by 1860. However, it was not high quality agricultural land. One observer noted that "the region was considered a difficult--if not unyielding--terrain for either agricultural, or simply, adaptive use."⁴ Blue was actively farming only 100 acres in 1850, and only 200 in 1860. In the latter year he had 4,850 unimproved acres. The 1860 census shows his largest crop to have been corn, with a production of 600 bushels of corn. He also produced wheat, rye, peas and beans, sweet potatoes, butter, and wool. Blue did have, however, a substantial amount of livestock. He owned 60 swine, 25 sheep, 20 milk cows, 40 head of "other cattle," with his total livestock valued at \$800 in 1860.⁵

Blue was active in the naval stores and lumber industries. The 1860 census shows that his turpentine business produced 9,000 gallons of spirits and 600 barrels of rosin in that year. The production of the business was in excess of \$3,000. The turpentine industry became important after the Civil War. However, Blue was one of the area's earliest turpentine producers.⁶

Blue was a civic leader, especially active in the Bethesda Church, which traditionally dates its organization to 1790, making it one of the county's earliest Presbyterian churches.

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When a new church building was put up in 1860 Malcolm Blue donated the land. He served as an elder in the church for 40 years and as Clerk of the Session for 16 years.⁷

During the closing days of the Civil War the Blue farm and the nearby Bethesda church community were visited by Union troops. In March of 1865 General Kilpatrick's First brigade, under the command of Brigadier General Thomas J. Jordan, camped in the area, with some troops spending the night in and around the Blue residence.⁸ One of Blue's daughters later recalled that the soldiers "ransacked the buildings, tore up Bibles and wreaked general havoc just for devilment."⁹ This visit was of short duration, however, as the Union troops moved out after one day. A week later those same Union troops were involved in the battles of Averasboro and Bentonville, and a short time after that the war was over. The impact of the war lasted longer, as seen by the fact that Malcolm Blue's 5,000 acres which were valued at \$5,000 in 1860, were only valued at \$500 in 1870.¹⁰

Malcolm Blue died in 1872, leaving 1,000 acres to his wife and 525 to each of his seven children. Blue's widow died in 1875. Neil Blue took over the part of the Blue estate which included the farmhouse.¹¹ John Calvin Blue became a prominent local physician, while Malcolm Blue became a civic leader.¹² The 1880 census shows that Neil Blue continued to farm, with a heavy reliance on livestock.¹³ Blue lived in his father's old house with his wife Lillie Currie Blue and their six children until his death in 1922.¹⁴

With the death of Neil Blue the house passed out of the Blue family. Francis Deaton purchased the property from the Blue estate. He kept it until 1935 when it was sold to Talbot Johnson for \$100. Johnson was an attorney, who served as president of the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce. Other owners of the property have included Arthur Atherton, Mrs. Ernest Ives, Frank Shamburger, and Jerry McKeithan. A number of tenants have occupied the house, but it has been unoccupied for much of the past 50 years. In the 1970s the Malcolm Blue society began buying the house and adjacent tracts of land from A. P. Johnson of Johnson Brothers Realty and Construction Company. The society currently owns five tracts, comprising about 3½ acres.¹⁵

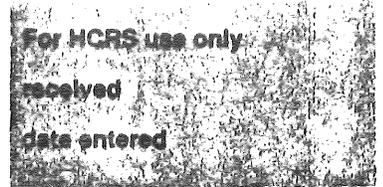
Under the leadership of former president Mrs. Margaret Thomas and current president Dr. Clement R. Moore the society uses the house in a variety of programs including a successful Crafts and Skills Festival held every autumn. The house hosts numerous school groups, historical societies, and civic groups. The farm complex includes a pack house, an operative gristmill, well, water tower, horse barns, and the farmhouse. Dr. Moore is in the process of donating his valuable collection of farm implements to the society, which will increase the educational value of the complex.¹⁶ The society's work with the house fills a valuable educational and recreational need in the community, keeping alive the memories of Moore's early settlers.

The structure is, of course closely related to its surrounding environment. Archaeological resources which may be present, such as trash pits, wells and subsurface structural remains, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning social standing and mobility, as well as structural details and patterns of land use are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological resources may well be an important component of the significance of this structure. At this time, no investigation has been conducted to prove the presence of these remains, but it is probable that they exist and should be considered prior to any development of the property.

OIA 10-10-84
EXP 12-31-84

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FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Emma G. B. Richardson and Thomas C. Richardson, History of Aberdeen (Aberdeen: The Malcolm Blue Historical Society, 1976), 21, hereinafter cited as Richardson and Richardson, History of Aberdeen; Blackwell P. Robinson, A History of Moore County, North Carolina: 1747-1847 (Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Society, 1956), 19-24, hereinafter cited as Robinson, History of Moore County.
- ² J. McNeil Johnson, "The Blue Families of the Upper Cape Fear," Genealogical Sketch, copy in Moore County Library, Carthage, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as Johnson, "The Blue Families."
- ³ Johnson, "The Blue Families"; Richardson and Richardson, History of Aberdeen, 21-22, 24, 26; Moore County News, February 19, 1975.
- ⁴ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Agricultural Schedule, Moore County, North Carolina; Richard Schloegl, Untitled presentation made to Moore County Historical Society, November 28, 1972, copy in file, hereinafter cited as Schloegl presentation.
- ⁵ Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Moore County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Moore County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.
- ⁶ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Moore County, North Carolina, Industrial Schedule; Richardson and Richardson, History of Aberdeen, 26.
- ⁷ Richardson and Richardson, History of Aberdeen, 27-29; Robinson, History of Moore County, 170; Bion H. Butler, Old Bethesda at the Head of Rockfish (New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1933), 20, hereinafter cited as Butler, Old Bethesda.
- ⁸ Richardson and Richardson, History of Aberdeen, 32-34; Butler, Old Bethesda, 216-220; Schloegel Presentation; Manly Wade Wellman, The County of Moore, 1847-1947 (Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Society, 1962), 62.
- ⁹ Sandhill Citizen, March 18, 1937.
- ¹⁰ Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Moore County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.
- ¹¹ Sandhill Citizen, March 18, 1937.
- ¹² Manly Wade Wellman, The Story of Moore County: Two Centuries of a North Carolina Region (Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Society, 1974), 89, 94; Richardson and Richardson, History of Aberdeen, 36-38.
- ¹³ Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Moore County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.

EXD 12-31-84
1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page

¹⁴Richardson and Richardson, History of Aberdeen, 37.

¹⁵Moore County Deed Book 112, p. 165; Book 119, p. 218; Book 132, p. 579. Interview with Mrs. Martha Thomas, January 22, 1981, notes in file, hereinafter cited as Thomas interview.

¹⁶Thomas interview; Fayetteville Observer, August 24, 1975.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.5 acres

Quadrangle name Southern Pines

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	6	4	4	8	0	0	3	8	8	9	0	3	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 shown within the dark black line on the photographic copy of the map of the Malcolm Blue Historical Farm and comprises 3.5 acres bounded by Bethesda Road, Ernest L. Ives Drive, and Portree Street.

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 Edward Turberg, Consultant
Jim Sumner, Researcher

organization Survey and Planning Branch Section Archaeology and Historic Preservation date April 9, 1981
North Carolina 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

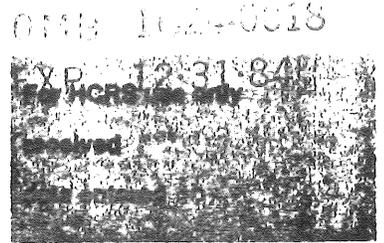
State Historic Preservation Officer signature William J. King, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 14, 1982

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	

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Continuation sheet

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Item number 9

Page 1

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Moore County News. February 19, 1975.

Richardson, Emma G. B. and Thomas C. History of Aberdeen. Aberdeen: The Malcolm Blue Historical Society, 1956.

Sandhill Citizen. March 18, 1937.

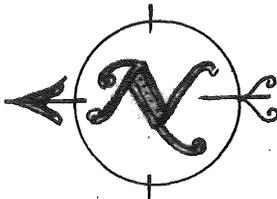
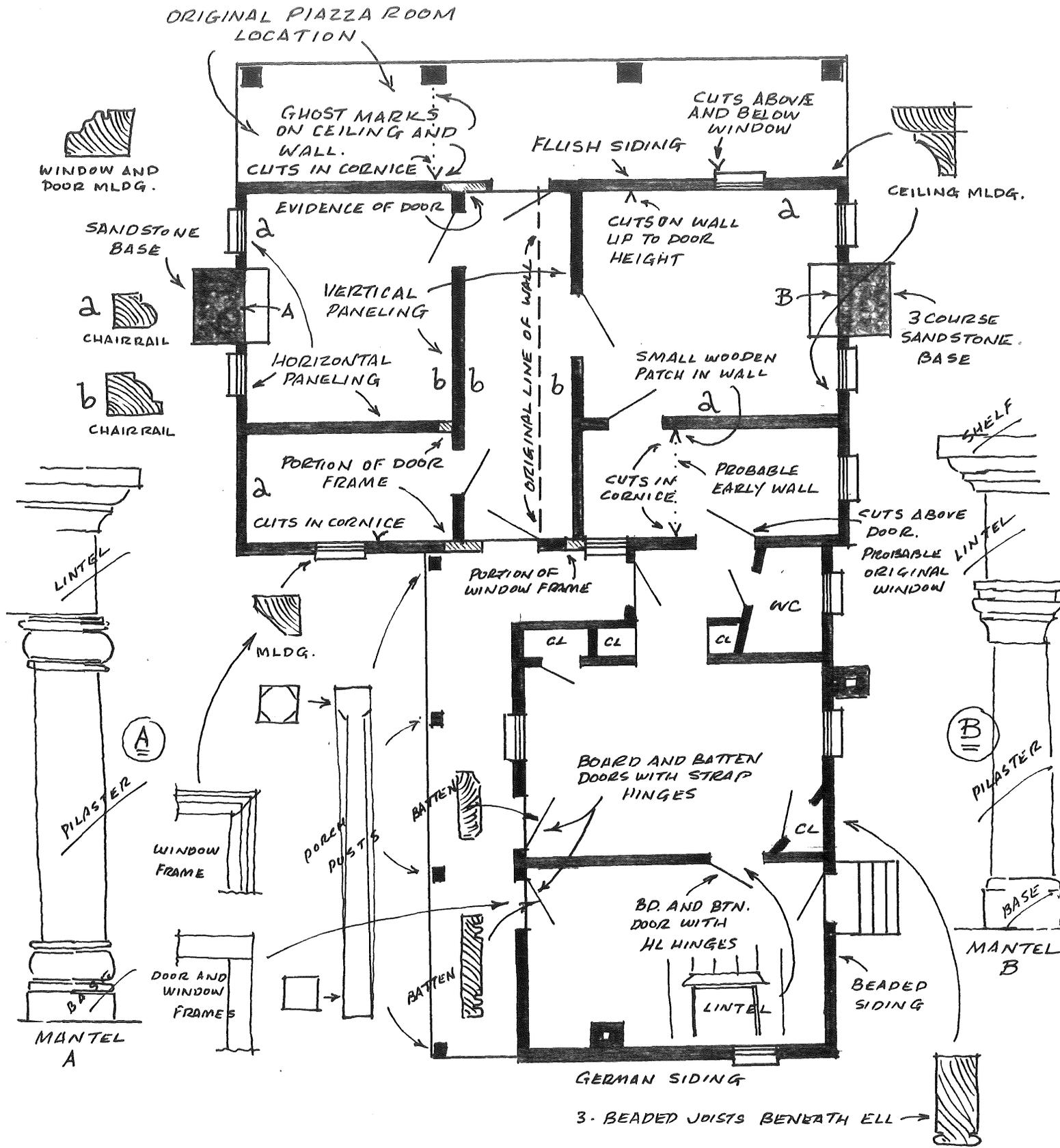
Schloegl Richard. Untitled presentation made to the Moore County Historical Society, November 28, 1972. Copy in file.

Thomas, Mrs. Martha. Interview with, January 22, 1981. Notes in file.

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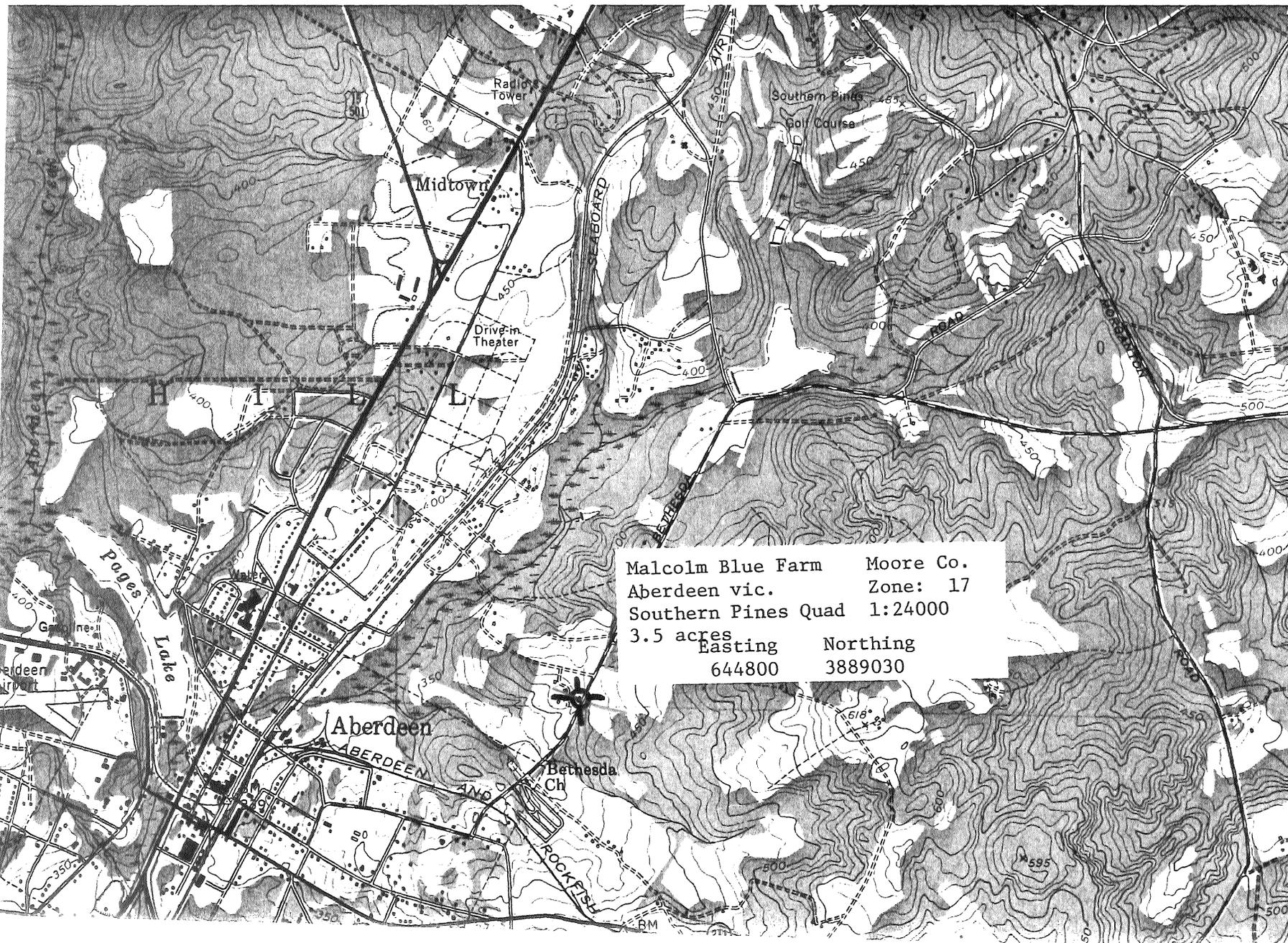
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Wellman, Manly Wade. The Story of Moore County: Two Centuries of a North Carolina Region. Southern Pines: Moore County Historical Society, 1974.



MALCOLM BLILIE FARMHOUSE CA. 1825
BETHESDA ROAD VIC. ABERDEEN, MOORE
COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

-(NOT TO SCALE)-

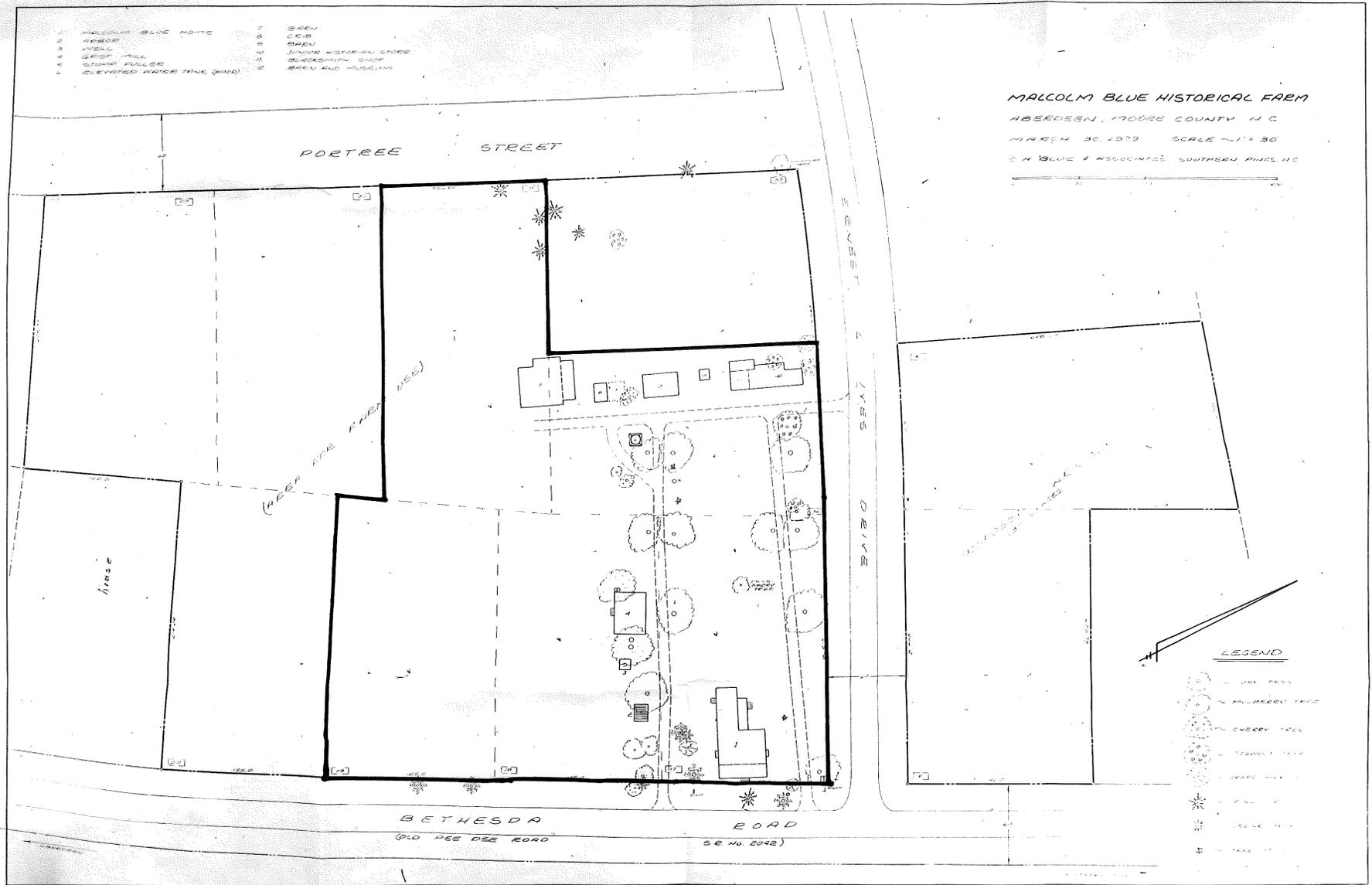


3889030
644800

3889000m.N.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | MALCOLM BLUE HOME | 7 | DOEN |
| 2 | SECE | 8 | CEB |
| 3 | SECE | 9 | DOEN |
| 4 | SECE | 10 | JUNIOR HISTORICAL STORE |
| 5 | SECE | 11 | SECE |
| 6 | SECE | 12 | SECE |
| 7 | ELEVATED WALKWAY (GRASS) | 13 | SECE |

MALCOLM BLUE HISTORICAL FARM
 ABERDEEN, ABERDEEN COUNTY, N.C.
 MARCH 30, 1973 SCALE 1/4" = 30'
 C. H. BLUE & ASSOCIATES, SOUTHERN PINE, N.C.



- LEGEND**
- OAK TREE
 - PINE TREE
 - ⊙ CYPRESS TREE
 - ⊖ CHERRY TREE
 - ⊕ YEW TREE
 - ⊗ DOGWOOD TREE
 - ⊘ HICKORY TREE
 - ⊙ SWEET GUM TREE
 - ⊖ SASSAPARILLA TREE
 - ⊕ SWEET PINE TREE
 - ⊗ SWEET PINE TREE
 - ⊘ SWEET PINE TREE

