NPS Form 10-P90 (7-(1)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

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Type all entries—complete applic	able sections		
1. Name			
historic Cameron Historic	District		
and/or common			
2. Location			
Z. LUCATION			
street & number	· *		not for publication
city, town Cameron	vicinity of	cengressional district	
state North Carolina	code 037 county	Moore	code 125
3. Classification			
Category X district building(s) structure site object Mean of the process being consider N/A Ownership X public X public Dublic Acquisitio In process Deing consider	X yes: restricted	Present Use agriculture _X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence X religious scientific X transportation other:
name Multiple Owners,	see inventory list		
street & number			
city, town	vicinity of	state	
5. Location of Lo	egal Description	<u>n</u>	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Moore County Register	of Deeds	
street & number	Moore County Courthous	se .	
city, town	Carthage	state	N. C. 28327
	n in Existing S	urveys	
itle N/A	has this prope	erty been determined elic	jible?yes _X no
date			county local
depository for survey records	N/A		-
sity, town		state	

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Cameron Presbyterian Church
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Miss Ada Gilchrist
P. O. Box 54
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Thomas P. O. Box 25 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mrs. Janie Muse Heirs c/o John C. Muse P. O. Box 70 Sanford, North Carolina 27330

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Phillips P. O. Box 55 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mrs. Virginia Douglas Freeman 675 Midland Avenue Nyack, N.Y. 10960

Mrs. A. P. Phillips P. O. Box 27 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Town of Cameron Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Miss Minnie Muse Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Allen Pridgen Rt.1 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mrs. Beulah Farrell P. O. Box 8 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Parris Trent P. O. Box 94 Cameron, North Carolina 28326 Phillips Self Service Super Market, Inc. P. O. Box 158 B
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mary Emma Thomas Heirs c/o Mrs. Mildred Spell 304 Fairfax Clinton, North Carolina 2832

U. S. Postal Service U. S. Post Office Cameron, North Carolina 28326

June Tally Heirs c/o Marilyn Tally Bishop 100 Dover Road Long Meadow, MA 01106

Cameron Baptist Church
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. James F. Robert
P. O. Box 105
Cameron, North Carolina 28328

Dr. R. G. Crummie P. O. Box 40308 Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302

Mr. J. A. Phillips, Jr. P. O. Box 64 Cameron, North Carolina 28328

Mrs. Helen P. Hinson
P. O. Box 63
Cameron, North Carolina 2832

Donald McDonald Heirs c/o Miss Mary McDonald P. O. Box 3 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. and Mrs. Max Thomas c/o Thomas Brothers Nursery Cameron, North Carolina 28326

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Mr. Albert Cole P. O. Box 14 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. Martin Oakley
P. O. Box 317
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mrs. J. F. Sanders Heirs P. O. Box 237 Apex, North Carolina

Mrs. Della C. Yow Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Cameron Farm Supply
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Cameron Methodist Church Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. D. L. Thomas Rt. 2 Carthage, North Carolina 28327

Mr. Leonard A. Whitaker
P. O. Box 22
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Clyde Kelly Heirs c/o Miss Jean Kelly P. O. Box 172 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

E. T. Hardy Heirs c/o James Hardy Rt. 1 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

McPherson Heirs c/o John McPherson Rt. 1 Cameron, North Carolina 28326 Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hillmer Box 2 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. J. M. Guthrie 184 Scowie Road, N.W. Orangeburg, S. C.

Mrs. Beulah McPherson
Box 5
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Bean
P. O. Box 107
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Ms. Pamolu Oldham
P. O. Box 498
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Rev. and Mrs. Warren Person
P. O. Box 95
Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Coe Rt. 1, Box 95-B Cameron, North Carolina 28326

Mr. John and Ms. Linda Swann P. O. Box 23 Cameron, North Carolina 28326

7. Description

Condition

x_ fair

X excellent X deteriorated X good

_ ruins

_ unexposed

Check one X unaltered

X altered

Check one

original site

date various _ moved

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Born of a plank road and a railroad and spurred on by the prosperity of the turpentine and dewberry industries, Cameron, North Carolina, flourished and grew in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Farmers, merchants, and railroad men settled there and built their homes and businesses along the main thoroughfare. Though the trains do not stop in Cameron now, and the dewberries do not grow there on a grand scale anymore, Carthage Street remains much as it always has with its fine houses, substantial commercial structures, and buffer of trees. It is a tightly concentrated linear village of modest frame and brick buildings, canopied with trees, and clearly set off from the adjacent farmland.

The district boundaries are drawn to include the lots extending along both sides of Carthage Street from U.S. 1 to the railroad. Visually, this is the area which is most intact and best portrays the character of Cameron. The original town plan for Cameron, date unknown, contains 164 lots. The lots adjoining Carthage Street, however, were the ones chosen by the residents on which to build their houses and businesses. Apparently no substantial residences were built on the lots east of the railroad; at least none exist there now. In addition the western boundary of the district extends beyond the lots shown on the town plan since the town extends in that direction. Of the buildings in the district, 16 are pivotal, 20 are contributing, 9 are fill, and 5 are intrusive.

Built up from the rural landscape of Moore County, Cameron still seems something of an isolated town in the midst of the expansive farms. The buildings extend down Carthage Street in relatively close proximity; however, farms border the back property lines of several of the lands on which the structures exist. Most of the houses are set fairly close to the street, but the spacious lots and the profusion of deciduous and evergreen trees which line the street and yards help provide a rural village setting and serve to isolate the houses from the traffic. A collection of fences of various materials define individual properties, contributing to the feeling of expanse within the compact community.

The buildings are one and two story frame and brick displaying elements of the popular styles of the era in which most of them were built--1875 to 1925. While there is little information on builders or suppliers of materials for the buildings in Cameron, certain features recur throughout the town. The profusion of sawnwork detail varies from house to house but often the variations of porch railings or brackets from one house to the next is slight. German siding is found on a number of the houses as well as several outbuildings. Board and batten was also a favorite construction technique for outbuildings in the town. One very notable recurring feature is a door with two horizontal panels below and two arched verticle windows above. In some houses the windows are replaced by panels which have the same configuration. Within the houses, many of them have mantels with similar molded and turned ornamentation.

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The most common house type on Carthage Street is one-and-a-half stories with a front gable. The most notable of these are the Ferguson (no. 32) and Borst (no. 35) houses. Both are Victorian cottages with sawtooth bargeboards in the gable ends. The Ferguson House has a porch carrying across the front facade supported by square posts with carved brackets. The Borst House displays a three-sided bay on the front and has a small porch with simple posts and a railing of turned balusters. Other one-and-ahalf-story structures with varying degrees of ornamentation extend along Carthage Street.

Two-story frame houses compose the second large group of house types in Cameron. This group ranges in character from the simple I-house built by J. M. Foust (no. 41) to the elaborate Queen Anne-style Rodwell House (no. 16). The Murdock McKeithen (no. 9), McFadyen (no. 13), Turner-McPherson (no. 45), Muse (no. 10), and Rodwell houses were all built by early successful businessmen in Cameron. The McKeithen, McFadyen, and Muse houses have a variety of turned and sawn ornamentation while the Turner-McPherson House has a combination of Victorian and classical details. The Rodwell House, with its corner turret, irregular massing, and stained glass is the most sophisticated of the Victorian era houses.

The third significant group of residences consists of those houses built in the early twentieth century which display elements of the Bungalow style. The Parker (no. 37) and McLean (no. 12) houses, both ca. 1918, have many of the traditional Bungalow features such as hip roofs, small dormers, and columns supported by brick piers. McKeithen House (no. 34), which contains elements of both the Bungalow and Colonial Revival styles, is a large, rambling structure with numerous gables. A porch with a wide cornice supported by heavy columns on brick piers also carries across the front. Fanlights decorate the gable ends.

Perhaps the most notable feature of Cameron is its churches. They occupy prominent places along Carthage Street and are indicative of the importance religion played in the development of North Carolina towns. The Methodist (no.29b) and Presbyterian (no. 7) churches are one-story, frame buildings with bell towers topped by a cross and a spire, respectively. In addition, the Methodist Church retains its very fine interior features such as the paneled wainscot with molded chair rails. Historically the Baptist Church (no. 39) has occupied the same spot since 1892. Though the present building retains the same basic form as its sister churches, it is a brick veneer building which replaced the original frame structure in 1952.

Commercial structures in Cameron are a mixture of frame and brick. The Muse Brothers (no. 19), Pharmacy (no. 27), and Phillip's Hardware (no. 30) stores are of brick construction. Muse Brothers displays notable brick corbelling along the roofline while the other two stores retain their recessed entrance ways so typical of early-twentieth century commercial buildings.

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The frame commercial buildings are more numerous and range in character from the very plain one-story millinery shop (no. 18) to the two-story Greenwood Inn (no. 24) with its double-tiered porch and carved balustrade. The McKeithen Store (no. 22) retains its double doors, 6/6 sash, and original shelves and counters. The Cameron depot (no. 25), having been moved to avoid demolition by the railroad, now stands behind the Greenwood Inn. Its board and batten walls have been covered over by siding, but the exterior form is the same.

Cameron suffered several disastrous fires in the 1870s and 1880s. The Muse Brothers and McKeithen stores both replaced earlier buildings lost to fire. Other early structures have been demolished or moved. Fortunately documentary photographs exist for many of them.

The late-nineteenth century Hotel Halcyon (Britton Hotel), razed during the Depression, was a two-story brick structure with a double porch extending across the front facade. Square posts with carved brackets, much like those on the McFadyen House, supported the porch roof. A railing with carved balusters extended around both the first and second stories. Another two-story brick commercial structure which stood beside it is also gone. The building, which appears to have been a simple, gable-front structure with plain surrounds and 2/2 sash, housed a mercantile and barber shop among other things.

The dewberry sheds were one-story frame buildings with open platforms located adjacent to the railroad tracks. Carts or trucks were driven up to the platform and unloaded. It was from here that the dewberries were auctioned off and loaded on the trains for shipping.

Several small frame stores have also disappeared. The Phillip's Store, a two-story, frame structure, was replaced by a modern brick building. The Moses Britton Store, which looked much like the McPherson Store, was located where the Cameron Womans Club (no. 26) building is now.

As already stated, the frame Cameron Baptist Church building was destroyed in 1952. It was a simple gable-front building, three-bays wide and four long with Gothic windows and entrance.

The Andrew Muse House, built by the other partner of Muse Brother's Store, stood where the Muse-Hemphill House (no. 6) now stands. Though no documentary photos are available, local citizens recall that it was a very fine two-story structure with a front bay and contained a walnut stair. It burned in the 1930s.

The intrusions in Cameron are few. About a dozen 1950s and 1960s brick structures have appeared, but they are few, small, and not prominent in the streetscape. For the most part, the late-nineteenth century character has remained through the years despite the changes in fortunes and circumstances. The churches, the houses, the stores, even the trees have been carefully guarded by the descendants of those who established the town, preserving the integrity of this tight-knit railroad community.

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Key to inventory list:

Pivotal Buildings which are particularly significant because of their architectural and/or historical associations. Contributing A district is composed of a variety of buildings which together create a definite sense of place. Contributing buildings are those which add to the character of the district. F Fill Structures which do not necessarily add to the district but which do not detract are listed as fill. They may be of recent construction using more modern materials but their size and/or setback from the street aid in blending them into the surrounding environment in a fairly unobtrusive way. Intrusive Buildings whose design or materials are totally out of character with the historic fabric of the district.

The numbering begins with the first house on the north side of Carthage Street at U.S. 1, continues east to the railroad, crosses to the south side of Carthage Street and extends west to U.S. 1.

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- 1. McPherson House and Store, ca. 1920. One-and-a-half-story frame gable-front structure with two entrances on front facade. Originally built to house a restaurant and grocery; now a residence.
 - 1.A. Empty lot
 - 2. Empty lot
- F 2.A.McIver House, ca. 1950. One-and-a-half-story gable-end brick residence built by Mrs. Kate McIver.
- F 3. Former Presbyterian Manse, ca. 1940s. One story stone structure with brick addition on the west end and a screen porch on the east. Built by Mrs. Kate McIver; it later became the Presbyterian Manse but is now a private residence.
- C 4. Kelly House, ca. 1910s. One-and-a-half-story frame residence with end chimney. Originally a triple A, the roofline was later changed to the present configuration. The front entrance is composed of a six-panel door flanked by pilasters. The sloping porch is supported by square posts. A railing with square balusters encloses the area. For many years the home of J. Clyde Kelly, longtime teacher and administrator at Cameron School, it is now the home of his daughter, Jean. A board found during some renovation contained the name of Wicker Lumber Co.
- Jones Farm House, ca. 1884. According to information provided by family members, С C. E. Jones built this house soon after he moved to Cameron from Carthage in 1883. With Will Kennedy (see nos. 33.and 14 b.) he operated the Union Carriage Company. Originally an L-shaped two-story frame house, the gable end was two rooms deep, the wing one-room deep. Additions have been made to the east side and the rear. The entrance, which is located in the recessed wing, contains a door which recurs in houses throughout Cameron: two rectangular wooden panels below with two arched verticle panels (in some instances, windows) above. Square posts support the one-story porch roof. A low railing with turned Dalusters carries around the porch. The first-story windows which originally reached to the floor have been partially closed in by the present owner. A tall window in the gable end is covered by a portico supported by carved brackets. A small balcony extends below the window and is surrounded by a railing with turned balusters. The interior contains plaster walls and post and lintel mantels with some sawn woodwork. Outbuildings, which are covered with German siding (another common feature in Cameron) include a small frame kitchen with an interior chimney which was once connected to the house by a breezeway.
- F 6. Muse-Hemphill House, ca. 1930s. Two-story aluminum sided house built to replace one belonging to Andrew Muse which burned in 1936. The house, which is five bays by three bays, has 1/1 sash and an interior chimney.

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- P Cameron Presbyterian Church, ca. 1879. The session minutes for April 1, 1879 record a meeting to petition the Presbytery to allow a church to be formed in Cameron (Church Directory). The building was completed that year. The original section of the church is a rectangular frame building with a projecting vestibule area. Arched windows with 4/4 panes enhance the front and side elevations. Plain pilasters grace the corners. The front entrance is composed of plain double doors set in an arched surround topped by a two-pane transom. bell tower has wooden vents on all four sides and is topped by a wooden spire. Although additions were made to the east, west, and rear elevations in 1949, they do not detract from the simple beauty of the church. A brick building, built in 1963, located behind the structure, is not readily visible from Carthage Street. A cemetery, located to the northwest of the church property, contains stones dating from the late-nineteenth century to the present. According to local information, Daniel McIntyre's Classical School that appears in the early Branson's Directories was located behind the Church.
- C 8. Perry House, ca. 1886. In 1885 O. H. Perry purchased this lot, no. 144, and the lot directly behind it from the Goodman Brothers (see deed from Emaline Perry to C. E. Jones dated July 12, 1906). How soon thereafter the house was built is impossible to know. A documentary photograph shows this to be a typical Cameron dwelling: one-and-a-half-stories triple A with sawnwork bargeboards in the gable ends and a rear ell. Later changes resulted in the removal of the decorative bargeboards, a change in the roofline to omit the front gable, and the addition of an exterior chimney on the west elevation. The "Cameron door" remains: two vertical arched panes over two horizontal panels. Outbuildings are board and batten. A white picket fence encloses the property.
- Murdock McKeithen House, ca. 1885. This was the home of Murdock McKeithen and Ρ his wife, Belle Ferguson McKeithen. McKeithen was one of Cameron's leading merchants for many years. The property is currently in the possession of McKeithen's granddaughter, Isabel McKeithan Thomas, and her husband J. W. Thomas. The two-story center-hall structure has projecting bays on either side of the entrance and is covered with German siding. The front facade boasts three gables, each with returning eaves, sawnwork ornament, and a vent with a star in the center. A documentary photograph, taken soon after the house was built, shows a one-story porch covering the entrance with a smaller balcony at the second story door. Sometime in the early part of this century the porch was extended the full length of the facade and around one side, duplicating the original, ornate woodwork. Turned posts support the porch which comprises a carved railing, brackets, and gingerbread woodwork. The front door is the ubiquitous "Cameron door" containing vertical panes and is surrounded by transom and sidelights. The upper balcony has been slightly altered. Unobtrusive additions have been made to the rear in recent years. The interior contains a post and lintel mantel in the east, front room with vigorous Victorian turned, sawn, and molded ornament.

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The two windows in the projecting bay have molded surrounds and a cornice of sawtooth woodwork. The stair has a carved newel post and turned balusters. Outbuildings include a small well house which appears in the early documentary photographs, now moved behind the house, two frame sheds, and a frame barn. A picket fence delineates the front yard of the house.

- Ρ 10. John C. Muse House, ca. 1878. This house was built by John C. Muse who, with his brother Andrew, established the Muse Brothers Mercantile--one of Cameron's leading businesses for many years. According to Muse's daughter, Miss Minnie Muse, the contractor for the house was a Mr. Dunk Johnson. Originally a twostory gable-front double-pile house with a rear ell, it now has two additions on the rear. Two projecting bays on the front facade were added later. first story porch which originally had slender wooden columns, now has large Doric columns like those on the porch located on the west elevation. entrances on both the first and second stories have transoms and sidelights. Small balconies with slender posts, carved brackets, and turned balusters are located on the second story of the projecting bays. The gable has returning eaves, sawtooth bargeboards, and a decorative vent. A chimney is located on the west elevation. Interior features include a post and lintel mantel with bold spool-like ornament and a stair with a turned newel and balusters. A frame garage is located in the rear. The house is currently occupied by Miss Minnie Muse, now in her 90s.
- C 11. Harrington House, ca. 1870s. According to Miss Minnie Muse, this house is thought to predate the Muse house by a few years. In an assignment transaction dated 1900 (D 21, p. 188) this property is referred to as the Harrington Homeplace owned by the late James A. Harrington and then belonging to J. McK. Harrington. Originally a one-and-a-half-story single pile frame structure, it has undergone a number of changes through the years.
- P 12. McLean House, ca. 1920. The very fine house with its Bungalow style porch was built by Cameron banker J. D. McLean sometime after 1918 when he purchased the lot from W. M. Blue for \$600 (D75, p. 137). The one-and-a-half-story frame structure with hipped roof has a dormer, also with a hipped roof, consisting of paired windows of 1/1 sash. An engaged porch supported by square columns set on brick piers extends around three sides of the house. The central entrance is recessed between two projecting bays containing one window each of 1/1 sash. The wall behind the porch is interrupted by a chair rail. An interior chimney is set slightly off-center. The only outbuilding is a frame garage.

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- McFadyen House, ca. 1878. According to a deed which he obviously re-recorded 13. after the courthouse fire, Neill A. McFadyen purchased lot 120 from the Goodman Brothers on January 20, 1875 (D12, p. 516). McFadyen was another of Cameron's leading merchants listed as early as 1877-78 in the Branson's Directory as a merchant and in later directories as a seller of saddles and harnesses as well. An 1897 newspaper article describes him as "...a quiet and prosperous merchant of Cameron, and is also engaged in farming and expects to go into fruit farming this fall." (News and Observer, August 11, 1897). His store, which was located on lot 18, does not survive. The house is a two-story double pile frame structure with an exterior chimney, a double portico and a rear ell. The square posts supporting the porch have delicate pendant brackets which resemble those shown in the documentary photograph of the Halcyon Hotel which was located up the street. Railings with turned balusters enclose the porches. The doors on both stories are the "Cameron doors" with panels instead of glass. Windows are 6/6. The interior features plaster walls with a chair rail. Mantels display turned ornament and the stair is composed of a turned newel and balusters. Molded surrounds carry throughout. Upstairs mantels are simple post and lintel. There are two outbuildings located on the propertyone with German siding, one with board and batten.
- F 14. Hardy Gulf, ca. 1940s. A one-story frame garage with a large central open bay, this structure was reportedly once part of a two story building which was later converted to its present appearance. Windows are 6/6.
- F 14.A.Cameron town Hall and Fire Station, mid-twentieth century. One-story concrete block building with large bays for housing the fire engine.
- C 14.B. Union Carriage Company, late nineteenth century. This two story rectangular gable-roof building with large barn-like doors and 6/6 windows is constructed with boards and battens. It is in dilapidated condition. Local tradition maintains that this was the site of the Union Carriage Company, operated by C. E. Jones and Will Kennedy. The company appears in Branson's directory for the years 1884 and 1890. The building was later used as a casket factory.
 - 15. Empty lot.
- C 15.A.Poole House, ca. 1890s. Local tradition maintains that this house was built by George Poole, who was a bartender at the hotel now known as the Greenwood Inn. G. W. Poole is listed in the 1884 Branson's Directory as owning a saloon. The two-story gable-roof frame house with a shed addition has three gable-roof dormers on its front facade. A one-story porch with slender posts, a railing of carved balusters, and scalloped woodwork along the roofline shelters the three bays on the front elevation. Bays project from the first story of both gable ends. The structure has two interior chimneys. This house is currently in danger of being demolished.

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- 16. Rodwell House, ca. 1890s. E. P. Rodwell, Moses Britton's son-in-law, purchased this lot, known as the former H. L. Muse Hotel lot, from W. H. Sikes of Harnett County in 1891 for \$125 (D8, p. 93). According to a 1936 newspaper article, this was previously the site of the hotel as well as the Sikes house, both of which burned (Moore County News, Feb. 13, 1936). The present building was the home of the Presbyterian minister, Rev. W. A. McNeill for many years in the early part of the century. The two-story hipped-roof German-sided Queen Anne house has irregular massing and a tower with a conical roof on its southwest corner. The porch, which carries around the front and around one side of the first story is supported by turned posts with ornamental brackets. A railing of simple square balusters encloses the porch while a more ornate valance of short turned spindles carries across the top. The entrance containing a transom of colored glass surrounds the door with its verticle arched windows; the windows on the first story of the tower also contian colored glass. A small balcony with woodwork identical to that of the front porch is located on the second story of the tower. Another smaller balcony extends from the entrance located directly above the main entrance. The house has interior chimneys and 2/2 windows throughout. Set on a slight rise and shaded by magnolias, the Rodwell House setting, though still nice, has been somewhat compromised by the construction of the post office directly beside it.
- I 17. Post Office, ca. 1960. One story rectangular brick veneer building. This was for many years the site of N.A. McFadyen's store.
 - 17.A.Empty lot. Site of Hotel Halcyon.
- C 18. Millinery Shop, early twentieth century. This lot was bought by J. A. McCleny in 1895 from Scott (D17, p. 248) and, according to local information, he operated a watch repair shop. However, the present building was reportedly built for a millinery shop. The one-story frame building with German siding is three bays by three bays with 2/2 sash. A single door is set in simple surrounds. The interior consists of a plain sheathed ceiling and plaster walls.
- P 19. Muse Brothers Store, ca. 1880s. The first store operated by John C. and Andrew Muse on this spot burned in the 1880s. According to Muse's daughter, Miss Minnie Muse, this building was constructed in the latter part of that same decade. The store, which is two stories with a basement, has a stepped roof with notable brick corbelling along the roofline. Jack arches also ornament the windows. A single story porch covers the double-door entrance and windows on the first floor. On the interior, a row of square columns support a large center beam. Post and lintel mantels are located on both floors. The building is currently undergoing restoration as a cultural arts center.
- I 20. Phillips supermarket, 1977. One-story, brick veneer building with modern glass store front.
- I 21. Storage barn for FCX concrete block.

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- F 21.A.Cameron Farm Supply, ca. 1950s. One-story concrete block building with brick veneer facade and modern store front.
- P 22. McKeithen Store, ca. 1880s. According to Murdock McKeithen's granddaughter, Isabel McKeithen Thomas, McKeithen built this store to replace one which burned. He lived above the store until his house (no. 9) was built. The two-and-a-half-story frame structure has an ell addition. The first story has a double door entrance, the doors consisting of verticle glass above with two vertical panels below. Windows of 6/6 sash flank the entrance. A single story porch shades the bays on this story. Three windows of 6/6 sash are located on the second story of the front facade. A vent consisting of two arched panels ventilate the gable. The side elevation is practically devoid of windows except for three in the back, two on the second story and one on the first. The building still retains its late-19th-century interior with a sheathed ceiling, counters, and walls lined with shelves and drawers. An open stair leads to the second story. The building is currently used for storage.
- C 23. McPherson Store, ca. 1898. Lot number five was purchased by Dr. Hector Turner from J. C. and M. E. Blue in 1885 (deed in possession of Jean Ferguson Hillmer). The present building was evidently built by Turner's step-son-in-law, H. P. McPherson, who ran a general store here for many years. McPherson was also a leader in the dewberry business, being a grower and dealer. The one-story gable-front frame building has German siding on the front facade. Three bays wide on the front, it has only one door on the rear of the west elevation. Windows on the front are 2/2 and double doors of horizontal panels compose the entrance. A tall narrow vent is located in the gable.
 - 23.A. Empty lot where post office and bank were once located.
- Greenwood Inn, ca. 1874. According to local tradition, this inn was built by a man named Myers. In the late-nineteenth century it was acquired by the Muses and operated by them for several years. After 1925, the building was used as a multi-family dwelling until recent years. Currently, J. W. and Isabel Thomas operate an antique store out of it. The two-story with basement rectangular double-pile structure has a double portico across its front facade and a rear ell. The gable front has a wooden ornament and a decorative vent. The second story railing is a replacement, but the original carved balusters remain on the lower porch. A one-story shed porch is located on the west elevation and the rear. Laid out in a side-hall plan, the structure has two windows and two doors on the lower story and three windows and a door on the upper. One entrance on the first floor leads into a large parlor. The second entrance and the entrance on the second floor, both of which consist of "Cameron doors"--one with arched panels, one with arched panes--lead into the side hall. A third entrance is located on the west elevation, also leading into the hall. The lower floor consists of a large parlor with two smaller rooms located in the ell. The upper floor, which is reached by a stair composed of turned newel and balusters rising out of the hall, is divided into four bedrooms. Mantels are simple post and lintel and door frames are molded throughout.

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C 25. Cameron Depot, late nineteenth century. Originally located beside the railroad on the north side of Carthage Street, the depot was moved to prevent demolition by the railroad in 1981. Documentary photographs show a former depot to be a rectangular hipped-roof board and batten structure. The narrow south end contained entrances for whites and blacks. The west elevation consisted of two single entrances flanking two broad loading bays. The east elevation consisted of a loading dock and two broad bays with a double window on the south end. The current depot retains much of the same form with loading bays on the side elevation and a single door on the narrow end. The board and batten construction has been covered over by siding.

25.A.Empty lot.

- F 26. Woman's Club, ca. 1952. One-story house with aluminum siding.
- C 27. Pharmacy, early twentieth century. This two-story brick building with an ell on the west end was originally a pharmacy with doctor's offices above. The two-story section has a stepped roofline and three entrances on the front facade: a central door, now boarded up with a two light transom above; entrances on either end consisting of a single door with fan lights in the upper section flanked by two large windows. Eight-pane transoms top each of these bays. The windows on the second story are slightly arched with 4/4 sash. The onestory section is a typical early twentieth century recessed entrance with double doors and projecting display windows. It still retains its pressed tin ceiling.
- C 27.A.Theatre, ca. 1920s. Now covered with siding, this rectangular building with a false front was reportedly built for use as a movie theatre by a Mr. Hartsell. Plans are underway to restore and use the building for commercial purposes.
- C 28. Hartsell House, ca. 1900. A one-and-a-half story frame structure, this house is known locally as the Hartsell House because of one of its earliest residents, Rev. J. W. Hartsell. Now aluminum sided, the house has been somewhat altered from its original appearance. The simple Doric posts, which supported the wrap around porch originally, have been replaced by square posts supported by brick piers. A modern door has been added to the west side.
- F 29. Methodist Fellowship Hall, 1978. One-story gable front building with aluminum siding. Entrance has pedimented gable portico and the building is topped by a rectangular cupola.
- P 29.A.Cameron Methodist Church, ca. 1886. The one-story frame building with a projecting vestibule and bell tower was, according to the Church history (mimeographed), built by Duncan and Alex Campbell. The bell tower is built in two sections and each part—the vestibule and the two sections of the tower—display a triangular pediment with diamond—shaped shingles. A conical roof topped by a cross finishes the tower. Four tall narrow windows carry down the side elevation. Pilasters ornament the corners of the building. Double doors lead into the very fine, little altered interior which contains paneled wainscot and a molded chair rail. The alter area is recessed and contains a window on either side.

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- C 30. Phillips Hardware, ca. 1920s. Local information indicates that this building, originally built as a Ford Automobile agency, was subsequently used as a hardware business and a mule auction center. The one-story with basement rectangular brick building has a false, parapeted front. The side elevation has six bays on the ground level. The front facade contains two large bays on either side, now boarded up, with a ten-light transom. A recessed doorway with large display windows and double doors serves as the main entrance. It also has a ten-light transom. To the west of this entrance is a single door topped by a three-light transom. The interior contains a pressed tin ceiling.
- I 31. Cole House, ca. 1950s. One story brick house built on site of previous house which burned.
- P 32. Ferguson House, ca. 1887. The index to deeds indicates that John Scott sold this lot to Dr. Kenneth Ferguson in 1886 (D7, p. 422). Ferguson served as mayor of Cameron for several terms (see Branson's Directory for 1890 and 1896). He later removed to Southern Pines where he served as mayor. The substantial Queen Anne House he built in that town was destroyed (Southern Pines inventory, p. 23). The house Ferguson built in Cameron is a one-and-a-half story triple A Victorian cottage with decorative sawnwork bargeboards in the broken pediment front gable. The porch roof has a broken pediment which repeats the woodwork in the gable. Square posts with carved brackets support the one-story porch sheltering the front facade. The entrance contains a "Cameron door" of vertical panes over rectangular panels. The double windows on each side of the door, like those throughout, are 6/6. Recent additions have been made to the rear. Outbuildings include a garage with German siding, and a small frame shed.
- C 33. Kennedy-McDonald House, ca. 1870s? This house may have been on this tract in 1887 when M.V.C. Kennedy purchased the 2.65 acres from the Goodmans for \$162.50 (D14, p. 174). At any rate, it is very similar to many others along Carthage Street, being a one-and-a-half-story gable-roof frame house with a front gable. The one story porch is supported by turned posts with brackets. A railing of turned balusters encloses the porch. An exterior chimney is located on the east elevation. Windows are 6/6. Kennedy was part owner of the Union Carriage Company with C. E. Jones (see nos. 5 and 14.B.). Donald McDonald purchased the property in the early twentieth century. His heirs still occupy the house.
- P 34. L. B. McKeithen. 1923. L. B. McKeithen, son of Murdock, built this house with Colonial Revival and Bungalow features. The large, irregularly massed, gable front structure has a porch with a wide cornice which carries around two sides supported on substantial square posts on brick piers. Square balusters compose the porch railing. A porte cochere is located on the east. The projecting pedimented front gable contains a fanlike window. A gable roof dormer located to the east of the front gable has an arched window flanked by two smaller windows. The main entrance is a single door flanked by sidelights. Windows are 1/1. Several outbuildings remain on the property including one which is reportedly an older house which was moved back when this one was built. Still in the possession of the McKeithen family, this house is used as rental property.

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- P 35. Borst House, ca. 1883. Everette Borst came to Cameron as an employee of the railroad and purchased a lot from the Goodman Brothers in 1883 (D58, p. 559). He married Elizabeth Blue, granddaughter of Dougald McDougald. The one-and-a-half-story frame structure with a rear ell has two front gables, both with ornamental sawtooth bargeboards and returning eaves. A bay window projects from the eastern gable end containing windows of 4/4 sash. A porch shelters the western gable end which is recessed and contains the main entrance: a single door surrounded by transom and sidelights. In the interior a wooden screen supported by turned posts transects the center hall. The east front room contains a post and lintel mantel with sawn ornament. A picture rail carries around the room. The west front room has a simple post and lintel mantel. There are also two outbuildings on the property, one with German siding. The house remained in the Borst family until recent years when it was sold and converted into a shop.
- C 36. Phillips House, 1890s. This one-and-a-half-story triple A is covered with German siding and has a rear ell. The plain gables have returning eaves. A porch supported by square posts (replacements) carries across the front and one side. Lattice woodwork has been added on the east end of the porch. Pilasters accentuate the corners of the building.
- P 37. Parker House, ca. 1918. W. G. Parker, son-in-law of Everette Borst, built this one-and-a-half-story German-sided hipped-roof house with an engaged porch. Hipped roof dormers with double six-light windows are located on the front and side elevations. The engaged porch is supported by square posts set on brick piers. A railing of turned balusters encloses the porch. The front facade is composed of a single door set slightly off center. A double window of 1/1 sash is located on the east while a single window of 1/1 is on the west. The interior, which is a hall and parlor arrangement, contains a mantel with an upper shelf supported by columnettes and displaying a beveled mirror. A picture rail carries around the east front room. The frame garage is also covered in German siding. The house is currently occupied by Parker's daughter, Helen Parker Hinson.
- C 38. O'Briant House, ca. 1920. According to Mrs. Helen Hinson, who grew up next door in the Parker House, this was the home of a Dr. O'Briant and was built by Make McLean. The one-and-a-half story German-sided house with an engaged porch has four 1/1 sash dormers on the front facade. The porch is composed of square posts and a railing of square balusters. The interior, which is two rooms wide by three rooms deep, has a sheathed wainscot and a picture rail in the east front room. Outbuildings include a shed with German siding.
- F 39. Cameron Baptist Church. 1952. The Church history states that this congregation was organized in 1854 and moved to Cameron in 1892. The present brick veneer building replaced a frame one. The one-story church has a projecting vestibule. Windows are arched and contain stained glass. The building has a frame steeple with a conical roof topped by a cross.

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- C 40. Tally House, ca. 1900. Originally a typical one-and-a-half-story triple A, this house has undergone extensive additions through the years, giving it a rather bizarre configuration. The front porch is screened in. Additions to the rear include a two-story section and a one-and-a-half-story section connected by a single story ell. Outbuildings include a frame shed and a German-sided garage.
- P 41. Foust House, ca. 1879. According to a later deed, Foust bought this lot from E. J. Lilly in 1878 (Dll, p. 548). The two-story frame triple A house has decorative brackets along the eaves. Windows are 6/6 in plain surrounds. A large porch carries across the front and around one side supported by heavy square posts. The porch roof has a broken pedimented gable over the entrance and another one at right angles with the corner of the house. The front door is the "Cameron door" with glass rather than enclosed panels. Windows on either side of the door extend to the floor. The once exterior chimneys have been enclosed by a rear ell. Outbuildings include a frame garage, a frame shed, and a board and batten shed.
- C 42. McIntyre-McPherson House, ca. 1890. Local information indicates that part of this house was built for the teacher of the classical school, Daniel McIntyre. Major remodelling in the early twentieth century led to its present configuration. The one-story L-shaped house has a front porch supported by paired columns set on brick piers. A porte-cochere extends to the west side and an exterior chimney is located on the west gable end.
- C 43. Guthrie House, ca. 1900. Reportedly moved from across the road, this one-and-a-half-story gable-front German-sided house has a recessed entrance. Outbuildings include a board and batten shed.
- I 44. McPerson House, ca. 1960s. One-story brick ranch with iron porch posts.
- Turner-McPerson House, ca. 1867, 1910s. Hector Turner married Kate Leach in 1866 and is thought to have built this house for her. Originally an L-shaped house, one room deep, the structure was expanded by Turner's step daughter, Mary Eliza, and her husband Hugh McPerson in the early twentieth century. Architectural plans drawn by the Raleigh architectural firm Barrett and Thompson are still in the possession of family members. Two broken pediment gables with sawnwork bargeboards and quatrefoil vents occur in the front facade, one in the projecting gable end, the other as an interruption of the roofline. A small balcony partially enclosed by a spindle-like canopy is located over the entrance on the second story. A gable-front porch with Doric Columns carries across the front and around one side of the first story. The porch's gable is supported by a cluster of three columns on either side of the steps. On the west elevation is a porte cochere. Also on that elevation is an exterior chimney and a bay The front entrance is a single door surrounded by transom and side-Windows on the front facade are 4/4 as are those throughout the house.

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On the interior a spindle-like screen with carved brackets transects the center hall. A stair with a turned newel and turned balusters rises from behind the screen. The mantel in the west front room features brackets, a mirror, and contains an upper shelf supported by columnettes typical of the turn of the century. Additions to the rear included an enclosed porch and attached kitchen which was originally detached. Outbuildings include a board and batten servants quarters, a board and batten garage, and a frame wash house. The property is still owned by descendants of Kate Turner.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric _x archeology-historic _x agriculture _x architecture art _X commerce communications		landscape architectur law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater x transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	various	Builder/Architect var	ious/unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Born of a plank road and a railroad and spurred on by the turpentine and dewberry industries, Cameron, North Carolina, prospered in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Entrepreneurs settled here and made a substantial living in various businesses, notably turpentine distilleries, the mercantile or hotel trades, and especially dewberry farming and consignment. The dewberry business became so successful that for many years Cameron was considered the dewberry capital of the world. Surrounded by the farmland of Moore County, the planned town developed along the main thoroughfare, Carthage Street, radiating from the railroad around which its major activities centered. Along Carthage Street, the town's railroad men, merchants, and farmers built a compact community consisting of one and two story frame and brick houses, stores, and churches displaying elements of the styles popular in the era ca. 1875 to 1925. Essentially unchanged, Cameron still retains its turn of the century character and its feeling of a modest, isolated, concentrated village.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Representative of the effects of transportation improvements on development in North Carolina. The Fayetteville plank road arrived in the area in the 1850s aiding shipping and transportation. With the arrival of the railroad in 1875 a town was planned and built by people taking advantage of the opportunities the railroad offered: shipping for lumber products and truck crops, and increased demand for consumer services; also representative of the development of truck farming in the state, being the dewberry capital of the world for many years.
- B. Associated with a number of locally prominent individuals, in particular Dr. Hector Turner who served as a Moore County delegate to the secession convention and as a Confederate surgeon as well as representing the area in the state legislature for two terms after the war; and with Dr. Kenneth Ferguson who served as mayor of Cameron and later as mayor of neighboring Southern Pines.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a variety of architectural styles prominent in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.
- D. Likely to yield historical information concerning settlement in the sandhills area.

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Because the Moore County Courthouse burned in 1889 destroying most of the early records, it is impossible to know the exact transactions leading to the present configuration of the town of Cameron. However, strong local tradition and certain surviving records serve to reconstruct the development somewhat.

The largest single group of settlers to enter North Carolina directly from their native land was the Highland Scots, who began arriving in this country around 1732 and continued to settle in the Cape Fear region until the Revolution. Many of these immigrants established homes in the sandhills area which in 1784 would become Moore County. Because most of them had been farmers in their native land, that is the life style they pursued upon their arrival in this country. Archibald McDougald was a member of one such family.

In 1835 McDougald willed to his son Dougald McDougald "all lands lying south of the Fayetteville Road" as well as the lower lands on Dry Fork. Strong local tradition maintains that Dougald McDougald, who was a successful farmer, contracted to build the Fayetteville Plank Road which reached the Crain's Creek area and his expansive holdings in the 1850s. To do this, he rented a number of slaves in addition to his own. When a typhoid epidemic killed many of the slaves, McDougald was financially ruined, forcing him to sell much of his lands to pay his debt. He reportedly died soon after. McDougald is, in fact, listed in the 1850 agricultural schedule as owning 1000 acres. He does not appear in the 1860 agricultural schedule although he does appear in the census. By 1870 he is not listed in the census at all.

The sandhills region made a steady recovery after the Civil War. The abundance of pines in the area made it a prime candidate for lumber and turpentine industry which in turn brought increasing demand for the railroad which was extending toward the region. 5

Again according to tradition, the present Cameron lands were sold to Coy MacNeill who in turn sold them to the Goodman Brothers. The Goodmans then made an agreement with a Major John Scott that if he could get the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad to come through the area, he would be given alternating lots in the town. On July 1, 1972, Scott is listed as owning one share of Raleigh and Augusta Railroad stock, and he continued to be an active voting member. Scott was also known as a land speculator. According to later deed transactions, Scott sold a large number of the lots in Cameron, although in many instances it was two adjoining lots rather than every other one. The Goodmans also sold numerous lots.

At least two of the original town maps still survive in the ownership of descendants of early Cameron residents. The map, which is undated, is entitled, "Plan of Cameron" and bears the inscription, "This plan represents 127 acres purchased by J. W. Scott from Dr. W. Arnold and the Goodman Brothers including 68 town lots in the Town of Cameron, Moore County, N.C. Situated each side of the R & A RR and Cranes Creek." The railroad arrived in Cameron in 1875, and with it a variety of merchants who began to build a community. The town was incorporated the following year and local tradition maintains that it was named for Paul Cameron, who was at that time an official of the Raleigh and Augusta. 14

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The town grew rapidly, taking advantage of the lumber in the area. Branson's Business Directory for 1877-78 lists six turpentine distilleries and three sawmills operating in the town. It also lists three cotton gins, two corn mills, ten general stores, five liquor suppliers, and a classical school. By 1884 the town also had two hotels, a saddle and harness maker, a carriage company, a physician, and a drug store. By 1890 all three churches appear in the listing as well. 17

Among the earliest merchants to set up practice in Cameron was J. C. Muse, who with his brother Andrew, operated Muse Brothers Store (no.19). The present building, ca. 1889, replaced a previous one lost to fire. 18 J. C. Muses' house (no. 10) survives, along with the Greenwood Inn (no. 24) which the brothers operated for several years as the Muse Brothers' Hotel. Murdock McKeithen operated his mercantile business along with farming interests from Cameron's beginning well into the twentieth century. His store (no. 22) and fine house (no. 9) remain, as well as the house of his son Leighton, (no. 34) who ran the business until 1963. His other son, Archibald, became a distinguished physician serving as the head of General Hospital in Louisville for many years before retiring to his childhood home. 19 N.A. McFadyen's store is gone but his substantial house (no. 13) still stands. He was a dealer in saddles and harnesses as well as general stock. 20 Noses Britton was a man of diversified interests, being involved in the hotel, general store, turpentine, cotton gin, and farming trades. An 1879 receipt from his store, in the possession of Isabel Thomas, lists him as a "Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Millinery, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Clothing, et." Unfortunately neither his store nor his Halcyon Hotel survive although there are documentary photographs. Dr. K. M. Ferguson came to Cameron during its boom period and served as mayor for several terms before removing to Southern Pines where he also served as mayor. 22 His house still stands (no. 32). Of these early Cameron entrepreneurs, Dr. Hector Turner is particularly noteworthy. A prominent Moore County physician, he was a member of the Secession Convention of 1861, served as a surgeon with the 27th North Carolina during the Civil War, and later represented Moore County in the State Legislature. 23 After the war he married Kate Ferguson Leach and is believed to have built the Turner-McPherson House for her (no. 45).²⁴ Turner's house was substantially remodelled in the early twentieth century by his step-son-in-law, H. P. McPherson, who also operated a general store (no. 23) and prospered in the dewberry industry. 25

The greatest economic boost, aside from the railroad, was the introduction of the dewberry industry in the area. The advent of the railroad made the shipping of truck crops convenient and profitable. The Lucretia Dewberry, which is a cultivated blackberry, was introduced into Moore County in 1892. By the early twentieth century the industry was successful enough to warrant the formation of the Moore County Fruit Growers Association. Cameron was proclaimed the largest dewberry market in the world. 27

In the 1910s and 1920s, when the market was booming, between 60,000 and 90,000 crates of dewberries were shipped in a season. The farmers consigned their fruit to one of three dealers in Cameron—the McKeithens, H.P. McPherson, or J. A. Phillips. The berries were packed and shipped to eighteen markets. The market declined in the 1930s and in 1951 the auctions were halted. 28

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While the population of Cameron fluctuated over the years, reaching a high of 311 in 1940, the greatest ten-year population growth occurred between 1880 and 1890 when the number of residents rose from 117 to 218.²⁹ The boom town era of Cameron essentially died with the dewberries. No longer a center of commercial activity, Cameron now presents a view of a typical small North Carolina railroad town whose heyday has past. Yet the quality of the buildings and the surrounding environment attest to the affluence of the Scots descendants who built them and the pride in heritage that has maintained them.

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 - 7_{Ibid}.
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Verbal boundary description

Beginning at the southwest corner of parcel 1, Block 6, Map 17 where it joins US 1 and running east along the back property lines of the adjoining properties, shown as part of parcel 11 of Block 1 on Map 17 thence bisecting Block 9, parcel 1 of Map 18 even with the lines of the two adjoining properties and continuing southeast along the back property line of parcel 2 thence crossing Fifth Street and continuing along the back property lines of Block 10, parcels 1,2,3,4 thence crossing Fourth Street and continuing along the back property lines of Block 11 Map 18 thence crossing Carter Street in a northeast direction continuing along the back property lines of Block 12, Maps 18 and 19 thence crossing McNeill Street and following the back property lines of Block 13, Maps 18 and 19, transecting parcel 17 of Block 3, Map 19 and continuing to the railroad thence north along the railroad approximately 450 feet thence continuing west transecting parcel 17 of Block 3, Maps 18 and 19 thence continuing along the back property lines of Blocks 7 and 6 of Map 18 crossing Carter Street and continuing north along Carter Street to the back property line of Block 5, Map 18 thence continuing west along the back property line of Block 5, Map 18 crossing Fourth Street thence along the back property line of Block 4, Map 18 to the eastern edge of the cemetery thence north 215 feet to the back property line of the cemetery thence west along the back line of the cemetery thence south to the northeast corner of parcel 9 of Block 3, Map 18 thence west to the east boundary of parcel 6, Block 3, Map 18 thence south to the southeast corner of parcel 6 thence west along the south boundary of parcel 6 thence continuing west bisecting parcel 7, Block 3, Map 18 and parcel 13, Block 1, Map 17 and transecting a portion of parcel 11, Block 1, Map 17 continuing to the northern point of parcel 15, Block 1, Map 17 thence south along US 1 to the point of beginning as outlined in red on Moore County Tax Maps 17, 18, and 19 of Greenwood Township.



